



The CRIER



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

November 2015

Notes from Pastor Tim.....

The Great Thanksgiving

Once a month we have a Prayer of Great Thanksgiving, which is offered when the offering plates are brought forward. At the same time a Communion chalice and a paten with bread are brought forward. The white cloths that cover the elements that are already in place are removed so that all of our gifts are presented. The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving is an offering in which we return to God “all that we have and all that we are.” We ask God to receive our bread and wine, our financial gifts, and the gifts of ourselves, and we ask God to use them all for God’s purposes. In other words, we pray that God will take earthly stuff and turn it into sacred stuff.

This prayer is also a monthly Seder for Christians. It is a prayer of thanksgiving for all of God’s saving acts throughout history. It is a prayer that recalls the culmination of salvation history in the giving of Jesus Christ and it unites us with Christ and with one another by calling upon the Holy Spirit. In other words, the prayer celebrates the core of Christian faith: the gift of unity with God in the presence of Christ through the power of the Spirit. The Communion bread and wine are symbols of this gift that we celebrate. We take them into our bodies just as we receive the living Christ within us and anticipate that day when Christ will be all in all.

We repeat a shorter version of the Prayer of Great Thanksgiving together on Sundays when we aren’t celebrating Communion. We say the prayer in unison, and it is the same every week. I have

us do this at the risk of it being rote, which I understand, is a concern. Of course, I never want the elements of worship to feel mindlessly routine. And personally, it is very frustrating to be a part of worship services that aren’t thoughtfully composed.

Still, I have us pray the short version of the Prayer of Great Thanksgiving every week because, whether we are celebrating Communion or not, the great truth of the gift of God’s presence in Christ though the Spirit remains the core of our faith and our hope. In other words, we still proclaim Communion even if our service lacks the ritual of sharing the bread and cup. We do more than dedicate our gifts at the offering time. Rather, we proclaim the story of salvation and our participation in it. We give our gifts to God, but we also give ourselves in thanks for Christ giving himself to us. Finally, we call upon the Spirit for a renewed sense of unity with God and with one another. Our praying in unison is meant to symbolize the spiritual unity that we request.

My hope in writing all of this is that you’ll have a better sense of the logic of our worship service. My hope is that you will experience the prayer – both the long version and the short version – differently next time you hear it. However, it also strikes me that the topic of “thanksgiving” is especially relevant as our stewardship campaign and our national holiday approach. What are we thankful for, and how is it that we express our thanks? I think it is important that our liturgy has something to say about this.

Blessings,

Pastor Tim

Stewardship Update

Consecration Sunday Is Coming November 22, 2015

Our congregation's Stewardship/Endowment Committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday (Nov. 22), we will have guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Clayton Miller, conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by an offering time during which members and friends will present their confidential pledges in support of our church's ministries within and beyond our congregation.

Our worship services on Nov. 1, 8, and 15 will encourage participation in our Consecration Sunday campaign by featuring special announcements from the Stewardship/Endowment committee. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs,
Paul Ferencz and Deb Rosati

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Welcome Robert Crowle

Robert and his wife of 11 years, Alejandra, have lived together in Trumbull for 14 months. He has four children: Alyssa, Joseph, Timothy, and Robert. Robert is happy to have found a church family close to his new home. He is a Senior Manager at Bed Bath & Beyond in Norwalk and has many interests and hobbies including cooking, gardening, camping, and spending time with family. We are blessed to be able to welcome him into our congregation.

MEET OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hello Trumbull Congregational Church. I am Elena Arone, your new Administrative Assistant and I'm excited to be working with all of you.

A little bit about myself. I was born and raised in a small town outside of Albany, NY called Voorheesville. I'll be surprised if anyone has heard of it, but if you have, I must meet you! Moving down to Purchase, NY to attend Manhattanville College seemed like a huge step but I loved it and decided to stay. My major was International Business with a minor in Spanish.

My work background is in Marketing and Events. I worked for Motorola, Inc. for 10 years, a small conference company and most recently a local graphic design firm.

My interests include travel. I have lived in Spain and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and have traveled to many other countries. I am also an active skier and hiker which I enjoy doing with my family. I currently live in Trumbull with my husband Mike and 9 year old son, Lucas.

I look forward to meeting all of you soon. I will be in the office Monday – Thursday from 9:00AM – Noon. Please feel free to stop in and say hi or email me at office@trumbullcc.org!

SERVING YOUR CHURCH

Chances are that what has drawn many of us to worship at Trumbull Congregational Church is something a volunteer has “made” happen. As you parked your car in the large parking lot and walked up the ramp to the front doors, did you notice all the grounds and buildings that our **Trustees** maintain? In the entrance did you notice the bustle of current **Outreach** and **Christian Ed** events? Were you greeted and ushered to your seat by **Diaconate** volunteers? Did you see the children follow their teachers to church school? Did you enjoy the church service as it unfolded? This and much more was possible only because our membership seriously believes that we all “share in its organized work.” Additionally, each fall there is a **Stewardship** “giving” campaign allowing membership to provide the financial budget for our ministry, programs, staff and facilities. Some members have personal or professional expertise which matches them more specifically to a position. Please consider being “part” of what makes TCC such a special place to worship by volunteering to serve.

Each year at our Annual Meeting in January, we vote in a slate of officers, board and committee members and our representatives to various groups. The Nominating Committee would like to answer any question you have about serving. Generally—

- One must be a member of TCC
- Both one- and two-year positions are available
- Boards and committees meet monthly
- Each board elects a chairman who is then a member of Council and attends that monthly meeting.

Fast Facts (see TCC’s By Laws for full descriptions)

Officers—Moderator (like a board president), Vice Moderator, Treasurer, Clerk

Boards—

Deacons “supervise the spiritual affairs of the Church including all matters of faith, worship and membership.”

Trustees are “responsible for the use (and management) of all properties of the church.”

Christian Education “oversee(s) and coordinate(s) all education activities of the church.”

Christian Outreach “provide(s) opportunities for participation in community, state, national and international affairs in the interest of justice for humanity.”

Christian Stewardship “raise(s) funds for the church by conducting an annual Stewardship Drive” and “provide(s) information to members to make bequests, contributions and gifts to the endowment funds of the church.”

Additionally, there are Standing Committees – Nominating, Pastoral Support, Employee Relations, Finance, Audit, and Music.

Other Elected Persons and Delegates -- Financial Secretary, Offerings Steward (and counters), Historian and Delegates to Connecticut Conference of UCC, Fairfield East Association of UCC, Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, Trumbull Interfaith and Trumbull Pastoral Counseling.

We would like to hear about any interest you have. If you have questions about serving TCC, phone any of us or email the Nominating Committee c/o leann.w.slater@gmail.com. We will get you the answers.

Mike Burke, Carole Markland, Kirsten Nestro and
LeAnn Slater



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

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group: Season #2!

Welcome back for season 2 of Youth Group! Oct 25th (late afternoon)- get ready to climb to new heights with the support of your youth group family. Join us at Rock Climb Fairfield (formerly Carabiners). Cost will be \$25 per person for 1 1/2 hours of climbing with instructors. Don't be afraid to give it a try if you haven't been before! After rock climbing, we will head over to 16 Handles for some froyo.

Nov 1st - meeting at TCC

Nov 8th (meet at TCC)- Variety show! Do you like to sing? Play an instrument? Tell jokes? Dance? Karate? Dazzle us with your soccer or basketball skills? Then join us for the opportunity to show off your talent with your youth group family.

Nov 15th - community event. Details to follow.

Save the Date: On Sunday, November 22nd, we will celebrate the culmination of our stewardship campaign with a catered luncheon for the whole congregation. Please plan to join us after worship in the social hall. **This will be a Family Sunday.**



Study Group: Season #2

Our second season of Monday evening gatherings will start on October 26th, and continue on November 2nd, November 9th, and November 16th. We'll discuss John Ortberg's book, *Everybody's Normal Til You Get to Know Them*. It is a simple read and it is easily ordered through Amazon or other outlets. Pastor Tim will have summary sheets to distribute at our gatherings. So, if you don't have time to read the book please don't let that discourage you from attending. Our meetings will take place in the Round Room from 7:00-8:30 PM. Please contact Pastor Tim with any questions.

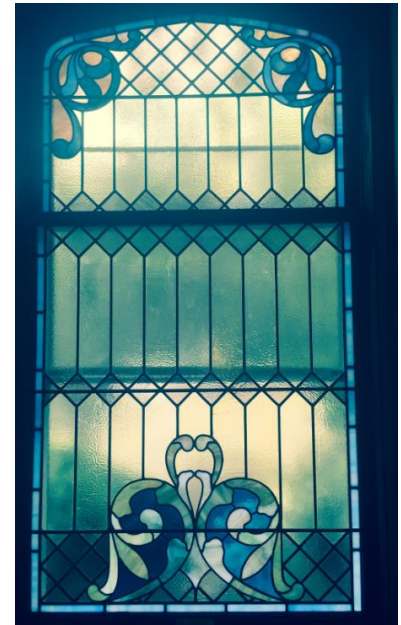


TABLE TOP NATIVITY SCENE WANTED

We're looking to place a nativity scene on the table in the Narthex for the Christmas season. If anyone has one and would like to display it for the rest of the congregation to enjoy please contact Bev Blinn or one of the other Deacons.

WINDOW RENOVATION UPDATE

The Stained Glass Group is proud to be nearing the completion of the six-year renovation of TCC's 117 year old stained glass windows. The fundraising actually was begun over twenty years ago by TCC's Women's Connection which provided the first \$20,000 toward the preservation of the glass in our historical building. We estimated this to be a \$75,000 job; however, generous donations allowed us to expand the initial work order to include the original designing and building of a long missing choir loft window, renovation of unseen stained glass in the sacristy, coat room, bathroom, up the bell tower stairs, several bell tower windows, and the stained glass in all original outside doors. We also paid to repair and paint the badly peeling sanctuary walls that framed our newly renovated windows and installed a discreet window blind on the choir loft window, to the relief of the sun-blinded choir. TCC's stained glass should now last another hundred years.



We want to thank the past and present members for their recent donations to the Congregational Window renovation, our last window (6a). We are so close to having the total funds needed -- only \$1,097 more -- and then WE ARE DONE.

*Elsbeth McCormack in honor of Julie Sullivan
Tom and Sue Hill to honor the future of Trumbull Congregational Church*

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)

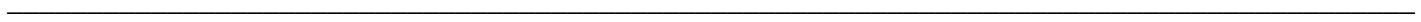


Your Name _____ Donation Amount \$ _____

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*



Fitten's News



Trumbull Congregational Sunday School Publications
 Fitten the Churchmouse, Editor in Chief HO-HO-HOLIDAY EDITION

Holiday Happenings!

- November 29th 1st Sun. of Advent
- December 6th Advent Party at 10:00
- December 12th Pageant Rehearsal 9:00 - 10:00
- December 13th Storyteller Night!
- December 19th Pageant Rehearsal 9:00 - 10:00
- December 20th The Pageant!
- December 27th Popcorn Party☺

ADVENT PARTY

Kids' Craft Workshop

Sunday, December 6th

10:00 a.m.

To the big church first
 And then on down the hall
 To make lots of crafts
 For one and for all☺!



Don't forget to bring a friend to this special event and receive a special, holiday treat from Fitten's bag.

The Mitten Tree

Please bring new mittens, hats, scarves or gloves (for kids) to decorate the Christmas tree located in the sunny Social Hall! These warm woolens will be distributed to needy children over the cold holiday and winter season.



Pageant Parts!

Please see the sign-up sheet on Miss Tard's office door, and let me know if you would like to be...

- An angel
- A wise one
- A shepherd
- A friendly beast
- The drummer child
- An instrumentalist
- A stage manager
- A costume coordinator...& more choices!



Music Ministry Notes

Greetings!

October was filled with good music. We enjoyed a concert by Mimi and the Podd brothers, some of our choir members attended the Greater Bridgeport American Guild of Organists pipescreams concert, and on the 25th, Levon Ofgang joined us as a special guest musician at our Sunday morning worship. And, as always, our choir members continued to support our congregational hymn singing at worship, and share special musical offerings.

The music ministry at TCC is hoping to have special guest musicians join us for our worship services regularly. We hope this will enhance the worship experience, foster greater interest in the music ministry, and function as community outreach as well. Also, we hope that some of our talented congregants will be inspired to share some of their time and talents too! As always, we are looking for singers and instrumentalists to volunteer.

Looking ahead, on November 22nd, we are going to be joined by Brian Nichols on the French horn. This is Consecration Sunday as well, so it will be a real special treat, don't miss it!

Here is a bit about Brian:



Brian Nichols performs throughout New England as a French Horn soloist as well as an orchestral and

chamber musician. He currently serves as Principal Horn of the U.S. Coast Guard Band and holds positions on horn with the New Haven and Eastern Connecticut Symphonies. Over the past 20 years, he has been heard in concerts in 45 U.S.

states including Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico with top musicians such as Maroon 5, Shirley Jones, Arlo Guthrie, Sara Bareilles, the Smothers Brothers, Lonestar, the Irish Tenors, and Kevin Eubanks to name a few. Brian's international performing career has featured engagements in Taiwan, Canada, England and Japan. As a freelance performer, Brian has performed in concert with the Boston Symphony as well as frequent performances with the orchestras of Hartford, Springfield, Rhode Island, Cape Cod, and New Bedford, MA. He studied music at Florida State University graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor or Arts.

Also there are some exciting community concert and worship opportunities that I wanted to share with you, so you can mark your November calendar:

Sunday November 8th at 4pm: the First Congregational Church in Fairfield is hosting a concert called "Celebration of Life in Music - Paul E. Knox." This is a special program, co-sponsored by First Church Fairfield and the M. Louise Miller/Paul E. Knox Scholarship Committee to kick off the newly renamed scholarship. The event will also include performers Dr. John Michniewicz, Dr. Joe Utterback and other wonderful area soloists touched by the life of this extraordinary man.

Monday November 23rd at 8pm: there will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving service at 8pm at the Armenian Church in Trumbull. If you are interested in singing in the combined choir, let me know! There will be one rehearsal on Monday, November 23rd at 6:30pm.

In song,

Ilana
 Ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Sunday, November 1st

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Book Group for Parents 9:00-9:45 AM
- Nominating Committee Meeting 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- Youth Group 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Monday, November 2nd

- Study Group 7:00 PM, Round Room

Wednesday, November 4th

- Endowment/Stewardship Meeting 7:15 PM, Round Room
- Trustees Meeting, 7:15 PM, Social Hall

Saturday, November 7th

- Book Group for Parents 9:00 – 9:45 AM, Library

Sunday, November 8th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Youth Group 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Monday, November 9th

- Study Group 7:00 PM, Round Room

Wednesday, November 11th

- Women's Lunch 11:00AM – 1:00 PM
- Deacon's Meeting 7:15 PM

Thursday, November 12th

- Men's Lunch 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Sunday, November 15th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Youth Group 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- New Consecration Leader's Dinner

Monday, November 16th

- Study Group 7:00 PM, Round Room

Wednesday, November 18th

- CE Board 7:15 PM

Sunday, November 22nd

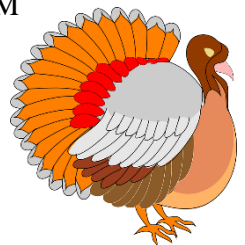
- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- New Consecration Luncheon 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Monday, October 26th

- TIC Thanksgiving Service 7:00 PM, American Orthodox

Sunday, November 29th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM (Family Sunday, Advent Starts)





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