



The Chimes

November 2020 Edition

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From the Pastor's Desk:

Jesus took bread, broke it and gave it to his disciples. Then he took a cup, gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. When they had sung a hymn, they went out...

- Mark 14:22-26, excerpts (NRSV)

One of the things I have missed the most during these months of COVID-distancing is singing. Sure I can sing in the car or at home but there is nothing like singing with a group of people. The words, the music, the harmony (or lack thereof!), the sheer volume of sound all permeate the body, mind and soul. It has been said that when you sing you pray twice...I guess it's all that breathing. Therein lies the problem. We aren't supposed to breathe on each other, so we are not singing in our gathered Sunday worship. Which is not to say we have lost hope or faith.

I pointed out in last week's sermon that words have power. Well, so does music. It has power to move us to tears, to lift our spirits, to energize us for a workout, for work, or for Work, God's Work. Which is why I resonated with a recent post by a former professor of mine, Rev. Dr. J. Mary Luti. She quoted the above scripture pointing out the very essential action of singing that Jesus and his disciples undertook before they went forth into almost literal battle.

She wrote: "Jesus knew something dreadful was coming. Even so, he didn't skip the closing hymn, likely a psalm about God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt. How could he sing of deliverance when there'd be none for him? In the same way his ancestor Miriam grabbed a tambourine in the rush to

escape Egypt ahead of Pharaoh's army. She knew she'd need it later for the victory song."

"Someone once asked Sojourner Truth how to destroy slavery. She replied, "Lay a song on it." If you're of a certain age, you remember freedom songs above the blows and snarling dogs. It's no surprise that when despots come to power, they first purge the poets and singers. They know where real power lies."

"Jesus sang a hymn that night, a song the Spirit taught David. David taught the people. They sang it to their children. Jesus learned it from his mother, who learned it from hers. Hope and joy against all odds, he sang for his whole short life. He sang it when they killed him. He was singing when he burst triumphant from the grave. Every faithful community knows it. As long as we're singing, we're invincible."

COVID-19 may try to keep us quiet, but it won't keep us down! We are still moving forward, one step at a time, and making plans for the future. Watch for more regarding an alternative Bazaar, Advent and Christmas season, and 300th Anniversary. Meanwhile, take care of yourself and your neighbor and join us for worship on Sundays or anytime during the week via our website!!

-Peace be with you, *Sue*

O God, Maybe we can't yet sing safely in our sanctuaries, but your song resounds in every act of hope and joy, in every no to wrong, in everybody on the line. It never dies. Praise to you forever! Amen.

(Mary Luti is a long time seminary educator and pastor, author of Teresa of Avila's Way and numerous articles, and founding member of The Daughters of Abraham, a national network of interfaith women's book groups.



***CHURCH-MADE PIES for Your Holiday!
Please order early in November***

We will not have the annual Pie Fest, BUT you can still order and pick up here by appointment.

We have many Fruit Pies, Pumpkin, Tollhouse, Mince, Pecan; prices are Large \$15.00; Small \$7.00.

Order forms can be completed by phone or email. Please call the church, 535-0379; North Stonington Congregational Church, 89 Main Street in the village of North Stonington. E-Mail is NoStoUCC@comcast.com

Our handmade pies are so good - There are many varieties of church-made pies for your holiday feast, and special orders can be arranged.

Thank You

What's happening regarding November and December events

Due to Covid-19 and the continuing data driven protocols, closings and un-re-openings, we have not been able to enjoy your company and participation in our usual activities. We miss you!

Thankful Dinner – So sorry we cannot provide this special annual meal for our seniors. We need to be safe and so we send our Thanksgiving wishes to you at home.

Women's Fellowship will not have the annual **Christmas Bazaar ... BUT** there will soon be decisions on how to offer some of our very special holiday items for sale through order and pick up appointments ... a modified event.

Gift Cards through the script program can be ordered via phone and picked up by appointment using check or credit.

There is not a **Fruit and Nut sale** or a **Jammie Grammie Collection** this year.

Pies are the only other fundraiser.

We do hope to develop some of our original plans for the 300th anniversary year which begins in January.

Watch for any new information on the church website or in the weekly previews.

**Holiday Food Drive Donation Requests for the
Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center
27 Chase Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379**

- Instant Mashed Potatoes
 - Stuffing Mix
- Gravy (canned or in envelopes)
 - Rice
 - Canned Corn
 - Canned Peas
- Pumpkin Pie Filling
 - Cranberry Sauce
- Smaller Sized Turkeys (12-16 lb; please call PNC to confirm)

Donations are gratefully accepted on any weekday
between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Donations are needed to NSCC by **Wednesday, 11/11/2020** or to PNC
by **Thursday, 11/12/2020** for Thanksgiving

Also needed during the Holidays, and all year, for our Food Pantry:

- Canned Meat Soups
- Clam Chowder
- Chef Boyardee
- Baked Beans
- Canned Pineapple
- Elbow Macaroni
- Pasta Sauce
- Jelly and Jam
- Cereal
- Tuna Fish
- Canned white potatoes

PNC Christmas Angels

This year we will be adopting a family for Christmas -- with one change. Due to health restrictions, PNC has asked for gift cards rather than toys, clothes, etc. Keep an eye out for the angel tree this month!

2020 & 2021 MONTHLY MISSION PROJECTS

November	-Provide for the PNC Thanksgiving Baskets -Christmas ANGEL Program for PNC (adopt a Family)
December	-UCC Christmas Fund
January	-World Vision Hope Child, PROMOTION & Sign Ups -Begin collecting articles for CWS Hygiene Kits -Habitat Sunday and Collection
February	-Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) Fuel Fund -Kick off for Hygiene Kits for CWS
March	-UCC One Great Hour collection
April	-Care & Share, Part of Mystic Area Ecumenical Council
May	-Church World Service (CWS) Blanket project
June	-Tools of Hope project for CWS -Hunger Awareness Month at PNC
July & August	-Continue PNC
September	-Promote & participate in the Alzheimer's Walk
October	-UCC Neighbors in Need collection

HELO HAITI

For those of you who like to follow our former outreach to the orphanage there. We just recently heard from Elisabeth Kennedy; her email is <mail@networkforgood.com>

The 2019-20 school year was completed with the exception of our 9th grade class. The 9th grade class will take the State exam in October and we are confident they will all pass.

They are now gearing up for the 2020-2021 school year, which started on November 9th. This coming school year they will be providing education to over 300 students from Pre-K to Philo -- the final year of secondary school in Haiti.

Elisabeth was thrilled to visit with the children earlier this month. “Everyone is doing well and thanks to some generous donors, I was able to purchase sandals, some clothes, new mattresses and some sheets for the children. Unfortunately, the value of the US dollar plummeted in Haiti, vastly affecting our buying power, which will also make back to school more difficult as we must purchase chalkboards and desks for new classrooms, schoolbooks and other supplies.”

Elisabeth Kennedy

HELO, Inc.

1599 South Street #3

Coventry, CT 06238



LOVE Prayer

Open your Hearts

We pray that God will open our hearts to know our church vision, so we can practice faith and teach others of God's LOVE.

Spread God's Love

We pray that the great work that we do here will spread and be a part of God's greater work everywhere in this world.

Be Inspired

Praise God through the joy of our ministry, our music, and our mission and our children. Be encouraged and inspired to help our church share love and good will.

Give Unconditionally

Celebrate giving, a privilege which does not come with boundaries. So, try to stretch in what you think you can give to our church's ministry of LOVE.

Dates to plan for:

November 10 - 14

Follow up mailing

November 29

All Pledge cards should be returned

LIVING AND LOVING JUSTICE

Be a disciple serving others in God's World

So, why not become an advocate for a cause ... learn more, give more time by subscribing to UCC OR SNEUCC areas of interest: SNEUCC.org or UCC.org

Ever Flowing Streams Justice & Witness News SNEUCC

Environmental Justice Updates SNEUCC

Discipleship Matters - Faith Formation SNEUCC

UCC A Just World

UCC JPANet – Justice & Peace Action Network

Many important areas for your interest & concern:

CLIMATE CHANGE

GREEN NEW DEAL

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

GLOBAL MINISTRIES-
REFUGEES

JUSTICE & PEACE

ECO-JUSTICE

EQUALITY

RACIAL ISSUES

INCLUSIVENESS

GENDER IDENTITY

FOOD DESERTS

FOOD INSECURITY

INABILITY TO ACCESS RESOURCES

UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday celebrated in Canada, the United States, some of the Caribbean islands, and Liberia. It began as a day of giving thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year. Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday of October in Canada and on the fourth Thursday of November in the United States, and around the same part of the year in other places. Although Thanksgiving has historical roots in religious and cultural traditions, it has long been celebrated as a secular holiday as well.

Prayers of thanks and special thanksgiving ceremonies are common among almost all religions after harvests and at other times. The Thanksgiving holiday's history in North America is rooted in English traditions dating from the Protestant Reformation. It also has aspects of a harvest festival, even though the harvest in New England occurs well before the late-November date on which the modern Thanksgiving holiday is celebrated.

*Next month is Pastor Appreciation Month;
A good time to contribute to The Christmas Fund—
a special offering of the UCC.*



YOU Make a Difference! The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that grants us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served and continue to serve in lay and authorized ministries of the United Church of Christ. One of the unique aspects of the Christmas Fund is that the funds provide direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay church employees – the funds do not support programs or institutions, but people. The Missions Committee is asking you to be as generous as possible and to give to the Christmas Fund in December. Please send a contribution marked “UCC Christmas Fund.” Each individual gift does make a difference. Thank You!

Thanks a Heap!

Thanks to...

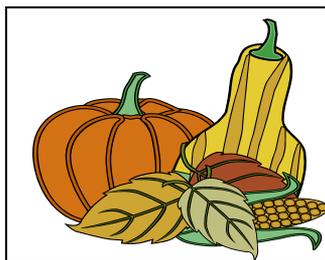
- Our video team, Brian Hager, Mike Noonan, Pastor Sue and Kay Lautzenheimer.
- Pastor Mobby Larson for serving in the pulpit on Thursday and Sunday October 8th and 11th.
- All who attended the Proposed Budget Meeting on October 18th via in-person or by zoom.
- Kim Gadaree for her work preparing the draft for the proposed budget.
- People who donated to the Alzheimers walk, and Helen Evans who walked.
- Folks who donated to the virtual CWS CROP Hunger Walk for 2020.
- Women's Fellowship for planning a December Event in place of the Christmas Bazaar --- and for all the folks who have had suggestions.
- All of the Pie People making, baking and selling pies.
- Brian Hager for his steady work on repairs and trouble-shooting: getting quotes for work on the railings at front of Hewitt Hall, stove and oven issues and general upkeep.



Fun fact: Charles Schultz, the creator of Peanuts[®], was born on November 26th.

November Birthdays.....

- 4 Kathi Thaxton
Jade Aiken, Thurlow Coats, and Susan**
- 8 Thaxton**
- 9 Hannah Wunschel**
- 10 Elizabeth Coats, Jill Davis
Evelyn Bamford, Ben Pearson, and**
- 11 Debbie Young**
- 12 Rob Sawyer**
- 16 Julie Armstrong**
- 17 Sara Loutrel**
- 19 Steve Gadaree**
- 22 Victoria Sawyer**
- 23 Katherine Janda**
- 26 Annie Boldt**
- 29 Nancy Slimak**



...and Anniversaries

- 2 Dennis and Mary Bliven**
- 5 Paul and Heather Ames**
- 9 Bruce and Bev Sawyer**

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.