



The Lighted Tower

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

May 2019 Vol. 4 No 5

From the Diaconate

The members of the Diaconate are pleased to announce that The Reverend Susan Murtha has been hired as our “bridge minister” starting Tuesday, May 21, 2019. She will lead us in worship on May 26, 2019. Her first Sunday at Center Church coincides with our annual Memorial Day Community Dinner. We invite you to worship with us on May 26 and to greet Rev. Murtha at the Community Dinner following the 10:00 worship service.

The following is a message from Rev. Murtha.

Greetings to members and friends of Center Congregational Church in Meriden! I am looking forward to meeting you and to serving as your “bridge minister” in this time of transition.

I am a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, ordained in the United Church of Christ. In the past 21 years, I’ve served diverse churches throughout Connecticut—rural, urban, and suburban, small, medium, and large; settled and interim pastorates. Each has been a blessed experience of spiritual growth and organizational learning, and, taken together, they have shaped the minister I am today.

I’m a Connecticut native, a former mechanical engineer and a mother of a 34 year old son who lives and works in San Francisco with his wife and two children. East-west travel is a regular part of our lives! In my spare time, I enjoy poetry, landscapes, museums, and quiet reflection.

*Blessing,
Susan Murtha*

FROM KENDRICK

Dear Members and Friends of Center Church,

Palm Sunday is also called Passion Sunday. This is because it is a day of mixed messages. This year's palms will become the ashes for the beginning of our Lenten Journey next year. The over-flowing population of Jerusalem at Passover celebrates Jesus' arrival but the triumph is short-lived. Only days later the same crowd will call out: "Crucify him, crucify him." Along with the children, we will wave our palms this Sunday but always in the back of our minds we can realize that Palm Sunday is a cautionary day, one that reminds us to actually follow through on our religious commitments and enthusiasms.

This is my second-to-last Sunday. I want to convey to you that it has been a great pleasure to work with the Center Church staff. Each is a remarkable person. Music is so essential to our worship life. Preludes, postludes, anthems and hymns can make or break a worship service. We are grateful that Anna covers very well all the bases even as she offers us a great variety and an inspired choir.

Where would the church be without its secretary? Joan has seen it all, knows it all, and is involved in it all. She is the intelligent glue that holds us together as we charge forward. I am grateful for her orienting me and keeping me on task, especially when I am resisting writing the requisite e-blast.

Maureen is another jewel in the Center Church staff crown. In today's world where religion is undervalued and church is suspect, what could be more essential than the person who keeps our children, youth, and young adults interested and involved? Just as important is her drumbeat for Justice that engages us to act as Jesus in this time and place.

It is an absolute fact that you, as members of the congregation, are earnest workers without pay for the realm of God. A good example was Wednesday night's Seder meal that required an enormous amount of organization, set up and clean up—all accomplished in spectacular fashion. You are faithful to your church covenant and should be proud of the blood, sweat, and tears you offer week after week. But also remember to celebrate the staff who go "above and beyond" for you and for God. Your moderator did a wonderful thing at the church Annual Meeting. She thanked the staff. This is a sign of a healthy church.

In Christ's love,
Kendrick

Dear Members of Center Church,

Thank you! It has been a privilege to be invited into the sacred part of your lives. It has been a joy to serve as your interim minister. We have done a lot of good work together and because it has been a mutual ministry there has been growing trust, fun, healing, and good works. We have been the Body of Christ in this time and place, and that is always a blessed thing. You are good folk, strong individuals with a fervent desire to do your best for God. Whatever you do, you do with excellence. And that was true with your goodbye sendoff for Mary and I. It was all superlative and warmed our hearts so that we are still aglow. We are so grateful to you for letting us go with grace, for allowing us to share in the Center Church Family community, and for the generous purse you surprised us with. We have loved you and we have felt your love in return. Please accept our gratitude.

A blessed Easter,
Kendrick

MISSION MOMENT

Thank you to everyone who donated to One Great Hour of Sharing in March. 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 such as the hurricane in Puerto Rico. This year we raised \$270 for this project.



May's Local Mission donations will be used to cover any expenses for the community meal scheduled for the end of May and for Dot's Place.

In response to requests that we contribute to more international charities, the Missions Committee is soliciting your ideas as to what agencies you would like to support. (We do donate to some international agencies such as CWS, Red Cross, and UCC's One Great Hour of Sharing.) Please contact any member of Missions (Barbara Brooks, Joan Gordon, Carole Schlauch, or Lorraine White) with your suggestions, or send a note to the church office.

The Committee would like to thank Rev. Norris for all his support and suggestions for our mission projects.

TRUSTEES



The Trustees, with Music Committee support, has decided to sell the antique organ, through a "silent auction". The organ is currently in a Sunday School classroom in Fellowship Hall, and can be inspected at anytime. It is in good working & playing condition.

We have received an opening bid of \$200. Bids should be submitted, in writing, to Joan by 11:30 Sunday, May 19th. Counter-quotes will be accepted anytime until the deadline. (a clock in the center office, with a second-hand, will be the official time.) For questions, please see Jack Brooks or a Trustees member.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Board of Christian Education would like to **thank you** to all who helped with this year's *Easter Egg Hunt*- the CCC Youth Group filled hundreds of eggs, Emily Adamowicz and Jacqueline Jeffers hid them, and Theresa Richard made beautiful marshmallow Peeps bird cookie houses for each participant. It was truly a group effort and was received with joy.



LOL will be meeting on May 19th. The CCC Youth Group will also meet on this Sunday to do service work around the church. They will do some planting, cleaning and a bit of planning too.

In Sunday school classes this month, we will be learning all about *Queen Esther*.



The BCE is thrilled to announce: there will be an informational meeting about the upcoming *June 26-29th Mission Trip to Providence, RI on May 12th*, after coffee hour. All who are interested in participating should try their best to attend.



FELLOWSHIP

Koinonia will meet on Tuesday, May 14, at 10:30 am in the Federal Room, for a slide program presented by Barbara Brooks, on her trip b boat on the Danube River.

A catered lunch will follow in the Federal Room. Please call Lorraine White if you plan to attend.

Others- May 9 at 6 pm Others will be going to Portofino's Restaurant. The address is 246 New Britain Road in Kensington. Our May Birthday Ladies are: Mary Zysk, Janet Dickinson and Maggie Sessa-Shillberg. Others is open to all Women of the Church and any friends they wish to join them. Please Join us to Celebrate our Birthday Gals and a Happy Spring.

Centerites – Please watch the Bulletin.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Application forms for the Robert Wharton Scholarship are now available in the church office or can be e-mailed to those applying. Scholarships are available to high school students who will be attending an accredited two or four-year college or technical school, and current college students who are planning to return to an accredited college or technical school. The deadline for applications is May 17th. Scholarships will be awarded in June. Donations to the Robert Wharton Scholarship Fund are always appreciated.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Adult Bible Study – Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the Federal Room
- May 5 Communion Sunday
- May 5 Memorial Service for Dot LeGendre
- May 5 CE Committee
- May 9 Others
- May 9 Centerites
- May 12 Informational meeting about Mission Trip to Providence, RI
- May 14 Koinonia
- May 14 Trustees
- May 17 Dead-line for Scholarship Applications
- May 19 LOL Class
- May 23 Church Council
- May 26 Community Lunch

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
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IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



Betty Karpinski
Dorothy Churchill
Gloria Iwerks
Betty Weiland
Mary Volker
Randy Stack
Jonathan Miller

The Family of Kay Janiga on her passing.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

Betty Karpinski will be 97 on May 2, 2019
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 7th** .
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

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