



The CRIER



The Trumbull Congregational Church
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January 2016

Notes from Pastor Tim.....

A colleague of mine was recently telling me how he is working with his church to develop a plan for his upcoming sabbatical. I asked him what his theme is going to be. He said that he didn't know yet. He knew that he needed some rest and renewal, but he wanted to work with his church to figure out a theme that the congregation could invest in as well.

"What are some of the options?" I asked. He couldn't quite say. Instead, he told me a story. He was hanging out with his wife and 4 year-old grandson, Alex, who saw that "RaRa" (the grandmother) was knitting. She told him all about the project she was working on. Then Alex said to my friend, "Poppi, what's your project?" Poppi was quiet for a moment, so Alex gave his best guess at an answer. "Work?" Alex said. My friend couldn't think of another reply.

Work was really the only "project" that came to mind. That is where he put the major bulk of his time, energy, and thought. He hadn't done so regretfully; rather, his work had given him 36 years of challenging and fulfilling ministry. However, he also recognized an imbalance to his life. Apart from work and family he couldn't confidently name any other sources of interest. "What activities bring you joy?" I asked. He wasn't real sure.

I wondered if perhaps we had stumbled upon the perfect sabbatical theme: "Discerning Your Joys and Pursuing a Balanced life!" How valuable would he be, how useful to his congregation, if he could return from his break with a recipe for doing just that?! He's certainly not alone in his workoholism,

nor is he alone in having awakened to the fact that he had been inattentive to parts of his being. The need for balance in our lives is a common and continual reality. Clear methods for finding it, however, aren't so common.

As we enter a new year, and perhaps a season for new resolutions, this conversation seemed like one we might consider. What brings you joy? What parts of yourself have you been inattentive to? What might you need to do, what might you add or sacrifice, to build a more balanced life? The answers may not immediately reveal themselves. Still, I expect that as we discuss the questions with friends, as we share them in prayer, we'll get some ideas and guidance. Let me know what you discover!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Tim



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

Stewardship Update

Consecration Sunday was November 22. We enjoyed the fellowship and meal and received a wonderful response from your giving. Estimated contributions are expected to increase over 23%! We truly showed how generous we are and how much we have to be thankful for! We are excited and look forward to continuing our ministries and supporting one another and those in need next year! Letters with Giving cards were sent out to those who were unable to attend Consecration Sunday. If you are considering giving, please respond as soon as possible. You can call or drop off the card to Pastor Tim or Jodi Lewis. We are looking to finalize the budget by 12/20.

Thanks to everyone for your gifts of time, talent, and money. It all goes to sharing God's love.

Stewardship Co-Chairs

Paul Ferencz, Deb Rosati

Confirmation 2016

The Confirmation process is a special experience for our TCC 9th graders to grow in faith and officially join as members. Our first class is on Jan 10 after coffee hour. Each confirmand is encouraged to bring a parent to class #1. The process will include trips to other houses of worship along with a couple of guided activities with mentors. Confirmation Sunday will be May 15. Please talk to Pastor Tim if you have any questions.

Monday Night Study Group: Season #4!

All are invited to join us in the Round Room on Monday evenings from 7-8:30pm for fellowship, discussion, and prayer. Dates for our next "season" are: Jan. 25, Feb. 1, and Feb. 8. We will discuss Leslie Weatherhead's "*The Will of God*", available at Amazon.

2016 Church Service Volunteer Sign-Ups

The 2016 sign-up board for usher/greeter, lay reader and coffee hour is in the Round Room with lots of upcoming opportunities to serve. Please make your way over to it before or after church service and volunteer. Everyone's participation is what makes Trumbull Congregational Church a special place. If you've never done any of these tasks before, why not make it a New Year's resolution to do so. It's a lot easier than going on a diet or going to the gym! Instruction sheets are available and the Deacons will be happy to answer any questions you may have. The 2016 Flower Donation chart has also been posted so be sure to sign up for the week that's special to you.



Youth Group: Season 4

Save the dates: We're meeting on Jan. 10, 17, 24, and 30. Anyone in grades 6-12 is welcome to join us. And, friends are always invited. We'll send information out via email and bulletin announcements.

New Members Orientation Meetings

Pastor Tim is planning a 2-part new members orientation to discuss the meaning of membership, TCC's relationship to the UCC, the vows we make, ways to participate in the church structure, and any questions that arise. If you are interested please let Pastor Tim know. Session #1 is scheduled for Monday night, Jan. 11 at 7pm. Session #2 is Sunday, Jan. 17 after coffee hour. We would like to receive new members on either Jan. 24 or Jan. 31.

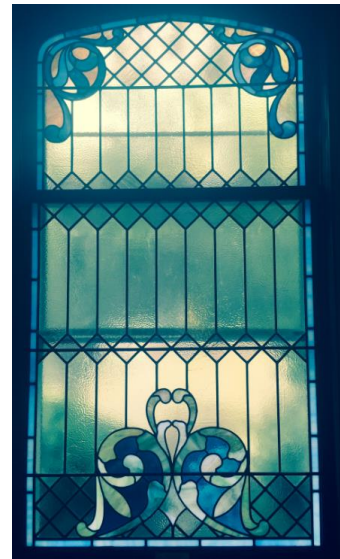
A Trip to Taize on Jan. 20!

You may have heard that our Lenten plans include Monday evening Taize style worship services followed by special choir rehearsals for a Good Friday cantata. You may also be wondering what Taize style worship is. Well, here's a chance to experience a service! We'll leave TCC at 6:40pm so that we can make it to Trinity Episcopal Church in Newtown a few minutes before their 7:15 service. You will be glad that you did it! If interested please contact Pastor Tim.



TCC's Lenten Choir

Do you like to sing? Are you interested in a short-term singing project? Please consider joining us on Monday evenings during Lent from 7-8:15pm as we prepare for a very special Good Friday cantata, which we will offer in the evening on March 25. Prior to these rehearsals we'll host very beautiful and meditative worship services (Taize) in the Round Room from 6:30-7pm. We hope that this will be a valuable part of your spiritual life during Lent.



Window Renovation Update

We want to thank all TCC members and friends who have supported this successful renovation of our sanctuary's stained glass windows, and additionally, the repair and painting of the walls. Over the 117 years since the windows' original installation, some glass

in the windows had broken and been replaced with the odd color or two, and other glass had cracked in place due to the pressure of over a century of being opened and slammed closed. The top 2/3's of the original choir loft window had disappeared sometime in our history, but has now been replaced with an original design to fit in with all the rest. When the final window is complete, thirty-two windows (double hung, stationary, and doors) will have been taken apart, the glass cleaned and re-leaded, then re-installed. Going into the new year, there will still be a few more tweaks in addition to the final double hung window in the Round Room to be completed. Currently it is in the Vasiloff Stained Glass studio in Old Lyme waiting to be taken apart and put back together for another century of watching over our church family and its activities. If windows could only talk!

One final and very generous donation closed our gap in fundraising. Officially, this line item will no longer take donations and will be spent out as we complete the final few tasks. Again, thank you all.

Keisa and Andy McPartland in Honor of Morgan, Kayley, and Jamie McPartland

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

Sunday School Scoop

Happy New Year, Sunday School Friends! Fitten the Churchmouse sends his regards from sunny California where he is visiting some of his family for the colder weather. Chuck the Church Chicken will hold down the fort in his absence. Come to SS on January 3rd for a special PUPPET SHOW featuring more of Fitten's friends!

Mark your Calendar:

February's Children's Church will take place on February 1st! We'll be making some very special Valentine Cards for some very special people. Curious? Come on out to SS, and find out more!

Youth Group SEASON 4 begins on January 10th at the church from 4-5:30. Come on down for games, gorp, and...MUSIC! Hope to C.U.

A Thousand THANKS...

To all who participated in and helped out with the Christmas Pageant! Everyone from bakers to singers...Bravo☺!

To Karolina Szabo for baking so many delicious gingerbread men for our Advent Party. With these spectacular cookies, our celebration was far sweeter!

To Kent Lewis for securing our Mitten Tree! It is currently covered in warm woolens just waiting to be delivered to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission!



Music Ministry Notes

Greetings!

As I write this, we are quickly closing in on the final Sunday of Advent and looking ahead to Christmas Eve. The choir is working hard on special pieces to enhance our worship experience and we are enjoying the beautiful music that both the Advent and Christmas seasons bring. We hope you will be able to attend one of TCC's Christmas Eve services. This year, we are adding a half-hour prelude music program to the beginning of each service (starting on Christmas Eve at 4:30pm and 10:30pm respectively). We hope this additional time of prayerful music will provide an opportunity for quiet meditation as we ready ourselves to celebrate Christmas. My younger brother, Levon Ofgang, will be joining us once again at the 5pm service with his classical guitar and the great highland bagpipes in hand. And Brandee Younger will be playing the harp for our candlelight Lessons & Carols service at 11pm.

As excited as I get for Advent and Christmas music, I am always happy to arrive at the first Sunday after Christmas and breathe a sigh of relief. All too often, we forget that the Christmas season is still ongoing at that time, and it is a great Sunday on which to sing some carols that maybe you didn't get to hear earlier in the season. This year, we will have a carol sing during the service on December 27th, so make sure to come and request some of your favorite carols from one of our hymnals!

January will be a quieter month, although we are hoping to have a special musical guest towards the end of the month (TBD!) and the choir will as always be learning new music to share with you during the worship services. The month of January will also be one of planning and preparation for Lent. So, keep an eye out for announcements about

our Lenten Taize services and our Good Friday Cantata rehearsals.

As the new year approaches, I wish you all the most joyful of celebrations during Christmas and many blessings for 2016.

In song,

Ilana

Ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 3rd

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Wednesday, January 6th

- Deacon's Meeting 7:00 PM

Sunday, January 10th

- Sunday Worship 10:00AM
- Start Confirmation 11:30 AM
- Youth Group 4:00 – 6:00 PM
- Friends of Appalachia 6:30 – 8:30 PM – Social Hall

Monday, January 11th

- New Members Meeting 7:00 PM

Wednesday, January 13th

- Women's Lunch 11:30AM – 1:00 PM
- Outreach 7:15 PM
- Christian Education 7:15 PM

Thursday, January 14th

- Men's Lunch 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Sunday, January 17th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- New Member Orientation 11:30 AM
- Youth Group 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Wednesday, January 20th

- Taize Trip 6:40 PM
- Trustees 7:15 PM

Sunday, January 24th

- Sunday Worship 10AM
- Annual Meeting 11:30 AM
- Youth Group 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Monday, January 25th

- Study Group 7:00 PM

Sunday, January 31st

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





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