



The CRIER



The Trumbull Congregational Church

3115 Reservoir Avenue

Trumbull, CT 06611

Phone: 203.268.2433

www.TrumbullCC.org

July/August 2016

Notes from Pastor Tim.....

I was talking with another UCC minister today. It seems that neither of us are completely in tune with what we perceive to be the main thrust of the UCC's vision for the future of the church; that is: social justice. We both noted how it can feel a bit wrong to admit such a thing. Certainly, Jesus cared about just systems, lifting the lowly, and embracing the marginalized. To not grab hold of the UCC's vision with complete enthusiasm can come across as a bit un-Christian, un-loving, or un-dedicated. To many, the priority of social justice is obvious, a "no-brainer."

My friend and I both agree that working for social justice is important. Putting faith into action is important. Caring for what Christ cared about is important. But, we both feel that the church's power, sense of vitality, and influence in the world is rooted in something other than determining the right side of social issues and standing on the front lines of the battles. (I cringe as I write this because sometimes we do need to stand on the front lines of social battles.)

What if, rather than giving our members a cause (or causes) to fight, the church decided that its top priority would be to engage the souls of its members? What if the church were to say, "There is a light within us, a sacred Spirit which ties us all to the divine life of God, and it is our mission to awaken one another (and the whole world!) to that reality? Our top priority is to facilitate experiences that bind us together with a God who is holy, mysterious, and utterly transcendent, while also self-giving, imminent, and personal."

If that were our mission, if the effort to engage souls in this way guided our agenda, don't you think we would also be guided to act faithfully in the world in ways that would offer love and care to God's people? Our acts of justice would be rooted in our own sense of transformation; they would be rooted in humility and grace, and they would be colored by a sense that we are participating in *God's* work. (To me it feels like the difference between *saving* the church and *being* the church, and the latter feels much more "right.")

The tricky part about embracing the task of engaging souls is not quite knowing how to do it. In a way, it is easier to pick some social issues and start fighting. Nonetheless, there is guidance out there, and my particular experience is that beauty is a key component: beautiful concepts, beautiful art, beautiful music, beautiful action, beautiful worship. Beauty begets wonder, and wonder ties us to the transcendent.

So, I'll ask you to think about beauty as it pertains to our life together. What specific actions might we take to embrace beauty's power to tie us to God? I thought that our Lenten Taize services were beautiful. I thought that our Good Friday service was also particularly beautiful. What struck you as beautiful? What beautiful ideas do you have for our church?

Peace,

Pastor Tim

Thank you from Uganda Farmers, Inc.

Uganda Farmers, Inc would like to thank you for your gracious donation of \$4,697.00 made on May 4, 2016. We immensely appreciate your kindness and are so grateful for your support.

Your contribution will go towards the expansion of our most recent project of assisting Fr. Emmanuel Byaruhanga in providing water for the village of Nganiko, Uganda. With your help, we plan to expand upon the project in Nganiko to bring the gift of water to many more people in the area. This project will service a school and a medical clinic. We expect this project to be completed sometime in 2016.

It is your generosity and support that leads to success of our projects. Together we can bring much needed aid to those who are less fortunate. Thank you again for your continuing support and generosity!

Best Regards,
Jane Holler and
Dan Marecki



"Thank you for the get well wishes, cards and prayers. Also, thanks for the gorgeous flower arrangement. They all brightened my days and helped the healing." Shirley Knecht



Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all our members and friends celebrating in July & August!

French Fund Scholarship

The French Fund Scholarship was established by Larry and Win French in honor of his father. The stipulation was that it would be award to active seniors who graduated from their secondary school with honors* to be used by the student for something they wished for themselves. At the 2003 Annual Meeting the amount of each scholarship awarded was re-established at \$250.

Criteria for Award

- **Must be graduating from any secondary school with honors (at least a 3.00 GPA and earning no grade less than a C) and**
- **Must be an active member of TCC or the TCC Senior High Youth Group.**

Those students who qualify should make the Church Office aware of their interest and provide a copy of their complete secondary education transcript as proof of their qualification.

Summer Hours

Church services will start at 9:30 in July and August (easy to remember!) and will be followed by lemonade on the lawn. Our regular 10:00 start will resume on September 4. We look forward to seeing everyone at worship this summer!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Catch the Wave of
God's Amazing Love

July 18th - July 22nd 2015
9:00-11:30

REGISTRATION FORM

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Allergies/Medical Information: _____

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(203) 268-2433

Check out our Facebook Page!

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

Summer Sunday School Adventure!

Come and Stamp your Passport each Summer Sunday☺

Each Week, Bible Lessons Plus...

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| July 10 th | Picnic Storytelling
Bible stories on a blanket! |  |
| July 17 th | Campy Crafts
God's eyes with real sticks! | 
 |
| July 24 th | Morning Movie
Special show with popcorn! Bring a stuffed animal... | |
| July 31 st | Fifth Sunday Service
Remain in church with a Busy Bulletin☺ | |
| August 7 th | Campfire Sing-Along
Marshmallows and favorite Sunday School songs! | |
| August 14 th | Picnic Storytelling
Bible stories on a blanket! | |
| August 21 st | Campy Crafts
Pet rocks with a purpose! | |
| August 28 th | End of Summer Sunday School Adventure Party
Bring your stamped passports for a surprise treat! | |

Each Sunday = A NEW Stamp
for your Adventure Passport! Collect them ALL!
See you Soon, Sunday School Friends!

Stewardship Moment

Spring is finally here. As we look forward to the summer and start to plan our vacations, let's not forget about our commitment to TCC. One of the easiest ways to stay current on your pledge throughout the year is to set up an auto pay through your bank. This way instead of writing out a check every week, your bank does it automatically for you. No more hurrying to find the check book and an envelope at the last minute on Sunday morning. I have been using this method for quite some time now and love how easy it is. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, I would be happy to help. So set up that auto pay, and enjoy that well deserved vacation knowing that when you come back you won't need to catch up on your pledge. Have a great and safe summer.

Paul Ferencz

A note from Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim will be on vacation from July 25 – August 14. Rev. Caroly Gibson will preach on July 31 and Aug. 7. Kirsten Nestro will preach on Aug. 14. Caroly will provide emergency pastoral coverage from July 31-Aug. 8. Please call her at 203-522-9856. Rev. Todd Shipley (203-435-8873) and Rev. Jim Stinson (203-984-0141) are also available for emergency pastoral coverage



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

Music Ministry Notes



Summertime and the living is easy!

As I sit here in my somewhat sweltering apartment, I am once again so thankful for all of the beautiful musical moments that we shared together through music ministry here at TCC. We had a fun-filled season: the choir learned new music to share with the congregation almost every Sunday morning and worked extra hard during Lent to offer their first annual Good Friday Cantata; our special guest musicians provided us with interesting arrangements and harmonies of both well known and lesser known sacred music melodies; and we had some vocal soloists share their time and talent -drawing both from our choir members ranks and from the congregation. It was a pretty good year!

In the summer, the choir takes a much needed break from their regular Sunday morning rehearsal and service commitments. However, the music ministry here at TCC is still hard at work! The music committee will meet to plan new and exciting musical adventures for us next season, and also do some housekeeping in our rehearsal room (choir robes don't fold themselves!). While the choir is off, I will be planning and brainstorming for next season: selecting music for the choir, working on new repertoire for preludes, offertories, and postludes, and scheduling special music programming. I find that summer is a good time to reflect on what we accomplished in the season behind us and envision new musical challenges on which to embark upon in the season to come.

On Sunday, June 26th, we finished off the season with 'Music Ministry Sunday', where we thanked all of those who volunteered in music ministry. We also got to spend a special coffee hour in fellowship with members of the music ministry, enjoying cake and lemonade. I had the opportunity to share a few

words of gratitude to the music ministers and the congregation for our shared efforts to deepen our experience of worship through music. For those of you who were not there on the 26th, I have included those words in a note that can be found in the Narthex. I hope you all have an absolutely wonderful summer, a summer that inspires and invigorates your souls!

In song,
Ilana

Ilana.ofgang@trumbullcc.org



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