

Pastor's Letter

March 2020 First Congregational Church of Canterbury

The season of Lent has just begun. We begin our walk of reflection, prayer, healing and heaviness to the cross. Our hymns move us into times of remembering Jesus struggles in the desert, temptations, suffering and ministry on his way to the cross. The sanctuary begins to be stripped of its adornments and bright color as we clear the distractions away and direct our attention on the journey to the cross.

This season is full of moments... study Biblical truths and gifts (Les Miserables devotional times), share in fellowship (soup suppers), develop prayer practices, mission work (serving the community meal, volunteering at food pantry, donation of pennies and coffee cups). We hope you can be part of some of these moments in our journey to the cross.

*Our theme for this season is "do justice, love kindness,
walk humbly with our God"-Micah 6.*

For example the Penny Prayer meets all 3 aspects of our theme at the simplest level...JUSTICE =awareness of the homeless and less fortunate population *Jesus said to feed the hungry and cloth the naked), KINDNESS=giving to others in their time of need, WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD=praying daily is taking a walk with God on a regular basis. **Coffee Cups with pennies can be brought to Church on Easter morning for a special blessing.**



Sunday March 8th



The Chili Cook0off was a huge success. 10 Teams offered up their homemade chili recipes. Recipes ranged from mild to flaming hot. In the end, the Highland Park Hillbillies took home the trophy. \$800 was raised for our Church. Thank you to Emily Logee-Savoie for all her work in coordinating this great event.



Winners



2nd place



3rd place





40 ACTS OF KINDNESS: Living out our Faith

February 26, 2020- April 11, 2020

During this season of Lent many Churches partake in a variety of rituals. Many of us know people who “give things up” during Lent. In many UCC Churches this concept of giving something up for a season is in a way a fasting technique. Although it may help draw some people deeper into their faith, it can also make people crabby, withdrawn and unhealthy. *As a Church we will not be giving up for Lent but rather giving forward.*

I am challenging the Congregation to complete 40 plus acts of kindness. By living out our faith through action we can strengthen our relationship with God and each other. In the Hall there will be a bulletin board to help us organize our acts of kindness. If each person in our Congregation completes just one act, we will meet our goal of 40 plus in the first few weeks of Lent. No need to stop at one per person, follow your heart and do as many acts as you can. No action is too small. During Lent there will be group opportunities to live out our faith as well as options for individual at home acts. Below is a list of ideas to help us “live out our faith”. Be creative. I can't wait to hear the ways we live our faith as Christians.

Acts at Home

Write cards to our soldiers over seas

Knit a prayer shawl

Donate clothing to Good will

Take a person shopping that may not have

Acts as a Group

Collect 40 cans of coffee (donate to Community meal in Willimantic)

Bake bread for Canterbury Cares clients

Serve at the Community Meal in Woodstock

Connect our Church to a program such as

a car

Covenant to Care

Read a devotion

Greet one another outside of church

Call a family member you have not spoken to in a long time

Let me know if you have any ideas on ways we can live our faith as a group



- 3/1 The Last Supper
- 3/8 In The Garden
- 3/15 Peter
- 3/22 Hosanna!
- 3/29 Easter Story

CHILDREN'S CHOIR will be rehearsing for Easter Sunday performance on 3/22, 3/29 & 4/5 following worship



Class will meet on Thursday March 5th & 19th

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING

Jamaican Dinner
March 21, 2020
5-7pm
\$15 per person

Money raised will be used to help a few of our Church youth attend Silver Lake Camp this summer. Take-out meals are available. Terry Poirier-Campbell and Pastor have tickets for sale. If you want to make a donation to the camp scholarship, please speak with Pastor Cheryl. The cost for one full week of overnight camp is \$525 per child. Silver Lake is a Christian Camp and owned by The United Church of Christ. Youth are exposed to other Christian youth from all over the country. Activities include swimming, canoeing, crafts, music, drama, games, etc and all are faith based. Deans are all adult members of Christian Churches. A Chaplain leads worship as part of the daily experience of camp.



Everyone is invited to share in fellowship during the Lenten Soup Suppers.

Wednesday nights during Lent. Starting on February 26th.

Come and share a bowl of soup and bread while exploring the final steps of Jesus and his Disciples.

Ash Wednesday 2/26 Soup Supper @ 6:30, Worship @ 7pm.

March 4th “Lord’s Prayer”

March 11th “Earth Prayer”

March 18th “Prayers our Youth Have Taught Us”

March 25th “TBD”

April 1st “Taize Service”

Maundy Thursday Worship service @ FCC Canterbury



COMMUNITY MEAL: Our turn to serve the Community Supper is on Monday March 23rd, 2020. We will be serving entree, salad, bread and dessert. Homemade desserts are greatly appreciated. Please bring your homemade dessert to the Church on Sunday March 22nd.

Canterbury Cares Distribution: Monday March 16th 10 am -12 pm Volunteers are needed from 9-10 am to help set up the food pantry in Hart Hall.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Deacons	3/4	7pm
Trustees	3/11	7pm
Council	3/18	7 pm



HART HALL- Jr. Girl Scout Troop will be meeting on Tuesday evening March 3/3, 3/17, 3/31
Girl Scout Troop will be meeting on Friday evening 3/13 & 3/27 (sleepover)

W O R S H I P

Sunday Morning Service 10 am

Pastor Cheryl's email ccaronna07@comcast.net Pastor's cell phone 860-916-4157

First Congregational Church of Canterbury

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Sunday Morning Worship Service 10 am