



# The Lighted Tower

MEMO: SUNDAY, MAY 20th is PENTECOST, WEAR RED

May 2018  
Volume 3, Issue 5

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

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Modern Protestants tend to recognize two major celebrations (high Holy Days) in the Christian liturgical year: Christmas and Easter. But there is a third. It is just as important and, in fact, was celebrated three hundred years before anyone even dreamed of celebrating the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas). It's Pentecost.

In the second chapter of the Book of Act, Luke tells us: "When the day of Pentecost had come; the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound like a rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." And people of the many nations gathered in Jerusalem were amazed for they heard the disciples preaching in their own language. Three thousand were converted that day.

Now what exactly happened to the disciples we don't know. But what we do know is that these followers of Jesus who had been waiting and watching and hoping in trepidation, experienced the Spirit of God. They were moved and used by God. We know that after this experience that the disciples were ten times the people they were during Jesus' life on earth. Filled with the Holy Spirit they were no longer afraid and timid, but went out into the world to preach God's truth and grace. The results were immediate. Small, vital communities of love that met in member's houses sprang to life, prospered and grew until Christianity becoming a world religion. Something very powerful happed that day.

Through the Spirit the chasm between people was dissolved. They could hear and understand each other. They offered hospitality; they became community. Yet, how divided we are today! We pray for such ability to hear and understand in our homes, our nation and in our world. Is this not the only hope for peace?

At Pentecost Jesus' promise, "I will not leave you desolate. I will come to you" was fulfilled. Through the Spirit, the chasm between God and people, earth and heaven, was dissolved. God's spirit can fill our emptiness and take away our fear so that we can love. Let us prayer for that as well.

Come celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost Sunday when we will be welcoming our confirmands to be a part of our vital community of faith. WEAR RED for that is the liturgical color of Pentecost, the color of fire which warms and illuminates. May we all be filled with the Spirit of God that sets us free and sets us on fire to love.

In Christ's love,  
Kendrick

## From the Planning Committee

Plans are underway for our church-wide mission project in July. Sign-up sheets are located in the Sanctuary and in the Chapel. We hope you will find one or more ways to participate in this exciting event as we share Christ's love with our neighbors. Doing the work of Christ is also good publicity for our church and may attract new members.

From July 8-14, church youth groups from across the country will participate in a mission project hosted by First Congregational Church of Wallingford. During that week, volunteers will repair 50-60 homes in Wallingford and Meriden. Center Church will support this life-changing initiative in several ways.

**Thank you cards:** On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, come to the Fellowship Hall during Coffee Hour to write a note or two to express your gratitude for the work that is being done. Note cards and sample letters will be provided. If you wish to write at home, blank note cards and sample messages are located in the sanctuary and chapel. Workers will receive your notes when they pick up their snacks on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Afternoon Popsicles:** Popsicles will be given to workers at the Meriden job sites on 4 afternoons. Drivers are needed to deliver these cooling treats. You can sign up for one or more afternoons. This is a great opportunity to see first-hand the work the youth are doing and to connect with home owners in our community.

**Afternoon Snacks:** On Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, we will provide approximately 425 snacks when the workers return to Sheehan High School. Volunteers are needed to distribute snacks from 3:00-4:15 pm.

**Bakers:** Sign-up to bake 3-4 dozen cookies (**no nuts or peanut butter**).

**Job Site Work:** Opportunities for hands-on work will take place on Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed to finish any work that the youth groups did not complete during the week.

**Funds:** Checks may be made out to Center Church; write Workcamp on the memo line.

**Prayers:** We can all pray for the success of this mission and for the safety of the volunteers as they work and travel. Due to their hard work, the homeowners receiving help will have an improved quality of life.

Watch the church bulletins, e-news, and upcoming issues of the Lighted Tower for more details and sign-ups.

We look forward to working together to benefit needy home owners in our area.

Thank you. The Planning Committee: Debbie Gaffney, Jack Brooks, Kendrick Norris, Mary Zysk, Karen Krick, Maggie Schillberg, Betty Leidy, and Barbara Langner



**Center Congregational Church**  
303 East Main Street Building  
**Questionnaire: Possible Alternatives**

**Alternatives**

1. Keep building, put maintenance/repairs into it and continue renting
2. Sell the building with a parking agreement/easement
3. Demolish building and convert to parking
4. Keep building & rent 1<sup>st</sup> fl. while providing 2<sup>nd</sup> floor rent-free to a needy family  
i.e., A. a Puerto Rico displaced family; B. a refugee family; C. a Chrysalis family

**Alternative #1:**

**Advantages:** Keep full control over parking lot; continue generating rental income (net 5 year average = \$6,132. per year).

**Disadvantages:** Future maintenance/repair costs potentially \$25,000+. Cosmetic external repairs and pointing of brickwork should be done. The 2nd floor needs significant work.

**Alternative #2:**

**Advantages:** With a shared parking agreement for Sundays, the same parking can be maintained as we now have. We relieve ourselves of potential major repairs, and are able to invest the proceeds of the sale.

**Disadvantages:** Loss of full control/ownership of a portion of parking lot. Loss of rental income (but offset with investment income at 5% x \$135,000 = \$6,750).

**NOTE:** Potential Parking Agreement with new owner: We could provide 5 spaces for the building's businesses from our lower lot during the week in exchange for our full use of parking behind the building during the week, and all spots on week-ends.

**Alternative #3:**

**Advantages:** Eliminate future maintenance costs and gain 4-5 parking spots.

**Disadvantages:** Lose the rental income and value of the building (\$135,000-\$150,000); Incur the cost of demolition, environmental clean-up, filling basement and paving/expanding the driveway to allow backup depth (costs est. at \$50,000-\$75,000).

**Alternative #4:   A, B, C**

**Advantages:** Could continue to generate the net profit for the church while providing an apartment for a needy family, thereby providing a Mission outreach project for us. (along with the property tax savings, and Mission support of approx. \$3,500/yr. this will give us the same net profit from the building).

**Disadvantages:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartment will not generate any income (other than the tax savings) and will require the church to assume an outreach responsibility. Future maintenance/repair costs are potentially \$25,000+.

## PASTORAL SEARCH REPORT

### Congregational Conversation on May 6th

As announced in Church on Sunday (4/15), everyone is invited to participate in a congregational dialog regarding the needs of our covenant community going forward and what the qualities are that we need from our next Pastor. This conversation will be led by the Pastoral Search Committee and will provide everyone with opportunity to provide input.

Part of the input we are looking for will be in the form of completing a short survey. For those of you who recall past searches, you will find this survey to be shorter and probably more to the point than the long survey questionnaires which the UCC provided for our use back then. This one is being put together by our own team led by Roger Cerbie, Debbie Gaffney, and Chelsea Trella. A survey collects important information, but having the discussion input is equally critical.

Please make every effort to be there immediately after the 10AM worship service on Sunday May 6th. Those of you who cannot attend will still be able to get (or be sent) a survey questionnaire to complete.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Gorman at [cccdeacon@comcast.net](mailto:cccdeacon@comcast.net) or 860-916-1162 (phone/text).

Thank you.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to all who came to Bingo Night on April 13! Although we already have Candy Bar Bingo planned for the Church Picnic on June 10<sup>th</sup>, the BCE will hold another Bingo Night in the summer since it was such a hit!

We will  
Church in  
If you  
by May 1<sup>st</sup>,



### Confirmation Worship Service Trip, Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

leave the Center Church parking lot at 9:15 to travel to the Cross Street AME Zion Middletown for their 10AM service. We will return after the worship service is over. would like to join this visit contact Maureen [Christian.ed@centerchurchmeriden.org](mailto:Christian.ed@centerchurchmeriden.org) so she can inform the Pastor Harville the exact number of visitors to expect.

Confirmation class and mentors will meet for a run through of the confirmation service on **May 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:45-12:15.**

**LOL class** will also meet **on the 13<sup>th</sup>** during worship.

**Confirmation Sunday is May 20<sup>th</sup>!** There will be no regular Sunday school classes that day, as all will attend the full worship service. Please wear red as it is Pentecost Sunday!



### Memorial Day Sunday- **Don't Go Hungry!** Event, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:15AM-1:15

PM nonperishable items may be dropped off at church anytime. Details on sandwich making and additional drop off day/times will be forthcoming. Folks can sign up to donate items for this mission at the web address:

<https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/EPKS6621>.

If you would like to donate toiletry items- toothpaste, deodorant, wet wipes, razors, etc., white socks, and mid weight clothing and sneakers in excellent condition, these will also be distributed to people in need on this day. Center Church is now known throughout the community for our generosity especially at these feeding missions, so we are sure to do some good work this time as well.

### Save the Date!

On **Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup> Children's Sunday** and the annual **Center Church Picnic** will be held at **Cuno Camp** on Beaver Lake Road in Meriden again this year. We will have a outdoor service under the pavilion (There is easy access for all) followed by food, and fun for all those who wish to stay.



be held  
lovely  
games

The **Center Church Youth Group** will have a **Mini golf** and **Go cart adventure** on **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## FAIR NEWS

May 20<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, after church there will be a Fair meeting. The Church Fair Committee and all people with ideas for the Fair are asked to come to the meeting. We will be discussing the Fair including the tag sale.

## MISSION MOMENT

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Blanket Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing. Through your generosity, we donated \$770 to Church World Service for blankets, and \$660 for OGHS.



A few pantry items are kept in the church office to be given to those in need. Food items needed are canned soups, tuna, peanut butter, crackers, fruit cups, and cereals. These items may be left in the Narthex or the church office. Missions Committee also donated \$500 for Stop and Shop cards which are distributed by the minister to those in need.

The Missions Committee has designated May's donations for the Planning Committee's project of providing snacks and popsicles on July 12<sup>th</sup> for the First Congregational Church's summer work camp. Please see the Planning Committee's article for more information on how you can get involved in this project.

## FELLOWSHIP

**Koinonia** will be going to Center Church in New Haven, on the Green, for a tour of "The Crypt", on Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the parking lot of our church at 10 am to car-pool. Lunch at the Fish Tale, in New Haven. Contact Lorraine White if you wish to join us.

**Others** Wow we really have had April Showers this year! Our April meeting at Henry's was great we welcomed back Carla and Cindy Loucks joined us as well. Great to have you both! Our May Flowers (birthdays) are Mary Zysk, Janet Dickinson and Maggie Schillberg. We are meeting at 6:00 pm at the Time Out Tavern in Durham. It is located at 100 New Haven Road in Durham. Please Call Ardene (203-237-2375) to let her know you will celebrate with us. Happy Spring!

## MEN'S DINNER

On each or every 2nd-Thursday-of-the-month, all men of the church are welcome to participate in our floating dinner tour about central Connecticut. A different eating establishment is selected for each occasion, and an opportunity to contribute input the restaurant review is provided; using our exclusive 10-spud scale. This wandering dining group is otherwise known among us as the **Centerites**.

In April, we visited **San Souci** on North Broad Street, Meriden. Our reviewers enjoyed this one and returned a very good verdict score of 7.7 Spuds out of 10. By comparison, in March, Portofino in Kensington scored an 8.0. Generally good food scores from everyone, with Jim's prime rib and Ken's crab cakes rated particularly well. The difference was that we found the service to be a bit less customer observant that evening.

Our next scheduled restaurant visitation will be at **Rick's On Five** in Wallingford; oddly enough on Route 5. Forever having been a breakfast and lunch place, Rick's has just announced that they have begun serving dinner. Naturally, it is the duty of our pioneering platoon of restaurant explorers to scout out this new dining opportunity and report findings to the congregation.

Join us there and then and be part of this noble mission. Gathering is at 6:30pm, Thursday, May 10th.. For additional information, please contact Steve Gorman, [cccdeacon@comcast.net](mailto:cccdeacon@comcast.net) or 860-916-1162 (phone/text).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Adult Bible Study – Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the Federal Room
- May 1 - Search Committee and Deacons at 7 pm
- May 6 – Communion Sunday
- May 6 – Confirmation trip to Cross Street AME Zion Church in Middletown for their 10AM service.
- May 8 - Koinonia will meet at 10 am and car-pool to Center Church in New Haven
- May 8 - Trustees at 7 pm
- May 10 - Others will meet and at Time Out Traven in Durham
- May 10 Centerites will meet
- May 13 - LOL Class
- May 13 – Confirmation Class and Mentors Rehearsal 11:45 – 12:15
- May 15 - Search Committee at 7 pm
- May 20 - Pentecost Sunday
- May 20 - Fair Meeting after church
- May 27 - **Memorial Day Sunday- Don't Go Hungry!** Event, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:15AM-1:15

## 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



Betty Karpinski  
Dorothy Churchill  
Gloria Iwerks  
Barbara Newell  
Betty Weiland  
Kay Janiga  
Mary Volker  
Ray Moore  
Dorothy LeGendre

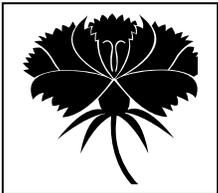
Dot's new address is:  
Sunrise on Connecticut Ave.  
Suite 505  
5111 Connecticut Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20008



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Chelsea Trella
- 2 Betty Karpinski
- 3 Cathleen Cusachs
- 8 Barbara Carter
- 9 Mary Zysk
- 11 Paul Iwerks
- 15 Janet Dickinson
- 16 Amy Bekasi  
Ben Hamilton
- 17 Chris Tabor
- 20 Maggie Schillberg
- 25 Nancy Uryase
- 29 Ruth Froggatt
- 30 Shannon Stolting

Betty Karpinski will be 96 on May 2  
 619 Laurel Lake Drive  
 Apt. 104  
 Columbus, NC 28722



**MOTHER’S DAY CARNATIONS**

The Music Committee will be offering long-stemmed carnations for Mother’s Day. The proceeds will be used toward the Organ Restoration Fund. Orders must be in by May 8<sup>th</sup>. Please place order form in offering plate or return order form to church office.

In Honor of (Red Carnations) \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of (White Carnations) \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Flowers Ordered (Red) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Flowers Ordered (White) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount enclosed (\$4.00 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or 3 for \$10.00