



NORTH WIND

Rejoicing in the Spirit ~ Celebrating Community

North Congregational Church

New Hartford, CT 06057

February 2020



Church Council



From the Moderator

What's new at NCC? The office computers have been upgraded to Windows 10, incorporating a newer release of Microsoft Office. Many thanks to our tech guru, Mark Perillo, for making this happen. In addition, we upgraded the application used to record

contributions. We were running on an old version of Membership Plus and migrated to their replacement program, Realm Inform. Our admin assistant, Suzanne Czerwinski, reports that she is pleased with the changes.

Stephen Egbertson has turned over his treasurer duties to Dave McCunn. We thank Steve for his 5 years of service as treasurer. He remains as an officer of the church by accepting the role of clerk and is responsible for taking minutes at all council and congregational meetings. These changes were voted into place at our annual congregational meeting in November.

Times, they are a-changing for the congregational church. On a regional scale the, the Connecticut Conference of the UCC has merged with Massachusetts and Rhode Island to become the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. North Congregational Church pays dues to this organization based on our member count. Our special collections also benefit the conference.

Change is afoot locally as membership declines. We at NCC are resuming our visioning conversations to help brainstorm ideas and the pathway into the future. One option under consideration to provide additional income is to actively market our parish hall as an event space for rent. We have the advantage of a large commercial kitchen. We continue to have Pleasant Valley Children's Center as a tenant in the parsonage.

Please watch for the next scheduled vision conversation. Everyone's input is critical. There is a lot to consider and tough decisions will need to be made. However, we do have time to reflect and make the right decision without haste. We are very fortunate to have an unrestricted endowment that we can draw from, but it will not last indefinitely.

Sue Lachowicz, moderator/finance chairwoman



From the Deacons...

“We all of us need to be toppled off the throne of self, my dear,” he said. “Perched up there the tears of others are never upon our own cheek.”

— Elizabeth Goudge, [The White Witch](#)

One of the many gifts of belonging to a faith community is the chance to be “toppled off our thrones of self” as we link our lives with others in our church family. For many of us, one of the highlights of the worship service is the “Passing of the Peace”, when we have a chance to greet each other, and to wish each other well with the words “Peace be with you”. This linking of our lives can be a healing antidote to the pressures of a secular culture which emphasizes going it alone and getting ahead, even at the expense of others.

In the words of Pope Francis (my additions in italics): “We have observed that, in society and the world in which we live, selfishness has increased more than love for others, and that men *and women* of good will must work, each with his *or her* own strengths and expertise, to ensure that love for others increases until it is equal and possibly exceeds love for oneself”.

One of the best ways I know to expand our ability to love one another is to pray for our brothers and sisters, sharing their joys and concerns, and linking ourselves with them at a deeper level. At North Congregational Church, several members are part of a “Prayer Chain”. Prayer Chain members commit to praying for concerns which are received via prayer request cards or voiced during the service. If you would like to participate as a “link” in the prayer chain, or if you have a prayer concern that you would like the prayer chain members to lift up in prayer, please contact Rev. Marcia or myself.

Peace be with you!

Fran Herman, Chair of Deacons



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Guest Preacher, The Rev. Elizabeth Mauro Sermon Text:
Matthew 15: 21-28 Jesus and the Canaanite Woman

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

CELEBRATION OF
SCOUT SUNDAY WITH OUR
RESIDENT TROUP #2019

MEETING WITH PARENTS OF OUR CE STUDENTS
AFTER COFFEE HOUR



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

FIRST IN THE SERMON SERIES:
THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS
Don't know yet which will be first.
Come and be surprised.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING FOLLOWING COFFEE HOUR

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North Wind

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United Church of Christ

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STAFF:

The Rev. Marcia Lynn Cox, Designated Pastor

Shirley McCunn, Organist & Director of Music

Suzanne Czerwinski, Secretary

Dave Holcomb, Sexton