



The Lighted Tower

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

February 2019 Vol. 4 No 2

Dear Members and Friends of Center Church,

When I accepted the position of your interim minister at the end of 2017, following the service of Rev. Tobin, we all thought my tenure here would probably be for one year. When it became apparent that this assumption would not be the case, I had to weigh two things: my responsibility to you and my responsibility to myself. A variety of personal considerations—health issues to take care of, Mary’s mother is not doing well, travel plans have been made and family await a visit—meant I was ready to leave at the beginning of this New Year. But, in caring about you, I concluded that the fair thing to do was to continue on until Easter. In mid-October I informed the church leadership of this plan, thus giving six months notice. It may be that you will have a new settled minister in place by then, but if that should not be the case at least the busiest and most important liturgical part of the year will be accomplished.

Please be assured that my leaving does not signal displeasure on my part for this church. Quite the contrary: I find Center Church a refreshing and positive place to minister. Center Church is populated with strong characters and involved in excellent ministries. You obviously love each other and care deeply for the poor of Meriden and the desperate folk the world.

It is true that, like all churches, you are battling a hostile cultural headwind and, like all city churches, you are facing daunting urban demographics. But you have enough spunk to fight the odds, the spirit to cobble together all the things needed, and a fellowship that sparkles. Keep praying for the Search Committee to have wisdom and endurance and that God blesses you with the right minister for this Congregational church.

Epiphany blessings,
Kendrick

MISSION MOMENT

Blanket Sunday – February 17th

Blanket the
world with
love
CWS



A simple blanket given when most needed is a loving way to offer warmth, to offer hope. 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 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). Last year we raised \$750 for blankets.

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 available in the pews.

Please check the bulletin board outside the Federal Room for thank you notes we have received from the Soup Kitchen, the Meriden Fire Department Local 1148 (for backpacks), Solnit Children's Center (Christmas gifts), and Kuhn (Christmas gifts).

Thank you all for your continued support of our Missions program!

Storm Closings



Information regarding storm cancellations will be posted on the following TV stations: WFSB 3, NBC 30, and FOX 61. Also watch your emails.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Right before Christmas, the children in the Sunday school decided to support **Heifer International** - buying a goat and chicks with Sunday school offering funds. Heifer International identifies needy families who would benefit from these animal donations. They train families in proper care of the animals, and families promise to pass along the gift with offspring passed on to their neighbors in need. The animals provide added sources of healthy food and opportunities for selling surplus milk, eggs, etc. to support education and other needs of the families.

Thank you to all who helped to make our **January Coat Giveaway and Community Meal** a success. Everyone who came for a coat went home with one. The homemade soups were delicious and the nonperishable food items and toiletry items were all much appreciated.

In February, the children and youth in the Sunday school will be learning all about the *Good Samaritan* and how to be good neighbors to all. We will be decorating Valentine's Day cards for the folks who eat at the soup kitchen again this year. We will also be baking cookies and putting together **care packages** for our CCC college students.



LOL, the high school class, will meet during church on **February 10th**. This will also be the date of the CCC Youth group meeting. There will be some type of fun activity- to be determined at the Lock-in. Contact Chelsea or Maureen with any questions or suggestions.



Continuing with our efforts to be good neighbors- being a beacon of love and hope in our community, the Board of Christian Education will be collecting, **blankets** and cans of **coffee** for **The Salvation Army shelter**. These are items that the director of the shelter reported are always in short supply.



FELLOWSHIP

Our **Valentine's Party will be Feb. 5th at 11:30 am, and will be catered by Linda.** All the ladies of the church, any men who care to come, and all staff are invited!! Please let Pat Kenney or Lorraine White know if you can come. Koinonia will have a short business meeting at 11:15 am. Hope to see you there!

Centerites will meet at 6:30 on February 7, 2019, at Laskara's in Wallingford. Please note this is a change of date. This group is open to all men of the church, please see Steve Gorman for more information.

Others will meet February 21 at 6:00 pm at Violi's. Please note change of date. This group is open to all women of the church.

FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Just a reminder the Annual Church meeting is March 3, 2019. All Annual written reports are due in the church office no later than February 12th. These reports can be emailed or sent by snail mail to the church in care of the Church Secretary. Thank you for your help.

Annual Meeting



The church's annual meeting will be held on the First Sunday in March, March 3, 2019. This meeting is to review reports from each committee.

Upper Room Name Change

Many of us treasure special memories of Dot LeGendre. She and her husband Ralph were long-time members of Center Church who exemplified our covenant by giving generously of their time, talent, and income. When Dot moved from her Meriden home, her family donated furniture and household furnishings to the apartment known as the Upper Room. The Upper Room is an important mission for Center Church. The LeGendre family's support of this life-changing mission helped us to ready the apartment for our first residents.

A proposal to rename the apartment, "Dot's Place", was brought to the members of the Mission Committee, the originators of the name Upper Room. The suggestion was then brought to the Church Council who approved the name change. The name, "Dot's Place," is a fitting tribute to Dot and her long-term dedication to Center Church.

A capital campaign has begun with the goal of raising \$25,000 to cover the cost of renovating and furnishing Dot's Place. Our mission to provide temporary, rent-free housing for a family fleeing domestic violence allows us to seek community-based grants. The first award (\$6,000) came from the Wadsworth Family Foundation. We will also solicit funds from crowdfunding.

Watch the Lighted Tower, e-news, and church bulletins for more information regarding fund-raising for Dot's Place.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Adult Bible Study – Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the Federal Room
- Feb. 3 Communion Sunday
- Feb. 3 CE Meeting
- Feb. 5 Koinonia
- Feb. 5 Deacons
- Feb. 7 Centerites
- Feb. 10 Missions Committee
- Feb. 10 Cooking with Chris
- Feb. 12 Trustee
- Feb. 12 Written Annual Reports due in Office
- Feb. 19 Deadline for March Lighted Tower
- Feb. 21 Others
- Feb. 28 Church Council

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
Randy Stack



Dear Center Church Friends,

I am well and receive good care here. I am thankful for my friends and family. I appreciate your cards and letters. It is good to know that you are thinking of me and praying for me.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas. I hope you can spend time with your families.

Have a healthy, happy New Year.

Love,
Betty Karpinski



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 Barbara Langner
Amy Roberts
8 Cathy Halla-Slavin
9 Lorraine White
10 Pam Guest
11 John Mahoney
Jacqueline Halla
12 Andrew Mahoney
Tom Clancy
16 Joyce Mercurio
Carla Kielbasinski
17 Kimberly Bradley
23 William Houlberg
24 Susan Stack
25 Lisa Corbeil
26 Nancy Laurenza

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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