



The CRIER



The Trumbull Congregational Church

3115 Reservoir Avenue

Trumbull, CT 06611

Phone: 203.268.2433

www.TrumbullCC.org

May 2016

Notes from Pastor Tim.....

Our Monday night study group has been reviewing Adam Hamilton's book, Making Sense of the Bible. It is an easy read in which Hamilton offers accessible explanations for many of scripture's more difficult questions. I recommend it, whether you join us on Monday evenings or not!

One of those questions has to do with the canonization process. How did the bible become the bible? Why were some books included and others excluded? When was the final collection of accepted books determined?

To answer that last question: It was at the council in Carthage, Africa, in 397 that the 27 books of our New Testament were established as canon. Throughout the previous 367 years (to the estimated date of Christ's death) the Church was worshipping, growing, serving, and discerning matters of scriptural authority. (I think it is important to note that the Church predates the bible as we have it. Think about the implications for our understanding of the bible's place in Christian faith!)

But, how did they finally figure out which books were in and which were out? Certainly, there were many other ancient texts that pointed to Christ and had meaning to people of faith. Many have suggested that the selection process was guided by political and religious power brokers who preserved certain scriptures for the sake of their own advantage. While politics likely played a role to some degree, Hamilton argues that there were legitimate and thoughtful criteria that needed to be met for inclusion, and the selection process was less scandalous than the cynics might suggest.

The first criterion was *usefulness*. "Paul's letters were found to be helpful to the churches that read them, so much so that they were copied and shared with other congregations. Their continued usefulness and relevance in the decades following Paul's death ultimately led to inclusion in the canon. The same was true of the four Gospels..."

The second criterion was *consistency*. The message of the document needed to be "consistent with the faith as it was preached in churches and as it was thought to have been established by the apostles." For example, there were significant theological differences between our four current gospels and many of the gospels that emerged from subsequent gnostic movements of the time.

Hamilton calls the third criterion *Association*. An accepted book needed to be "associated with the first generation of Christian leaders." For example, Paul's letters were taken seriously because of the authority and prestige of their author.

The last criterion was *acceptance*. "Long before the church was talking about a fixed canon of scripture called the New Testament, certain books circulated broadly and found widespread acceptance. ... When the vast majority of churches had accepted a book, the church as a whole eventually accepted it."

I share all of this with you because it is interesting and may offer new information to you about the bible that we use every Sunday, but also because this canonization process offers some insight about the nature of Christian faith. Christianity and community went together from the very start. Discernment and faithfulness were practiced in the context of congregational living.

When one became a Christian one became a member of a community that was willing to be shaped by the Holy Spirit, a force beyond their own making. In other words, the independent self suffered a sacrifice so that a new community-oriented self could emerge. This was true for congregational identity as well as individual identity.

There was no such thing as being a Christian on one's own. The world has changed a bit, and today we are more likely to believe that faith is simply personal. But, the truth from the very beginning is that we need each other. It is in our shared embodiment of faith that we learn the kind of faith that gives us hope and a vital God who extends beyond the bounds of our own individual thinking. So, here's my concluding thought: The Church's top goal, its most important task and its most powerful mission, is simply to be the Church.



Pastor Tim

Membership Announcement

We regret to announce the passing of some members of TCC. We have been blessed to have known them. May they rest in peace.

George Hobart (January)

Ruth Silver (March)

Vincent Grillo (April)

Our deepest sympathies to their families and friends.

Baptisms

Tyler Charles Convertito, son of Barbie and Matt Convertito was baptized on April 10th. Congratulations to Tyler and family!



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

Confirmation is May 15!

Congrats to our young people who have participated in this year's Confirmation experience. They have engaged in class time with Pastor Tim; they have shared discussions with mentors and parents; and, they have experienced the diversity of Christian faith by worshiping at other churches and reflecting upon the messages about God that those traditions have communicated. On the 15th of May five of our 9th graders will become members of TCC: Owen Hopwood, Dylan Leigland, Samantha Pollock, Sarah Gianetti, and Molly Callahan.



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 Cooking and games

May 1st Canceled

May 8th Field trip to Rock and Jump

May 15th End of Year Party

Hope you can join us for some fun.
Pam and Pablo Sevilla

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



Annual CROP Hunger Walk

The annual CROP hunger walk is being held this year on Sunday May 22nd at Seaside Park. For those of you that are not familiar with the walk, it is a community held event sponsored by Church World Service to raise money for hunger fighting efforts all over the world. 25% of the funds go to local causes like the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Sterling House and Operation Hope to name a few.

Last year the Greater Bridgeport Hunger walk raised over \$34,000. Trumbull led all area towns, raising close to \$7,000. Our congregation raised \$3,828. TCC led all the participating organizations in most funds raised.

That being said we are excited for our 2016 campaign. TCC has earned a well-deserved reputation and we are hoping to keep up the momentum!

Below is a link to our official fundraising page. By clicking on this link you can both join the team and register to walk or if you are unavailable you can donate to our team.



If you would prefer to write a check or give cash please see Mary Balogh, Cathy Bush or Wendy Ferencz. Checks can be made payable to CWS/CROP.

**To donate: click on the link below and select one of the “donate” options, then enter your information.

**To register to walk: click on the link below, then select “join our team”. You will need to enter your name, email and create a password. Once you have done that you will be asked to enter your name, so that you can create your own URL. This is the link that you will send your friends and family to sponsor you. The 3rd step is if you want to donate to your own page. The 4th step is to complete your information and create a personal fundraising goal. After this is complete you will get a verification email. Click the link to verify. In that email will also be a link to the Bridgeport Crop Walk page. Log in to be able to view your page, send fundraising emails, check your goals and post to social networks.

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/bridgeportct/Team/View/18797/TCC>

C'mon Give It a Try

There's a new sign-up board for the next 4 months in the Round Room for **Usher/Greeters, Lay Readers and Coffee Hour hosts. It's blank!** (Or almost blank, anyway). Many see it prominently displayed while at coffee hour and are moved to volunteer (thank you, and please continue to do so). However, some worshipers are not regular coffee hour participants and might not even know it's there. Regardless, we'd love to see and hear some new faces and voices to help make our Sunday worship special. Please stop by when leaving church and volunteer. If you've never done any of these tasks before, being an Usher/Greeter is easy and is a great way to start. We have written instructions to guide you for all the tasks and any Deacon is available to answer your questions. C'mon give it a try!



Fitten's News



Trumbull Congregational Sunday School Publications
Fitten the Churchmouse, Editor in Chief * May Day Edition

May 1st

Sunday School PJ Party!

Wear your pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal 😊

May 8th

Mother's Day!

The children will be singing a special song 😊

June 12th

Celebration Sunday!
Overflowing Love



Sunday School Picnic and "Fun Fair"

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAMBLE

See if you can unscramble all of the following spring words. Then drop your answers off in Fitten's mailbox and get a special prize! 😊

relfow _____

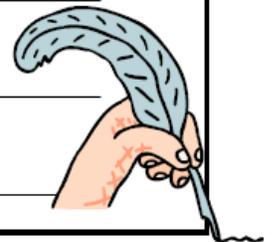
udb _____

flae _____

rina _____

nroib _____

hwat _____



Vacation Bible School!

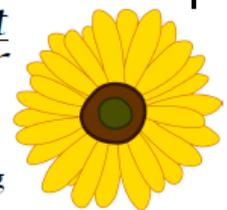
Mark your Summer Calendars!
This year's V.B.S., "*Surf Shack*"
will take place during the week of
July 18th - 22nd!

Classes will be offered for surfers
in preschool on up through 5th
grade!

Helpers (youth and grown-up) are
also needed 😊!

Prayer Pocket

Dear God,



We pray for spring
As life turns green
Where buds and birds
Are finally seen
For grass and sky, for wind and sun...
We thank you God for springtime fun!

Amen

Music Ministry Notes

Greetings!

Happy Spring!

It seems that spring has finally arrived, and I for one welcome it heartily! After a much needed rest following Holy Week and Easter, the choir is back to its regular rehearsal and singing schedule. May will be full of fun, spring-themed music. Keep a watch out for special guests too!

In April, the music ministry led a fundraising drive to replenish the music fund. I want to thank all of you who contributed to the music fund and who continue to support us in our ministry. A music ministry is only as strong as the congregation that supports it!

One of the things I want to focus on in May and June is congregational singing. In this newsletter, I am often focused on recruitment to choir or for special music, but this month, I want to ask all of you to make a renewed effort to sing from your seats. The hymns are such a gift to us in worship. As poetry set to music, hymns are a beautiful way into a deeper experience of liturgy, the Word, and prayer. So, this month especially, don't be shy and let's all belt them out together! Let us welcome spring with a deeper commitment to communal worship through singing.

In song,

Ilana
 Ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.org

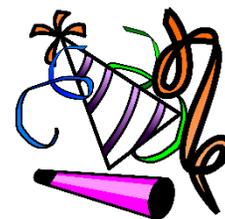
Installation of Pastor Tim and Celebration: May 1

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!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, May 1st

- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM
- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM
- Friends of Appalachia First Aid Training 2:00 PM
- Youth Group 4:00 PM
- Friends of Appalachia 6:30 PM

Monday, May 2nd

- Study Group 7:00 PM

Wednesday, May 4th

- Deacons 7:15 PM

Sunday, May 8th

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

Monday, May 9th

- Study Group 7:00 PM

Wednesday, May 11th

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

Sunday, May 15th

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

Wednesday, May 18th

- Endowment/Stewardship 7:15 PM

Thursday, May 19th

- Men's Lunch 12:00 PM

Sunday, May 22nd

- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 and 11:30 AM
- Sunday Worship 10AM – Rev. Caroly Gibson

Wednesday, May 25th

Council 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 29th

- Sunday Worship/Family Sunday 10:00 AM





Trumbull Congregational Church
3115 Reservoir Avenue
Trumbull, CT 06611

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



THE CARRIER

May 2016

