

# The Carillon

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

*Incorporated 1921*

**JANUARY 2022**

***Worship In Person or Online with SCC:***

*All the information for joining in worship is sent out via email on both Friday & Saturday before worship.*

***Access Online Worship activities at***  
<http://www.storrscongchurch.org/worship-online/>

On 12/22 the SCC reopening task force met and the following short term decisions were made:

**Meetings** will continue to be either in person with access available by Zoom or by Zoom only. The decision can be made by the committee.

The **January 2nd worship service** will only be available via Zoom. This change is **ONLY** for January 2nd and was agreed to because of the significant gatherings that may occur during Christmas and the New Year celebrations.

The reopening task force group agreed to meet the first week in January to determine the future of in person worship in the Meeting House and events scheduled within our facilities.

There was interest in polling the congregation about continuing in person worship.

A comment was made during the meeting that we have been fortunate that no COVID outbreak has been caused by any of our events or worship services. It is much safer for a member of our congregation to attend worship at the Meeting House than it is for them to go grocery shopping or attend any public event. We want to maintain that level of safety and make reasonable improvements as we move forward.



*welcoming historic progressive Christian*



Open and Affirming



Accessible to All



A Just Peace Church

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Our monthly newsletter contains material about what's happening in the ministries of the Church; Governing Board actions; Church Family news; thoughts from our Pastor and information about upcoming meetings, events and celebrations. Articles to be included in the monthly newsletter should be received in the office by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of the month.

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*The Carillon is the monthly newsletter of*

### **STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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## ALONG THE JOURNEY WITH PASTOR DEBBIE



Dear Ones,

Happy New Year! January 7 will mark the anniversary of my first year with you here at SCC. Time has certainly flown by in many ways and I am thankful for all that I have learned and experienced this past year. We began our introductions through several months of Zoom services and meetings, along with the wearing of masks, and then gradually I was able to place names and faces. Now, you seem

like old friends to me!

This month we celebrate the feast of Epiphany (Three Kings Day) and the Baptism of Christ Sunday where we will recall our own baptismal vows. May we pray for the safety and good health of all of church members, friends, and staff as we navigate the winter months together. The Messiah has birthed in each of us and God calls us to do the work of Christmas as the psalmist proclaimed, ***Bring justice to the peoples, O Beloved, and your mercy to all generations! May the people be known for mercy, rendering justice to the poor! Let their spirits soar as the eagle; let joy abide in every heart! May you heed the cry of the poor – the young and the old, setting free all those in need, melting the hearts of the oppressors...in our day may justice flourish, and peace abound, throughout all the nations...blessed be You, who come in Name of Love; may your glory fill the earth!*** (Psalm 72)

I share with you this meditation called **"In This New Year"** by Jill Rauh, Education for Justice:

"In this New Year, we look to an end to violence and war.

We pray for peace, understanding and reconciliation.

In this New Year, we hope for a future where all can have enough. We pray for prophetic voices to speak for the poor and the marginalized.

In this New Year, we will breathe air and feel alive. We pray to improve our stewardship of God's creation.

In this New Year, we wish to start anew. We pray for wisdom to acknowledge mistakes and move on.

In this New Year, we believe that with God's help, it is possible. We pray for justice to reign and dignity for all people."

May each of you know God's mercy, compassion, peace, and hope this year. May this congregation be all that God calls it to be this year~

New Year blessings,  
Pastor Debbie

# GOVERNING BOARD NEWS



## Governing Board *Minutes*

Regular Meeting –December 8, 2021

**A** = attachment in Board packet

(* present)			
* Malta Bailey	* Cass Crewdson	* Paul Schur	
* Bruce Bergon	* Darryl Hilliard	* Nancy Tomastik	
* Jane Ann Bobbitt	* Susan Irvine	* Pastor Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine	
* Elaine Chague	Nolan Klimkiewicz	* Stacy Malecki (clerk)	

Dr. Trisha Snyder (Director of Music Ministry), Duffy Brookes (Buildings and Grounds LMC), and Bob Malecki (Treasurer) were also in attendance

**Present to Speak** - none

**Consent Agenda** The following items were approved by the Governing Board as part of the Consent Agenda.

1. That the Board approves the Minutes of the November 10, 2021 meeting of the Board.
2. That the Board approves the Minutes of the December 1, 2021 meeting of the Board.
3. That the Board acknowledges receipt of the October Treasurer's report.
4. That the Board acknowledges receipt of updates from the Lead Ministry Coordinators.
5. That the board approves the recommendations from the Memorial and Special Gifts Committee for the distribution of 2021 Memorial Gifts. The details of the gifts and their distribution have been reviewed and approved by the financial sub-committee of the governing board.
6. That the Board authorizes the Treasurer to transfer any unspent budgeted money from the Library account (530100) for 2020 to the Library Projects off-budget account (330000). Rationale: this has been standard practice since moving library funding that had been under the legacy Women's Fellowship budget to the SCC budget. Janet Atkins confirmed the Library Committee's desire to do so again this year.

7. At the request of the Congregational Life Ministry Team Leader, that \$500 be added to the 521100 Fellowship Hours & Lunches budget line. Rationale: We have been more active than originally planned! The 2020 original budget had \$1200, the 2021 budget had \$500. This brings it up to \$1000.

**Search Committee** – Cass provided a brief update to note that the SCC profile has been submitted to the Conference for posting. Members of the Governing Board expressed gratitude that the search committee had reached this milestone.

**Task Force for Resuming In-Person Gathering** – Paul noted that the Christmas bazaar went well. He also reminded everyone that it is required for all participants in the service to remain masked throughout the service to comply with a town ordinance.

**Leadership Discernment Committee**—Stacy reported on progress to fill slate for Leadership Discernment Committee. The open positions still being sought include: Treasurer, Clerk, one member of Leadership Discernment Committee, and a college and high school member of the Governing Board. Paul Schur requested that the Leadership Discernment Committee also work with Pastor Debbie to identify two additional Deacons to increase the number of active Deacons supporting the worship team.

**Highlights of Pastoral Report** – provided by Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine

It has been a very busy time with a flurry of activity since my last report!

- Pastoral support and care through weekly phone calls, cards sent, home visits, and funeral services.
- Monday devotions sent out November-December
- Supported several Funerals for both church members and non-members.
- Scheduled and led a Lead Ministry Coordinators' meeting December 16. Each leader shared updates as well as planning for events through the end of December.
- Planning a workshop for leaders in January on "Silos to Collaboration" to discuss effective ways to collaborate among teams and to increase our visibility in the church and in the community.
- Supporting meetings and activity of the Search Committee, Pastoral Relations, Governing Board,

## **Worship Team and Leadership Discernment Committee**

- Our Christmas Eve service this year will be in person at 5:00 p.m. – Two signs were ordered to publicize the event and an announcement will be included in the Chronicle.
- Holding a holiday brunch for staff and any church members who are able to attend on December 16 at noon in the PH Lounge
- Served as the welcome greeter during the Church Fair this past Saturday; several new people came who had not been here before.
- The Rev. Darrell Goodwin was our guest preacher this past Sunday. He and his partner stayed during fellowship time and talked with several church members. Rev. Goodwin did some shopping at the SERRV table and also purchased 75 Christmas cards designed by Patrick Barton for the Southern New England Conference staff and Board. Rev. Goodwin interviewed me last week and that segment is posted on the Conference and SCC websites.
- Lessons and Carols service is this Sunday 12/12 at 10 AM. Six liturgists will participate.

It was noted by a member of the Governing Board that Pastor Debbie has been very busy with many items and that this is appreciated.

**Minister's Discretionary Fund** – The minister's discretionary fund is running low. There was discussion about using the unspecified plate collection at the Christmas Eve Service to restore funding level. This will be in addition to the annual collection for the Christmas Fund for which envelopes will be available.

**MOTION:** Sue made a motion to apply unspecified plate collection from the Christmas Eve Service to the Minister's Discretionary Fund. This will be in addition to envelopes which will be used to collect donations for the Christmas Fund. Cass seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Personnel Forms** – Personnel subcommittee of the governing board has created draft personnel forms for future use. It was noted that Pastor Debbie is using different forms for this year's employee reviews. Governing Board members are asked to review these forms and provide feedback so that the personnel committee can finalize a form for future usage.

**Chapel Heating and Cooling and Meeting House – From the Buildings and Grounds Committee** - Nancy presented information and led a discussion of a proposal to install HVAC mini-split systems to provide heating and cooling to the Chapel (\$8,600) and Meeting House (\$55,200). This would not include the Parish House or the Education Building. There was quite a bit of discussion about this subject with some of the following points being made:

Chapel:

- It was noted that mini-splits provide both heat and AC and that heat is the priority, but that AC would also be helpful.
- Providing a climate-controlled environment could expand programming both for faith formation and other ministries.
- There is a pipe organ in the chapel. It might not respond well to being in a heated/air-conditioned environment, and is not a particularly valuable or historic instrument. Other options for musical instruments could be considered.
- There was some discussion about the location of the mini-split system and the organ pipes.

**MOTION:** Jane Ann made a motion which was seconded by Paul to have the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Governing Board work with the previously established Chapel committee to determine the best way to add heat and air conditioning to the chapel while also considering the organ and/or other musical instruments. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting House:

- Adding AC will create a drier environment for the organ in the summer which could be detrimental to the wood. Trisha will discuss with some organ maintenance experts and explore options for humidification.
- There were varying degrees of enthusiasm about adding air-conditioning to the Meeting House, and it was decided that additional feedback from the congregation should be obtained.
- The Buildings & Grounds Committee will figure out the best way to start this conversation, identify pros and cons, identify additional building usage opportunity if AC was installed, and possibly poll the congregation.

**Church Sign/Parking Signs** – Duffy reported that he would like to purchase signs to help people find parking and buildings. Duffy will work with the Buildings & Grounds Committee on creating a recommendation.

**Rental of 4<sup>th</sup> Parking space** – Ben (previous communications and digital ministry director) has requested to be able to rent a parking space for one semester – he will graduate in the spring with his Master's Degree. Duffy recommended assigning the space with the Restricted Parking sign. This spot is not used often, so there should be minimal disruption to congregational parking. The rental of this spot will have the same rules for use as the other spaces.

**Motion:** Sue made a motion to allow a fourth parking space for rent for one semester. Bruce and Malta seconded motion. Motion passed.

**Curtains in the Meeting House** (discussion of item in Worship team report) – The curtains on the first floor of the meeting house have been removed because they were damaged. There has been feedback that the curtains are missed and should be replaced. A small team will be formed to make a recommendation to the board. The Putnam Fund has funds that can be used for this purpose.

### **Review of tasks**

- Gov. Bd. members to provide feedback on Personnel Forms to Sue, Malta and Elaine
- Chapel team is asked to provide a recommendation on the proposal to add a mini-split system to the chapel.
- Buildings & Grounds Committee of the governing board will work with Ellen (Communications) to survey the congregation about the possibility of adding mini-splits to the Meeting House and Chapel.
- Establish team to make a recommendation about curtains for Meeting House. Sue will work with the worship committee to identify a team.
- Finance team to create a To-Do List for Budget Planning that can be used in future years.
- Gov Brd members asked to review Policy Book and identify areas to work on in next year.
- Tech Team has made improvements to sound system during services – if there are additional issues please provide feedback.
- Sue will invite Ellen to attend the beginning of the next Governing Board meeting.

**Meeting was adjourned with closing prayer at 9:10 PM**

### **Summaries of Ministry Reports**

**Buildings & Grounds Reported the following updates on activity** – Duffy Brookes

- Eric's Tree Service has failed to complete removal of the stumps. We will need to secure another firm to do the work.
- An official inspection of our water heaters was completed with positive results
- A new vacuum cleaner was purchased to replace the heavily used one that serves the Parish House.
- A lighting system that uses LED rope lights is being installed in the Chapel to illuminate the stained-glass window. An experiment using a flood light did not produce a satisfactory result. The lights will be on a timer to be on in the early evenings.
- Also, all of the overhead lights in the Chapel have been replaced as several weren't working and others were not matched up in illumination.



- Our Properties Subcommittee has been looking at installing heating/AC in the Chapel and Meeting House. The results of the research and quotes will be considered at the December Governing Board meeting. (also see Gov Brd minutes)

### **Faith Formation – Lisa Haupt**

#### **On-going Faith Formation:**

- Quiet Reflection in Waggoner Chapel, Wednesdays at 10:00am
- In-person and virtual (Zoom) C.A.F.E. Storrs, Wednesdays 10:30am-noon
- Faith Seeds: Compassion, each Friday
- YU? YLM: Using Faith Element for Youth, on hiatus for December

#### **Report on Events in November:**

- 3-4 participants each week for UConn Tuesday Talks
- 1 participant for Quiet Reflection in Waggoner Chapel
- Faith Row Perspectives on the Afterlife- November 2 at Hillel- 35-40 participants
- Intergenerational Event- Nov13- Joshua's Trust Hike at Fifty Foot Cliff in Mansfield- 5 participants
- take heart! TAKE ACTION! planning for summer 2022- November 13<sup>th</sup> - 7 participants

#### **Faith Formation Events/Activities for December:**

- Advent Wreath/Candle Designing Workshop- November 28, after worship- 14 participants
- Advent Readers- for both in-person and virtual Advent Candle-lighting
- Advent Story- using a short Canva-made video with congregant & staff participants for daily Advent email
- Assisting Rev. Debbie with Advent Vespers with Google Slides
- The Christmas story seek & find crafts for children at the Christmas bazaar
- Youth volunteer assisted in craft preparation for Caroling gifts
- UCC-UConn Christmas Dinner- Dec. 7th

#### **NEUCC Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Community of Practice, Trainings:**

- Hosted FFYM CoP UCC Faith Formation and Youth Ministry leaders in November

**Outreach Coordinators' Report** • Submitted by Carolyn Holmy and Janis Hoyle

Our pantry served over 30 households last week. We are distributing hundreds of pounds of food from CT Foodshare, about a hundred pounds of produce from Big Y. Tolland and baked goods from Price Chopper each week.

The Just Peace Team sold approximately \$375 of Patrick's cards at the Bazaar which will be added to the fund he will receive when released. Preparing to provide Christmas gifts for WAIM families

**Worship Coordinators' Report** • Submitted by Jamie Lang-Rodean and Paul Schur

- Communion was served on All Saints' Sunday, November 7, 2021
- Updated server lists after speaking with individuals about expanding their service on Sundays.
- After our November communion, Marsha Creese and Jamie Lang-Rodean added to the harvest decorations on the table in the chancel in anticipation of Thanksgiving Sunday, November 21, 2021.
- Deborah Gacek is coordinating poinsettia orders for our Christmas Eve service.
- The Worship Team met on Monday, November 22, 2021. Our main agenda item was to choose the time for the single service on Christmas Eve. The unanimous choice was 5:00 pm.
- Marsha and Jamie put away the autumn decorations after the Worship Team meeting.
- On Saturday, November 26, 2021, Paul and Jamie met with the VIEW Team and other volunteers to decorate the Meeting House for Advent and Christmas. Many thanks to Erin Scholes, Sue Irvine, Wes Lang-Rodean, Anne Usher, Lisa Haupt and Marsha Creese.
- Thanks to Duffy Brookes for purchasing the batteries for our window candles and for always checking the "twinkling lights" strung around the balcony and keeping them in working order.
- Also, many thanks to Marsha Creese for making the wreaths that are hung on the Meeting House front doors and the outside door to the office.
- We removed the curtains from the main floor of the Meeting House since they looked gray in color and were "sticky" to the touch as we found when we removed them. We do not think laundering will help since they are so

old that we suspect the fabric will fall apart. We are not sure how to proceed to purchase new ones. Perhaps a small group could be appointed to investigate this situation. The upstairs curtains remain and are more complicated to hang than the ones in the downstairs. (also see Gov Brd minutes)

- Flowers were given by the church on Sunday, November 27th in memory of our dear Jim Bobbitt.

**Summary of Treasurer's Report** – October 2021 – provided by Bob Malecki  
 2021 Budget is running about \$30,000 under budget – similar to last month. Current year pledges are \$431 behind the budget plan, with total contributions \$7,151 ahead of plan. Expenses are about \$24,000 under budget year-to-date, with about \$16,800 of this due to Senior Pastor and Communications & Digital Ministries Specialist expenses being less than planned. We continue to do well financially in 2021.

## 2021 Investments

Our Morgan Stanley Managed Fund investments are up by 6.8% Jan-Sep 2021. Over the past

five years, our Managed Fund return on investments is 9.25%, which comfortably supports the annual 4-5% distributions from the Housing and Vanderlip Funds to our annual budget, the SCC General Endowment Fund to the Major Project Fund and annual budget, and the Erickson fund to Music Programs and the annual budget.

At the suggestion of the Treasurer, Edwin Whitney Trust Fund Committee made a formal request to the Treasurer and Investment Committee to: "carry out further investigations with an end to potentially securing an investment of our funds wherein they might be moved from the current laddered CDs to a managed, dividend-oriented, higher performing cash-generating investment. We want to make the most of our funds annually and a higher performing investment could assist us in making even better use and awards from our fund."

On October 8, the Investment Committee met with Ethan Reid, our Morgan Stanley account manager, to define a new investment for the Whitney Trust Fund. The Edwin Whitney Trust Fund Committee subsequently accepted the recommendation of the Investment Committee, and I am working with Ethan Reid to transfer the Whitney Trust Fund investments. I anticipate the new investments will generate >\$1500 annually for scholarships, which is about >\$1000 more than the prior CD investments.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE...

Greetings friends. The Leadership Discernment Committee has been working to identify nominees for the slate for the annual meeting in January. Thank you to those who have answered our calls and emails and prayerfully considered these opportunities. We have a great church and have been able to fill many of the positions - however there are a few that we are still working on and we wanted to reach out more broadly to make sure that an excellent candidate isn't left out because we didn't think of you!

**Treasurer:** Responsible for general financial oversight including keeping accounts of all Church fund receipts, disbursements, and balances; paying bills and salaries; managing all non-operating funds and investments; supplying monthly comprehensive financial reports to the Governing Board and monthly reports to the various committees, ministry teams and activities showing the current position of their operating and non-operating budgets, and an annual financial report on all Church funds to the Annual Business Meeting. Many of these responsibilities are delegated to our bookkeeper. The treasurer also works closely with the finance sub-committee of the governing board. This is a two year term and the individual can serve consecutive terms.

**Leadership Discernment Committee** prepares a slate of nominees for all elective offices to be filled at the Annual Business Meeting. This is a three year term and includes 3 elected members plus the immediate past governing board chair and the current vice-chair.

**Clerk:** Secretary to the Governing Board and the Church. Responsibilities of the Clerk shall include keeping a faithful record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Church and of the Governing Board, ensuring that accurate records of baptisms and marriages are kept; issuing the call for meetings of the Church; conducting correspondence; and performing such other duties as usually pertain to the office of clerk of an assembly. This is a two year appointment/

**Caring Ministries Lead Coordinator** - assists the Pastor in arranging Caring activities for members who need transportation, are ill or in the hospital, have lost a loved one or who are going through difficult times. This leader maintains awareness of all the prayer requests and supervises the teams for meals, rides, cards, flowers, prayer shawls, visits and funeral receptions. This

role could be enhanced into a Wellness Ministry and possibly combined with our developing Mental Health Ministry.responsible for vision and leadership of caring ministry areas and for coordination of caring ministry activities with other ministry areas.

Please consider these opportunities and reach out to any member of the Leadership Discernment Committee to discuss further!

Your Leadership Discernment Committee:

Malta Bailey: [mbailey05@snet.net](mailto:mbailey05@snet.net)

Richard Cowles [Richard.Cowles@snet.net](mailto:Richard.Cowles@snet.net)

Carolyn Holmy: [ceholmy@snet.net](mailto:ceholmy@snet.net)

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Stacy Malecki: [RSMalecki431@gmail.com](mailto:RSMalecki431@gmail.com)

### *Call to Annual Business Meeting*

*Pursuant to the bylaws of our congregation...*

The Members of the Storrs Congregational Church are called to the **Annual Business Meeting** of the congregation, to be held **January 30, 2021, following the Sunday morning worship service**. The meeting will be held in the same format as worship, in-person and/or online via **Zoom Meetings**. The business of said meeting shall be to receive yearly reports, fill elective offices, transact business, and discuss plans for the ensuing year. The presence and participation of all members is requested; a minimum of thirty is required to transact business. In the event that the scheduled meeting must be postponed due to weather or other emergency, it shall be held on the following Sunday.

### Upcoming Governing Board Meeting

*Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Lounge and via Zoom*

Our Governing Board continues to hold meetings in person in the SCC Lounge and via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend! If you'd like to receive the Zoom meeting invite and materials packet (so you can follow along with the meeting), contact Deborah in the office before Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> to be added to the distribution.



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## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT TIME LINE

### Reminder

Annual Report Deadline



The 2021 Annual Report will be distributed via email on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. To ensure that this date is met, please have ministry reports submitted via email to Deborah by Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. If you need assistance or a copy of last year's report, contact Deborah for assistance.

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## CAROLING EVENT ~ DECEMBER 19, 2021



It was a total success. We had a very fun group including choir folks so the singing was loud and strong!

When we visited Leslie Kennard, they came to their door. Doug grabbed his harmonica and started playing along. So very fun.

Charlene Dickenson sang along with us on the three carols she requested. The folks at Juniper Hill took

some carol books to sing along and Elizabeth Hanks was so proud and happy to have her church there. Elaine gave her one of Lisa's ornaments. We told them how much we had missed them last year. They did not want us to go so they got quite a little concert.

Our trip to Freedom Green was perfect!!! Nancy Rucker loved it and several people climbed up the big rock in her front yard to serenade her from there. She sent us down to some neighbors where one husband just slid out the door to sing with us. I thought his wife was going to cry. When we got to Eileen Metzger's she had told all her neighbors so we had about eight folks gathered. Eileen came out holding a box of her homemade fudge. Yum! Rich Cowles had this great idea for singing "Good King Wenceslas" that we perfected at MCNR. It was the cold that finally sent us along.

MCNR was all prepared for us (temp checks at the door ) with two rooms full and waiting. Their recreation director was warming the audience up on Jingle Bells, playing her ukulele as we arrived. There was one lady I remembered who's a former organist and asked for so many carols! She sang along with everything. They were all in stitches when we ended with our "Good King..." version (guys singing the king part, ladies as the piteous page"). Much merriment and goodwill.

Folks just seemed genuinely touched that we were out caroling with small tokens for them that Lisa and Felicia Famularo had prepared, and that we were gladly sharing the joy from SCC to them!

# JUST PEACE PROGRESS

## CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD

By Rev. Jim Antal

Rev. Jim Antal, is an environmental activist and public theologian. In 2013 he authored a UCC Synod Resolution to divest from fossil fuel companies. In July 2017, Rev. Antal formed a UCC Synod Resolution declaring “a new moral era in opposition to President Trump’s withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord. Since July 2018, Rev. Antal has been the UCC national spokesperson on climate change.

The work of our Just Peace church involves dealing with issues that harm people and our planet. Climate Change intensifies all forms of injustice – hunger, refugees, racism, poverty, viruses and war. When we defend creation we are campaigning for all forms of injustice. Climate change is the greatest moral crisis of humanity.

Pastor Debbie and the Just Peace Team are happy to announce that Rev. Antal, who lives in Vermont, will be joining us for a zoom sermon during the “in person and zoom church service” on Sunday, March 20, 2022. He will also be available on zoom in the auditorium coffee hour space after church to discuss his sermon and give us guidance on how we can repurpose our church to combat climate change.

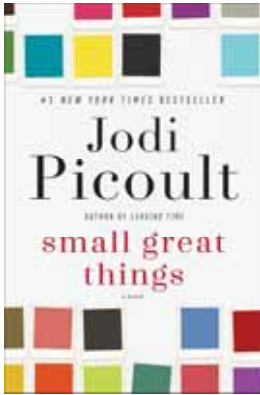
You may be thinking ... how can our church do this? But the Just Peace Team encourages you to SAVE THE DATE and seek God’s guidance as we determine steps we can take to help save our planet.

Rev. Antal’s book is now available in the church library. You can also get more information on his website: [www.jimantal.com](http://www.jimantal.com).

From  
Kathy Lindner  
Just Peace Team



## SCC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Our next book discussion is March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom where we will discuss:

**SMALL GREAT THINGS** by Jodi Picoult

In preparing to write **SMALL GREAT THINGS**, a book that deals with race, privilege, prejudice, justice and compassion, the author did much research. The title refers to a Martin Luther King quote, "If I can't do great things, I can do simple things in a great way."

*Turk, a white supremacist, and Brittany Bauer come to the delivery room for the birth of their baby and demand that Ruth Jefferson, an African American nurse, have no interaction with their son. Ruth has the choice to heed her humanity and her oath as a nurse to follow orders. She follows her own beliefs but can't prevent serious consequences. She is charged with felony crimes. The story continues as racism shines through aspects of character and plot.*

## FOOD PANTRY HAPPENINGS

Monday food rescue has brought quite a bit of produce and other perishable items to the Food Pantry. We have begun to send email blasts to the Food Pantry Guest List to expeditiously move the perishables to avoid wasting anything.

The stress of food insecurities is a year-long struggle for many in our community and even though we receive items from FoodShare, donations are still needed to stock the Food Pantry. Most critical items at this time are:

- Breakfast Cereal
- Juice
- Salad Dressing & Mayo
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
- Health and beauty supplies
- Coffee and Tea
- Feminine products
- Pet food
- Clothes detergents
- Dish Detergent (any size)
- Condiments
- Baking Supplies (Flour, Sugar(s), Mixes)





# SCC FAITH FORMATION



Thank you to all our Advent readers who assisted in engaging with the Christmas story in new ways.

I wonder how we may have touched the hearts and lives of others during this season of hope, peace, joy and love...thank you for being part of doing these familiar things in new ways?

## What Are Star Words?



The use of star words, also called “star gifts,” is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year that has been growing in popularity in Protestant churches for nearly a decade now. The idea is that a list of intention words, or guiding words, written or printed out and shared for Three Kings Day.

*There Are Several Theological Statements Being Made in this Tradition:*

- The Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move closer to Jesus.
- We trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight.
- We trust that it is often easy to miss God in our daily midst. Having an intention word to consider both in present days, as well as to reflect on at the end of the year, allows for us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before. This is the greatest gift.
- We know that the most common prayer practice for many involves speaking to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. We believe that star words invite a new prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.
- By not looking or sorting through the star words at their selection, we practice the spiritual task of receiving. It is not we who are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate or control.

*\*Adapted by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art, LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)*

# CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HAPPENINGS

## Anniversary Celebrations:

- Holly & Junius Hunter..... 1/4
- Leslie Kennard & Doug Pease ..... 1/24



## Birthday Celebrations:

- Daniel Weed..... 1/1
- Jason Gould..... 1/2
- Carly Smith..... 1/4
- Josh Miller..... 1/8
- Allison Burchell-Robinson..... 1/9
- David Stone..... 1/12
- John Blomstrann..... 1/14
- Tom Weston..... 1/15
- Charlie Demurjian..... 1/16
- Maxim Soroka..... 1/18
- Alicia Kapinos..... 1/18
- Lisa Gregus..... 1/19
- Madeline Malloy..... 1/21
- Mark Brand..... 1/22
- Mark Roy..... 1/22
- Jenna Mitchell..... 1/24
- Robert Jeffers..... 1/26
- Cheryl Mitchell..... 1/27
- William Aho..... 1/30

Charlene Dickenson has been made “great” again with the addition of a newborn great granddaughter. She is #11. Granddaughter, Katelynn Chandler 24, & her husband Timothy Chandler, welcome their new daughter, Willow Denise Chandler born 12/12/21. Willow has an older sister, 2 year old Emmalynn Grace Chandler. The family lives in Danville, VA.

## Pray For Our Military

The following list contains people called to active duty. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. ***Do you have someone who should be added to this list?*** Is there someone that we should be praying for as they protect and defend to the best of their ability? Submit updates to Deborah in the office.

- **Matt Allen**, *submitted by Pam & Dick Roberts*
- **Joseph Tanaka**, *submitted by Patty Tanaka*
- **Joshua Conner & Dakota Schroeder**, *submitted by Charlene Dickenson*

# ON THE MOVE

Our Faith Family has had some comings and goings in the past year and contact information may have changed for folks you are trying to reach. If you’d like an updated Church Directory please stop by the Parish House Lounge, where copies are available or email the office for an electronic file.



## GATHERINGS @ SCC

**Mondays** ..... Service Sewing, 9:30 am (*Ed. Building – Room 207*)

..... Food Pantry Open, 1:00 pm (*Room 102*)

**Tuesdays** ..... Library Open, 9:30 am (*Ed. Building – Library*)

..... Pastoral Search Committee, 6:30 pm (*PH – Lounge & Zoom*)

**Wednesdays** .... Quiet Reflection, 10:00 am (*Waggoner Chapel*)

..... Parish Piecers, 10:00 am (*Ed. Bldg. Quilt Room*)

..... C.A.F.E. Storrs, 10:30 am (*PH – Lounge & Zoom*)

**Thursdays** ..... Food Pantry Open, 2:30 pm (*Room 102*)

..... Handbells, 6:30 pm (*MH*)

..... Adult Choir, 7:30 pm (*MH*)

**Sundays** ..... Food Pantry Open, 11:00 am (*Room 102*)

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## MEETINGS @ SCC

Jan. 12      Governing Board, 7:00 pm (*PH – Lounge & Zoom*)

Jan. 27      Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting, 10:00 am (*CE – Library & Zoom*)

Jan. 30      Annual Meeting, 11:00 am (*PH – Auditorium & Zoom*)

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## EVENTS @ AND WITH SCC

Jan. 13/20   Mobile FoodShare, 11:30 am (*Mansfield Senior Center*)

Jan. 16      Consonare Choir Rehearsals, 3:30 pm (*Auditorium*)

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## UConn & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES @ SCC

All student group activities are suspended during the winter break and scheduled to resume the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January following the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday observation.

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## RECOVERY MEETINGS @ SCC

Thursdays, Step Meeting, 7:30 pm (*Ed. Building – Room 201*)

Fridays, UConn Recovery Meeting, 7:00 pm (*Ed. Building – Room 201*)

Sundays, Speaker Meeting, 7:30 pm (*PH – Auditorium*)

**Storrs Congregational Church**  
2 North Eagleville Rd.  
Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

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