



The CRIER



The Trumbull Congregational Church

3115 Reservoir Avenue

Trumbull, CT 06611

Phone: 203.268.2433

www.TrumbullCC.org

June 2016

Notes from Pastor Tim.....

Every Sunday I begin worship with a prayer that ends with words that sound something like this, "...so that you might be our God and we might be your people."

I am writing this little reflection from a hotel room in Atlanta during a break between the thoughtful and challenging lectures that are being offered at the Festival of Homiletics. The last one was given by Old Testament scholar, Dr. Walter Brueggemann whose topic was, "Choosing against Our Chosenness." It is Brueggemann's belief that rejecting the notion of chosenness needs to be a driving priority for the church in these times when Christianity no longer enjoys the cultural advantage that it enjoyed in previous days. Pastors have the important task of guiding churches through the likely painful process of allowing our notions of chosenness - exceptionalism - to die.

I hope that my opening prayer hasn't worked at cross purposes with this task! When I pray that we might be God's people, I don't mean that we might be God's *only* people. Rather, I mean for us to see ourselves as included, as being *among* God's people. But, Brueggemann points out that often in scripture and through the course of human history chosenness has been understood in terms that divide the chosen from the not-chosen. It leads to entitlement, which leads to exclusion, the extraction of wealth (land), and the doing of so by violent means.

This is bad on a couple of levels. First, of course, it oppresses the disadvantaged. It makes victims of

God's creatures. But, it also hurts the advantaged. It traps the advantaged in a perpetual struggle to maintain advantage, and therefore the advantaged are caught in unending anxiety. Plus, at some level there is the reality of guilt, persistent guiltiness, from which the advantaged are not free to seek liberation because of their ongoing commitment to a flawed sense of chosenness.

Though chosenness is clearly a theme in the Old and New Testament scriptures, Brueggemann points out that so is inclusion. In his lecture he points to five scriptural examples, not the least of which is the resurrection of Christ, showing that a world of power, scarcity, and domination is overcome by a new way of grace, abundance, and inclusion.

Brueggemann's theme fit usefully, I thought, with the previous talk offered by Leonard Pitts who suggested that the decline of the church is directly related to the church's failure to embody the spirit and love of Christ in the face of systemic injustices. All too often the vocal church is represented by leaders who are committed to a brand of faith that values judgment and power over the creation of just systems and the celebration of radical inclusion. He noted important apologies that were offered by some of these leaders well after the fact of their judgements, but also asks, "Where were you when we needed you?" It's little wonder that people are leaving the church when the church continues to be so late to the justice party.

It seems to me that a church that is free from the need to desperately hold on to its diminishing standing and sense of exceptional chosenness is also freed up to focus its energies on receiving the same grace and the same Spirit that God wills to pour out

on all peoples. It is a church that is freed up to receive the love of God and to live in love with the rest of God's people. In other words, there is Good News for the church in the death of our chosenness.

What do you think?

Peace,



Pastor Tim

Summer Sunday School Adventure!

Join us for summer Sundays, starting **July 10th!** We'll meet on a picnic blanket under the trees for songs, crafts, stories, and a Bible lesson. Bring your summer passport along and receive a new stamp for each summer Sunday! At the end of the summer, we'll celebrate all of our amazing adventures...

Celebration Sunday!

Join us on **June 12th** for a special Sunday, highlighting our Sunday School year! The children will present songs, a puppet show, prayers, a special Thank-You to teachers, and a wonderful surprise! Plan to stay after our Celebration Sunday service for a **church-wide picnic** complete with delicious food (sign-up in the Round Room to bring something) and FUN activities for ALL! What a joyful way to culminate our Sunday School year...



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

Uganda Well Project

On behalf of Outreach, I would like to thank everyone for their generous donations for the **Uganda Well Project**. I am proud to announce we have collected **\$4,697.00** to be used for drilling a well! One hundred percent of this money will be going to Uganda. Using this money to drill a well the children can now attend school instead of retrieving water from a dirty pond. There's a brand new medical building recently built that has no water, which can also benefit from this project. Fresh water is something we take for granted but it's an essential commodity for Uganda. I would like to thank Sarah Thornton for sharing her enthusiasm in helping others and creating her organization called LIGHT!. Your inspiration has motivated us to give from the heart.

Wendy Ferencz



Fall Retreat

“Words for the Way”

(Keys to Spiritual Practice)

a weekend experience for men and women

WISDOM HOUSE
229 East Litchfield Rd.
Litchfield, CT 06759

September 23-25, 2016
(Friday, 7:00 p.m. –
Sunday after lunch)



Sometimes the lack of a simple, doable spirituality undermines the transformation God offers. Our religious structures can become tools to maintain the status quo rather than catalysts for personal and social change. Discover spiritual practices rooted in simple words. “Words for the Way” offers practical wisdom for living a deeper spiritual life, staying true to Jesus’ core message while engaging with today’s world.

Led by Reverend Caroly R. Gibson

Total Cost \$235.00 (includes 5 meals, room, program, and materials)

Register Soon – Space in Farmhouse is Limited

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Special Diet: _____

Mail Registration with \$150.00 deposit to:
Rev. Caroly Gibson 145 Hilltop Drive Trumbull, CT 06611
Balance due by September 1st

Questions or Further Details, call (203) 380-1260 email: cgibsonumc@peoplepc.com



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Catch the Wave of
God's Amazing Love

July 18th - July 22nd 2015

9:00-11:30

REGISTRATION FORM

Early Bird Registration!
Register between NOW
and May 31st;
\$40/child

Register after May 31st;
\$50/child

Scholarships are always
available (contact Tara
Brophy)

Children must have one
year of preschool
under their belts AND
be at least 4 years old

Sorry, but no
registrations accepted
after July 11th and no
refunds after June 30th

Please return this form
(filled out) along with
your check payable to:
Trumbull
Congregational Church

Email Tara Brophy with
any questions or for
more details:
tara.brophy@trumbullcc.
org

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Allergies/Medical Information: _____

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Check out our Facebook Page!

Music Ministry Notes

Greetings!

With May more than half over, I look back and have to thank our choir members and our special guest musicians for a beautiful month of music. Each Sunday in May, we were fortunate enough to have TCC congregants share a special musical offertory with us. This is a great way to get involved with music ministry for singers who may not want to make a weekly commitment to the choir and also for instrumentalists who want to share their music with our community. I thank all those who offered special music during the month of May, and I invite all of you to consider getting involved in this way in the future!

As I write this June article, I want to reiterate last month's message: let's increase congregational singing in June! I know I talk a lot about joining the choir or participating in our music ministry through offering special music, but there is a third way to be a music minister right from your seat at church: by singing the hymns and responses! This month, I ask you to take a deeper look at the hymn texts as you sing. Hymns are such a poetic gift to us and if we let them, they can truly deepen our prayer and worship experience. This month, try something new with your congregational singing, be it singing a little more often during the service, or singing out a bit more, or practicing mindfulness as you sing the hymns, or simply smiling when you sing, or whatever! Let us all try to dig a little deeper in our experience and participation in worship music.

In June, the choir will continue sharing their time and talent with our community. We will finish our choir season at the end of the month, with Choir Appreciation Sunday. I hope you can join us in thanking our choir volunteers on Sunday, June 26th.

Also in June, you may hear some familiar melodies during offertory. The theme for my offertory selections this month will be 'finding the sacred in the secular.' That is, I will be doing some instrumental arrangements of popular songs that have sacred texts or themes. I hope this deepens your experience of hearing these melodies in the future and connects them to your worship experience here at TCC.

I look forward to singing with you all as we draw nearer to the summer season!

In song,
Ilana
Ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.org



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, June 1st

- Deacons 7:15 PM

Sunday, June 5th

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

Wednesday, June 8th

- Women's Lunch 11:30 AM
- Trustees 7:15 PM

Sunday, June 12th

- Choir Rehearsal 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM
- Sunday Worship 10:00AM (Teacher Appreciation)

Wednesday, June 15th

- Outreach 7:00 PM

Thursday, June 16th

- Men's Lunch 12:00 PM

Sunday, June 19th

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

Wednesday, June 22nd

- Council 7:15 PM

Sunday, June 26th

- Sunday Worship 10:00 AM





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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Bridgeport, Connecticut
Permit No. 39

Happy
Father's
Day

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June 2016

