



The Lighted Tower

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

September 2019 Vol. 5 No 7

August 26, 2019

Dear CCC sisters and brothers in Christ,

Thank you says too little for the beautiful flowers, sweet cards, kind notes, good books, yummy treats, and lovely woodcarving of the letter “M” for Murtha with engravings expressing your gratitude. I am savoring them all! Joyfully, I have in my desk richly colored inkpads that will bring the “M”-stamp to life upon many letters through the years. ☺

Most of all, thank you for our mutual ministry these past three months. It was too short a time to truly become your pastor, but long enough to get to know one another in fellowship, bible study and meetings, to share the joys and demands of the Gospel in worship, and to work toward discernment about your future as a congregation. I am awed by the commitment of your leadership (Council, Deacons and Search Committee) through June, July and August to meet regularly to listen to my insights, and to reflect and discuss the best next steps for your congregation. Stay tuned for their updates in the weeks and months ahead.

As I shared in my closing sermon, I encourage you to look to “the great cloud of witnesses” that have gone before you. In times of great challenge, this New Testament *Letter to the Hebrews* encourages and exhorts us to not lose faith, to keep on with our calling to be faithful *God’s* will, and to see it through in our own time and circumstance. Though this book can feel daunting, it holds some of the most inspiring messages in the New Testament letters.

I will miss you my dear friends in Christ, but take solace knowing that God’s Holy Spirit abides.

In faith, hope and love,

Pastor Susan Murtha

P.S. Special thanks to Joan Gordan with whom I shared weekly lunch sandwiches while we talked over all-things-CCC and cared for one another’s personal joys and trials.

FROM THE DIACONATE

With the calendar turning to September, the pace of life at Center Church speeds up.

The first Sunday in September marks our annual Labor Day weekend Community Meal. The Reverend Jack Zappulla will lead us in worship.

Chris Tabor will lead us in worship on Rally Day September 8.

On the last three Sundays in September, the Reverend Olivia Robinson will lead the worship service. Prior to her retirement, Pastor Robinson was the Senior Minister at the Kensington Congregational Church.

On October 6, Pastor Emeritus George True and Pastor Bruce Miller will lead the worship service as Center Congregational Church and First Congregational Church celebrate the 290th anniversary of the formation of the “congregation of North Wallingford”.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SAVE THE DATES!

Join us on **Saturday, October 5 and Sunday, October 6** as we celebrate the 290th anniversary of the official recognition of the “Congregation of North Wallingford”.

Two hundred ninety years ago, residents of “North Wallingford” (Meriden) had to travel a great distance to worship at First Congregational Church in Wallingford. In October of 1729, permission was granted to establish a local meeting house on Ann Street. This was the common origin of Center Congregational Church and First Congregational Church of Meriden. Two hundred ninety years ago, we were one congregation.

On Saturday, October 5, First Congregational Church and Center Congregational Church will gather at the site of the original meeting house on Ann Street for a commemorative service and wreath laying. Following the service, First Congregational Church will host a luncheon at their church. Marcus Hamilton (FCC Church Historian) will have historical documents on display and will answer questions.

On Sunday, October 6 at 10:00, First Church will join us at Center Church for a celebratory service. Pastor Emeritus George True and Pastor Bruce Miller will lead us in worship. A light luncheon will follow the service. Mary Zysk (CCC Church Historian) will share information about the origins of our two churches and answer questions.

So, whether you are on the “East Side, West Side, or All Around the Town”, join us as we give thanks and celebrate our common origin, shared history, and the combined efforts of our two churches throughout these special weekend events.

THE PONY EXPRESS

The year is 1859 God has been discovered in California, and your cousin and best friend Lavinia and her husband joined the thousands who went to California to seek their fortune. These people wanted to keep contact with family and friends back east. Mail between New York and San Francisco went by ship around South America and took six months. This was frustrating.

In 1859, William H. Russell developed a plan using young, fit, and fearless riders on a "horse express" to carry the mail from St. Louis to Sacramento in ten days!

There was a chain of stations with riders relaying the mail from one station to the next, changing horses seven times in a day. At the end of the day's ride, at the next station, the mail was handed to the next rider in the chain. A light weight saddle with a leather covering had locked boxes at each corner. The covering was moved from one saddle to the next until the station at the end of the line was reached.



The pony express was a success until it was replaced in 1861 by the telegraph and in 1869 by the railroad to carry the mail.

UCC WEBINAR

Dear friends,

The second segment of the UCC webinar: "Navigating the Wilderness part 2", will be September 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

I encourage as many members as possible to attend. We will set up the TV in the Federal room. Please contact the church office if you plan to attend so we can have enough chairs available. Also if you could plan to be at church by 6:45 pm we could be settled before the start so as not to be disruptive to the presentation.



Here is a link to the recording from the first webinar. Meeting Recording:

https://zoom.us/recording/share/Boil20_hkZT_YzUGXw60-Vy_nP-xEOt6LkU4wMabqFewlumekTziMw

Thank you, Debbie Gaffney

MISSION MOMENT

Our June Missions donations were used for the Upper Room project. \$500 was raised to help with the expenses for the apartment. Because we are providing this apartment rent-free to help a family, funds are needed for operating expenses of the apartment, including such things as heat, water and sewer taxes, etc. The family is responsible for their electricity expenses.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Backpack Project. We donated **\$1,380** (surpassing our goal) to this citywide project which is organized by the Meriden Firefighters Local 114. Thank you, too, to Maggie Schillberg for her help in raising funds for this project. On August 22nd, backpacks were distributed to children (Pre-K through 8th grade) in need in Meriden. Center Church had a booth at this event.

The Missions Committee has designated Dot's Place for our September project and will also provide funds for the Community Meal.



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION PROJECTS!!!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Thank you to all who participated in our summer events!

The Providence Mission Trip, the CCC Youth Tag Sale, Vacation Bible School, National Night Out and Book Giveaway, Meriden's Back to School Expo, and the Blessing of the Backpacks were all a huge success. We never take the summer off here at Center Congregational Church!

Here is a thumbnail sketch about each event in case you missed them:

Providence Mission Trip- 6 members did the work or 23 providing Vacation Bible school for dozens of children from two economically challenged neighborhoods, distributed clothing at the rescue Mission and got to know the city in the process

CCC Youth Group Tag Sale- it was held indoors on a new date due to extreme heat= proved to be a positive community service project, with 8 vendors and a Youth Group table

Vacation Bible School- a group of 13 adorable children had a blast with our space theme and 96 hours of volunteer time by youth and adult church members

National Night Out- over 1,000 books were distributed to eager residents- all who wanted a book left with one to read

Back to School Expo- over 800 stickers, pencils and bookmarks were given out to the children, along with hundreds of Rally Day postcards, church brochures and flyers, etc.

Blessing of the Backpacks- all left with a new handcrafted backpack blessing card and a belly full of yummy ice cream

Labor Day Sunday Community Meal

Sunday September 1st, 11:15- 1:00p.m. Go to <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/ESEP6076> to sign up for donations. Donations may be dropped off at church during the week and on Sunday. Donations will also be accepted Tuesday- Friday, during sandwich making on Saturday, August 31st, Noon-1:30, or on Sunday. Toiletry items, nonperishable food, and clothing and shoes in good condition, will also be distributed at this mission.



Rally Day, Sunday September 8th

We will restart the Sunday school year on **September 8th** with a whole church celebration. The children and youth will have a day full of games and treats to eat. Rally Day is the perfect time to catch up and to meet new friends. Everyone is welcome!



We will be learning all about *Joseph and Pharaoh* in **Sunday school** classes this month. LOL, our high school class, will meet with Chelsea on September 29th.

CCC Youth Group will be meeting on **September 29th**. More details about that meetings will be forthcoming.

Save the Date

Annual Community Halloween Bash will be held on Sunday, October 27th, 2-4 PM here at CCC

OTHERS

Our September 12th meeting will be held at 6 PM at Avanti's restaurant in South Meriden.

Our summer and September birthdays are: Deborah Patterson, Barbara Brooks, Colleen Stack, Betsy Tyrrell, Sue Trella, Debbie Gaffney and Cindy Loucks. If you plan to attend please call Ardene Courchesne at 203-631-7307 by September 4th. Hope to see you there. It will be great to catch up with everyone.

Winter Wonderland Fair
Save the Date!
November 9th 9 am – 3 pm
Come One and All!
We are trying a Slightly Different Format



TAG SALE will be in the Federal Room this Year! THIS MEANS WE WILL SELL ONLY CLEAR, USABLE ITEMS AS THERE WILL BE LESS ROOM. THERE WILL ALSO BE GRANDMA'S ATTIC FOR THE FINER ITEMS AND JEWELRY. Maria Halla and Joan Halla will be charge. **Please ONLY bring items on the Saturday before the fair, November 2. Times will be listed later.**

Instead of a Teacup Auction, we are asking for **SMALL BASKET** items (size of Teacup Auction items, but in a small basket or box for sale or auction) to include with the *extended* basket table. A small item might be items for kids, knit items, handmade items, no Christmas Decorations, with or without a gift card, wrapped in cellophane. Not accepted Saturday morning of the fair. **Sue Kenney** will be in charge of the smaller basket table.

BASKET TABLE will also be slightly revamped. We are looking for more \$50 size baskets and just a few \$100 baskets. Some will be auctioned; some will be sold. Maureen Hamilton will be charge of this table.

BAKED SALE AND COOFIE WALK; Please consider making **Baked Items** for sale. Breads, Pies, Cookies and batches of 6 dozen cookies for the Cookie Walk. Bring in these items starting the Thursday before the Fair. Barbara Langner is in charge of this table, David Macomber will be manning the cookie walk.

KITCHEN needs startup money and helpers for Thursday night before the Fair. Ardene Courchesne and Carla Kielbasinski are running the food production. Muriel Soroka will be Pie Baking. **THERE WILL BE LOBSTER ROLLS AND A SURPRISE OFFERING IS IN THE WORKS.**

CRAFTS will accept knit items and small Christmas Crafts. Pauline Blakeslee is coordinating this table. Bring in items starting the Thursday before the Fair.

KIDS EVENTS will be coordinated by Chelsea Trella.

USED BOOKS will be accepted in the Federal Room after October 15th. Jim Chapman will be heading up this section.

ALSO!
PLEASE WEAR YOUR CCC BLUE T-SHIRTS THE
DAY OF THE FAIR!
SEE BARBARA LANGNER IF YOU NEED ONE!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Adult Bible Study – Please watch the bulletin for further updates.
- September 1 - Rev. Jack Zappulla
- September 8 - Chris Tabor will preach – Rally Sunday
- September 10 Koinonia
- September 12 - Others
- September 12 Centerites
- September 17 6:45 Webinar
- September 29 Generosity Sunday

Sunday Worship

- 8:30am - Chapel Service – enter by rear parking lot, 30-minute service
- 10:00 am. - Worship in Sanctuary
- Holy Communion first Sunday of each month and all are welcome



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Michael Martin
2	Tammy Clancy
4	Nancy Todd Zalenski Susan Trella
6	Ava Dunleavy
8	Stephen Kenney
12	Steve Gorman
13	Brian Comstock
14	Dean Loucks
15	Betty Wilson Shannon Stolting
16	Jamie Harnois
18	Monica Rogers
20	Elizabeth Mahoney Leah Hayes
21	Alice Foss

Cindy Loucks
Amanda Rochette
22 Muriel Soroka-Pizzi
Evan Clancy
24 Reagan Kenney

25 Herbert Greenbacker

Alice Foss will be 96 on Sept 21, 2019

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