

The Carillon

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Incorporated 1921

MARCH 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/>.

March Scriptures, Sermons and Special Worship Events

March 2: (Ash Wednesday): Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51: 1-17
“Mender of Broken Walls”

March 6: Deut 26: 1-11; Luke 4:1-13 “Take Every Test”
(Communion)

March 13: Gen 15:1-12; Luke 13:31-35 “Finish the Work”
(Baby dedication for Caleb Bryant)

March 20: Isaiah 55: 1-9; Luke 13:1-9 “Repentance and
Opportunity: Engaging the Climate Crisis” (The Rev. Jim
Antal guest preacher). Second hour discussion via Zoom
with Rev. Antal; Kathy Lindner will facilitate discussion.

March 27: Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Cor 5: 16-21 “Come to Life”
(One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – theme: “Love
Remains”)

In honor of Women's History Month, Ms. Prudence
Crandall will be joining Pastor Debbie in the pulpit.



welcoming historic progressive Christian



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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; information about upcoming meetings, events and celebrations. Articles to be included in the monthly newsletter should be received in the office by the 22nd of the month.

The Carillon is the monthly newsletter of

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268 | 860.429.9382 | www.storrscongregationchurch.org

We share in God’s love by growing in faith, courageously seeking justice, and generously caring for all people.

Ministers All of the Congregation

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PASTOR DEBBIE'S LETTER FOR THE CARILLON

Dear Ones,



Hand of God

I am humbled to have the opportunity to journey with you through the Lenten season this year; and in person! Lent is a favorite liturgical time for me; I love the darkness, the quiet, the invitation to walk with Jesus into the wilderness in solitude. Perhaps that is why I have always been drawn to times of retreat, especially at Mercy by the Sea, where I can bask in quiet contemplation and prayer.

Lent is a season of repentance which means that we can turn to God and ask for God's forgiveness, goodness, and grace. Lent helps us to remember God's abundance by focusing on five divine attributes drawn from the gospel texts of Luke: faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love; all sacred traits to ponder and to practice in the weeks to come.

We have many Lenten contemplative in action activities planned throughout Lent and Holy Week. I invite you to participate as you are able whether it be joining our book club discussion on food insecurity, walking the labyrinth, or in our Good Friday Walk in Willimantic. Beautiful services with special music are planned for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday. On Easter, we invite you to don an Easter bonnet/hat (both women and men!) to celebrate Resurrection Joy, the beauty of spring, and gladness that we are gathering for Easter in person after two years!

This Lent, be in peace and practice peace; Jesus will meet you wherever you are, and as you are, on your Lenten journey.

Every blessing,
Pastor Debbie

GOVERNING BOARD NEWS



Governing Board *Minutes*

Regular Meeting – February 9, 2022

Paul Schur, Governing Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine led the group in an opening prayer.

Board Attendance: Bruce Bergen, Elaine Chague, Bonnie Chemerka, Cass Crewdson, Tina Huey, Dave Jordan, Pastor Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine, Annetta Miller (Clerk), Paul Schur, Zoe Strickler, Nancy Tomastik

Present to Speak—No guests were present to speak.

Consent Agenda—The board adopted the full Consent Agenda, with minor revisions, on a motion by Elaine Chague and a second by Dave Jordan. The Consent Agenda was approved as follows:

1. That the Board approves the Minutes of the January 12, 2022, meeting of the Board.
2. That the Board approves the Minutes of the February 6, 2022, organizational meeting of the Board.
3. That the Board acknowledges receipt of the December 2021 report of the Treasurer.
4. That the Board acknowledges receipt of the January Financial Statement of Activities 2022.
5. That the Board acknowledges receipt of updates from the Lead Ministry Coordinators.
6. That the Board appoints the following individuals as counters, to assist the Collectors in the counting and reconciliation of receipts, through January 2023: Marietta Johnson, Cass Crewdson, Mark Roy, Sue Schur, Jane Ann Bobbitt.
7. The Board appoints the following individuals as internal auditors, through January 2023: Laurie Brookes and Kathleen “Cass” Crewdson.
8. That the Board re-appoints Lynn Brown, Liz Cowles, Jamie Lang-Rodean and Carol Jordan as Memorial and Special Gifts Committee
9. That the board re-appoints Charleen Knapp, Eileen Metzgar, Larry Mickel and Jamie Lang-Rodean as the Edwina Whitney Scholarship Committee.

10. That the Board hereby re-appoints Paul Schur and Jamie Lang-Rodean as co-Lead Ministry Coordinators for Worship, through January 2023 or until a different appointment is made.
11. That the Board hereby re-appoints Duffy Brookes as Lead Ministry Coordinator for Buildings & Grounds, through January 2023 or until a different appointment is made.
12. That the Board hereby re-appoints Janice Castle as Lead Ministry Coordinator for University Student Ministries, through January 2023 or until a different appointment is made.
13. That the Board hereby re-appoints Pam Roberts as Lead Ministry Coordinator for Congregational Life & Hospitality, through January 2023 or until a different appointment is made.
14. That the Board hereby re-appoints Carolyn Holmy and Janis Hoyle as co-Lead Ministry Coordinators for Outreach Ministries, through January 2023 or until a different appointment is made.
15. That the Board hereby appoints Patty Tanaka and Kathy Hampton as co-Lead Ministry Coordinators for Caring Ministries, through January 2023 or until a different appointment is made.
16. That the Board appoints Annetta Miller as a delegate for wider UCC Church through January 2024.

Appointments for Subcommittees of the Board—The Board Chair announced the following committee appointments for the coming year:

Finance & Administration: Tina Huey, Dave Jordan and Paul Schur

Facilities: Elaine Chague; Bonnie Chemerka, Lindsay Irvine and Nancy Tomastik

Ministry & Personnel: Bruce Bergen, Cass Crewdson, Zoe Strickler and Pastor Debbie

Safe Church: Paul Schur (ex-officio) and Cass Crewdson (ex-officio) Note: This committee needs one more member.

Behavioral Covenant--The Board reviewed the congregation's Behavioral Covenant. Pastor Debbie shared some thoughts on the document, noting that:

- It is designed as a guide for healthy and effective communication among members of the congregation, the board, and the staff.
- It was informed by her previous work as a church consultant, when she helped a number of congregations in Connecticut and Massachusetts develop behavioral covenants to address internal conflicts.

- It is designed to be reviewed on a regular basis to improve communications and help resolve any conflicts that may arise within the church community.

Two board members said that in adopting such a document, they want to guard against discouraging healthy dissent among congregants. They noted that dissent--and making sure all opinions are heard--is an important part of the decision-making process.

Pastor Debbie said the board is scheduled to discuss the covenant further at its annual retreat in March.

Financial Business

Motion: by Nancy Tomastik with a second by Bonnie Chemerka to appoint Dave Jordan as an assistant treasurer. Board members approved the motion unanimously, citing Dave's prior experience and noting that it will be helpful to have an additional person with signing privileges and access to the church's financial records.

Governing Board Retreat-- The group discussed possible dates in March for the annual governing board retreat. Deborah is preparing binders for the event.

HVAC Mini-Splits System

Motion: Board member Nancy Tomastik moved that the board approve the purchase of a Fujitsu heating and cooling mini-split system for the chapel for \$8,600, with the entire amount to be donated by Nancy and Ed Tomastik. Following discussion, David Jordan moved to refer the Tomastik motion to the church's HVAC committee, which the congregation has charged with considering SCC's heating and cooling needs. The motion to refer passed. The Committee will consider the Fujitsu mini-split system along with two other similar systems whose names have been submitted to Duffy Brookes, Facilities Coordinator.

Prior to the vote (8 affirmative, 1 abstention), board members suggested that the committee also consider ventilation options, environmental impacts, and the feasibility of geothermal power, among other ideas.

They expressed gratitude for the Tomastiks' generosity and passion for the project.

Highlights of February Pastoral Report—Provided by Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine

- Conducted home visits and connected with church members through weekly phone calls, emails, lunches, and cards.
- Met with former and new leaders for the Caring Ministries; oversaw the addition of a visiting team to assist the pastor. Discussed more effective ways for the Caring Ministries to serve congregants.
- Collaborated with the Personnel Committee to create comprehensive staff folders that reflect the criteria in the Employee Handbook
- Conducted annual performance reviews for all staff.
- Developed a sermon series for the month of February called, “Grace Emerging,” which focuses on Jesus’ early ministry in the Gospel of Luke
- Developed, in consultation with the Worship Team, a Lenten program to begin on Ash Wednesday
- Worked with Communications Director Ellen Bradley on weekly church emails, Prayer Circle, and the updating of the church website and Facebook page.
- Participated in a retreat at Mercy by the Sea
- Met with the following groups: Task Force on Resuming In-Person Gatherings, NAACP, Conference, Pastoral Relations Committee, Worship Team, WAIM, and Personnel Committee.

Upcoming Pastoral Activities:

- Meetings scheduled with the following groups: Lead Ministry Coordinators, Just Peace Team, Diaconate, and Pastoral Relations Committee
- Lenten activities to be announced
- Hosting The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal, author of the book *Climate Change, Climate World: Why should people of faith engage the moral challenge of climate change—and how should we do it?* Dr. Antal will deliver the sermon via Zoom on Sunday, March 20 and be available after the service to discuss how the church can help combat climate change.
- Pastor Debbie is awaiting an appointment to the WAIM Board of Directors, an organization she is looking forward to serving in a leadership capacity in the future.

Review of Tasks

Motion: Dave Jordan moved, and Cass Crewdson, seconded a motion authorizing Paul Schur, Governing Board Chair, to appoint the HVAC committee to study heating and cooling options for the church facilities. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Paul to recruit volunteers for the HVAC committee and send out a congregational email with an update about the committee
- Cass reported that the next step for the Search Committee seeking a settled pastor will be to select some candidates for initial interviews, with the goal of learning more about them.

Pastor Debbie delivered the benediction, sharing a passage from John O'Donohue's book, *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*

Adjournment was at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, at 7:00 pm.

FEBRUARY MINISTRY TEAM REPORT SUMMARIES

Buildings and Grounds-- Duffy Brookes

- Cleared snow resulting from this winter's storms to make church grounds accessible. Thanks to Rich Cowles for assisting with this effort.
- Performed maintenance on doors and entrances to keep out the cold and unwanted guests. (Differences are apparent in the main office, lounge, kitchen, auditorium, chapel and education wing.)
- Replaced deteriorating panels on the chapel exterior.
- Rebuilt, with Antonio's help, leaky and malfunctioning flush mechanism on a toilet in the first-floor women's room near the elevator.
- Drooping alarm and internet wires in the Ed. Wing hallway were reattached in conduit.

- Secured additional information and quotes on possible AC installations in preparation for discussions on this issue
- Welcomed the beginning of discussions on long-term issues concerning SCC's buildings and grounds. Information is being gathered on potential big-ticket items which may become necessary in the near future such as roof repair, tree work and major painting projects. The importance of being proactive on the state of our facilities can't be overstated and thank you to Paul Schur for initiating this action.

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 for Growing in Faith Newsletter, each Friday
- YU? YLM: Using Faith Element for Youth, each Friday

Report on Events in January

- 1 participant for weekly Quiet Reflection in Waggoner Chapel
- Epiphany Star Words- created for distribution for all SCC members to ponder and contemplate
- Created 'Women's Christmas' gifts/pins for distribution for Epiphany Sunday celebration

Faith Formation Events/Activities for February

- Take heart-TAKE ACTION! Planning session postponed to February 26, 1:30-4:00pm
- Intergenerational Event: Hike to Horse-barn Hill with take heart-TAKE ACTION students- February 26, 3-4pm
- Supported SNEUCC "Breaking Out of the Box" MLK Event- January 17

SNEUCC Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Community of Practice, Trainings

- Veriditas: Endings and Beginnings: The Labyrinth as a Conduit for Life Journey Workshop- January 21

- SNEUCC Faith Formation Leadership Workshop: Serving Together — Mission for All Ages- January 22
- Facilitated Faith Formation Community of Practice monthly meeting- -January 26

Outreach—Jan Hoyle and Carolyn Holmy

- The Books for Brooklyn project, initiated by Jan Hoyle and chaired by Malta Bailey and Nancy Rucker, is busy gathering used books. The books will be distributed to Brooklyn Correctional Facility, which is establishing a library for inmates. Donations will be accepted until Feb. 28.
- Volunteers for the SCC food pantry visited MidWest Food Warehouse in Manchester recently. The pantry will now be obtaining some food, cleaning supplies and other items from that organization in addition to the food it receives from CTFoodshare. There is currently no cost to the pantry for provisions from either warehouse. ***Donations from parishioners are still welcome--especially cereal and personal care items.***

Worship Coordinators-- Jamie Lang-Rodean and Paul Schur

- The January 2, 2022, worship service was virtual only due to Covid issues. It was decided to delay communion until Epiphany Sunday, January 9, 2022, but due to the threat of inclement weather, that service was also broadcast virtually.
- Jamie Lang-Rodean delivered flowers from the church to Larry Mickel.
- A celebration of Life for Ellen Mickel was held on Tuesday, January 11. Many thanks to Janet Atkins, Carol and David Jordan and Jamie and Wes Lang-Rodean for their assistance as greeters and ushers.
- Flowers from the church were sent to Pam Roberts.
- Our January 30, 2022, worship service was virtual due to a blizzard on Saturday, January 29 into Sunday.
- Communion was served on February 6, 2022.

TREASURER'S REPORT—Bob Malecki

The 2021 budget closed with an \$18,864 surplus!

Total Income for 2021 came in below target by \$4,677 (1.2%). Contributions were \$13,489 behind plan for the year, but about \$12,000 behind plan for the month of December. I suspect that knowledge of a substantial surplus affected giving during the month of December. The shortfall in pledge income was

substantially offset by Unrestricted Gifts being \$10,295 more than budgeted. Rental income was within \$2,500 of plan. Total Expenses for the year were \$28,118 (7.0%) less than budgeted. The majority of the budget savings came from personnel, specifically because our Interim Senior Pastor did not require health insurance, retirement, or life insurance benefits, and because we were without a Communications & Digital Ministries Specialist for a few months during the year.

The surplus amount exceeds the 2%-of-the-budget limit that the GB can distribute without congregation approval (bylaws section 26f). A proposal for distribution was made to the GB during the Jan. 12 GB meeting. The GB recommendation to the congregation for the annual meeting will be captured in the minutes of the GB meeting.

Other

- The December Christmas Fund collection totaled \$1,017. This exceeded the \$965 collected in 2020 by 5%.
- The Christmas Eve and online collection for the Minister's Discretionary Fund totaled \$1,229.
- The Christmas Bazaar netted \$4,250 for the Windham Region No Freeze Project.
- The external financial review was completed by Mark Makuch, CPA, and his report was received by and reviewed with the Finance Committee of the Governing Board on Dec. 6, 2021. Mark was generally complimentary of our financial systems and practices. A summary of the review is in the attached meeting minutes from the Dec. 6 meeting.
- The Finance Committee of the Governing Board approved the finance housekeeping suggestions made by Treasurer, with the indicated modification in the Dec. 6 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Annetta Miller, Clerk

Upcoming Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 9th at 7:00 PM in the Lounge and via Zoom

Our Governing Board will meet 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, March 4th to be added to the distribution.

Ministry Coordinator reports should be submitted to the office a week prior to the meeting to be distributed with the rest of the meeting materials for use at the meeting.



SPRING PARKING UPDATE

Student Parking has returned to our lot. We now have 4 spaces that are “rented” by students. **Each spot is clearly marked with a blue parking tag that includes vehicle and plate number information.**

Please note that these spaces are reserved for specific students between Sunday at 3:00 PM thru Friday at 6:00 PM. If possible, please do not park in these spots during that time period.

Student Parking Renters that have vehicles parked in their assigned spaces may choose to park in other Storrs Congregational Church parking spots until their spot becomes available. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



PHONE SYSTEM CHANGES

6 months following the July lightning strike we have completed repairs and implemented an enhancement to our phone answering system. These changes, if not explained, may be confusing. Before the change, the caller would ring at Deborah's desk and, if she wasn't the person you needed, she would transfer you to the appropriate extension.

Now when you call the church number, the caller will hear 2 rings and then the smooth sound of Mark Roy's voice will announce a welcoming message and the list of the extensions before providing Worship or Building information.

Feedback on this change is welcome and may be directed to Deborah at sccoffice@storrsconchurch.org.

CARING MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT ~

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 1998 by Janet Bristow and others as a result of their experiences at the Women's Leadership Institute at the Hartford Seminary.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of the Storrs Congregational Church began in June 2005 and was coordinated by Jennie Talbot until October 2020. The aim of the ministry is to provide shawls of comfort or celebration to members and friends of our congregation. Our group meets on the fourth Thursday of most months at 10 AM in the Church Library either by ZOOM or in person. Individuals involved with the ministry work on their own shawls between meetings and contribute them to the church upon completion and to be blessed during a church service. Ten people participated in 2021. Some knitters also make prayer squares that are included in the welcome bags for visitors to the church. A total of 449 shawls have been made and 430 have been given away since the ministry began in 2005.



During 2021, 24 shawls were presented to members and friends of our congregation. In addition three prayer shawls were designated and delivered to Southern New England Conference of the UCC in response to the outreach request of Conference Minister, Darrell Goodwin. He wished to have prayer shawls from churches to give to all staff members

in the Conference office and in addition to give one to every newly installed pastor. Our group is also participating in making prayer squares for a 2023 New England Women's Conference so all attendees may carry a memory with them. We would welcome any knitters/crocheters who are interested in participating. Kits including yarn, needles, and directions are available. Sue Schur is the present coordinator and can be reached at 860-429-2148, or sue.b.schur@snet.net.

A LETTER FROM PATRICK

To my friends at Storrs Congregational Church, I hope as you are reading this that you are in the best of health and in high spirits. I'd like to personally thank you for your correspondences, thoughts and sentiments, prayers and support during my incarceration as well as the opportunity to sell my cards.

Your support has helped to ease my mind and to peacefully do my time. Thank you for continuing to be a big part of my life.

*Agape,
Patrick*



Patrick Barton



MAR 13, 2022 - DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS



Spring is clearly on its way!!!

Sunday, March 13, 2022, at **2:00 AM** clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to **3:00 AM**.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on Mar 13th than the day before.

BOOKS FOR BROOKLYN UPDATE

Thank you for your generous donations to Books for Brooklyn! We have collected more than 35 boxes of books, enough for a great start for the lending library. The final drop-off date was Monday, February 28; we will let you know if another date is to be added in the future.

Contact: Malta Bailey & Nancy Rucker



MUSIC FOR LENT

MARCH 6

“When I Survey” arr. Karen Thompson

SCC Ringers

“Love Bade Me Welcome” by David Hurd

MARCH 13

“John 3:16” by B.E. Boykin

Janice Castle, guest organist/director

MARCH 20

“Cool of the Day” by Jean Ritchie arr. Peter Amidon

“We Walk in Love” by Deanna Witkowski

from the *Justice Songbook*

MARCH 27

Prayer of St. Patrick by Burrows/Johnson

with Felicia Pratto, flute

APRIL 3

“Amazing Grace” arr. Kirby Shaw

Guest singers – UConn A cappella group Rubyfruit

“Kyrie” from *Pavane* arr. Arthur Frackenpohl



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING



Would you like to put your love for others into actions? Putting love into actions is a call to us to help our neighbors, near and far, as we have the ability. The Apostle Paul reminds us, just as he did the Corinthians so long ago, that the greatest expression of our connection to others is the way we love them.

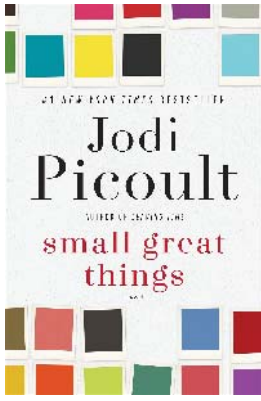
Your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing – United Church of Christ enables our church and our worldwide partners to make a difference in the lives and communities around the world. Together, we are responding to disasters, supporting sustainable farming, education, and health initiatives, as well as pitching in to assist people fleeing violence from their home communities. We receive this offering with joy, believing that, with everything else going on in the world, that love remains.

Please use the enclosed envelopes and make checks payable to “SCC” with “OGHS” on the memo line.



**OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 27, 2022**

SCC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



On Sunday, March 20th, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom 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



Good News!!! The Storrs Congregational Church Food Pantry has been accepted into partnership with Midwest Food Bank, which offers different selections of frozen food and various household products. We are certain that these items will be helpful to many in our community. With the increase in frozen food selections the Food Pantry Team decided that it was time to add a new freezer to the Food Pantry – which arrived on Monday, Feb. 28th! The community continues to express their gratitude for this valuable ministry and our dedicated Food Pantry Team!



Midwest
FOOD BANK.
NEW ENGLAND



Connecticut
Foodshare

Our Community, Our Food Bank



SCC FAITH FORMATION

Lisa Haupt

Director of Faith Formation



The Contemplative Nature of Lent

In his book, *The Mystery of Christ*, Thomas Keating writes: “Out of love for us, Jesus experienced the temptation of the desert and to share his trials. Each Lent he invites us to join him in the desert and share his trials.”

What Does It Mean to Contemplate?

Perhaps it depends if you are one who responds to the world from the voice of René Descartes’ “I think therefore I am” (*Discourse on Method*) or of God’s voice: “Be Still and know that I am God”, (*Psalms 46:10*).

According to dictionary.cambridge.com, to contemplate means “to spend time considering a possible future action or to consider one particular thing for a long time in a serious and quiet way.” I wonder if this definition seems to be coming more from Descartes’ point of view.

On the cac.org website you will read, “Contemplation is a way of listening with the heart while not relying entirely on the head. Contemplation is a prayerful letting go of our sense of control and choosing to cooperate with God and God’s work in the world. Prayer without action, as Father Richard [Rohr] says, can promote our tendency to self-preoccupation, and without contemplation, even well-intended actions can cause more harm than good.” (Center for Contemplation and Action), Albuquerque, NM) As a student of The Living School through the CAC, I was enculturated with this definition and am joy-filled to invite others to learn about and practice this Contemplative Christian definition.



Walking on a Labyrinth, such as the one in these photos, where I took a snowy walk of contemplation at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford after attending a Contemplative Enrichment workshop. After the full day of the conference materials, I chose to spend a short time walking with God to allow the content to sink in more deeply, to have a

fuller meaning in my life and simply be thankful for the day, before getting in my car to drive home.

What is Contemplative Prayer?

Thomas Keating states, in the beginning of his book, *Open Mind, Open Heart*, that “Contemplative prayer is the world in which God can do anything. To move into that realm is the greatest adventure. It is to be open to the Infinite and hence to infinite possibilities...our awakening to the presence and action of the Spirit is the unfolding of Christ’s resurrection in us.” In Keating’s book: *Heartfulness, Transformation in Christ*, he writes, “The contemplative journey is the most responsible of all responses to God because so much depends on it—the future of humanity, the healing of the wounds of humanity, our own deepest healing. It’s not just a method of meditation or a practice to find personal peace. It’s basically a total acceptance of the human condition in all its ramifications, including its desperate woundedness...[H]umans are fully capable of becoming God, not in the fullest sense of the term, but in a very real way, where the light, life, and love of God are pouring through them, channeling a source of healing, compassion, and reconciliation wherever they may go and whatever they may do. They are rooted in the divine compassion and mercy, and are manifesting...the pure light of the image and likeness of God within them, which is the assimilation of the mind and heart of Christ in everyday life.”

Mender of Broken Walls

I wonder how contemplative prayer may calling to you during our Lenten theme: *Mender of Broken Walls?*

In addition to our regular ***Wednesday Quiet Reflection in Waggoner Chapel***, we will hold ***Lenten Quiet Reflection*** on three Thursdays at NOON on March 3, 17, and 31. AND you are invited to stay for ***Lectio Divina***, an ancient Christian practice of reading Scripture (or other sacred texts) in a way “to cultivate our capacity to listen deeply for God in the whole of life.” (Christine Valters Paintner, *Lectio Divina, the Sacred Art*.) The portable ***Labyrinth*** will be available for walking meditation on communion Sundays: March 6 and April 3, as well as on Good Friday, April 15.

And watch the weekly emails for details inviting the entire congregation to participate in: ***SCC Contemplatives in Action! Project*** and ***Contemplation in Action Good Friday Walk***.

Peace and joy,
Lisa

A Reflection: Chapel Meditation

by Ellen Bradley

My Epiphany Star Word was silence. I am not sure what God has in mind for me with silence. Our household has typical noise but really is not a very loud one compared to some, and even Willow, our little rescue dog, does not bark and is as silent as...well, a church mouse. So when Lisa, our Faith Formation Director, invited me to check out her Wednesday Morning meditation in the chapel so I could experience it firsthand and possibly promote it, I jumped at the opportunity. I not only wanted to see what this experience would be like, but I also wanted to try to incorporate more intentional silence into my life so that I might listen and become aware of any message God might be trying to send me. This might be a good chance to do that!

It was about 30 degrees outside. The chapel, although unheated, did not feel extremely cold. We kept our coats on. I looked around the space a little bit and noticed that it is a perfect miniature of a regular church, with wooden pews containing hymnals, an altar and lectern, a little choir area, and even an organ. I did not see religious artifacts, perhaps as an effort to create a more nondenominational space where anyone stopping by of any religious inclination could be comfortable. The focal point of the room was a large beautiful stained glass window right behind the altar, bright in the sunlight and whose patterns appeared to be in 3-D.

Lisa lit a candle on the altar and we sat in the first few pews. She read a bible passage and then we settled into a time of silent meditation. I am unaccustomed to this and sometimes have trouble turning my brain off. However, I found myself mesmerized by the large stained glass window. It cast a blue glow into the chapel that felt like the presence of the Holy Spirit diffused throughout the room. Things I was worried about went away during this time. Fifteen minutes went by and the mediation time ended by a gentle gong. Lisa then read an inspirational passage that said healing after a hurt only comes once one becomes aware and accepting of the lesson that the hurt brought. I started to consider how hurt can also be a teacher, with us sitting at its feet, gaining understanding that had previously eluded us. It made me feel optimistic and closer to God as I left the chapel to continue my work day. I would recommend coming to a Wednesday Chapel meditation. They are held each week at 10:00 a.m. It will give you the valuable gift of an intentional time of silence and renewal during a busy day; and you also might take away a meaningful message that either might be applicable to your life or else makes you think deeply about its meaning, which could give you an opportunity to feel closer to God too.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HAPPENINGS

Anniversary Celebrations:

- Marjorie & Lynn Brown..... March 22*
- Mary & Mike Lake March 22*
- Karen & Wade Johnson..... March 25*
- Nancy & Ed Tomastik..... March 28*



Birthday Celebrations:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Mary Patrone-Czaja.....</i> | <i>3/1</i> | <i>Haley Hamlin</i> | <i>3/15</i> |
| <i>Erica Blum.....</i> | <i>3/2</i> | <i>Pamela Reichel.....</i> | <i>3/15</i> |
| <i>Jessica McCabe</i> | <i>3/2</i> | <i>Jennifer Cano</i> | <i>3/17</i> |
| <i>Dianne Sprague.....</i> | <i>3/3</i> | <i>Samantha Vannais</i> | <i>3/18</i> |
| <i>Dana Gregus.....</i> | <i>3/3</i> | <i>Kelly Gifford</i> | <i>3/21</i> |
| <i>Ryan Ignatowicz</i> | <i>3/3</i> | <i>Laura Popeleski.....</i> | <i>3/22</i> |
| <i>Duffy Brookes</i> | <i>3/8</i> | <i>Jon Mitchell</i> | <i>3/23</i> |
| <i>Tj Green</i> | <i>3/8</i> | <i>Kelly Villar</i> | <i>3/24</i> |
| <i>Robert Brandt</i> | <i>3/9</i> | <i>Adam Yates.....</i> | <i>3/24</i> |
| <i>Bethany Saypalia</i> | <i>3/14</i> | <i>Bonnie Chemerka.....</i> | <i>3/26</i> |
| <i>Erin Niehoff</i> | <i>3/14</i> | <i>Jennifer Dixon.....</i> | <i>3/26</i> |
| <i>Marty Kinsman</i> | <i>3/15</i> | <i>Allison Bergen</i> | <i>3/28</i> |
| <i>Kris Ridyard</i> | <i>3/15</i> | <i>Jenna Hoyt.....</i> | <i>3/31</i> |

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

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Updated Church Directories are available in the Parish House entryway and Lounge. Please review your information in the directory to ensure that it is accurate. Please report any changes to Deborah, sccoffice@storrscngchurch.org.

Keeping In Touch



GATHERINGS @ SCC

- Mondays**..... Service Sewing, 9:30 am (*Ed. Building – Room 207*)
..... Food Pantry Open, 1:00 pm (*Room 102*)
..... Ballroom Dance, 7:00 pm (*Auditorium*)
- Tuesdays**..... Library Open, 9:30 am (*Ed. Building – Library*)
..... Pastoral Search Committee, 6:30 pm (*PH – Lounge & Zoom*)
..... Swing & Blues Dance, 7:00 pm (*Auditorium*)
..... UCC-UConn Tuesday Talks, 8:00 pm (*Room 106*)
- Wednesdays** Quiet Reflection, 10:00 am (*Waggoner Chapel*)
..... Parish Piecers, 10:00 am (*Zoom*)
..... C.A.F.E. Storrs, 10:30 am (*PH – Lounge & Zoom*)
..... University Ballet Co, 6:30 pm (*Auditorium*)
- Thursdays** Food Pantry Open, 2:30 pm (*Room 102*)
..... University Dance Company, 4:15 pm (*Auditorium*)
..... Handbells, 6:30 pm (*MH*)
..... Adult Choir, 7:30 pm (*MH*)
- Fridays** Table Tennis Club, 4:00 pm (*Auditorium*)
- Saturdays** Table Tennis Club, 11:30 am (*Auditorium*)
- Sundays** Food Pantry Open, 11:00 am (*Room 102*)
..... Consonare Choir Rehearsal, 4:00 pm (*Auditorium*)
-

MEETINGS @ SCC

- Mar. 9 Governing Board, 7:00 pm (*PH – Lounge & Zoom*)
- Mar. 15 Personnel Committee, 5:00 pm (*Library*)
- Mar. 24 Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting, 10:00 am (*CE – Library & Zoom*)
- Mar. 29 Personnel Committee, 5:00 pm (*Library*)
- Mar. 30 Lenten Book Discussion, 7:00 pm (*Zoom Only*)
- Mar. 3, 17, 31 Lenten Quiet Reflection, noon (*Waggoner Chapel*)
-

EVENTS @ AND WITH SCC

- Mar. 10/24 Mobile FoodShare, 11:30 am (*Mansfield Senior Center*)
-

RECOVERY MEETINGS @ SCC

- 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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