



# The Lighted Tower

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

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March 2019 Vol. 4 No 3

With the coming of March, we enter into the reflective time of Lent, followed by Holy Week and Easter. This is the cornerstone of our liturgical year. We find ourselves with special evening services as well as evening meals and programs to support our introspection and self-evaluation. I hope you will join us for the many special worship opportunities and fellowship times.

## WORSHIP SERVICES

I will offer a sermon series about individuals in the Bible. Each of the five Sundays of Lent will focus on a different biblical personality who may caution us to reconsider our ways and/or inspire us to more faithful living.

ASH WEDNESDAY, Wednesday, March 6<sup>TH</sup> at 7 PM

LENT 1 Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> Jonah  
LENT 2 Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> Leah  
LENT 3 Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> Onesiphorus  
LENT 4 Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> The Samaritan Woman  
LENT 5 Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> Nicodemus

PALM SUNDAY Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

MAUNDY THURSDAY WITH TENNEBRAE April 18<sup>th</sup> 7PM

EASTER Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

## LENTEN SUPPERS AND PROGRAMS

Catered Dinner at 6PM. Please RESP to the church office.

**MARCH 13** The Faces of Homelessness. Their speakers will help us consider, “Who is my neighbor.” They will share their own experiences of homelessness, dispel myths, educate us on the causes of homelessness, and encourage us to get involved in making positive changes in our community.

**MARCH 27** Biblical Family Feud. Fun and educational. We need 10 people to make up two families. Please let me know if you are interested. Should Maggie and Brian be on the same family team or not? Just asking.

**APRIL 10** We will participate in a Seder Meal that commemorates the Hebrew's Exodus from Egypt. This is very meaningful experience. It is most likely that Jesus was celebrating a Seder Meal when he gathering his disciples for the Last Supper. There is much to prepare for this sacred meal, so if you are handy in the kitchen and have some free time this week please let me know. Also, RESERVATIONS, would be incredibly helpful so we can know how much food to prepare.

In Christ's love,  
Kendrick

### **Dot's Place (formerly The Upper Room)**

Last June, our congregation voted unanimously to turn the second-floor apartment into temporary, rent-free housing for a family fleeing domestic violence. To renovate and furnish the apartment, \$25,000 was spent. The nature of this mission makes us eligible to apply for grant-funding. A Capital Campaign is underway to raise the money from outside the church through grants, community appeals, and crowdfunding. We have already received a grant of \$6,000 from the Wadsworth Family Foundation.

We are appealing to the congregation to replace the "lost" rental income needed to cover Operating Expenses (electric, water, sewer, heat, etc.). The Missions Committee will contribute a minimum of \$1,000 towards Operating Expenses in 2019. Coupled with that contribution, if fifty people donated \$1.00 a week towards Operating Expenses, we would raise half of the money. If fifty people gave \$2.00 per week, we would replace all the rental income. Donations in any amount are appreciated and will allow our church to continue to offer this apartment to families in need.

In your box of offering envelopes for 2019, you will find green envelopes for the Upper Room (They were printed before the name change.) Money in those envelopes will go towards Operating Expenses. If you did not receive a box of envelopes, there are envelopes for Dot's Place in the pews and on the table at the back of the church.

You supported this important mission with your vote last year; please support it now with your offering. Help us change life for victims of domestic violence --one family at a time.

If you have questions, please contact Barbara Langner.



## 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.

## 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.

## MISSION MOMENT

March 17<sup>th</sup> is our One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Sunday. The OGHS theme this year is “More than we can imagine!” The theme, based on Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all of God’s children. For it is God’s imagination that fuels and empowers ours!



Donations to OGHS enable the UCC to reach people and communities affected by disaster, displacement or poverty. OGHS provides assistance to families and communities around the world, helping them to become stronger, healthier and better equipped to address hardships and catastrophes. Last year some of our donations went to help those affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

In February, the Missions Committee donated \$500 to Dot’s Place to help cover some of the costs of this mission project, such as heat, sewer and water taxes, and repairs and maintenance. The young mother and her two children, who were living in the apartment for the past six months, have moved to their own apartment. We are currently working with Chrysalis to serve another client in need of housing.

We also donated \$550 to the UCC Christmas Fund which provides assistance to active and retired UCC ministers and church staff members who are facing unexpected financial needs, health premium supplementation for lower-income retired clergy and lay employees, and pension supplementation for lower-income retired clergy and lay employees.

Thanks you so much for your continued support of our mission outreach projects.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Thank you to all who attended the **Robert Wharton Scholarship-Early Shrove Sunday Pancake Brunch** last month! It was a time of good fellowship and a great way to raise some money for a great cause.

The Board of Christian Education, with the baking help of the Sunday school children and youth, sent out 7 **College Care Packages** to CCC members who are in college. We do this every year, but thought we'd keep the congregation in the loop about it, so to speak.

In March, we will be learning all about **The Plagues** in **Sunday school** classes.



LOL (Living Out Loud) will meet on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a **CCC Youth Group** trip to **Laser tag** on the 10<sup>th</sup> as well. Contact Chelsea if you are planning to attend.

## FELLOWSHIP

**Koinonia** will meet on Tuesday, March 5, at Sans Souci at noon for lunch. We will plan our meeting schedule, for the year that this time. Sign up with Lorraine White.

**Others** will be going to The Library Restaurant in Wallingford on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Mary Norris will be our guest as we bid Kendrick and her a fond farewell after Easter.

**Centerites** will meet on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Please watch the Sunday Bulletin for more information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Adult Bible Study – Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the Federal Room
- March 3 Communion Sunday
- March 3 CE Committee
- March 3 Annual Meeting
- March 5 Koinonia
- March 5 Deacons – and Search Committee
- March 6 Ash Wednesday 7 pm
- March 10 Missions Committee
- March 12 Trustees
- March 13 Lenten supper and program
- March 14 Others
- March 14 Centerites
- March 19 Dead line for April Lighted Tower
- March 27 Lenten supper and program
- March 28 Church Council

## Sunday Worship

- 8:30am - Chapel Service – enter by rear parking lot, 30-minute service – Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</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  
Betty Weiland  
Kay Janiga  
Mary Volker  
Randy Stack



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

5 Veronica Forrest  
9 Laura True Garbarsky  
10 Owen Clancy  
11 Bob Bell  
Sheila Faulkner  
21 Debra Iwerks  
25 Kenneth Harnois  
27 Linda Hatch  
28 Susan Dunleavy  
29 Adam True

Bob Bell will be 98 on March 11, 2019

**Center Congregational Church**  
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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](mailto:secretary@centerchurchmeriden.org)

**Church Website:** [www.centerchurchmeriden.org](http://www.centerchurchmeriden.org)