



The Lighted Tower

Center Congregational Church, Meriden.
474 Broad Street – Meriden, CT 06450

October 2018 Vol. 3 No 8

Sunday, September 30th, we begin our Generosity Campaign. As I was thinking about this, I had an appealing fantasy—and it wasn't fleeting. I would ascend to the pulpit appearing like a Silver Back gorilla, beat my chest ferociously, and everyone would fill out his or her pledge card appropriately.

The problem with that is that good Congregationalists don't have a herd instinct—and you are good [read: fiercely independent] Congregationalists. More importantly, I am fundamentally opposed to using fear as a motivator.

John says, "Perfect love casts out fear." So much of what we do is already motivated by fear, and I'm not going to add to that particular dysfunction in our lives. As spiritual people it behooves us, one and all, you and me, to focus on overcoming our fears by moving toward a place of grace, so that our good works are none other than the radiance of our love.

When we are generous out of love, we are in line with the image of God within us, for God's magnificent creation was an overflow of God's love.

OR, as you consider your yearly pledge, I might tell you that in Warwickshire, England there is an epitaph on a tombstone, which reads:

Here lies a miser who lived for himself
And cared for nothing but gathering pelf.
Now, where he is, or how he fares,
Nobody knows . . . and nobody cares!

In other words, I could play to your vanity: "Give more and you will be praised more!" But the problem is that at Center Church what you give is confidential, almost a top secret. The congregation doesn't know the amount of your pledge. The clergy don't know. It's just some financial guy and we've cut his tongue out.

Not out of fear, not for glory do we want you to pledge—and increase it if you can—but because generosity is the way it's supposed to be in God's world.

Jesus was in many ways a materialist. Jesus was always talking about money. This is no exaggeration. The New Testament describes only about 40 days in the life of Jesus. Yet, there are 39 instances where he talked about money, silver, gold, material possessions. This means that on average he talked about money once a day. After all Jesus is the material incarnation of God; he of all people knew that spirituality couldn't be insulated from the things we live with.

Christians, as all others, have physical bodies. We eat materialistic food. We wear materialistic clothes. We live in materialistic houses. Christians are simply materialists under God, believing that “God hath made us and not we our selves.” Therefore, spiritually and materially we are indebted stewards.

There are some senses in which our church is materialistic. This is a material building of stone, clapboard and steel. It has a materialistic roof.

The Bible we read from, the hymnals you sing from are made from materials. We sit in materialistic pews. We listen to an organ made of materials. Our children study from Church School materials. We are kept warm by a materialistic furnace burning materialistic oil. The church is led by a material staff that needs a material salary to acquire food, clothes and shelter and provide for their material children.

Even our mission is mostly material. Saint Jerome the 4th century translator of the Bible into Latin wrote to a prosperous Christian friend:

***It is yours to clothe Christ in the poor,
To visit Him in the sick,
To feed Him in the hungry,
To shelter Him in the homeless.***

Your generosity allows us to materially support, to financially underwrite, the many ministries of Center Congregational Church.

Please indicate generous amount on your pledge card. Your financial sharing, your economic support, is like Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel, the foundation of our enterprise, the heart of the matter upon which all else is dependent.

In Christ's love,
Kendrick

PASTORAL SEARCH UPDATE

*And I say unto you,
Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
– Luke 11:9 –*

The Committee having completed the preliminary work necessary in order to begin advertising our Pastoral opportunity, our ministerial opening has now been posted on the United Church of Christ website. During the coming month, we should start to be receiving ministerial profiles (i.e., resumes) from interested clergy.

To see what our ad looks like, go online and just follow this link:

http://oppsearch.ucc.org/web/fastdetails.aspx?id=3218&KeepThis=false&TB_iframe=true&height=&width=

In any search for a new Pastor, there are myriad churches each seeking to find that new spiritual guide to provide leadership toward where that covenant community believes it seeks to go. In like manner, myriad ministers are each seeking that one opportunity that s/he will find to work with and guide a congregation and whereby together they build upon each other's firm foundation to enrich each other in spirit while creating that new future. This harmony of many minds and souls becomes an adventure toward fulfillment of goals each has in the beginning and new goals yet to be discovered. Behind all this, the unseen Hand of God weaves in wondrous ways toward an end.

When for each seeking party the door is reached and knocked upon, its consequent opening is to heretofore unknown opportunities which lie ahead before us in a yet undiscovered country. It is then that we realize and take to heart the wisdom of the words of that sage prophet of recent times, the great Yogi (Berra): *The Future ain't what it used to be.*

CENTERITES

All Men of the Church are invited to come and “Go Dutch” (or, in this case, “Go Deutch”) in our annual Oktoberfest pilgrimage to ***East Side Restaurant*** at 131 Dwight Street in New Britain. Creatures of habit that we are, here in the *Land of Steady Habits* that is Connecticut, we gather together at *East Side* on the Second Thursday of Oktober, that being the 11th, at 6:30. Bring with you your heartiest appetite. For information, or to confirm your spot at the table, contact Jim Chapman at jdchap39@gmail.com.

FELLOWSHIP

Koinonia will travel to New Haven on Tuesday, October 2, to visit the L.L. Bean Store with lunch at Lenny and Joes in New Haven. Plan to meet in the church parking lot at 10:30 a.m. Sign up with Lorraine White.

On Tuesday, October 23, Koinonia will meet at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to assemble crafts for the church fair.

Others Others will meet on October 11th at 6 pm. Location to be determined. Please check the Church Bulletin and Announcements in early October. There are no Birthdays in October. We will be celebrating the birthdays we missed at the last meeting.



MISSION MOMENT

October 21st is our annual Neighbors in Need offering. This year's theme is "Love of Neighbor". This UCC offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Some of the advocacy work includes issues such as voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Because October is domestic violence awareness month, our local Mission offering has been designated for our Upper Room project. By providing an apartment for a Chrysalis client, we are helping the family get back on their feet financially. One in three women and one in four men have been victims of domestic violence. Chrysalis, our local domestic violence organization, provides not only a Safe House, but also a Transitional Living home. They offer a 24-hour emergency hotline, counseling services, legal advocacy, and community education.

Our thanks to Maggie Schillberg for organizing our booth at the Farmer's Market, and thanks also to the volunteers who have helped. It's been a great way to publicize our church and raise some funds for the Upper Room. October 20th is the last Saturday for our booth. The free coffee and cookies have been a big hit!



Church Fair News

Theme: "Colonial Tymes" Christmas Fair
When: Saturday, November 10, 2018
Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Here's How You Can Help Us.

At our recent Church Fair Committee meeting the Chairpersons of the various venues gave the following suggestions:

Advertising: Take a flyer to an establishment you frequent and ask if you can post it.

Baked Goods: Best selling items are small ones brownies, bars, cookies, cupcakes, also breads of all kinds, and pies. Frosted cakes do not sell but, apple cakes etc. do. Best time to bring them in is Friday afternoon November 9th or early Saturday morning.

Basket Table: If you can make a basket let Maureen know and what the theme is. She would like to see a basket or two that would appeal to men.

Cookie Walk: Bake 6 dozen cookies include a list of ingredients and bring them in to the Federal Room Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning.

Craft Table: We could use craft items made at home to add to our workshop items. Bring them in Thursday, November 8th or Friday, November 9th or give them to Pauline at any time. Note: for some reason wreaths do not sell.

Greeters: We need a chairperson for this area to schedule people to greet and give out pamphlets to fair goers as to where to locate things. If interested please see Pauline, Pat, or Lorraine.

Kids Fair: It will be open 10 am to 12 noon and children under 5 need an adult with them.

Kitchen: Is still looking for seed money, see Ardene. They will be serving coffee, tea, water, soda, muffins, assorted sandwiches, soups, desserts, and for the 2nd year mac and cheese. Hot lobster rolls may be preordered \$12. Apple pies will be available in two sizes large \$12 and small \$6. Apple pies may also be preordered.

Parish Nurses: Will again be testing for high blood pressure and diabetes. Note: Last year 9 non-diabetic diagnosed people were tested for A1C and 8 had elevated levels (over 5.6); so get tested.

Tag Sale and Attic Treasures: Items may only be brought in on Saturday, November 3rd between 9 am and 3 pm. They should be brought in through the outside Nurses room door. Please only items in good repair and no furniture. If unable to do this date please see Joan Halla or Maria Halla and other arrangements might be made.

Teacup Auction: Most sought after items are gift cards, items for kids, handmade items, knit items, and Irma Morse paintings. Note; cute Christmas decorations don't attract attention. Items should be brought in Thursday afternoon or evening. Friday all day or evening. They can not be accepted Saturday morning. Any questions see Sue Trella.

Used books: may be brought in starting on October 15th and left in the Federal Room at the base of the book shelves. Any questions see Jim Chapman.

Set up: will be Thursday, November 8th starting at 9 am. If you are free and can set up tables or help cover tables let Pauline know.

**We need all of you to come to the fair, eat, buy and enjoy the fellowship.
Here's to a successful Fair.**

Pauline Blakeslee, Pat Kenney, and Lorraine White – Co-Chairs.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to all who participated in and/or came to shop at the CCC Youth Group Community Tag Sale on the 29th!

Sunday School

To celebrate World Communion Sunday the Sunday school will learn all about Communion on October 7th. We will have our own communion service and then join the rest of the congregation for the regular communion service in the sanctuary.

For the rest of October our Sunday school classes we will be learning all about Abraham and Sarah.



Living Out Loud (LOL)

The LOL high school class will meet on October 21st. They will be discussing all, about sharing our gifts.

CCC Youth Group

The CCC Youth group had their first meeting with Chelsea and made some exciting plans for the year. Their first event is happening September 30th. They will be going to the Lyman Orchards Corn Maze and doing some apple picking. See Chelsea for more details.

Youth group will also meet on October 21st, until 12:30, to plan out the Halloween Party.



Community Halloween Party Sunday, October 28th, 2-4PM

The CCC Youth Group and Board of Christian Education will host our annual Community Halloween Bash. Youth group members will stay after church and decorate the Fellowship Hall and the haunted basement to be ready for a fun and spooky time. There will be games, prizes, food and fun. We will have our annual donut eating game and a costume contest as well. Everyone is welcome and bring along some friends!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Adult Bible Study – Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the Federal Room
- Oct. 2 Deacons and Search Committee
- Oct. 3 Choir
- Oct. 7 Communion Sunday
- Oct. 8 Trustees
- Oct. 11 Others
- Oct. 11 Centerites
- Oct. 14 Accessibility Sunday
- Oct. 16 Search Committee
- Oct. 20 Last Farmers Market
- Oct. 21 LOL Class
- Oct. 21 Youth Group
- Oct. 25 Church Council
- Oct. 28 Halloween Party

Sunday Worship

- 8:30am - Chapel Service – enter by rear parking lot, 30-minute service – Communion 1st and 3rd 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
Betty Weiland
Kay Janiga
Mary Volker
Dorothy LeGendre
Lorraine White



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

5 Diana Halla
Jack DePalma
7 Charlie Bielefield
8 Evan Adamowicz
9 Esther Tyler
10 Douglas Pellows
11 Kenneth Harnois
19 Liza Warena
20 Lindsey Donsbough Dorsey
21 Carole Schlauch
26 Roger Cerbie
31 Robin Cusachs

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Meriden, CT 06450-5897



Sundays:

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service – enter by rear parking lot (Communion first and third Sunday of each month)

10:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Holy Communion first Sunday of each month, all are welcome.

Special worship services during Advent, Christmas and Lent, please see the website.

Church Phone: (203) 235-1389

Church E-mail: secretary@centerchurchmeriden.org

Church Website: www.centerchurchmeriden.org