



The CRIER



The Trumbull Congregational Church

3115 Reservoir Avenue

Trumbull, CT 06611

Phone: 203.268.2433

www.TrumbullCC.org

February 2016

Notes from Pastor Tim.....

Monday evenings at TCC during Lent will offer special opportunities to look both inward (Taize prayer at 6:30) and outward (Good Friday cantata rehearsals at 7pm). Please read more about both elsewhere in the Crier. With this little article I thought I would share another opportunity for the nurturing of our faith lives. The following is a prayer routine that I'm practicing, and I invite you to give it a try as well:

- I. **NAMING:** Make a list of descriptive words for God. Choose words that ring especially true for you. Begin your prayer time calling upon God by repeating these words until their meanings have registered anew and you feel focused.
 - a. Here's my list: Eternal Beauty, Peaceful Presence, Sacred Love, Holy Spirit, Source of Life, God of us All.
 - b. Here's why: *"You are only the channel through which the divine action takes place, and your part is first to get yourself out of the way... All that you have to do is this: stop thinking about the difficulty, whatever it is, and think about God instead."* - Emmet Fox

- II. **SILENCE:** Take 2-5 minutes for the sole purpose of being with the God whom you called upon. Ask nothing of God. Say nothing to God. Simply be with God. If your mind wanders gently dismiss your thoughts and bring yourself back to God saying the word, "Jesus."
 - a. Here's why: *"His Person is mysteriously encapsulated in His name."* – Albert Rossi
 - b. More: *"Let the name penetrate our soul. Surrender your whole self and enclose it within the Name."* – Fr. Lev Gillet
- III. **INTERCESSION:** In the close company of God lift up your prayers for the world, for others, and for yourself.
- IV. **CONCLUSION:** Thank God and end your prayer. God will be there when you come back. If you do this prayer in the morning you might pause at a specified time in the afternoon and again in the evening to repeat your "NAMING" and talk with God.

Have a blessed and holy Lent.
Peace,

Pastor Tim



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

Stewardship Update

As we begin to embark on a new year, there are just a few reminders:

- Year end Giving statements were sent out for 2015. If you realized you didn't meet your pledge commitment, you can still close out the year by submitting your pledge, **noting it is for 2015.**
- A limited number of envelopes are ordered each year. If you are interested in envelopes, please let the office know and they will let you know if there are any available.
- If your offerings are generally made while you are attending church and you will be absent for a period, your offering can be mailed or dropped off to the office. Or you can consider on-line payments through your bank for no fee. Offerings do not need to be received weekly. We just need to make sure we have the cash flow to meet expenses.
- If you are interested in submitting a 2016 Giving statement, please send your statement to the church office to the attention of Pastor Tim or Jodi Lewis.

It has been exciting watching the church grow! We hope the momentum continues in 2016!

Stewardship Co-Chairs
Paul Ferencz, Deb Rosati

Ash Wednesday

TCC will join together with the members of the Unity Hill Congregational Church on Feb. 10 at 7pm to initiate the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is a day to celebrate the love of God by contemplating life without that love. As we acknowledge our mortality we praise and thank God for the immortal love that claims us. Worship is at Unity Hill.

2016 PLEDGE ENVELOPE / UCC-FEA MEMBERSHIP FEES

For those members using pledge envelopes, you have always found an "initial offering" envelope in your box for reimbursing TCC the \$5.00 cost of each member's annual pledge envelopes. As always, we appreciate your covering this cost for each pledge unit who uses the envelope method of pledge payment.

As a member of the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Fairfield East Association (FEA), TCC is expected to pay an annual membership fee \$10.75 per member. In developing the 2016 budget, it was approved by the Congregation that membership would reimburse TCC the \$10.75 per member. Historically, TCC pays more in fees than it collects from our membership. **This is money that might have made a difference in our programs or outreach. Let's make it 100% paid by membership in 2016.**

Please use this form to reimburse TCC for pledge envelopes IF YOU USE THEM, and for the UCC/FEA cost of your membership at TCC. We appreciate you paying this cost.

# of Members		Fee Amount		Total per line item
1	X	If you use pledge envelopes, \$5.00 (pledge envelopes)	=	\$
	X	\$10.75 (UCC/FEA membership)	=	\$
TOTAL FEE AMOUNT			=	\$

Amount enclosed for 2016 envelope and UCC / FEA dues:

\$ _____

Name(s): _____

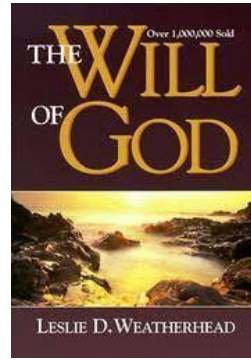
Usher/Greeter List

To help us include as many people as possible in our Sunday worship and assure active participation among our church family, we'd like to establish a list of Usher/Greeters for our Sunday services. Of course, many of you have volunteered to be Usher/Greeters in the past and would continue to do so in the future, but we'd like to put a little system around this process and maybe even get some new smiling faces at the door on Sunday mornings!

The way it would work is as follows:

- You volunteer to be placed on the Usher/Greeter List.
- The church office and Deacons make up a schedule by assigning dates to all the volunteers. Assuming we get active participation, we're anticipating this shouldn't be for more than 2 Sundays for the year.
- If the assigned date does not work for you, it would be your responsibility to contact someone else on the list to take your place and/or switch dates with them. You should also contact the church office to advise them of the change.
- You (and other family members) show up about 30 minutes before church on your assigned date and execute your duties! The church office will send out a reminder several days in advance.

If you are willing to be put on the Usher/Greeter List, kindly contact Don Espach at don@safetyleadershipsolutions.com. Note that instructions for being an Usher/Greeter are available and are being sent to all church members. Also, every Sunday there is a Deacon of the Day who arrives at church at least 30 minutes early and who will check in with you, answer any questions, and assist as needed.



“The Will of God”

Our Monday evening Study Group with Pastor Tim will be meeting on Jan. 25, Feb. 1, & Feb. 8 to discuss Leslie Weatherhead's collection of talks called, “The Will of God.” The book is easily purchased at Amazon. Whether you read it or not we hope you will join us for discussion, fellowship, and prayer.

Mondays at TCC during Lent

We'll have a 30-minute Taize Prayer service at 6:30 each Monday. For more information on Taize prayer please see the “Music Ministry Notes” in this Crier. Following the prayer services, we'll have special choir rehearsals at 7pm in preparation for our Good Friday cantata. It all starts on Feb. 15. Please sing with us even if you don't normally sing in our choir. For more information please contact Ilana at ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.org.



Youth News:

Season #5 starts on Feb. 28th All 6th-12th graders are invited, and friends are always encouraged to attend. Be on the look-out for information about the 30-Hour Famine. Plans are in the works!

“Invite a Friend” Hospitality Effort:

With much going on at TCC during Lent and Easter now is the perfect time to think about sharing your church family with others. We'll spend a little time in worship thinking about the power of a simple invitation, ways to invite others, and simple acts of hospitality that help others feel welcome. On Palm Sunday and Easter we'll have a special hospitality table for the guests who join us. Many thanks to the Deacons who are working with Pastor Tim on this effort.



Fitten's News



Trumbull Congregational Sunday School Publications
Fitten the Churchmouse, Editor in Chief *** Snowy Winter EDITION

Youth Group Skating Party

January 31st

Meet at the church at 12:30 for a 1:00 skating session at the Sports Center in Shelton! RSVP to Miss Tara so we can plan for rides.

Get your Skate On!



SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Supper!

Tuesday, February 9th

5:30 - 7:00

Grab a short stack as the Syrup drips down
The very best pancakes...
Let's chow down!



Bring your appetite, and bring a friend - Special Mardi Gras craft for children - Sign-up sheet in the Round Room.



The Mitten Tree

Thank you to all those who donated warm woolens to the Mitten Tree! Our friends at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission were VERY thankful to receive the gifts and were going to hand the mittens, hats and scarves out that very evening to children attending a dinner. Thanks😊!

Mark your Calendars!

Palms and Pasta
Luncheon

11:30 on Palm Sunday
Social Hall

Entertainment!



Donations will benefit the 30 Hour Famine

Music Ministry Notes

Greetings!

As I write this, I look out the window at the snow and know that winter has definitely arrived. I am so excited about the upcoming music here at TCC, that I almost cannot wait to tell you about it. But, I would be remiss if I did not first thank all of those who participated in our Christmas Eve services, contributing their time and talents to share beautiful music during worship. Thank you to all who sang, played, and participated. I was honored to be a part of it all. A special thank you to our TCC choir members, many of whom did double duty and sang at both services on Christmas Eve!

January is often a quiet month, but the music ministry here at TCC is busy at work preparing music to share with you each Sunday and we are always looking ahead to what is coming up. Currently, we are preparing and planning with an eye towards Lent and Easter, both of which feel like they are just around the corner. This year, TCC music ministry is very excited to share with you some plans we have for both Lent and Easter:

We hope you will be able to attend one of TCC's Taize services this Lent. Each Monday evening from 6:30-7:00pm throughout Lent, we will be having a Taize prayer service. This will be an opportunity for all of us to engage in the meditative practice of Taize prayer and song. The Taize community is an ecumenical monastic community located in France. The music of the Taize community is known for its meditative quality, and emphasizes simple repeated phrases to foster a prayerful experience through song.

Immediately following each Lenten Taize prayer service, we will have a rehearsal from 7:00-8:00pm to prepare for a Good Friday sung service. This is a great way to get involved in singing if singing on Sundays with the choir is not something you can do at this time. These Monday night rehearsals will culminate in singing "The Shadow of the Cross: A Contemporary Tenebrae Service" by Lloyd Larson on Good Friday at 7:00pm.

I do hope that you will join us for both the Taize services and the rehearsals for the Good Friday service. I think the experience will be a truly enriching and reflective way to walk through this Lenten season together.

Also, for Easter Sunday this year, we have joining us the Lighthouse Brass Quintet, many of whom are performers with the U.S. Coast Guard Band in New London. We are incredibly lucky to have this quintet share their musical talents with us for worship on Easter morning. Don't miss it, and make sure to tell your friends!

Here is a bit about them:

Lighthouse Brass Quintet is one of the foremost Brass Ensembles of New England. Its members come from the nation's top music conservatories and have performed around the world including Asia, Europe, Russia, and all over the United States. Highly sought after for their stunning technique and brilliant sound, the Lighthouse Brass are proud to call Connecticut their home. In addition to their skill as chamber musicians, individual members also perform locally with the symphonies of New Haven, Hartford, Providence, Springfield, Eastern Connecticut, New Bedford, and the U.S. Coast Guard Band in New London. Lighthouse Brass looks forward to entertaining you with their warm sound and superior musicianship.



As always, please consider singing with our choir some time! Or, if you are an instrumental musician, please contact me and consider sharing your time and talents with us here at TCC! We are always looking for new and exciting ways to enhance our music ministry.

In song,

Ilana

Ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, February 1st

- Study Group 7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 3rd

- Deacon's Meeting 7:15 PM

Sunday, February 7th

- Sunday Worship 10:00AM
- "Sanctuary at BRCC 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Monday, February 8th

- Study Group 7:00 PM

Tuesday, February 9th

- Pancake Dinner 5:30 PM

Wednesday, February 10th

- Women's Lunch 11:30AM – 1:00 PM
- Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM – Unity Hill

Thursday, February 11th

- Men's Lunch 12:00 – 1:30 PM

Sunday, February 14th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM

Monday, February 15th

- TCC Taize Service 6:30 PM
- Cantata Rehearsal – 7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 17th

- Endowment/Stewardship 7:15 PM

Sunday, February 21st

- Sunday Worship 10AM
- Confirmation Class with Pastor Tim 11:30 AM
- Friends of Appalachia 6:30 PM

Monday, February 22nd

- TCC Taize Service 6:30 PM
- Cantata Rehearsal – 7:00 PM

Wednesday, February 24th

- Council 7:15 PM

Sunday, February 28th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Confirmation Class with Pastor Tim 11:30 AM
- Youth Group 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Monday, February 29th

- Study Group 7:00 PM
- TCC Taize Service with 6:30 PM
- Cantata Rehearsal – 7:00 PM





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