



The CRIER



The Trumbull Congregational Church
3115 Reservoir Avenue
Trumbull, CT 06611
Phone: 203.268.2433
www.TrumbullCC.org

September 2015

Notes from Pastor Tim.....

What Are You Looking For?

During my week of spiritual renewal I attended Sunday worship at a nearby congregation. There was much about the experience that I appreciated: someone greeted me at the door and held it for me as I entered. The narthex was clean and had a display of materials that visitors might find helpful. During the offering we passed a pew pad, which I could inconspicuously sign while also reading the names of those sitting next to me. The pad also included a church brochure, which I was encouraged to take. Most importantly, when the service ended the man in the pew behind me tapped my shoulder and very kindly struck up a conversation and invited me to coffee hour. Moments later a woman did the same. In both cases the introduction went something like this, "Hello, I don't think I've met you before. Have you been coming here for very long, or are you new to the church?" I appreciated how they were willing to risk the introduction even if they had neglected to notice me in the past. I noticed in their bulletin that the final act of their worship service was a 5-minute time for welcoming one another before coffee hour. I don't remember what they called it, but they were intentional about greeting people whom they hadn't previously met. Only after that time did they eat. Coffee hour was a pot luck affair with a healthy spread of options. There was a friendly man wearing a sandwich board and gently requesting volunteers to sign up for future coffee hours. Though I hadn't planned to stick around, something about the kind welcome that I received compelled me to visit for a while.

Something else of interest happened as well. During the worship service, in place of the sermon, the pastor shared in a dialogue with a woman who represented the Muslim religion. Their theme was "oneness" as it pertains to the two different traditions. The dialogue, it turns out, was part of a series of conversational "sermons" that had been taking place for the middle weeks of July and August. The man who tapped me on the shoulder after worship explained that the conversation wasn't typical to their regular style of worship. So, I asked him if he appreciated it. He and his wife nodded enthusiastically and said, "We are always glad for the opportunity to learn something about other people. It was very interesting."

It is that comment that is still on my mind. I too appreciate opportunities to learn about others, and I was certainly interested in what the speakers had to say that morning. But, the comment makes me wonder what it is exactly that people are seeking in worship. What is it that churches are offering? Is the point and purpose of worship to learn something? To an extent I believe it is. But, is it to learn something that we might just as easily learn from a lecture? Is worship intended to inform us? Do we do it to gain information? Have you ever come across a gospel story in which the appropriate response to something that Jesus has said or done is, "That's very interesting"?

I admit that I'm being a bit critical here. But, I don't mean to do it in a non-constructive way. And, I don't mean to do it in a judgmental way either. As I mentioned, there was much about the experience that I appreciated. And, I even appreciate the pastor's ambition in doing something creative and different in worship. Even more, I'm aware that I'm far from

perfect and that not everybody loves everything I say or do during worship.

Still, I would like to say this: I was craving God that morning. I was needing to hear of a love that creates, and overcomes, and calls, and blesses, and fills, and inspires, and challenges, and leads, and moves, and saves. I needed Good News and what I was offered was interesting and even important, but not quite all that.

So, I wonder, what are you seeking from worship on Sunday mornings? What is it that you think our worship should offer?

Though it may sound a bit bold or grandiose, I think our worship should offer God. I think it should speak to us of a divine, holy love. I think it should attempt to convey that love. I think it should give us the opportunity to receive that love, claim it, and respond to it. I think it should do more than inform and interest us. I think it should shape us and bring us into oneness with ultimate reality and the source of all life and goodness.

Our worship may not always succeed. (How could it?) But, at least it should try.

God bless you,



Pastor Tim

Music Ministry Notes



Greetings Everyone!

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are savoring these final days and weeks of warm, sunny weather.

The Music Ministry at Trumbull UCC has been bustling and we have lots of exciting plans, ideas, and dreams for the coming year!

Here are just a few things of note:

The choir room is in the process of getting a re-vamp: new paint, new decorations, take a look!

Choir Kick-off Sunday is on September 13th. This will be the Choir's first Sunday back after their summer break. The choir will be hosting coffee hour and choir members will be available at that time to chat and answer any questions about music ministry. This is a great opportunity to reach out to some choir members if you are thinking of joining the choir to ask them what it's all about. All are welcome and we are always looking for singers!

We are also looking for instrumentalists and singers for special music during the Sunday worship services. So, if you are a vocalist or instrumentalist interested in sharing your time and talent with Trumbull UCC, please contact me! I am hoping to recruit some soloists from the congregation to offer special music more regularly during our worship service.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Monday evening November 23rd. More details to follow.

In song,
Ilana
Ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.org



Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all our members and friends celebrating in September!

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are hoping that everyone had a wonderful summer. It never seems long enough...though sometimes it's nice to get back into the old routine. Speaking of which, if you haven't kept up your routine of pledges, please catch up!



Brian Donahue to Speak at TCC about Adult Adoption Issues September 13th at 11:30

Please join us in the sanctuary after coffee hour for this important discussion! The following is from Brian:

I am a biological father of 1, adoptive father of 2. In my private life, I am an adoptee legal rights advocate. I have worked professionally at DCF for the past 21 years. In my advocacy, I do not represent DCF. I advocate with Access Connecticut. I am on the Board for Public Policy at the National Foster Parent Association. I am a member of the American Adoption Congress. I have a Master's of Social Work. I also have a Post Master's Certificate for Clinical Issues in Adoption.

My presentation will discuss: What are the presenting concerns for adult adoptees? Why do Adult Adoptees want their biological Information? Myths? What occurred in 2014? What we are proposing to the UCC Connecticut Conference for a resolution, and why? What we are doing currently to build support for 2016? What we are hoping to achieve in Connecticut and nationally for adult adoptees.



TCC Nursery Care

Every Sunday the nursery is staffed for children ages 1-4. Please sign your little ones in downstairs prior to the start of service.

Any questions - please feel free to get in touch with Amy MacIntosh-Ferguson
amy.e.macintosh@gmail.com

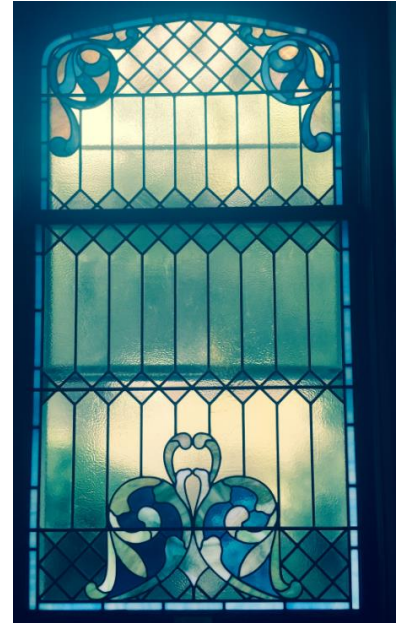


Youth News!

Plans for Youth Group are in the works. Our goal for 2015-2016 is to build on last year's momentum by having a more consistent routine of meetings. We'll meet weekly throughout the year in chunks or "seasons" of time. The first season will include: September 13th, 20th, 27th, and October 4th. The second season will include: October 25th, November 1st, 8th, and 15th. Please save the dates. More info will be coming out soon. Youth Group is for anyone in grades 6-12. And, friends of TCC youth groupers are always welcome! If you have questions please contact Pastor Tim.

WINDOW RENOVATION UPDATE

In wrapping up our long campaign to renovate every single one of our stained glass windows from the narthex, through the sanctuary, into the sacristy and around the Round Room and all the way up into the bell tower, we find ourselves left with one last double hung window in the Round Room (6B) that has not been taken to the stained glass studio for its cleaning and re-leading. After 117 years, the glass is shifting down toward its sill and will eventually fall out with continued opening and closing.



The fund raising started in the 1990’s for this renovation, the work in 2009, and the Stained Glass Group hopes to close the books on it before the end of 2015. To avoid budget impact, this process was pursued by sending a window to the studio only after it had been paid for in full. Since no one has shown interest in outright “buying” 6B, we think we will refer to it as the “Congregational Window” to help us raise the \$4,500 for this last window. We thank the following for recent donations to this renovation:

*Lauren E. Magnuson in memory of her parents, long-time members, Lauritz and Muriel Eiby
Irene and Jim Campbell in memory of grandsons Kyle Palmer and Daniel Brauer
Judy Nichipor for TCC’s Congregational Window*

Think about making a tax-deductible donation in someone’s memory or in honor of a baptism, confirmation, graduation, or wedding. No amount is too small. We thank you for your continued support of this project.

The Stained Glass Group
(Herb Gratrix, Kathy Hering, Kent Lewis and LeAnn Slater)

Your Name _____ Donation Amount \$ _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

In Honor of or in Memory of:

*Make checks payable to “Trumbull Congregational Church”
Memo: “Congregational Window”
Enclose this form and send to TCC Office, 3115 Reservoir Avenue, Trumbull, CT 06611*

Trumbull Congregational Sunday School

Proudly Presents...

Registration Sunday, 2015

**Sunday, September 13th
10:00 a.m.**

**Come and Meet Fitten,
the Church Mouse!**

*Sing songs at a Children's
Church Celebration!*

*"Sundae Sunday"
(Ice Cream)!*



Welcome Home to Sunday School...

We all Fit In!

TCC Sunday School

Express Registration Form



Student's Name:

Birthdate:

Grade in School:

Address:

Phone Number:

Parent's Names and Email:

Any Helpful Information (allergy or otherwise—feel free to use the back, too):

I give my permission for photographs to be taken and possibly used for the church website and/or newspaper articles (please sign):

I would like to volunteer to help with Sunday School!
Please give me a call ☺.



Ilana Ofgang

Ilana comes to Trumbull CC with a diverse musical background that began in New Fairfield, CT when at age 17 she took her first job as an accompanist at a local church. She immediately fell in love with the job and has worked professionally as an organist, choir conductor, music director, and freelance musician ever since. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Western Connecticut State University with a degree in Jazz Studies and was one of two students in her graduating class to receive the Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Award for academic success and community service. While attending WCSU, Ilana studied jazz piano, classical piano, organ, and voice, and also received her Colleague's Certification from the American Guild of Organists. During and after college, Ilana toured professionally with the Celtic Fusion band MacTalla Mor, serving as keyboardist, Gaelic singer, and composer. Five years

ago, she received her Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law. Since graduating law school, she has pursued a legal career in public interest law, her interests being in criminal defense, civil rights, prisoner's rights, and immigration, while also maintaining a busy schedule as a church musician. Ilana has great faith in the power of music to deepen the experience of communal worship and inspire people towards social action. She currently lives with her husband in Bridgeport, CT and is very excited to serve as music director at Trumbull CC.

TCC Goals and Priorities

Church Council and our various church boards have been engaged in a discussion about “what’s next” for the ministries of our congregation. We’ve divided church work into a number of different categories and we’ve shared thoughts about where we might most effectively focus our energies. Here’s what we came up with:

Spiritual Nurture

Pastor Tim will offer regular spiritual growth opportunities throughout the year by leading a weekly evening class for adults during which we’ll exchange thoughts as we engage with a variety of small group resources, including books and videos that Tim will select.

Additionally, we hope to offer a youth group program that meets more consistently and includes faith nurture opportunities as part of its gatherings.

Worship

We are thrilled that Ilana is with us now as our settled music director and we are looking forward to encouraging parishioner involvement through increased special music opportunities. Additional ideas for special holiday music, such as a Good Friday cantata and an Easter brass quintet are in the works as well.

Missions

The Outreach committee is excited about discerning new ways to be hands-on and interactive in missions. We hope to build on new initiatives such as Heifer, CROP, and LIGHT (Sarah’s Thornton’s organization,) and we are considering an “Alternative Christmas Fair” in early December, which will raise social awareness along with funds that will benefit people in crisis all around the world.

Hospitality/Evangelism

We want to focus on making sure that people feel welcomed and engaged when they visit our church. We’ll talk a bit about intentional acts of hospitality. We’ll also more actively publicize the good works we do through local media outlets (Thanks, Don Esbach!) and we’ll more effectively use social media by transferring responsibilities to the office.

Stewardship

Our “New Consecration Sunday” fall campaign will aim at increasing participation by focusing on the *need to give* that we have as people of faith. You’ll be invited to a special luncheon to celebrate our ministries and we hope you will come!

Lay Leadership

Pastor Tim is working with CT Conference leaders to put together an event that will assist local congregations as they consider ways to restructure that enhance vision and better utilize member gifts. Please look for a November event and consider joining a team of TCC participants.

Pastoral Leadership

Pastor Tim is planning to use a week of spiritual renewal/continuing education time in August, which will allow him time to review resources for adult education, research field trip/excursion ideas, plan worship themes, work on a church calendar, and more.

PRAYER CONCERNS

August 23, 2015

If there are prayer requests you would like included, please fill out a Prayer Card from the pew rack and place it in the box in the Narthex. You are invited, when you pray, to add specific prayers for the people listed below:

Mark Ronge
William Jasmine, recovering from leukemia
Susan Bryan Ricketson
Dave Palumbo, Chiche Guion's grandson
Jeanne Knecht
James Bonazzo
Mary Ann Kurtz, waiting for a kidney transplant
Robin Boccanfuso
Julie Otto, friend of Portia Antonio
Wilma Ricketson
Becky Harmon, fighting ovarian cancer
Alex Foell, bone cancer
Brian Surber, recovering from surgery
Kay Kisell, Sue Hill's Mother,
Anne Murray, battling recurrent cancer
Frank, diagnosed with cancer
Megan McDowell
Nick Maida, in a coma after a fall and brain surgery
Ufrozyna Parkes, Diane McLevy's mother
Ellie Spellman Bennett, Barbara DeAngelo's sister with severe emphysema and cardiac complications
Jose Morales recovering from a severed spinal cord
Mary Court, Lee Deppen's sister-in-law, with multiple myeloma
Carla Jones, wife of Paul Nestro's co-worker, cancer
Lena Lima, recurring cancer
Linda Werner
Bob Warren, Chip Warren's father afflicted with Parkinson's-like condition

Diane Moller, cousin to the Rosatis
John Kurilec, recovering from a stroke
Bob Dixon, Jenn Leigland's father undergoing cancer treatment
Vincent Duva, open heart surgery.
Patti Richards, Angela Hare's aunt: health concerns
Ken Makawka, Father of Angela Hare's Sister-in-law.
Suzanne, tumor.
Norman, heart problems.
Louis D'Amanda, nephew of Andy and Jen Durfee, diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma two years ago, and is now waiting at Johns Hopkins on good scan results for a bone marrow transplant from his brother
George Hobart, medical issues
Doc Dougherty
Bill Tiesler
Art Carrano, Elva Steinmetz's son-in-law, ruptured intestine
Ruth Silver
Ron Steinmetz, recovering from surgery
Paulette Todisco, cousin of Bev Bjorklund recovering from multiple broken bones from a fall.

**10:00 AM Worship Time Returns:
Please mark your calendars. On Sunday,
September 6th we will go back to our usual
worship hours.**

FROM WESLEY VILLAGE.....

Wesley Heights will host the TEAM Festival of Trees on Saturday, November 21st and Sunday November 22nd 2015. In conjunction with this event, we will also be featuring a Wesley Village Craft Fair, and would like to give you the opportunity to take a booth at this fair. Because the event is a two-day event, you may register for either or both days. If you plan on doing both days, you must be aware that it will not be possible to leave your booth set up overnight. You will have to clear the booth at the end of the fair on Saturday and set it up again on Sunday morning. Set-up is 8:00 AM both days. After you set up your booth, you will drive your car to the parking lot at Long Hill School, and there will be a shuttle available to return to Wesley Heights.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis because we are limited in space. We will supply an 8-foot table and two chairs, but you will need to provide your own tablecloth; and if you need electricity, you will also have to provide extension cords. Electricity will be very limited because of the number of Christmas trees on display. The cost of the table is \$50 per day; electricity is an additional \$10 a day. Proceeds from this event will help support our award winning activities and programs such as our Music and Memory Program for our residents who struggle with Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

If you wish to register, contact Barbara Quinn, Director of Volunteers, Wesley Heights, 203.944.8292.

Donations for our bake sale will gladly be received on November 20th or the days of the event. Thank You!

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, September 2nd

- Deacons Meeting 7:15 PM

Sunday, September 6th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Wednesday, September 9th

- Endowment/Stewardship Meeting time TBA

Sunday, September 13th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Registration Sunday
- Brian Donahue “Adult Adoption Issues” 11:30
- Youth Group – details TBA

Wednesday, September 16th

- Trustees Meeting 7:15 PM

Sunday, September 20th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Youth Group – details TBA

Wednesday, September 23rd

- Outreach Meeting 7:15 PM

Sunday, September 27th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Youth Group – details TBA

Tuesday, September 29th

- St. Luke’s

Wednesday, September 30th

- Council Meeting 7:15 PM





Trumbull Congregational Church
115 Reservoir Avenue
Trumbull, CT 06611

Non Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bridgeport, Connecticut
Permit No. 39

THE CRITER

September 2015