



# The CRIER



The Trumbull Congregational Church  
3115 Reservoir Avenue  
Trumbull, CT 06611  
Phone: 203.268.2433  
[www.TrumbullCC.org](http://www.TrumbullCC.org)

March 2016

## Notes from Pastor Tim.....

“Beloved Children, I am dedicating this book, which I intend to be my last, to you. To my own astonishment, I have become an old man; and like most grandparents I spend a good deal of my time these days wondering about the future – *your future* – which I shall not see.”

This is how theologian, Douglas John Hall, introduces his book, What Christianity is Not – at once sad, inspiring, realistic, loving, and therefore also hopeful.

He goes on, “If I have learned anything in my long life, it is that everything – *everything*: God, the Creation, the myriad creatures and processes of life, indeed life as such, and we humans who have been given the wherewithal to contemplate it all, - everything is steeped in ineffable mystery. And if I were asked to say, in a word, what Christianity has contributed to this awareness of mystery, which has been felt by all great philosophies and religions and sciences, I would answer that Christianity professes and confesses that at the center of this universal mystery there is ... *love*. Eternal, forgiving, expectant, suffering love.”

Hall is one of those Christian writers who is *always* worth listening to. I’m a better person when I’ve heard him, and it makes me sad to think that his career has come to an end. As it ends, however, I’m thankful that he’s put his mind to thinking about that which our faith is *not*. It strikes me that this is a thoughtful way of guiding us into a particular faith that holds at its core the mystery that matters most.

Hall’s concern for the future of the faith has little to do with secularization and societal trends away from organized religion. Rather, he worries

about what Christians are doing, and have done, to their own faith. Christianity is *not* a number of the identities that we are tempted to give it.

Interestingly, I recently read an article by M. Craig Barnes, president of Princeton Theological Seminary, who shares some similar thoughts. As a leader of a school that trains future church leaders he is often asked about denominational decline and the next face of mainline Christianity. His response is refreshing. “The mainline Protestant church has to stop fretting about its future.”

It is hard to imagine denominational officials not fretting about the future. If not to fret about it, they certainly get paid to think about it and strategize accordingly. Much of what I’ve heard from the UCC about the future includes the conviction that Church’s new identity will be revealed on the front lines of social issues. Our impact will be felt and our identity will emerge as we battle injustice and change the circumstances that lead to suffering. My impression is that while fear may play a role in our clinging to this priority, UCC officials have also discerned that our ministries need to be outward looking because Jesus’ ministries were outward looking. While I agree, there’s something that concerns me. What happens when action is our primary agenda and source of identity?

Barnes writes, “We have liturgies of the early church that date back to the second century. In essence they were funerals. Those who were about to enter the church would take off their old clothes as a means of putting off the old, anxiety-ridden life and walk down into the water. The waiting priest would place them under the water saying, ‘Buried with him in baptism.’ As they rose the priest

continued, 'Risen to new life in Christ.' They put on new clothes as a symbol of putting on Christ. The rationale for this burial form of baptism was to make the members of the church go through 'dying' and get it over with. Once they were no longer anxious about Caesar's persecutions of the church, they were free to boldly proclaim the gospel. You can't scare dead people."

In essence, Barnes tells us that our primary theological task is not to worry or even to strategize; rather, it is to take seriously the task of dying to self and rising with Christ. That is our one calling and mission – to be people in whom and through whom the light of Christ lives and shines. Christ teaches us that "at the center of this universal mystery is love." We know that something of the name "Christian" identifies us when that great love grounds us with joy and moves us with compassion. It may very well take us to the front lines of injustice, but it will likely not take us anywhere unless we've been willing to engage in the more difficult work of receiving grace at the expense of our "old selves."

Whatever the church looks like down the road, it will only be "Church" when it helps us to die so that we might truly live.

Peace,



Pastor Tim



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

### Holy Week at TCC

Holy Week is the most sacred time of the Christian year. Please join us for these special services as we receive anew the intimate and life-giving love of God through our observations of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

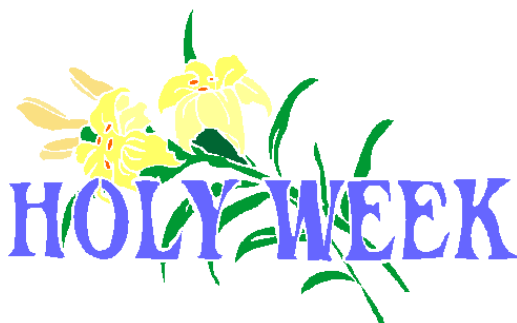
**March 20: Palm/Passion Sunday:** We join the crowds as they sing their hosannas and songs of praise, but we also acknowledge the dark days that are to come. Our worship will set the stage for the final meal that Christ offers his disciples.

**March 21: Taize Prayer & Cantata Rehearsal:** We'll celebrate our final Taize prayer service at 6:30 followed by rehearsal for Good Friday's cantata.

**March 24: Maundy Thursday at 7pm:** We recall how Christ modeled servant leadership for his disciples as he washed their feet and gave them the "new commandment" that they "love one another as I have loved you." We also celebrate the institution of the Lord's Supper as we remember Christ's words, "This is my body; this is my blood." Members of Unity Hill will join us for this service.

**March 25: Good Friday Cantata at 7pm:** We proclaim Christ's passion through choral singing, scripture, and the extinguishing of candles. The TCC choir and friends will lead our worship in this production of Lloyd Larson's very moving cantata, "The Shadow of the Cross."

**March 27: Easter Sunday at 10am:** Our celebration of the resurrection will feature one of New England's foremost brass ensembles, The Lighthouse Brass Quintet. Please join us for this very festive service and share the day by inviting your friends.



# 2016 Elections

The Church Council would like to thank all TCC members who, in 2015, gave their time and talents to serve on a board/committee or as a delegate for TCC. Church members will serve in the following positions for 2016. Names in bold denote those newly elected. If you have any questions or concerns regarding their duties please contact that member.

Officers Moderator Carolyn Kalahar (1 yr)  
 Vice Moderator **Kent Lewis (1 yr)**  
 Clerk **Deb Rosati (2 yr)**  
 Treasurer Mike Burke (1yr)

Other Elected Officials Member At Large **Nancy Allyn 1 yr**  
 Member At Large **Diane McLevy 1 yr**  
 Financial Secretary Jodi Lewis 1 yr  
 Offering Steward **Jen Hanlon 1 yr**

Delegates Connecticut Conf **Carolyn Kalahar 1 yr**  
 Fairfield East Association Paul Ferencz 1 yr  
 Council of Churches Paul Ferencz 1 yr  
 Trumbull Interfaith Caroly Gibson 1 yr  
 Bill Feller 1 yr

Diaconate 1 – Year Term Bev Blinn  
 Don Espach  
 Michele Feller  
 Cathy Nickse  
 Joan Penkoff  
 Mike Rovello  
 open  
 open

2 – Year Term **Larry Hawkins**  
**Sue Hill**  
**Chip Warren**  
**Open**  
**Open**  
**Open**  
**Open**  
**Open**

Stewardship open **Paul Ferencz**  
 open **Open**

Trustees Andrea Burke **Doug Kalahar**  
 Andy Durfee **Joe Hanlon**  
 Matt Ferguson **Open**  
 Pablo Sevilla **Open**  
 Mike Turner

Christian Ed Michelle Consolati  
 Amy Ferguson  
 Lesley Kitchener  
 Nicholas Nestro (Youth) **Cheri Marinos**  
**Deb Szabo**  
**Open**  
**Open**  
**Open**

Christian Outreach Mary Balogh  
 Cathy Bush  
 Bill Lord  
 Carole Markland  
 Pam Sevilla **Wendy Ferencz**  
**Alice Warre**  
**open**  
**open**

Endowment Committee Mike Burke, Treas. **Jay Nickse**  
 Stewardship\*  
 Bruce Gibson  
 Paul Nestro

Audit Committee Wendy Corris **Deb Szabo**  
**Open**

Music Committee Amy Ronge  
 Cathy Nickse (Diaconate) **Carolyn Kalahar**

Employee Relations Bob Hopwood  
 Kelli Pollock **Wendy Corris**  
**Kent Lewis**

Nominating Committee Carole Markland  
 Kirsten Nestro **Mike Burke**  
**Open**

Offering Steward Committee **Jenn Hanlon**  
**Jenn Leigland**  
**Deb Rosati**  
**Edith Salvo**  
**Open**

Memorial Ash Garden Sylvia Charron  
 Michele Feller  
 Mike Turner **Open**

Thank You!



### Our Cantata Choir Wants YOU!:

We'll observe Good Friday with a "concert style" worship service - a cantata

that proclaims Christ's passion through scripture and song. We'll host the service at 7pm on March 25th. We hope that you'll spread the word about this very special service (for which we received funding from the UCC!), plan to attend, and consider singing in our choir. **Rehearsals will be on Monday evenings (following our Taize services) at 7pm, starting on Feb. 15.** If you would like to join the choir for this service please contact Ilana at [ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.org](mailto:ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.org). It's not too late!

### Taize Prayer

The Trumbull Congregational Church invites you to experience contemplative prayer in the style of Taize from 6:30-7pm in the "Round Room" of the sanctuary during Lent. Taize prayer is both beautiful and simple, featuring candle light, iconography, and a quiet space for worship. It cultivates intimacy with God through meditative singing, scripture reading, silence, and intercession. Our prayer services begin on Feb. 15 and continue on Monday evenings through March 21. For more information please contact Pastor Tim and [Tim.Hare@trumbullcc.org](mailto:Tim.Hare@trumbullcc.org)

### Our Ministry of Hospitality

Our Deacons have spoken! We heard from Diane McLevy about the impact that a simple invitation can have. We heard from Cathy Nickse about ways in which to invite friends. (Think about invitation opportunities beyond Sunday worship!) And, we heard from Don Espach about welcoming visitors and being mindful of newcomers. ("Have we met before?" is always an easy way to introduce yourself to someone who isn't familiar to you.) There is a lot happening at TCC throughout Lent. Please think about sharing your church family with others. On Palm Sunday and Easter we plan to have a special hospitality table for guests!

### Letter from the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport:

Dear Tim,

Thank you! The recent gift of \$1,000 from Trumbull Congregational Church for our collaborative effort with the Center for Family Justice for rent assistance came at a perfect time, and we are grateful for your help. As you know, the families who need transitional housing come out of the safe house with nothing, and the support we give them makes a huge difference as they are starting to get back on their feet. You're your partnership we are leveraging hope and changing lives! Please convey our gratitude to the members of the congregation.

As we are blessed with gifts, we celebrate the opportunity to bless the lives of others.

Rev. Cass L. Shaw

President and Chief Executive Officer

### Super Saturday 12!

#### March 12, 2016 – Killingly, CT

The Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ present Super Saturday – A day of worship, workshops, and networking for the lay and clergy leaders.

#### Workshops:

Participants will be able to attend two 90 minute workshops related to one of 7 vital ministry areas!

#### Marketplace:

Learn about a variety of ministry opportunities and shop your favorite vendors!

#### Keynote Speaker:

The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Acting Executive Minister of UCC Justice and Witness Ministries. She is a noted civil rights leader, gifted preacher, pastor, and teacher.

#### Schedule:

8:00 AM – 3:45 PM includes worship, workshops, and lunch chat on Season of Discernment.

#### To Register:

[www.ctucc.org/supersaturday](http://www.ctucc.org/supersaturday) - **Deadline-March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Cost \$54 per person or \$44 per person in church groups of 5 or more who register at the same time.



## WORLD VISION'S 30 HOUR FAMINE



The Youth Group is excited to, once again, be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine on the weekend of April 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup>! This year TCC youth will join the fight for hunger as we fast, pray, serve, play games, grow closer to God, and raise money. Did you know it only takes \$35 to feed a child for one month? Our goal is to feed many children and their families and provide services to those in need. The Youth will also collect canned goods to contribute to a local food pantry and participate in service projects leading up this weekend.

➤ **Important Dates for Youth Group Members** (some are tentative based on service projects and fundraising events):

- Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 5:30 – Youth Group Meeting
- Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 5:30 – Meeting/Service Project/Fundraiser
- Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 5:30 – Meeting/Service Project/Fundraiser
- Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 30 HOUR FAMINE WEEKEND

*Please contact Michelle Consolati for more information or to sign up!!!*  
[mconsolati@charter.net](mailto:mconsolati@charter.net) or 860-729-5613

Visit our Fundraising page at <http://youth.worldvision.org/team/10680>



## How can YOU get involved?

As a church family, we hope you can join us in this project! There are many ways you can help support our youth and get involved:

- Pray for the youth and for the families they are helping throughout the weekend
- Become a "Fasting Buddy." Each buddy is given one student to pray for and encourage. Buddies write their student a letter (or several) that gets opened on Friday night to kick off the weekend. Then you are welcome to join your student for the Break Your Fast celebration on Sunday morning.
- Contribute needed materials for the weekend (sign-ups will be in the Round Room)
- Donate funds or sponsor a youth member
- Give some of your time to lead a game or activity that we can provide to you
- Come spend time with us over the weekend
- Participate in one of our service activities before that weekend
- Serve at our last meal on Friday night
- Serve at our "Break Your Fast" celebration on Sunday morning

*Please reach out to Michelle Consolati if you are interested in being part of this church-wide event!*  
[mconsolati@charter.net](mailto:mconsolati@charter.net) or 860-729-5613





# Fitten's News



Trumbull Congregational Sunday School Publications  
Fitten the Churchmouse, Editor in Chief \*\*\*Valentine Edition

## Project Learn Book Drive



Through March 6th

Please place your gently used (or new) children's picture books into the crate just inside the social hall doors. They will be delivered to children in need through Project Learn. Thanks!

## A Thousand Thanks

Thank you to all those who volunteered time and talent to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! It was a delicious success thanks to the many hands that helped shop, cook, serve, and clean up! As we journey through Lent, may we continue to connect through fellowship and service...



## Vacation Bible School

It's not too early to mark your calendars...



# July 25 - 29

Join us for a week filled with Friends, fun, and faith-filled activities! Snacks, Crafts, Games, Stories and Songs!

Theme: TBA (Stay Tuned)!

## Sign Up in the Round Room

Palms and Pasta  
Luncheon

11:30 on Palm Sunday  
Social Hall

Entertainment!



Donations will benefit the 30 Hour Famine

*Music Ministry Notes*

Greetings!

I hope you are all enjoying these winter months. It can be a challenging time of year, but a great way to fight the winter blues is through music! Perhaps now is a good time to come sing with the choir, if even for a few weeks, or share your talents on an instrument? As we enter into the season of Lent, I also invite you to reflect on the text of the Lenten hymns. Lent, like Advent, brings with it a particularly moving selection of hymns and songs. I hope that this Lenten music washes over you and fosters a deeper spiritual journey these forty days.

We are excited to host some special musical offerings throughout Lent on Monday evenings. We hope you will be able to attend one of the Taize prayer services on Monday nights throughout Lent starting at 6:30pm. Songs from the Taize community are particularly prayerful and meditative. 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. Can't make Monday night rehearsal, but you are still interested in singing on Good Friday? Let me know. Where there is a will, there is a way! We will be rehearsing much of the music for Good Friday on Sunday's as well.

As I mentioned last month, the Lighthouse Brass Quintet will be joining us for worship on Easter Sunday. It's going to be quite a joyous Easter celebration so don't miss it, and make sure to tell your friends!

The 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.



In song,

Ilana

Ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **Wednesday, March 2nd**

- Deacon's Meeting 7:15 PM

## **Saturday, March 5th**

- St. George Great Vespers  
4:00 PM

## **Sunday, March 6th**

- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM  
and 11:30 AM
- Sunday Worship 10:00AM
- Youth Group 4:00 – 6:00  
PM

## **Monday, March 7th**

- TCC Taize Service 6:30 PM
- Study Group 7:00 PM

## **Wednesday, March 9th**

- Women's Lunch 11:30AM  
– 1:00 PM
- CE Meeting 7:15 PM

## **Sunday, March 13th**

- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 and  
11:30 AM
- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Confirmation Class with  
Pastor Tim 11:30 AM
- Youth Group 4:00 – 6:00  
PM
- Friends of Appalachia 6:30  
PM

## **Monday, March 14th**

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

## **Wednesday, March 16th**

- Trustees 7:15 PM

## **Thursday, March 17th**

- Men's Lunch 12:00 PM

## **Sunday, March 20th**

- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 and  
11:30 AM
- Sunday Worship 10AM
- Palms and Pasta Luncheon  
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Youth Group 4:00 PM

## **Monday, March 21st**

- Taize Service 6:30 PM

## **Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

- Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM

## **Friday, March 25th**

- Good Friday Cantata  
7:00 PM

## **Sunday, March 27th**

- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM
- Easter Sunday Worship  
10:00 AM

## **Wednesday, March 30th**

- Council 7:15 PM







**Trumbull Congregational Church**  
3115 Reservoir Avenue  
Trumbull, CT 06611

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

# THE CARRIER

March 2016

