



The Lighted Tower

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

November 2018 Vol. 3 No 9

THANKSGIVING

Every November we are reminded to consider the theological virtue of gratitude. I believe that there are two kinds of thanksgiving. One kind dwells on the specifics of life. This is the average sort of thanksgiving, the kind of thanksgiving that is supported by the world's logic. If something goes right I will be thankful; if something goes wrong I have every right to be ungrateful. If I get the raise, if the children behave, if the sun shines, if the fall foliage is ripe with color, if we have neither too much nor too little snow, then there is reason to be thankful. To put it simply: our self-centered world beckons us to be thankful only when our wants and outer events coincide.

One of my favorite professors, Paul Holmer, from divinity school put it this way: "Wishes have to be fulfilled before we can be glad enough to manage a little praise, and desires need gratification in order that gratitude takes root. That is why the capacity for gratitude is customarily a bit fortuitous, and, equally, why we all come to think that grumbling has its justified large place in daily life."

The mediocrity of the world's thanksgiving formula cannot compare with:

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth,
Worship God with gladness.
It is God who made us and we are God's own,
Enter God's gates with thanksgiving
And God's courts with praise.*

The second sort of thanksgiving is not a transitory and circumstantial emotion, but an overarching life-perspective, active in all circumstances. Thanksgiving is not meant to wax and wane according to fortune, nor falter at the hard moment.

But is meant to be a stabilizing attitude. In other words, gratitude is a human capacity that can be enlarged and strengthened until it is a constant in life—regardless of specifics.

Listen to the words of John Claypool, a Baptist minister, who lost his precious young daughter to leukemia: "Life is gift. Pure, simple, sheer gift, and we are to relate to it in this light. . . . This is the perspective that has helped me more than anything else in the last weeks, and of all the roads traveled, this one offers the best promise of a way out. It consists of two things: remembering that life is a gift, and learning how to relate to it; namely by the discipline of gratitude This is the perspective biblical religion puts around all life. I am here to testify that this is the only way down from the mountain of loss. I do not mean to say it makes things easy, it does not, but at least it makes things bearable when I remember that Laura Lue was a gift, pure and simple, something I neither earned nor deserved nor had a right to, and that the appropriate response to a gift, even when it is taken away, is gratitude that I ever had her in the first place."

We need not be grateful for the circumstance, for the specific.

However, we can still be thankful in the midst of it. Sorrow and thanksgiving, grief and gratitude need not be exclusive. Claypool can curse the leukemia, mourn the loss of his daughter, and still be thankful for life—Laura Lue's and his own—and the life they shared together.

Thanksgiving for the simple gifts—of life and love—breaks our mean dependency upon this or that event and opens our hearts to gratitude that is a life-changing blessing. As the Psalmist proclaims: "Yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful."

In Christ's love, Kendrick

VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER 11, 2018
CITY OF MERIDEN VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE
100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH will be a bit different of a routine for a Sunday morning at church. The City of Meriden always conducts the city's Veterans Day on the actual day, November 11th, as opposed to other holidays that are observed on the nearest Monday.

For the past 10 years, we have supported this event with provision of coffee et al to the general public, and with our Pastor delivering the Invocation and Benediction at this public observance. It is a great opportunity for us as a church to be seen in the community. In addition, we of Center Congregational Church have made our Church Sanctuary available to the Veterans Council as the alternate indoor site of the observance in the event of inclement weather.

The City's planning meeting for this year's event is on October 30th, which is too late to get the exact arrangement information into this *Lighted Tower*. Traditionally, the Observance begins at 11AM, though last year it started at 10:30. Our regular 10AM service will commence as scheduled, and we will most likely be then processing outside to join the Observance. The Baptist Church is also impacted as their 11AM service coincides with the Observance itself, and the City is scheduled to close down the northbound lanes of Broad Street starting at about 10:30. Our Pastor, Kendrick, is scheduled to deliver the Invocation, and Pastor Leon from the Baptist Church is scheduled to deliver the Benediction.

So please watch your *eNews* and the Sunday bulletin and announcements in church on Sunday (November 4th) for the firm details. For additional information, please contact Steve Gorman at cccdeacon@comcast.net or 860-916-1162.

Annual Budget Meeting



**The Annual Budget Meeting
Has been changed to
Sunday, November 4, 2018
Immediately following worship.**

NOVEMBER 4, 2018



PASTORAL SEARCH NOTES

Having completed the work required in order to post our Pastoral opening on the UCC website for ministers to review and respond, our Search Committee is currently awaiting the receipt of profiles (i.e., resumes) from interested candidates. During this waiting period, we have had the benefit of support from Reverends Rhonda Myers, our interim Regional Conference Minister, and Kathleen Cunliffe, Pastor of First Congregational Church in Wallingford; who have assisted us in preparing our candidate interview style in preparation for our upcoming receiving of candidates.

Our thanks to the members of the Committee, who have been contributing a lot of their time and effort into this project: Pauline Blakeslee, Jack Brooks, Roger Cerbie, Jim Chapman, Brian Comstock, Debbie Gaffney, Barbara Langner, Maggie Schillberg, Chelsea Trella, Lorraine White, Roger White; Kendrick Norris, Advisor.
Steve Gorman, Chair

CENTERITES ON THE MOVE

Our Daredevil Diners descend upon **The Victorian House Restaurant** to dine in epoch style on Thursday evening, November 8th, at 6:30PM. All Men are invited to partake in this Fall installment of our monthly fare of fun, food and fellowship. **The Victorian House** can be found at 226 Maple Avenue in Cheshire.

Last month, our gustatory gauchos galloped to East Side Restaurant in New Britain for the annual Oktoberfest. I say “gauchos” primarily in celebration of the great German cuisine that has developed in Argentina for some reason over the past 75 years. However, we were in New Britain, not Buenos Aires; and, instead of venturing South of the Equator for our November nosh, we are staying in our Central Connecticut neighborhood; having thus chosen Cheshire for this chewing.

So, Don't Cry for Me, Argentina.

Sorry. These are the wurst lines I could come up with on short notice.

So, put on your best 19th century airs and do join us in a place of Victorian dainties and doilies and delicious delights as we venture on the 8th of November to **The Victorian House Restaurant** in Cheshire. Well – maybe not. This place has updated their menu and image (“The Vic House”) and is now considerably different from when many of us have been there last, and that's one reason we want to check out the new incarnation of the place and review it anew.

Unfortunately, since all restaurants in Connecticut are non-smoking these days, none of will have an opportunity to ask that traditional question: Do you have Prince Albert in a can?

Ken White is booking this reservation. If, in the meantime, you would like additional information regarding arrangements for that evening (e.g., to make your reservation), you may contact Steve Gorman at 860-916-1162 or ccdeacon@comcast.net

MISSION MOMENT

In September the Missions Committee donated \$110 toward the expenses for the Community meal held on September 2nd.

The Missions Committee has designated November donations for the Soup Kitchen. We will also collect canned goods and non-perishable food items during November to be given to the Soup Kitchen and/or one of the food banks in Meriden. There are eight food banks in our area. Missions Committee is also collecting Christmas gifts for clients of three local agencies. Please see the list below.

Thank you all for your generosity!!



GIFT SUNDAY DECEMBER 2, 2018



The Mission's Committee is sponsoring Gift Sunday this year. We have chosen agencies whose clients are sometimes forgotten at Christmas. We want to show these people that we care. Please bring an unwrapped gift on **Sunday, December 2nd**. Cash contributions are also welcome. If you wish your gift to go to one particular agency listed below, please place it in the designated box located in the front of the sanctuary.

Catholic Family Services

Provides counseling, mental health services, adoption, transitional living for young mothers and pregnant teens, family life education and family day care.

Toys for children up to 12 years of age, Legos, basketballs, footballs, hair accessories, nail polish, sweat-shirts, gift certificates from grocery stores, department stores and music stores, and for art supplies.

Kuhn Center

Provides vocational evaluation, employment placement, and work services sheltered employment for adults with handicaps.

Household items, books, music cassettes, games that have objects to count, hats, mittens, scarves, socks, suspenders, underwear (male and female), women's jewelry, earrings, make-up, sweater (M, L, XL), sweatpants and sweatshirts (all sizes), clothes (all sizes), flannel shirt (large), umbrellas, inexpensive watches.

Albert J. Solnit Children's Center

Albert J. Solnit is a psychiatric facility for youngsters between the age of 13 and 17. The Center provides mental health treatment services and care for youth who are experiencing extreme emotional and behavioral difficulties. Many of the children have very little family support and few resources.

Gift cards (Target, Wal-Mart, Best Buy, etc.), music items, CDs, DVDs, clothing (sweatshirts, bath robes, & t-shirts in adult sizes L, XL, XXL), craft kits and craft supplies, puzzles, games (such as Scrabble, Monopoly, Connect 4, Yahtzee, UNO), art supplies (markers, construction paper, acrylic paint and brushes, etc.), Self-care products: lip gloss & lip balms, combs, brushes/cosmetic brushes, lotions for boy and girls, shampoo.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This month in **Sunday School** we will be learning more about Jesus by investigating all about *The Wedding at Cana*, Jesus' first miracle.



The **Children's and Youth Choir** will rehearse briefly on November 4th and possibly November 11th depending on the Veteran's Day happenings. *They will be performing in the service on November 18th*. There will also be Choir rehearsal after Sunday School on 25th.

November 18 is a busy Sunday here at Center Church! It is **Warm Coat Sunday**, so folks are asked to bring in winter coats, hats, gloves, socks, and scarves that in good condition, to be donated to warm people in the community

Immediately after coffee hour on the 18th there will be a **"Chew on This"** meeting to discuss our **July 14-20th Mission trip to Biloxi, Mississippi!** Come for a lunch of soup and sandwiches with Mississippi Mud Pie for dessert, and find out all about this amazing opportunity for service afforded us through the generosity of the Norm Thompson Youth Fund.



Lol Class will also meet on the 18th with Chelsea and the CCC Youth Group will *distribute coats, etc.* following the mission trip meeting. Be sure to dress warmly as we will be outside for quite a while and bring a friend or two!



FELLOWSHIP

Koinonia will not meet in November, but if you can help cover the tables for the church fair, please come down on Thursday, November 8 to help.

Others will meet on Thursday, November 15 at 6 pm at San Souci to celebrate our birthday girls, Betty Leidy, Sandy Wadsworth (who is in Florida) and Karen Krick.



Church Fair News

WHAT? A Christmas Fair in Celebration of our Colonial Heritage
WHEN? Saturday, November 10th, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
WHERE? Center Church of course!!!
WHY come to the Fair?

Come one, come all, come to our annual Church Fair. Come for Food, Fun, and Fellowship. We have something for every age and every taste.

Come for our delicious **FOOD**. Start the morning with a muffin and a drink (coffee, tea, hot cider, or something cold). For lunch have a Lobster Roll, one of our homemade soups mac'n cheese, sandwiches, or hot dogs and then close something yummy for dessert. Muriel Soroka-Pizzi will be baking apple pies again. This year there will be two sizes and they can be pre-ordered by calling Joan at the church office (203-235-1389) or just pick one up the day of the fair.

Visit our **TEA CUP AUCTION** and take a chance on lots of hand made or interesting new items. Chances can also be taken on several **GIANT BASKETS OF GOODIES** at the **Basket Table**.

Next visit our **CRAFT** area. Lots of Mittens, Scarves, and Caps for the coming col weather have been knit by May Zysk. We have items in all price ranges. Get some early Christmas shopping done (it's a good place to buy something unique for your child's teacher), buy something for your home, or buy some unique hand made Christmas Decorations or Ornaments for your tree. Several of our items make great stocking stuffers.

Visit our **BAKED GOODS**, and **CHEESE, TABLES**. There will be plenty of homemade pies, cakes, breads, jams and jellies. Our cheese is straight from Vermont. As usual there will be several types of knives for sale.

Go for a **COOKIE WALK in the Federal Room** and fill a can with delicious cookies to eat now or freeze for Christmas. While there look over the **Used Books**, and you might find the book you have been meaning to read. The **YOUTH GROUP TABLE** will have plants etc. for sale. In the center office nurses will test your or diabetes and check your blood pressure.

For tag sale enthusiasts there will be **TAG SALE** and **ATTIC TREASURE ROOMS** on the lower level. You might just find that treasure you are looking for.

Don't forget to bring the children to the **KIDS FAIR** located in the Preschool area. There will be tattoos, a Christmas game and crafts for nominal fee. It will be open from 10 to 2.

EVERYONE please come and ENJOY

A NOTE TO PEOPLE DONATING ITEMS TO THE FAIR

Used Books may be left in the Federal Room on the floor at the foot of the book self any time now when the church is open.

Baked Goods should be brought in on Friday the 9th or early Saturday morning.

Cookies for the Cookie Walk bring in same times as above but bring them to the Federal Room.

Tag Sale and Attic Treasure items may only be brought in on Saturday, November 3rd. From 9 am to 2 pm. If you can't do this contact Maria Halla or Joan Halla to try and arrange another time.

Baskets and Tea Cup Auction items should be brought in on Thursday afternoon. Evening or all day Friday.

Craft items may be brought in any time Thursday, November 8th or Friday November 9th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Adult Bible Study – Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the Federal Room
- Nov. 4 Communion Sunday
- Nov. 4 Annual Meeting
- Nov. 4 Fair Meeting
- Nov. 6 Deacons
- Nov. 8 Set up Fair
- Nov. 9 Set up Fair
- Nov. 10 9-3 Fair
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day
- Nov. 13 Trustees
- Nov. 18 Rabbi Summer
- Nov. 19 Dead-line for the December Lighted Tower
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving
- Nov. 23 Office Closed

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



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Please help decorate our Sanctuary with Poinsettias for our Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 9, 16, and 23. As in the past, everyone who contributes a poinsettia in celebration or in memory of someone will be recognized in the church bulletin on those days.

Those who would like to pick up their plants may do so after Worship Service on December 23 or after the Christmas Eve Service on the 24th.

Please fill out the form below and return it to the church no later than November 26th. The cost of the poinsettias is \$20.00. Checks should be made payable to Center Church and marked "Poinsettias."

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Price \$20.00 each

Given By _____ Phone # _____

In Celebration of _____

In Memory of _____

Please indicate color and quantity Poinsettia you wish to order: Red Poinsettia _____

White Poinsettia _____

TOTAL MONEY ENCLOSED \$ _____



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



Betty Karpinski
Dorothy Churchill
Gloria Iwerks
Betty Weiland
Kay Janiga
Mary Volker
Dorothy LeGendre
Lorraine White
Dave Macomber



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Jim Chapman
4 Casey M. Collins
6 Marie Tompkins
7 Cindy Donsbough
11 Maureen Hamilton
Spenser Trella
17 Joan Gordon
18 Betty Leidy
Roger White
19 Karen Krick
22 George True
23 Sandra Wadsworth
29 Marguerite Stack
Katie Hamilton
30 Virginia Mahoney
Sarah Stack
Mike Donsbough

The church office received the following email from Ellen Warren, Dot LeGendre's daughter.

Dear CCC Friends,

Thank you for keeping Mom in your prayers, and special thanks to those of you who have been in touch with her through cards and notes. She delights in hearing from you all.

Mom celebrated her 99th birthday on Sept .22 with family and friends at Sunrise Senior Living. She is doing well, though slowing down. She is in a very good place with excellent care. While she misses her Meriden friends, I am so happy to have her only 10 minutes from my home. I see her almost daily.

My best to all of you at CCC,
Ellen LeGendre Warren



THANK YOU NOTE

Center Congregational Church
474 Broad Street
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

