



# The CRIER



The Trumbull Congregational Church

3115 Reservoir Avenue

Trumbull, CT 06611

Phone: 203.268.2433

[www.TrumbullCC.org](http://www.TrumbullCC.org)

April 2016

## Notes from Pastor Tim.....

At this point I have no idea what I'll say in my Easter sermon. They tell me that on Easter the pastor's job is to get out of the way. *The Good News abounds on Easter*, they say. *Just don't mess it up; don't say what doesn't need to be said.*

Those who say this tend to be other pastors, who like me, are facing the challenge of saying something of value, something new, on this very special day, which we've celebrated many times before. I think the comments are a way of taking the pressure off, of lifting the burden of matching Christ's miracle with our own words.

One of my colleagues said, "Easter is not a day for serious exegesis and biblical research." Another said, "Easter is not a time to offer a word of challenge to the church." Both had legitimate rationales. After all, the Easter crowd is not always the typical Sunday morning crowd. What message is the Easter crowd ready to hear?

My feeling, however, is that it may be best not to apply any strict limitations. The best I could think to say was, "Maybe we shouldn't rule anything out. I think our job is to listen for the inspiration and do our best to share it."

In order to do that we need to ask ourselves what message *we* are ready to hear. Our agenda needs to be the discernment of God, not the discernment of what to say about God. Our goal is union with the risen Christ, not a sermon, which means that humility, and receptivity, and prayer, and openness, and love are the tools most needed at the moment.

Of course, these very things can end up taking a back seat to other pressing tasks when seasons get busy and stressful.

Do you know what I mean? Can you relate? My assumption is that this happens with all of us. My experience is that this can happen to churches as much as it can happen to individuals. Here's my point: the resurrection message will be made clear, the Good News of Easter proclaimed, when whole congregations adopt as priorities things such as humility, receptivity, prayer, openness, and love. That is when grace will surprise us. That is when our work will be joyful. That is when we'll find God risen anew and rising anew in our hearts and minds, in our fellowship, and in whatever it is that God has in mind for us to do next in Christ's name.

Happy Easter Season!

Pastor Tim



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

## Music Committee Update & Appeal

Dear TCC congregants,

As you know our music ministry works hard to provide beautiful music at our worship services as well as offering special musical programs throughout the year. This April, we are embarking upon a fundraising effort to replenish our music fund to ensure that we are able to offer the same high quality level of music next season.

The music ministry is not currently a line-item in the TCC budget, so we rely upon donations from congregants to support the music ministry. And, looking back, we have had a great season full of inspiring music!

In the fall and winter of 2015, we hosted two concerts. Our concert series is something that we hope to grow in 2016 and the coming years. Additionally, we had several special guest musicians join us for worship. Levon Ofgang shared his talents with us on the classical guitar both in the fall and on Christmas Eve. Brian Nichols helped us rejoice with the french horn on Christ the King Sunday. Brandee Younger, harpist extraordinaire, assisted us in prayerfully transitioning from Christmas Eve to Christmas Day at our late night candlelight service. On Easter morning, we rejoiced with the help of the Lighthouse Brass Quintet -a group comprised of some of the finest Brass players in the country. In addition to all of this special music, during Lent, the music ministry was able to offer a Monday night Taize prayer service, incorporating the meditative hymns used by the Taize community in France. We also held weekly rehearsals to prepare for a Good

Friday Cantata called "The Shadow of the Cross: A Contemporary Tenebrae Service."

We hope that in learning and sharing new music, in creating new opportunities for prayer through song, in hosting festive concerts, and in having guest musicians offer their time and talent at our worship services, that we can deepen our worship experience together. Through all of our musical efforts and programming, we seek to glorify God, to help foster prayerful worship for congregants, to use music as a means of community outreach and engagement, and to provide a variety of musical textures to the liturgy.

So, if you have enjoyed our musical offerings this year, please consider donating to our music fund. Checks can be mailed to the office or placed in the offering plate throughout the month of April. Please note "Music Fund" on the memo line.

Thank you and God Bless,

The Music Committee: Carolyn Kalahar, Cathy Nickse, Amy Ronge



## Caring Hospice Services

Caring Hospice Services is in need of volunteers. The hospice care philosophy is making individuals with life-limiting medical conditions as comfortable as possible to enjoy the maximum quality of life. You can volunteer at places and during times that fit your schedule. They are looking for volunteers to visit patients, help out in the office, sharing music, knitting and sewing, or performing useful tasks such as grocery shopping and meal preparation. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Peggy Mayo at 203-674-8380 or via email at [pmayo@carinhospice.com](mailto:pmayo@carinhospice.com)



### T. F. A. R. N. About Project Learn

I was glad to hear the publicity for the collection of books to support the Project Learn program.

The Bethany Congregational Church of Bridgeport, now part of TCC was a thriving church in the 1950s and 1960s but in the 1970s it was all down hill. In the early 80s there was a lot of discussion about the future of the church. A decision was made to sell the property and join with TCC.

The proceeds from the sale of the property were used to establish funds to support several ministries. The first one was the creation and funding of the Urban Ministry Program now called Project Learn. Today there are four sites in Bridgeport helping about 200 children with homework. The children are safe in the sites after school until a parent picks them up.

Several other endowments were established including The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport, Fairfield County Community Foundation and Trumbull Congregational Church.

I thank you for supporting Project Learn.  
Sincerely,  
Herb Gratrix

### Monday Night Study Group is Back!

Our next season will consist of four Monday evenings: April 18, April 25, May 2, and May 9. All are welcome to join us for fellowship, discussion, and prayer from 7-8:30pm in the Round Room. The topic hasn't been fully determined just yet, but Pastor Tim is considering "Tough Questions about the Bible." More details to come!

### Stewardship Thought for April



Two southern gents get to church early on Stewardship Sunday and start a conversation to kill time. Hey Bill, how do you know how much to give? Well Charlie, it's like this, I use what I call the Family Plan. Every year I get a little more taken out of my paycheck at the mill. This way, whatever I get back from my Uncle Sam, I give to the Father.

Let's think like Bill and use some of that income tax return to donate and give back. You can donate to one of our outreach projects, the music fund or to get ahead on your pledge.



### Youth Group Session 6:

Youth Group members, the Sevilla's are excited to be hosting the following activities for this session. So please mark your calendars:

April 24th 4-5:30: Cooking and Games

May 1st 4-5:30: Jewelry making. You need nothing just bring yourself!

May 8th 4-5:30: Field Trip to Rock and Jump

May 15th 5-5:30: End of year party -Location to be announced

Look forward to see everyone.

Pam and Pablo Sevilla



# Fitten's News



Trumbull Congregational Sunday School Publications  
Fitten the Churchmouse, Editor in Chief \*\*Spring has Sprung EDITION

## Fitten the Mouse Contest

### Unscramble

hrucch  
rapyre  
orssc  
saport

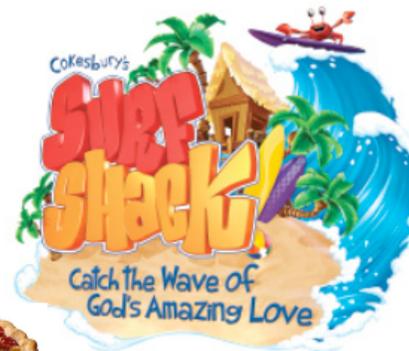
gssno  
ysdnua  
sriefdn  
eovl

Complete, cut out this box, and bring it in for a prize!

## SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

July 18-22



## Palms, Pasta, & Pie Face



Thank you to all those who helped to make this special event a fun-filled success! Spaghetti was flowing, meatballs were rolling, and whipped cream was flying...in our faces! Best of all, we raised a lot of money (more than \$300) for the 30-Hour Famine and the Well! Thanks again to everyone who cooked, served, and lent a hand☺!

## First Sunday of May

Bring your favorite stuffed animal!

Wear your pajamas!

Sunday School  
P.J. Party



*Music Ministry Notes*

Greetings!

As I write this, Holy Week is upon us. The choir has been working hard to prepare for the Good Friday cantata and we are looking forward to hearing the Lighthouse Brass Quintet on Easter morning. The music ministry is also preparing special music for TCC's Holy Thursday service, and our last Taize service of the Lenten season will be happening this week as well. It is a busy time, full of beautiful music and opportunities for prayer and meditation.

With April comes not only spring but the Easter season. Eastertide, the season of Easter, lasts for seven Sundays. This is always an enjoyable time musically, as it is an opportunity to transition from the somber and reflective sounds of Lenten music to the uplifting and rejoicing music associated with the Easter season. It is a great season to 'pull out all the stops' on the organ, especially the trumpet!

During Easter, the choir will continue to work on new music to share with you during our worship services. So, come sing with us some time!

As you will see in this newsletter, the music ministry is embarking on a fundraising effort to replenish our music fund so that we can continue to support our music program and enhance it with special guest musicians. We want to ensure that we are able to offer high quality worshipful music every season. Please consider making a donation to the music fund during our fundraising efforts (or anytime really!!!).

In song,

Ilana  
Ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.

## Installation of Pastor Tim and Celebration: May 1

A service of installation is an opportunity to celebrate the covenantal ministry that is shared between the pastor, the congregation, and the greater association of UCC churches. On May 1 during Sunday worship we will celebrate Pastor Tim's installation. (Sure, this is a little "after the fact," but who cares!) We'll have an amped up coffee hour and we'll welcome representatives from the CT Conference as well as the Fairfield East Association. Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Dr. David Bartlett. Here's a brief bio:

*David Bartlett is Professor Emeritus of Christian Communication at Yale Divinity School and Professor Emeritus of New Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur Georgia. He has served as pastor of two American Baptist churches and one American Baptist/UCC congregation. Most recently he spent four years as Theologian in Residence at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta.*

## Party at the Hare Home!

The church family is invited to an open house at the Hare home from 1pm-4pm on May 1 for appetizers, drinks and sandwiches to celebrate this joining of church and ministry. We are blessed in so many ways here at TCC, and this seems like a good reason to have a party!



\*RSVP acceptances only by Wednesday, April 28 to Angela at [angela.hare@snet.net](mailto:angela.hare@snet.net)

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **Sunday, April 3rd**

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Mentor/Confirmand Discussions 11:30 AM
- Friends of Appalachia 6:30 PM

## **Wednesday, April 6th**

- Deacons 7:15 PM

## **Sunday, April 10th**

- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM
- Sunday Worship 10:00AM
- Crop Walk Rally at Unity Hill 2:00 PM

## **Wednesday, April 13th**

- Women's Lunch 11:30AM – 1:00 PM

## **Sunday, April 17th**

- Choir breakfast 9:00 AM
- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Choir Rehearsal 11:30 AM

## **Monday, April 18th**

- Study Group – 7:00 PM

## **Wednesday, April 20th**

- Confirmation Trip: Healing & Eucharist – 6:30 at TCC
- Outreach 7:15 PM

## **Thursday, April 21st**

- Men's Lunch 12:00 PM

## **Sunday, April 24th**

- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 and 11:30 AM
- Sunday Worship 10AM
- Confirmation Excursion 1:00 PM
- Youth Group 4:00 PM

## **Monday, April 25th**

- Study Group 7:00 PM

## **Wednesday, April 27th**

- Council 7:00 PM





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

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

*Happy*



*Spring!*

**THE CARRIER**

April 2016

