



# The Lighted Tower

February 2018  
Volume 3, Issue 2

[www.centerchurchmeriden.org](http://www.centerchurchmeriden.org)

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## THE FIRST VALENTINE

Well, Valentine’s Day is approaching rapidly. Many of us can probably still remember those early days of our lives when valentines were sent and loves were won or lost. When I was in third grade I was in love with an “older woman”—a platinum blonde in the fourth grade. My valentine was to no avail. She even moved to California. My first broken heart.

The originator of all this was a gentle priest name Valentinus, who was martyred outside the gates of Rome around 270 A.D. However, he really had nothing to do with Cupid and his arrows of passion. Alban Butler in his *Lives of the Saints* writes: “Valentine was a holy priest in Rome who assisted the martyrs and was arrested and sentenced to die by the emperor. It was decreed that he be beheaded and this was done on February 14. The greatest part of his relics (bones) are now in the church of Saint Prexides.”

As early as 1440 the poet John Lydgate wrote about “the religion and custom of Synte Valentine.” By the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the exchanging of valentines was a common practice. *Kemmish’s Annual for 1797*—a kind of encyclopedia of the times—reports the following: “While imprisoned, the good Valentinus amused himself by cutting quaint devices in paper. Being deprived of books, he wrote on one of these words of love for the jailer’s daughter, giving it to her on the morn of his execution. It being concluded by the words, ‘From your Valentinus.’ It is thought to be the source of the present saying.”

A few years ago the Vatican purged many saints from the roster. The fact that Saint Valentine and Saint Nicholas were reportedly two victims hasn’t diminished their popularity as all.

For us it is hard to imagine a time without these cards of love.

*The pretty doves that bill and coo  
Teach in their fondness how to woo;  
Their mutual love, their modest kiss,  
Remind us of connubial bliss.  
My faith I pledge thee; plight me thine,  
O Dearest, be my Valentine!*

May Valentine’s Day this year be a time to renew our love for those dear to us. After all intimacy is a hard business and we can use all the help we can get. But also remember that the first Valentine came from God 750 years before the birth of Christ. Through the prophet Hosea God speaks of his covenantal love for us:

***I will betroth you to me forever;  
I will betroth you to me in righteousness and justice,  
In steadfast love, and in mercy.  
I will betroth you to me in faithfulness;  
And you shall know the Lord. (Hosea 2:19-20)  
God be praised for love—human and divine.***

Center Congregational Church  
474 Broad Street  
Meriden, CT 06450  
203-235-1389

In Christ’s love,  
Kendrick

## Annual Meeting



### The Church's Annual Meeting Will be held on Sunday, March 4, 2018

It is our chance to see what all the committees are doing. We will be voting on all committee reports. And the By-Law change "the Assistant Collector not be on the Trustees".

## LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday  
Service 7:00 p.m.

on

February 14, 2018



Please watch the bulletin for more programs that will be held during Lent.

## FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Just a reminder, there are many ways for you to keep in touch with Center Church:

**Website** – Upcoming events, photos, the monthly calendar and The Lighted Tower [centerchurchmeriden.org](http://centerchurchmeriden.org)

**Facebook Page** – Upcoming events and photos of some of our events Center Congregational Church UCC, Meriden, CT

**E-News** – Lists events and programs for the upcoming week.

And now, Twitter, which will provide some fun posts. The twitter name for is [CtrChurch\\_UCC](https://twitter.com/CtrChurch_UCC)

Be sure to check us out at these sites!

## MISSION MOMENT

## Blanket Sunday – February 18<sup>th</sup>

A simple blanket given when most needed is a loving way to offer warmth, to offer hope. For many years, Center Church has been helping to keep our neighbors warm by providing blankets to families in the United States and around the world through Church World Service (CWS). Many people without homes have a daily challenge of fighting the bitter cold. Around the world, disasters force people from their homes, sending them to shelters and refugee camps where a blanket can make a big difference.

For only \$10, you can provide a blanket that offers warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy, and healing and hope wherever people may need care. Please consider donating to Blanket Sunday. Offering envelopes are in your offering box, or you may use one of the envelopes in the pews.

In January, the Missions Committee voted to send \$500 to Casa Boricua in Meriden. This organization is providing services to those who have relocated to Meriden from their homes in Puerto Rico due to the hurricane devastation there.

Thank you for your continued support of our Missions program.



## CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! Chelsea**

**Trella** for all the time, love,  
and sleepless nights you gave to benefit the  
youth of Center Church in  
January!

Chelsea and her boyfriend, Dan,  
helped chaperone the CCC  
Youth Group



**Video Game Lock-in** and Chelsea **also** attended  
the Silver Lake Confirmation Retreat!!!

Speaking of the **Silver Lake Confirmation  
Retreat...** our confirmation class and two adult  
chaperones attended this inspiring retreat thanks  
to the generosity of Center Church. It is a  
wonderful opportunity to connect with  
confirmands from around the state, have  
peaceful quiet time in nature to connect with  
God, explore our own beliefs, and deepen our  
faith.

More thanks go out to all who generously  
donated items and funds for the **Tony's New  
Apartment Collection**. Tony can set up his new  
apartment in style and know he is greatly loved.

The children of the CCC **Sunday school** will be  
learning all, "Love is,"  
in the month of February. On  
February 4<sup>th</sup>, we will be making  
Valentine cards  
for folks at the soup kitchen and  
cookies for college care packages



The **Youth Choir** meet each Sunday in February.

They will be singing in the  
sanctuary at the 10 am service, on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

The 11<sup>th</sup> is also **Shrove Sunday**,  
so we will be enjoying pancakes  
as part of our coffee hour treats.



The **CCC Youth Group** will meet on February 11<sup>th</sup>  
and 18<sup>th</sup>. The 11<sup>th</sup> will be a planning and games  
meeting, the programming for the 18<sup>th</sup> will be  
decided on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Confirmation class** will be meeting on February  
4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>

The **LOL** (Living Out Loud), high school class, will  
be meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

The **Go Haiti Collection** will continue until  
February 11<sup>th</sup>. Collection buckets may be found  
in the hall by the parking lot and in Fellowship  
Hall. We hope to send at least two full buckets of  
necessary items to the orphanage

FYI- The Board of Christian Education will soon be  
announcing a potluck luncheon fundraiser for the  
Robert Wharton Scholarship Fund- stay tuned!

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

**Others** will meet on February 8 at 6 pm. They are  
to going to Laskara's in Wallingford. The birthday  
girls this month are Lorraine and Carla.

**Koinonia** will meet on February 13 at 11:00 for a  
short business meeting. Lunch will be at 11:30.  
Men are invited as well as any women of the  
church.

**Centerites** will meet on February 8 at 6:30 pm at

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Adult Bible Study – Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 6 - Deacons
- Feb. 11 – Annual Reports due
- Feb. 13 – Koinonia
- Feb. 13 - Trustees
- Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 18 – Blanket Sunday
- Feb. 22 – Church Council
- Feb. 25 – Bach in Winter

## Sunday Worship

- 8:30am - Chapel Service – enter by rear parking lot, 30-minute service – Communion 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.
- 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  
Barbara Newell  
Betty Weiland  
Kay Janiga  
Mary Volker  
Ray Moore  
Pam Gorman

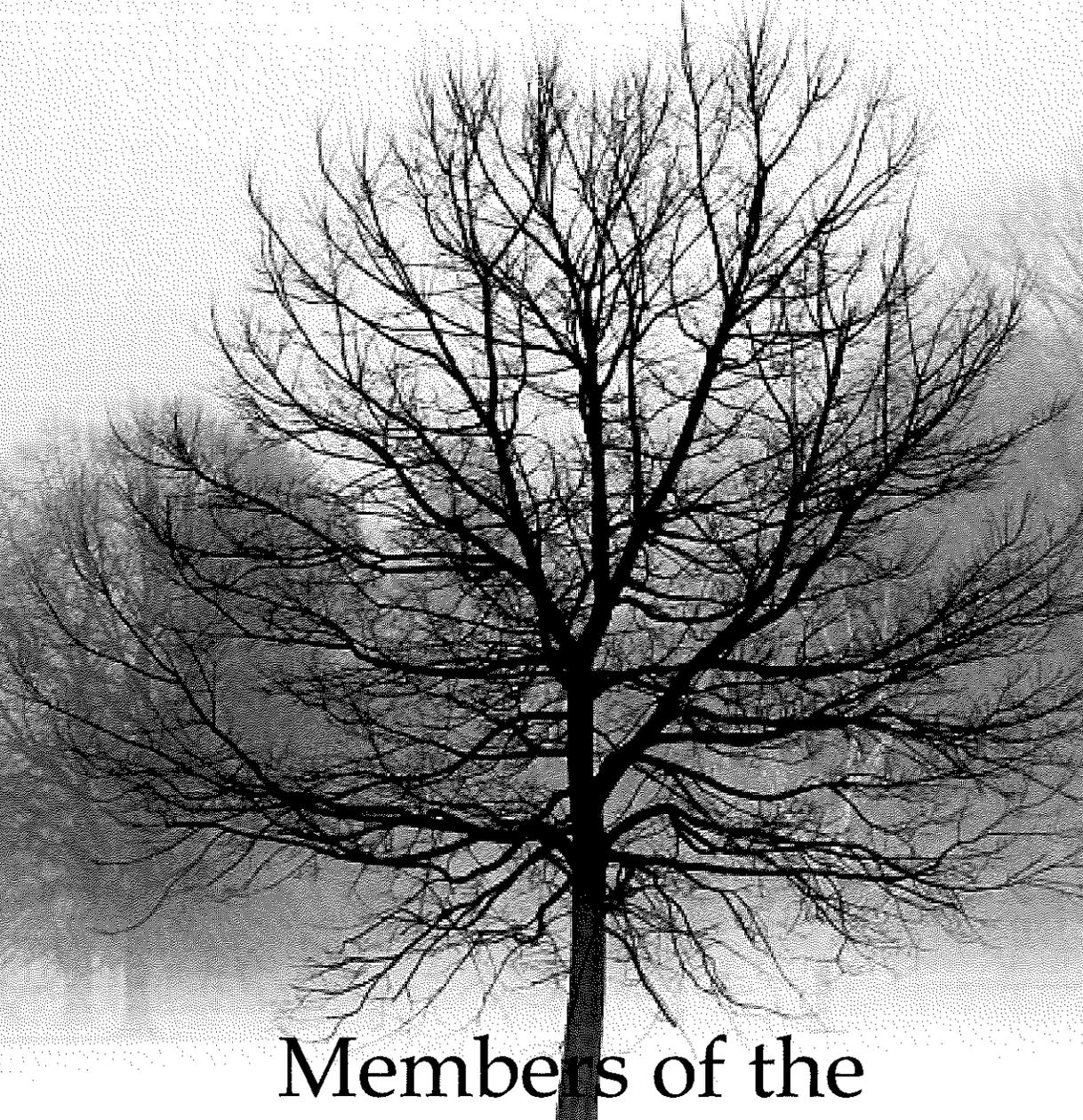


## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Nancy Laurenza  
6 Barbara Langner  
8 Cathy Halla-Slavin  
9 Lorraine White  
11 John Mahoney  
Jacqueline Halla  
12 Andrew Mahoney  
Tom Clancy  
16 Joyce Mercurio  
Carla Kielbasinski  
23 William Houlberg  
24 Susan Stack  
25 Lisa Corbeil

#

# BACH IN WINTER



## Members of the New England Chamber Choir

Sunday, February 18, 2018

at 4:00 o'clock p.m.

Saint Peter Church

30 Saint Peter Lane

Higganum, Connecticut



Sunday, February 25, 2018

at 4:00 o'clock p.m.

Center Congregational Church

474 Broad St

Meriden, Connecticut

Free admission-Donations welcome  
Reception to follow each performance