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centerchurchmeriden.org

The Lighted Tower

Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." Hebrews 12:1-2

Dear Members and Friends, on Sunday, May 21, we gathered after worship for a great brunch and presentation about Center Church and how we can all be part of helping to shape a new future.

The presentation was divided into three topics: issues and concerns, gifts of the church, and recommendations, with comments in each area that had been offered by members and friends from interviews with the Interim Pastor. Those who attended were invited to also share their ideas and opinions in each area.

Although it was important to include the issues and concerns gathered as part of the interview process, the gifts of the church, and recommendations will be the greatest help in guiding the revitalization process for Center Church.

Gifts of the church included: a newly remodeled, beautiful sanctuary; Open & Affirming; social, friendly, and non-judgmental; an increase in giving; and the return of many who had stopped coming. Additional gifts included: the ongoing contribution of parish nurses; the association with a daycare facility right in the church; the history of Center Church and what it means to members and the community; people of the church are kind and loving, caring and supportive; the support and participation of the church in many community events; the advantage of institutional knowledge; the many different groups that have originated, grown and stayed together through the years; and that children are included in the life of the church and also at communion.

There were many recommendations offered. Some included: establishing small focus groups, celebrate, celebrate, celebrate; enhance worship; strong stewardship; seek opportunities for collaboration with other local churches; develop a short term strategic plan (1-3 years); attract new members; and develop a strong marketing/advertising campaign.

The most immediate step will be to ask the Council to approve the formation of a committee to help guide and coordinate future objectives and actions. All in all, it was a positive and uplifting experience, and, as always, the food (especially the deviled eggs) was terrific!

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No two people come to God by the same road. There are very, very few who reach Him without stumbling and falling. There are seeds that grow a long time in darkness before they push up shoots into the sun.... There are others that come to the light at one thrust in a single day....

From "The Shoes of the Fisherman," by Morris West

In Christ's Service,

The Rev. Joseph Tobin
Interim Pastor

From the Generosity Committee

CCC has invited Marc Levesque, MS director of the Hartford Healthcare Connecticut center for Healthy again (at MidState Medical Center) to present a seminar on "Preparing for the Golden years."

Save the date: Wednesday June 21, 2017 at CCC in the Fellowship Hall from 12 – 2 p.m. A light lunch and beverages will be provided. We are also having a Bake Sale for desserts. Everyone from CC, First Church and the community are welcome.

MISSION MOMENT

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Local Missions in April. In an effort to support youth programs, the Missions Committee chose the Meriden/Wallingford Campership Fund and Silver Lake as recipients of April's donations. The Campership Fund will receive \$233 for camperships, and Silver Lake will receive \$200 for camp scholarships.

The Meriden/Wallingford Campership Fund awards \$130 per camper to 460 children in our area to attend a two-week session at a local non-profit camp; and \$65 to an additional 30 kids for one week sessions. Participating camps are Meriden YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of Meriden, Girls, Inc., Wallingford YMCA, the Salvation Army, and the Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club.

Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT, is the home of the Outdoor Ministries of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC. During the summer Silver Lake hosts five conferences, or camps, for different age groups with different themes. The theme of the conference helps to shape some of the activities for the week. For more information, please contact the UCC. Center Church's donations will be used for scholarships at Silver Lake. The Missions Committee also donated \$500 to Pastor Tobin for his outreach to those in need in our community.

If you have a local organization or program that you think Center Church should support, please let us know.

Fellowship News

KOINONIA will be going to Hammonasset with lunch at the Fish Tale on Tuesday, June 6. Meet at the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Sign up with Ruth Froggatt (203 237-0947). In case of rain we will meet at Sans Souci a 12:00 for lunch.

OTHERS: June will be our last meeting for the academic year. We are meeting on June 8th at 6 pm at Gaetano's Tavern on Main, 40 North Main Street Wallingford. Please call Ardene at [203-237-2375](tel:203-237-2375) and let her know if you plan to attend. The Birthday ladies are Ardene, Nancy and Pam. See you There!

CENTERITES: there were six of us at Athenian Diner in Middletown. Positive vibes on restaurant and its food, lively discussions of family trips, vacations and different restaurant experiences. All men are welcome to join us. Our next meeting will be June 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at Avanti's River Rd. South Meriden. For more information, please contact Norman Thompson at 203-715-1642.

The CT Rainbow Gathering Group. The CRG due to the lack of interest and low attendance at meetings, etc. has decided to disband for the summer. The CRG is the LGBTQ group of Center Church and Unitarian Church in Meriden. However, we are planning a pool party for mid-summer in July, for more info or if interested please contact Norm Thompson at (203) 715-1642

**FROM THE
NOMINATING
COMMITTEE**

We are in need of a Collector, Assistant collector. These two important positions are vacant and need to be filled. Duties entail collecting funds from the offering each Sunday, data entry of some and making deposits to the bank. However, there are volunteers helping out with these duties and will continue in the future with collection, and data entry. The Assistant Collector helps collector and reports are made to the Board of Trustees. For more info and if interested please contact, Pat Kenney, Jack Brooks or Norman Thompson.

**Board of Christian
Education**

Thank you to all who worked to make the **Don't Go Hungry This Weekend Memorial Day Weekend Mission** a success! We can be reminded that seemingly insurmountable tasks can be accomplished when we rely on God's help and work together.

**Celebration Sunday aka
Children's Sunday, June
11th! –**

Celebrating our children & youth in the beauty of nature We will have a chance to worship out in nature at Cuno Camp, 1 Beaver Lake Road, Meriden. Come to the 10 a.m. service at the camp and stay for the church picnic if you can. We are advertising this service to the community at large so bring along extra folks to help make the day even more special. The children and youth of the church will participate in the service, which will also include the Bible presentation, and scholarship awards. Cuno Camp is located on a beautiful spot overlooking Beaver Lake.



Church Picnic (also June 11th)

This annual event is always lots of fun! The grill will be ready with all the condiments you



might need. The Board of Christian Ed will provide all the drinks and paper goods too, so no need to worry about those. Bring a dish to share and what you want to grill. The pool will be available from 11:30-2:30, there will be time for playing games in the grassy field, and of course few rounds of Candy Bar Bingo.

Getting Connected with God

June 4th and 18th, 9:15-9:45 The activities for June will include another yoga class and a meditation workshop. Come and enjoy a chance to grow your spiritual side.

Sunday school may end on June 11th, but there are lots of CCC happenings through the summer!

Heifer VBS July 24-27, 9-Noon, snacks, Bible stories, songs, crafts, and games are included

CCC Youth Group Summer Tag Sale July 29th, 8:30-2:00



Blessing of the Backpacks at CCC, August 27th at the 10 a.m. service

Look for information about National Night Out (donate your books anytime) in Hubbard Park and the **Meriden Back to School Expo in the news!**

FAIR NEWS

Colonial Tymes Fair

Our Fair is Saturday,

November 4th, from 9 a.m. to
3 p.m.

We welcome new Committee Chairs with a great big **thank you**:

Lorraine White is our third Co-Chair of the Fair.

Barbara Langner is Chair of the Baked Goods table.

Ken and Lorraine White are Co-Chairs of the Cheese and Pecan table.

Karen Krick is Kitchen Cashier Co-Chair.

Ken Hamilton is Chair of the Outdoor Signs Set-Up/Take-Down.

What happens to the money raised at the Fair? Our Fair profit is divided in half with one half going directly into the Church's General Fund. The other half is divided equally among these five groups:

Music – the use of this money is decided by the Music Committee after consulting the Minister of Music. It is often used to buy music for one of the choirs or to hire a soloist.

Koinonia – a woman's group that meets during the day. The only money they have is from donations after hosting a reception after a funeral/memorial service, selling knives, etc. at the Fair, and part of the Fair profits. They buy things (like a coffee maker, a rug, stools for the kitchen) for the church as they see the need or are asked to and host/supply the food for

receptions after funeral/memorial services.

Missions – this money is used as the Mission Committee decides – either for local missions or national/international missions.

The Robert Wharton Scholarship Fund – the Scholarship Committee adds this money to the interest from the Fund's principle and money that has been raised by a tea or pancake breakfast and offers it to members in college.

Christian Education Committee – this money supplements the budgeted money for CE and is used for the youth and children of the Church.

Craft Workshops are Tuesday mornings 10 a.m. to noon at Pauline Blakeslee's home (30 Crestview Terrace, Wallingford, 203-265-0271) beginning June 20th. Evening Craft workshops will be announced later. Everyone is welcome to come make crafts together or make crafts at their homes for the **Craft Table**. The Craft Committee is always looking for *ideas and donations for seed money*.

The **Kitchen** Committee also *needs donations* to buy supplies when they are on sale.

The next Fair meeting is Sunday, June 4th, at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. We will be discussing the Tag Sale as well as other ideas for the Fair.

NEW WEBSITE!

Be sure to check out our new web page! We would like to thank Dr. Peter Burch for all his work, expertise, and input in developing this site. Thanks also to the committee working with him for their input – Stuart Stack, Ken White, and Jack Brooks. Thanks, too, to Betty Leidy for all her pictures for the website. Our website is **centerchurchmeriden.org**.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- Adult Bible Study – Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.
- June 4 Getting Connected to God 9:15- 9:45
- June 4 – Fair Meeting 11:15 a.m.
- June 6 – Koinonia
- June 8 – Others
- June 8 - Centerites
- June 11 Celebration Sunday aka Children’s Sunday
- June 11 Church Picnic
- June 18 Getting Connected to God 9:15 – 9:45
- June 21 – Marc Levesque Seminar on “Preparing for the Golden years”

- 4 Debbie Bielefield
- 5 Meghan Hatch Geary
- 9 Tom Schillberg
- 10 Sharon Amoroso
- 11 Nancy Covey
- 12 Raymond Moore
- 13 Valerie Arrigoni
Norman Thompson
- 18 Pamela Kline
- 20 Ardene Courchesne
- 21 Linda Cioffi
Sharon Eaton
- 23 Ben McNamee
- 25 Pam Gorman
- 26 David Maestrini
Doris Miller

Sunday Worship

- 8:30am - Chapel Service – enter by rear parking lot, 30 minute service
- 10:00 am. - Worship in Sanctuary
- Holy Communion first Sunday of each month and all are welcome

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- Dorothy LeGendre
- Betty Karpinski
- Dorothy Churchill
- Gloria Iwerks
- Randy Stack
- Pat Kenney



This Month’s Scripture Focus

(Includes at least one of the following: 1st Testament Reading, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel)

June 4 – Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21 or Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 cor. 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

June 11 – Trinity Sunday

**Gen. 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8
2 Cor 12:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20**

June 18 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

**Gen 18:1-15, (21:1-7)
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 or
Ex 19:2-8A, Psalm 100
Rom 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)**

June 25 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

**Gen 21:8-21,
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17, Jen
20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-10
(11-15) 16-18, Rom 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39**



INCOME FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Pledge/Collections Comparison

<u>Month</u>	<u>2016 income</u>	<u>2017 income</u>
January	\$7,978	\$6,484
February	\$6,286	\$6,398
March	\$7,443	\$8,024
April	\$7,284	\$8,434

Note: \$9,750 is needed to balance the budget

The Lighted Tower

The Lighted Tower is now available online. To view it, please go to our new website (centerchurchmeriden.org) for the latest news on what's happening at Center Church. Getting your Lighted Tower online will mean quicker access to the news, and will save printing and mailing expenses.

For those who don't have access to the internet, or just wish to receive a hard copy, please complete the form below and mail it to the church office, and we will continue to mail you the newsletter. THANK YOU!

Please return this form to the church office.

Please continue to mail me a copy of the Lighted Tower

Your Name: _____

Address: _____