



NORTH WIND

Rejoicing in the Spirit ~ Celebrating Community

North Congregational Church New Hartford, CT 06057 Feb./Mar 2018

“Oh, The Possibilities!”

It’s been about 3 months now, since I arrived at North Church and things are heating up (in my head, if not at all outside)! The weather and the cold, the travel conditions here and the option of Florida for many have taken a serious chunk out of our attendance in worship. (I assume it’s that, and not, say, my breath.) It is amazing to me how such a small church can have such warmth and light to it, and I look forward to those numbers increasing as the weather gets to ... reasonable.

In the meantime, it is beginning to feel like the Spirit is “popping up” all around here. In these bleak times for the country and world, -- politically, economically, socially, and environmentally. God’s word has so much to say to us, and we have so much to say to the world about God’s presence in it. Frankly, I have been depressed by the actions and inactions of the political world for more than a year now and it was starting to bleed into my personal and spiritual life.

My colleagues in faith have remained steadfast in their faith – not in people or institutions, but in God and God’s will for the world. That, too, is rubbing off on me. Having recently re-read the words of Martin Luther King and remembered what the world used to be like for people, I am reminded of the incredible things that can happen when God is present in people’s lives or institutions. When we are in synch with God’s will, we re-discover faith. Faith begets miracles, which beget faith, which begets yet more miracles – which leads to change and incredible things.

My mood has lifted and I am beginning to remember quotes from my ordination, all those years ago. The one, which comes to mind today, is one by the late Robert Kennedy. “There are those that look at things the way they are, and ask why? I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?”

Our potluck-and-presentation meetings have been well attended and lively. Our first Bible study was well attended and lively. We will have at least one baptism coming up soon. We are looking for a new CE Director/Faith Formation person because Sarah had done such good work that we’d like to keep that coming. Our choir is both good at what they do and a lot of fun to work with. Every person I see here is kind. Think about that! What a great place to make things happen! What a great place to raise children! In short, we have what the world needs now...

And our resources? Sulli, the church secretary took me downstairs to fix a blown circuit breaker, and there is a whole new world downstairs! Among other things, there’s a cool “Youth Room”. And there is an awful lot of open space, which has so, so many possibilities if it were used. In addition, of course, there are 6 finished rooms upstairs. We have what the world needs here, as well: space for imaginations and people to use!

We have what the world needs, we are doing what God requires of us, and we’re doing it kindly. I *do* see things and say “Why Not?!” I hope you will, too, as we continue the interim.

Peace,
Rev. John

DEACONS

I recently came across the Joyce Rupp poem, "One Strong Star". This beautiful poem moved me so much that I wanted to pass an excerpt from the poem on to my church family.

One strong star sends a brave song
to those who doubt their own courage.
It shines for the soreness of the planet
and for all who die daily
in their coffins of discouragement.
Hope comes in little ways –
it only takes one shining star,
one faithful friend,
one wisp of inspiration,
one touch of creation's beauty,
one deep sip of love
to keep the illumination alive in us.

May we all continue to be faithful friends and sources of love for one another –
Fran Herman

FELLOWSHIP

On November 23rd we had a free Thanksgiving Community Meal for the first time. I was not here but I was told that it went very well. A small turn out but everyone, who was there, enjoyed the food. A traditional turkey meal with all the trimmings and deserts. The leftovers went to The Open Door.

In December we had the first Sunday of Advent and a workshop with the children from CE. We had snacks and goodies for the children and grown ups. On the 17th of December we had the Childrens Christmas Pageant and we served food and goodies for the children and families.

Committees are taking turns doing fellowship once a month and it is working out great. Everyone is doing their part.

The donations for the months were \$51.00. The expenses were \$57.96

Everything is going well and I am very pleased.

Cele Hoffman, Chairman
Deacon 860-489-0577

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday, February 18th, Giv2. Participants will prepare a meal at the Open Door Soup Kitchen in Winsted. Youth and adults are invited to attend. Please contact Erick Olsen by Sunday 2/4 at reverendole@hotmail.com to sign up.

Here is a likely schedule for Sunday 2/18:

- Welcome and blessing (5-10 min.)
- Lunch - brown bag (20 min.)
- Icebreaker/Team Building activity (20-30 min.)
- Covenant Review (5-10 min.)
- Actual Project/Work for the Day (1.5-2 hours)
- Debrief with Snack (15 min.)
- Closing Prayer

Here are the roles/jobs that need to be done - please let me know if you are willing and able to take one:

- leading an icebreaker activity (anything for youth group is fine) near the beginning of our gathering
- acting as the "official" photographer for the experience
- leading the debriefing (including providing a simple snack {brownies or cookies or...}) at the end (there is a script for this)

Additionally, we ask each church to help with ingredients for our meal - but I've not yet determined the menu with Carrie Delaney at the Open Door. So please stay tuned.

Thank you,
Erick

The Rev. Erick Olsen, Pastor
Church of Christ, Congregational (United Church of Christ)
An Open and Affirming Church
(860) 542-5721 office
(860) 303-0910 cell
12 Village Green, Norfolk CT 06058

FINANCE/STEWARDSHIP

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to those who have generously pledged to NCC. There were 19 pledges for a total of \$21,917. Thank you letters to those who have pledged were mailed in January along with year-end contribution statements. Last year, donations to the general fund amounted to \$32,285.

In addition to pledges, we thank everyone who also contribute to the various fund-raisers and special collections held throughout the year. This spirit of giving helps to keeps our church alive within the community. That is part of our motto: Rejoicing in the spirit, celebrating community.

Through your gifts and bequests, the goal of NCC, to maintain an active spiritual and mission-oriented presence within the community, can be realized.

Susan Lachowicz, finance chairwoman

MUSIC

Our worship continues to be filled with joyful music!

Choir attendance is high, and even though weeknight rehearsals are on hold, the singers always manage to lead the hymns and sing at least one anthem or new hymn every week. Currently we meet at 9:00 on Sunday mornings, but we will be returning to a weeknight rehearsal later.

I will be visiting my mother in the UK for three Sundays – February 25th, March 4th and March 11th. During that time we will enjoy having Marianna Vagnini, an accomplished singer, as a substitute. Marianna filled in for two weeks in June last year and was much appreciated.

I hope to have a date soon in April for our annual Farmington Valley Band concert. Costs for this concert come from the Restricted Music Fund, set up for music outreach. There is no charge for the audience, but donations are requested. Afterwards there will be light refreshments and a chance to meet the band members. This is the band's 10th concert at the church, and members of the community look forward to it.

I am planning music now for Lent and Easter. The first Sunday in Lent is February 18th and Easter Sunday is on April 1st. Lent is a time of reflection before the joy of the resurrection. This might be a good time to join the choir if you like to sing but can't commit to every week. The choir is a very welcoming group and it is uplifting to sing with people who love what they do!

Shirley McCunn
Organist/Choir Director

PEACH FESTIVAL

Yes, it is only February but it is time to start planning for the Peach Festival. We will need pie bakers this year. Please contact the church office to volunteer for pie baking.

If you attend any craft fairs and see some really nice, unusual items please get the vendor's business card and drop it off at the church office. We are always looking for vendors to invite to the Peach Festival.

NCC MAILBOX

From: United Church of Christ, on January 31st,
Thank you for your gifts to support Hurricane Relief for the areas affected by Harvey, Irma and Maria.

From: The Open Door, Inc on December 6, 2017
Thank you, the turkey dinners were wonderful!

SILVER LAKE SUMMER CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Registration for Summer Camp for grades 4 through 12 is now open, register online at silverlakeect.org.

Summer 2018 Conference dates:

Precamp: June 17th – 23rd

Week 1: June 24th – June 30th

Week 2: July 1st – 7th,

Week 3: July 8th – 14th

Week 4: July 15th – 21st

Week 5: July 22nd – 28th

Week 6: July 29th – August 4th

Week 7: August 5th – 11th

Sunday, May 20th, Open House at Silver Lake.

NEIGHBORING CHURCHES' EVENTS

Monday, February 26th, 7:00 p.m. Micah Book Group, Fellowship room at Church of Christ Congregational, UCC in Goshen. The first book is 'Just Mercy' by Bryan Stevenson. (there will be snacks)
5 Old Middle Street, Goshen, CT 06756, Please call or email Reverend Sara Krhla, (860) 491-2793, pastorsara.goshenchurch@gmail.com to sign up.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Memory Café hosted by Arden Courts

Every Third Wednesday of the Month at 2:00 p.m. at Amici Italian Grill, 401 West Main St., Avon, CT 06001. Coffee and conversation specifically for people with dementia and their caregivers.

Questions? Call (860) 678-7500 or email Avon@arden-courts.com.

Hartford Yard Goats

I want to personally invite you and your community at North Congregational Church to be a part of Faith & Family Day this season at Dunkin' Donuts Park!

Faith & Family Day is a special event where we celebrate the religious communities of our region with special activities and promotions at the ballpark. The event includes an On-Field Ceremony Celebrating Community Leadership as well as an Open Forum on faith featuring Yard Goats Players. Due to popular demand we will be hosting Faith & Family Day multiple times this season, including; **Saturday, August 25th** for our late summer date and **Saturday, May 5th** for our Spring date as well as potentially a third date.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me to learn more as these dates are filling up fast and we offer special rates to religious organizations during all of our 70 Home Games, including on Faith & Family Day.

Kind Regards,
Shawn Perry

FEBRUARY CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 4th

Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, February 8th

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 11th

Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Fat Sundae, our version of "Fat Tuesday" Make your own ice cream sundae during fellowship!

Wednesday, February 14th

Ash Wednesday

Thursday, February 15th

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 18th

Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Church Council 11:30 a.m.
Giv2 at the Open Door Soup Kitchen in Winsted.

Thursday, February 22nd

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 25th

Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday Food Collection

Office Hours most weeks:

Wednesdays and Thursdays
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
or as posted*.

FEBRUARY

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE

February 4th, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c,
1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39.

February 11th, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6,
2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9.

February 14th, Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Isaiah 58:1-12,
Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10,
Mark 6:16-21.

February 18th, First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10,
1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15.

February 25th, Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31,
Romans 4:13-25, Mark 8:31-38, 9:2-9.

To receive the UCC Daily Devotional by e-mail, follow this link:

<http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/daily-devotional/>



February

Steve Noell

12th

Eileen Brunt

23rd

Office Notes

If your or your child's information is missing or incorrect in the Northwind birthday lists, the church directory or the all church email, please let me know so the information can be added or updated.

Please remember to mark upcoming church events and committee meetings on the calendar on the kitchen counter, or call or email the church with any information that needs to be in the bulletins, all church emails or the Northwind.

Thank you,

K.T. 'Sulli' Sullivan, Church Secretary

MARCH CHURCH CALENDAR

Thursday, March 1st

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 4th

Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 8th

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 11th

Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Thursday, March 15th

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 18th

Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Council meeting following worship

Thursday, March 22nd

Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, March 25th

Choir Practice 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday Food Collection

Thursday, March 29th

Maundy Thursday

Friday, March 30th

Good Friday

Saturday, March 31st

Holy Saturday

Office Hours most weeks:

Wednesdays and Thursdays

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

or as posted*.

MARCH

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE

March 4th, Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19,

1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22.

March 11th, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21:4-9, Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22,

Ephesians 2:1-10, John 3:14-21.

March 18th, Fifth Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-2,

Psalm 119:9-16, Hebrews 5:5-10,

John 12:20-33.

March 25th, Sixth Sunday in Lent

Mark 11:1-11, John 12:12-16,

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Isaiah 50:4-9a,

Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 14:1-15:47.

March 29th, Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19,

1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35.

March 30th, Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-

25, Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9,

John 18:1-19:42.

March 31st, Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14, Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24,

Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16, 1 Peter 4:1-8,

Matthew 27:57-66, John 19:38-42

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March

Evan Zenuh 5th

Shawn Zenuh 8th

Donna Auclair 16th

Alesia Kennerson 19th

North Wind

North Congregational Church
17 Church St., North
PO Box 307
New Hartford, CT 06057

Worship/Church School Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Office Telephone: 860-379-2466

E-mail: northchurchucc@hotmail.com

website: www.northchurchucc.com

Facebook:

North Congregational Church, New Hartford, CT

Minister: Rev. John Madsen-Bibeau

(413) 657-4149

Shirley McCunn, Organist and Director of Music

George Schmidt, Sexton

K.T. Sullivan, Secretary