

Pastor's Letter



February 2019 First Congregational Church of Canterbury

This time last year, I was in Jerusalem. The sights, sounds and smells were amazing. A truly holy place where Jews, Christians and Muslims live within the same city limits. The open markets full of spices and fresh food. Fabrics of all colors and designs. Even amongst the steady pace of the tour, the shuffling sounds of people all around me and the visions of teenagers with automatic rifles, there was time for prayer and worship.

My prayers at The Great Wall were based around healing prayers for loved ones. My prayers in the Milk Grotto, which honors the story of Mary as she feed the baby Jesus during their time of escape, were for those seeking motherhood and for young mothers in our world. My prayers near the Garden of Gesthemane were for those with disabilities in our world. Throughout the journey my personal prayer was...give me strength to carry my load and show me how I can lead your people. God answers all prayers in God's time. That continues to be a life long lesson.

In this month of February our congregation will see our youth step up their outreach activities as they focus on a 8 month project ending with a mission event. The Deacons will begin work on adding a few dramatic skits to our worship services over the next few months. The Boards and Committees of the Church will welcome new members. The season of Epiphany continues on through this month.

Pastor Cheryl

TRIVIA QUESTION: What is the vision statement of our Church?



Pastor will be on vacation Monday February 11- Friday February 15. Rev. Ede Steele (FCC Griswold) will be available for Pastoral Emergencies.



SOUP R BOWL ... cast your super bowl

prediction (for or against a team) by bringing a can of soup to worship starting Sunday January 27th. All cans of soup will be donated to Canterbury Cares Food Pantry.



2/3 The Beatitudes

2/10 Treasure in Heaven

2/17 The Golden Rule

2/24 Feeding 5000



"The youth group is currently fundraising for [Rise Against Hunger](#). Rise Against Hunger's meal packaging program is a volunteer-based initiative that coordinates the assembly-line packaging of highly nutritious dehydrated meals comprised of rice, soy, vegetables, and 23 essential vitamins and minerals. The

program was created to give dedicated individuals and organizations — from businesses to civic clubs — the opportunity to participate in a hands-on international hunger relief program and to become educated, engaged advocates for the world's hungry. The events also give volunteers hands-on experience in leadership development, team-building, relationship-building, creative problem-solving, and goal-setting and achievement. On Sunday September 8 the youth group will be leading a meal packaging event at the Pomfret Community School in Pomfret Center. The cost to have this event is a minimum of \$3,451.68. This covers the cost for 10,152 meals at \$0.34/meal. There will be more details to come however all are welcome and encouraged to participate in this event. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Nichole (mdanis74@sbcglobal.net) or Sarah (segtext@yahoo.com).



CHOCOLATE COVERED STRAWBERRIES: The Youth group will be selling Chocolate covered Strawberries. A yummy treat to get your valentines week off to a sweet start. Chocolate covered strawberries will be made on Sat Feb 9th and can be **picked up after church on Sun Feb 10th. The cost is \$10/dozen.** A sign up sheet is located by the front door and at coffee hour.



On Sunday March 3rd. Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer will be joining us in worship. He is the executive director of Silver Lake Conference Center & Camp.

The Rev. Ryan Gackenheimer joined Silver Lake in 2016, coming from several years of ministry as Associate Pastor of the First Congregational Church UCC of Essex, Vermont. He has prior camp experience in Vermont and Idaho, and has served on the Board of the UCC's Outdoor Ministry Association. A graduate of DePauw University and Eden Theological Seminary, he and his wife, Abby, have a young son, Keadyn.



COMMUNITY MEAL: Our turn to serve the Community Meal is on Monday February 28th, 2019. We will be serving chicken soup, salad, bread and dessert. Homemade desserts are greatly appreciated. Please bring your homemade dessert to the Church on Sunday February 27th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HELPER: Donna & Sarah serve our children in Sunday School classes faithfully each week. It would be wonderful for them to get a week off to be in worship. Please consider signing up to be a helper one week, so they could each have a week in worship once a month. *(I would volunteer for Sunday school but you would need to lead worship...Sunday school might be more fun...they have crafts and a snack-Pastor Cheryl)*

Canterbury Cares Distribution: Monday February 18th 10 am -12 pm Volunteers are needed from 9-10 am to help set up the food pantry in Hart Hall.

Events and activities in February

Chocolate Strawberry Fundraiser: Saturday 2/9 & Sunday 2/10

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Deacons	February 7 th 7 pm
Trustees	no meeting this month
Council	February 21 st 7 pm



HART HALL- Jr. Girl Scout Troop will be meeting on Tuesday evening February 5th & 26th

COMING IN MARCH



The members of Newent Congregational Church, First Congregational Church of Plainfield & First Congregational Church of Canterbury are invited to share in fellowship during the Lenten Soup Suppers.

Shrove
Tuesday



Pancake Supper March 5th @ 6:30 pm

Sunday Morning Worship Service 10 am

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

First Congregational Church of Canterbury PO Box 160 6 S. Canterbury Road Canterbury CT 06331
www.fcccanterbury.org 860-546-9007

**OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS
OPEN DOORS**