



The Chimes

April 2021 Edition
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From the Pastor's Desk:

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go . . ."

-Mark 16:6-7a

Halleluiah! Christ is risen!

It is resurrection. It means "that the spirit of Jesus is undying, that he himself lives on among us . . . in the good that he left behind him, in the lives of all who follow his great example." At least that is what Frederick Buechner said.

The thing is, we can't explain it. Maybe we shouldn't even try but accept it. The people of Jesus' time believed it possible. Incredible things do happen despite our grasping need for logical explanations. That is faith. Acceptance of the wonderful, the odd, the miraculous. Yet, in a logical fashion, I guess I am a bit like Thomas who needs to touch and see to believe. Logic tells me Jesus was raised from the dead. Resurrection happens! Otherwise, why would all four of the gospels and numerous New Testament writings attest to that very fact? We wouldn't know. We wouldn't gather in the cold dark on a Sunday

morning and wait for sunrise...even though we know the body isn't there, and that the sun rises every day. We wouldn't sing incredible hymns and songs of "Hallelujah" choruses.

We wouldn't see death as we do – as an expansion rather than the end of life.

This past year has been hard. I know I've noted many times how we are grieving in many ways without an outlet. Well, Lent has come to a close. The sun rises early and brings warmth and growth and possibility. Easter is an awakening to move beyond the grave to life. Everyone who went to Jesus' tomb was told to go. Go and tell, go and do. The angel asks, "why do you remain? He is not here. He is risen." Go.

To go forth now means many things to many people. In our church it means possibilities of worshiping together again; offering events for the community; seeing each other and supporting each other face to face, and so much more. So let us go, as far as Covid will let us, and share and do and be. Because He lives, we have life.

Peace of Easter be unto you, **Sue**





There are always tips and concerns we receive about our Pledge Program Does every member and friend know ?

Stewardship is ...

Everything we do actually! Taking care to do God's work:

We do an annual Stewardship Program every fall to raise funds in support of the budget for a new calendar year. That means that every member and friend is expected to complete a promise card or donation letter in support of the proposed budget, every year.

Pledges or Promises can be changed if necessary and extra donations can also be made anytime.

A Pledge or Promise can be any amount that works – From \$5 to \$50 to \$500 for example. When you renew every year, you can increase your weekly or monthly giving.

Funds for all Programs and Ministries, Volunteer Time to support our ministries and be in fellowship and talents like art, music, speaking, leadership, business positions and the list goes on.

Folks who find that their situation is too difficult to pledge may want to let us know that they will help in

other ways, and their time and talents are greatly appreciated.

Right now we need to fill several VOLUNTEER positions and if you have the experience to do a job, you should say “YES.” You will receive gratitude and willing helpers to get started doing God’s work.

And hopefully all of you know how much we need you.

Praise God!

Relax! God Is Working

This is a devotion for Women’s Fellowship, from 2 years ago. How much we have needed it throughout 2020, and even now.

Being relaxed feels wonderful. Being nervous, tense, and worried are not so wonderful. Why? What did Jesus say? Jesus said if we are weary and overburdened, we should go to Him and He will give us rest, relaxation, and ease. Jesus wants to teach us the right way to live, which is different from the way most of the world lives.

Are we willing to completely trust God for things? Or do we try to keep some of the control? Relaxation is impossible without trust! If you know you can’t fix the problem you have, then why not relax while God is working on it? The ability to relax and go with the flow in life is dependent upon our willingness to trust God completely and patiently. Let God know that you are trusting in God.

“God’s timing is perfect; God is never late.”

And so, our steps are ordered by the Lord. Maybe you can relax and simply go with the flow of what is happening in your life.

When it comes to things that are out of our control, we can either ruin the day or relax and enjoy it while God is working on the situation. As long as we believe, God keeps working!”

Adapted from the resource Trusting God Day by Day Devotional - by Joyce Meyer

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest.

-Matthew 11:28 (AMPC)

What Matters is Loving All Our Neighbors

We need to realize that the troubles in this country are increasing for all marginalized people: Immigrants, Racial Groups, Faith Groups, Victims of Domestic Violence, LGBTQ to name a few of the most victimized.

And it could happen here in our town or state.

Being prepared to know what to do as a Christian is important. And also, watching for signs and/or clues that someone you know might be one who would likely be a “hater,” who might act out to hurt others. Before it is too late, tell that family and listen to their story. Pray they will take action to help that person.

If there is a situation between an attacker and a targeted victim, educate yourself now, so you know how to help.

“Five Ways to Help If You Are Witnessing Hate”

From SNEUCC

- Take action. Approach the targeted person, introduce yourself and offer help.
 - Actively listen. Ask before taking any action and respect the targeted person’s wishes. Monitor the situation if needed.
 - Ignore the attacker. Using your discretion, attempt to calm the situation by using your voice, body language or distractions.
 - Accompany. If the situation escalates, invite the targeted person to join you in leaving.
 - Offer emotional support. Help the targeted person by asking how they are feeling. Assist them to figure out what they want to do next.
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If you missed the chance to build with others from here last month, you can volunteer now, no experience necessary. Habitat needs you. If you don't think this is not for you, you'd be surprised, but... you can still help. Coffee breaks are an important part of the day on our build sites to keep our volunteers alert and hydrated. We are seeking refreshment donations for our build sites. Our volunteers work tirelessly to build homes for families in need and love to receive baked goods, snacks, and refreshments on build days. Talk to Pat Turner, Rev. Sue, or go to the website to volunteer. www.habitatct.org

Women's Fellowship News

2021 Officers elected 3-17-21

Pres.	Irene Donald
Vice Pres,	Julie Evans
Secretary	Elizabeth Witter
Treasurer	Elizabeth Witter
Service	Julie Evans, Monica Eppinger
Publicity	Julie Evans, Julie Chow, Mary
Coffee hour	Monica Eppinger
Kitchen	Monica Eppinger, Mary Bliven, & Sharon Roode
Bazaar Cashier	Elizabeth Witter
Bazaar Team	Patty, Melanie, Elizabeth, Mary Jane Bliven

Charitable Budget Approved 3-17-21

Church pledge	\$1,500
PNC	200 the same
Safe Futures	200 the same
Martin House	100 the same
Thames Valley Com	100 the same
Always Home	200 the same
CT W UCC (Now SNE Women Connection)	200 the same
Silver Lake Scholarships	\$500

Voted to give \$200 to CTWUCC state service projects,
\$100 each.

Dates Planned on 3-17-21 (Subject to Change)

May 5	Noon	Bazaar Planning
June 9	Noon	Bag Lunch and Sisterhood Social
Bazaar	Dec. 11	(Food Take Out, Cookies, Greens)

Care and Share is an ongoing project
of the
Mystic Area Ecumenical Council

This is an outreach for those in need where we work with Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center and Groton Human Services

Through this cooperative, area residents in need of immediate assistance who contact an MAEC-member church are provided with vouchers for food and/or gas. By participating in the Care & Share Program a recipient must go to one of the two centers, and then these people will have a resource. So in addition to our relief funds, they will use the resources available where they are provided the names and phone numbers of other non-profit agencies offering help with housing, clothing, counseling, etc. thus extending our outreach to the community.

Our Giving Program for Care & Share

Please use the green monthly mission offering envelopes

OR Please mail in your check to NSCC with Memo:

April Mission for Care & Share

Earth Day Theme: “Restore Our Earth”

Visit www.earthday.org for many ideas and activities

April 20-22

Join thousands of organizations to call on the world to come together for **THREE DAYS OF CLIMATE ACTION**. **EARTHDAY.ORG** is honored that the Biden Administration has decided to convene **a global climate summit** on **Earth Day 2021**.

Many important environmental events have happened on Earth Day since 1970, including the recent signing of the Paris Agreement, as Earth Day continues to be a momentous and unifying day each and every year. Be a part of this historic climate summit and making active progress to Restore Our Earth.



Historical Perspectives: “Beginnings” by Mobby Larson

[I have been transcribing the handwritten historical records of the Church into electronic form, to both preserve them and to make them more accessible. In talking with Pastor Sue, I thought it would be fun to share each month some of the special events or interesting happenings.]

The bad news, as we all know, is that over this past year the coronavirus has really interfered with our personal lives, and in the life of our church—including the celebrations we wanted to kick off our 300th Anniversary with. The good news is that our ancestors were equally frustrated in trying to get the original plans for the church started. So, we are celebrating with appropriate, historical frustrations!

It is difficult, as well as frustrating, to decide when the Congregational Church of North Stonington actually started! We have several choices, as demonstrated in these highlights from the Record Books:

*May 1720 Inhabitants of the “northward part of Stonington” petitioned the General Assembly [the governing body of the state] requesting that Stonington be divided into two Societies, but the matter was not finally settled until May 1721. Meanwhile religious meetings were held at various places in this north part of Stonington.

*January 18 1721 Inhabitants of the district met at Mr. Babcock’s house, elected Society officers, and voted a tax for ministerial purposes. February 8, they met again to vote to build a meeting house and to call Rev. William Worthington to preach.

*May 1723 Work on first meeting house began on the “road leading to the north from the Village of North Stonington in Milltown.” Church completed 9 years later.

* May 1724 General Assembly ruled “that the North Society in Stonington for the future be called by the name of North Stonington.”

*May 1725 General Assembly granted liberty unto the inhabitants of the North Society of Stonington to embody themselves into a church estate, and to settle an orthodox minister amongst them.”

*February 22, 1727 First installed pastor of the organized church was Rev. Ebenezer Russell. In previous years, Rev. Richard Treat, Rev. William Worthington, Mr. Craghead, and Rev. Jabez Wright had served the Society as preachers.

As we know, the church is not a building; the church is not a town, nor an arm of the government; and the church is not an installed minister. Thus, the best date to call our “beginning” seems to be January of 1721 when the Society members met to organize and take steps themselves to become an established church. And so we celebrate 300 years!



Thanks a Heap!

Thanks to...

- The Zoomers for the Sunday School Program, both students and instructors, and especially Jamie Weicksel for her technology skills.
- All who Zoom for the weekly Prayers on Sundays after worship.
- Everyone who donated to One Great Hour of Sharing.
- All who sent in checks for the PNC Fuel Fund.
- Those who sent in their sponsorships for our World Vision Mission Child.
- Pastor Sue and Kim Gadaree who pulled together the information and completed our application for PPP.
- All of our faithful staff and the volunteers who help them.
- Sherri Boldt who prepares the “Village Chimes” monthly.
- Steve Gadaree for ordering the new 300th Anniversary Banner.
- The Fundraising Committee who have met to plan for the busy pie season this spring.
- Those who will be volunteering to sell our pies each week at the Mystic Market which begins on June 6th, and Melanie Ouellette, who has made cards of fruit designs to sell at the Pie booth.
- The ladies of Women’s Fellowship who met to set up their year for 2021.
- All who participated in the Palm Sunday Procession; especially Miguel Perez and the donkey.

Thanks a Heap! (continued)

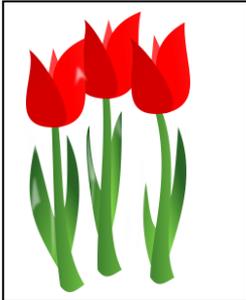
Thanks to...

- Everyone who worshiped in Easter Celebration at the Sunrise Service.
- All who donated flowers for Easter Sunday.
- Jonathan Edwards Winery for their welcoming us to their Farm/Winery every year for the Sunrise service.
- Terry Eickle for her lovely music for the video worship service on March 21st.
- All of the musicians who participated on Easter Sunday.
- Brian Hager for his excellent work filming the videos weekly, for coordinating the Trustees work and for keeping up with our web page.
- MacKenzie Turrisi who volunteers with Brian on the filming.
- Pastor Sue, along with Michael Noonan and Kay Lautzenheiser, for weekly leadership in our Sunday worship online.
- David McCord, for helping Brian with the windows which were prepared for sale.
- Mary Bliven, who called many people in hopes of recruiting volunteer for open positions. And to all who replied in the affirmative.



April Birthdays.....

2	Lauren Rockwell
4	Patricia Munzer, Christine Wagner
6	Jennifer Hess
7	Jordan Ames, David Main
9	Megan Byassee, Michael Cipriani
10	Will Stevens
14	Abby (Murphy) Devolve
15	Anita Ames, Elizabeth Lewis
	Missy Thaxton, Russell Tuthill,
18	and Mary Wassung
19	Dick Slimak, Barbara Taylor
21	Seya Bishop
22	Betsy Alvarez, Dave Larson
	Hilding Carson, Charlotte Melia,
25	and Alyssa Nilson
27	Helen Evans
29	Ken Stevens
30	Jessica Gray



...and Anniversaries

	Peter and Jill Davis, Rob and
4	Robin (Shabunia) Zadroga
8	George and Pat Danley
17	Mike and Linda Cipriani
22	Craig and Patricia Munzer
26	Russell and Nancy Tuthill

If we have missed your special day(s) or if there are corrections to be made, please notify the Church Office at (860) 535-0379.

The History of Tax Day

In the United States, Tax Day is the day on which individual income tax returns are due to be submitted to the federal government. Since 1955, Tax Day has typically fallen on or just after April 15. Tax Day was first introduced in 1913, when the Sixteenth Amendment was ratified.

The date is delayed if it conflicts with a weekend or public holiday such as Emancipation Day. Natural disasters, most recently the COVID-19 pandemic, also delay Tax Day when they prevent filing taxes on time. The federal government may set a different deadline for certain states, as it did when Patriots' Day conflicted.

Federal income tax was briefly introduced with the Revenue Act of 1861 to help fund the Civil War, and subsequently repealed, re-adopted, and held unconstitutional. The early taxes were based on assessments, not voluntary tax returns. Tax payment dates varied by act.

The case of *Pollock v. Farmers' Loan & Trust Co.* challenged the constitutionality of the Wilson–Gorman Tariff Act of 1894, which taxed incomes over \$4,000 at the rate of two percent. The case was decided by the United States Supreme Court in 1895. The Supreme Court decided that the Act's unapportioned income taxes on interest, dividends, and rents were effectively direct taxes. The Act was therefore unconstitutional because it violated the Constitution's rule that direct taxes be apportioned among the states. In 1913, eighteen years later, the Sixteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified. This Amendment gave the United States Congress the legal authority to tax all incomes without regard to the apportionment requirement.

The filing deadline for individuals was March 1 in 1913 (the first year of a federal income tax), and was changed to March 15 in 1918 and again to April 15 in 1955. Today, the deadline remains April 15 unless it conflicts with on a weekend or a holiday.

Tax Day occasionally falls on Patriots' Day, a civic holiday in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and state of Maine, or the preceding weekend. When this occurred for some time, the federal tax deadline was extended by a day for the residents of Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, and the District of Columbia, because the IRS processing center for these areas was located in Andover, Massachusetts and the unionized IRS employees got the day off. In 2011, the Monday, April 18, Tax Day fell on Patriots' Day. However, federal filings were directed to Hartford, Connecticut, Charlotte, North Carolina and Kansas City, Missouri and there was no further extension for Maine, Massachusetts or other surrounding states' residents. The Maine state tax filing deadline was still extended to April 19 in 2011 by Patriots' Day.

Emancipation Day is celebrated in Washington, D.C. on the weekday nearest April 16, and under a federal statute enacted decades ago, holidays observed in the District of Columbia have an impact nationwide. If April 15 falls on a Friday then Emancipation Day is celebrated on the same day and tax returns are instead due the following Monday, April 18. When April 15 falls on a Saturday or Sunday then Emancipation Day is celebrated on the following Monday and tax returns are instead due on Tuesday.

For both Emancipation Day and Patriots' Day, when April 15 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, tax returns are due the following Tuesday, April 18 or April 17 respectively. This means that when the tax filing deadline is not moved for other political reasons, tax day for any particular year is always on April 15 (years when this day is a Monday through Thursday), Tuesday April 17 (years when April 15 is a Sunday) or Monday or Tuesday April 18 (years when April 15 is either a Friday or Saturday).

In 2020, due to the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic filing for returns was extended to July 15. **The tax deadline was again moved in 2021 due to tax code changes from the COVID-19 relief package from April 15th to May 17th 2021.** (Source: Wikipedia).