



The CRIER

The Trumbull Congregational Church

3115 Reservoir Avenue

Trumbull, CT 06611

Phone: 203.268.2433

www.TrumbullCC.org

October 2019

Notes from Pastor Tim.....

"He does not faint or grow weary. His understanding is unsearchable." -Isaiah 40:28

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. -Isaiah 55:8-9

These are indeed but the outskirts of his ways; and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?' - Job 26:14

When I look at the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? -Psalm 8:3-4

Worship at the church I attended on the Sunday morning of our Family Service in September focused on the identity of Jesus. "Who do you say that I am?" The preacher quoted Jesus' famous question to his disciples and suggested that it was a question for us as well. In fact, he suggested that it is the most important question we'll ever be asked.

Whether or not that's true, I do think the question matters. It effects how we think about God and how we relate to God, which in turn effects how we think about ourselves and how we relate to the world around us.

Lately, I can't escape thoughts of the vastness of God – a God who is endless and infinite, timeless, uncreated, uncontained, unrestricted, without shape or limits, utterly beyond: beyond words, beyond comprehension,

beyond imagination. This God is a dynamic wisdom and power, which the human mind cannot fathom. It is the God pointed to in the scriptures above.

The advantage of this God is the divine capacity to do and be more than what humans can create for ourselves. A God who is utterly beyond us is also utterly bigger and better than us – a God whose dreams for us exceed our own dreams, a God whose purpose for us is greater than we might imagine, a God whose wisdom puts our lives in the context of a holy agenda, which we can trust without fully grasping.

However, when this image of God alone dominates my thinking there's an intimacy that I'm missing. A vast, unsearchable God is also an unreachable, impersonal God. I don't know how to access this God, find hope in or be known by this God.

Here is where Jesus' question becomes so important for me. *You are God incarnate, God made flesh; you are the Infinite made immanent and personal; you show us who God is; you reveal to us God's heart; you embody God's love; you show us its will to claim us, heal us, grow us and live through us. You bring the vast unsearchable wisdom of the Eternal into an assurance that is intimate, knows our names, and is undeterred by the obstacles that we, or this world, put in the way.*

"Who do you say that I am?" asks Jesus. I hope you will think about my answer. I hope you will think about your own. Let's talk about these things.

Blessings,

Tim



Teams Needed for the 2019-2020 Programming Year

Ministry Fulfillment will continue to offer online and paper sign-ups for participation in worship service. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Remember, if everyone participates once in a three-month period, all responsibilities will be covered.

There are additional teams that are forming this year for ongoing projects.

~Family Dinner Hosts- Every third Sunday evening TCC will have a 5 PM family service followed by a fellowship dinner. Each month a family is needed to host this dinner. Online sign-ups for food and help with set-up are posted on the website. The host needs to monitor the sign-ups through our website and find people to fill in any gaps. The host for that month can also “decorate” the social hall in a theme (optional). The host will set out the buffet during the last 15 minutes of service and oversee clean-up. All paper goods are provided.

~The Charitable Gift Fair - Once again TCC will partner with Nourish Bridgeport to hold a Charitable Christmas on November 23rd. This year a holiday concert will follow in the sanctuary. Deb Rosati will head up the team, but she needs several people to help her organize and execute this special day. There are various levels of commitment, from volunteering that day to helping Deb in the planning and set-up.

~Ash Garden - One or two people are needed to help with maintenance of the Ash Garden for the upcoming year (primarily weeding, trimming the hedges, and adding mulch). Another individual is needed to promote the Ash Garden, working in conjunction with the leadership board to update the fee scale, coordinating with Ministry Fulfillment to promote it online and make it known to our members.

~Stewardship Team - This group will design and execute our spring stewardship campaign under the guidance of the leadership board. Members of this team will set their own meeting schedule from February to May, with at least one representative attending February's leadership meeting. The campaign usually culminates with a fellowship event which this team will oversee.

Please see the Volunteer page on our website to sign-up to participate in worship and to sign-up for one of these ongoing responsibilities.



Mini-Retreats are Back! Please join us on the first Wednesday of every month from 1-2:30pm for a time of fellowship and spiritual nurture. We typically gather for 30 minutes of informal conversation over coffee, tea, and goodies after which we join for an hour in an activity designed to cultivate our sense of God's presence. Our gatherings from October-December will be at Barbara DeAngelo's home. If you are interested or have questions please contact Barbara or Pastor Tim. We hope you will join us!

nOURish Bridgeport

Exciting news! We have signed the covenant with nOURish BRIDGEPORT! At our family service on Sept 19, Reverend Sara and a student from the ESL class attended the service to kick off our commitment to each other to serve our neighbors in need. After the presentation, all attending signed the covenant.

The covenant is included below. It is in general terms, but we have made specific commitments. We have committed to provide help on the third Thursday of each month at the Feel the Warmth Community Suppers, and to provide tutors and child care help for the ESL (English as a Second Language) program.

While this is a covenant between TCC and nOURish BRIDGEPORT (NB), we encourage everyone to invite friends and family to also be involved. We are looking to get community involvement, to show the community that we are here to serve others, and to potentially expand our TCC family.

In addition to the Thursday night commitment, there are other opportunities to serve, such as the Food pantry (providing supplies or helping at the center), Outdoor market during the summer (held Saturday mornings), Overnight Emergency Shelter (held during the winter). In the coming months, the NB team will be identifying some opportunities to help if you can't attend at their locations.

If you have any questions, you can contact Holly Breidfjord, Maria Schaab, or Deb Rosati



If you have received this in time, MARK YOUR CALENDARS - On October 5, from 9-1, NB will be celebrating the end of their first Outdoor Market

season by having games and other activities...even a dunking booth with Rev. Sara!!! Please try to attend and support their efforts. Watch for more information.

Covenant of Partnership between Trumbull Congregational Church and nOURish BRIDGEPORT

We the members of Trumbull Congregational Church covenant with nOURish Bridgeport to unite our communities of faith in the mission to love and serve our neighbors in need.

The members of TCC seek to invest our whole selves and live out the love and service God has called upon us to do through the programs of nOURish Bridgeport. Through this mission we look to build relationships that will provide spiritual and physical nourishment, compassion to those in need, and opportunities within and beyond our membership to engage actively in the life-giving ministries of nOURish Bridgeport.

nOURish Bridgeport, will provide guidance and support to the members of TCC in our endeavor to impact those in greatest need, allowing us to utilize the framework and resources of their various programs to enable us to support this ministry and enact our mission "to love thy neighbor".

Informational Confirmation Meeting:

Attention all 8th & 9th graders and parents, I would like to gather after our family service on Sunday, October 20 to discuss plans for this year's Confirmation experience. Confirmation is a special time for our young people to explore their faith and decide if they are ready to affirm the vows that were made at their baptisms. If they do, they become official members of the church. The experience usually includes class time, time with mentors, and excursions to other houses of worship. Let's plan to meet on the 20th to discuss the program, schedule, expectations, and more. Grab dinner and join me for a 30-minute meeting before the evening is over. We're starting early this year because sabbatical plans have me out of the office starting in June. Please let me know if you are able to attend this meeting. Thanks, Tim



OCTOBER **OUTREACH**

Here are some additional opportunities to provide outreach to the community. We will be having a collection for each of these during the month of October:

Baby Center Pantry at nOURish
BRIDGEPORT – collecting diapers and wipes!

Bridgeport Rescue Mission – once again it's Green Bean time! Collecting at least 250 cans of green beans for Thanksgiving meals.

BOARD/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

GOVERNING BOARD

Paul Nestro - Moderator (2019-2020)
Debbi Rosati – Clerk (2019-2020)
Cyndie Lamastra (2019-2021)
Kent Lewis (2019-2020)
Christine Plumeau *(2019-2021)
Joan Trefz* (2019-2021)

FINANCE & OPERATIONS

Don Espach – Treasurer (2019-2020)
Andrea Burke (2019-2021)
Jodi Lewis (2019-2021)
Jay Nickse (2019-2020)
VACANCY

MINISTRY FULFILLMENT

Michelle Consolati (2019- 2021)
Bob Hopwood (2019-2020)
Lesley Kitchener (2019-2020)
Kim Sadler* (2019-2021)
VACANCY

CONFLICT RESOLUTION TEAM

Paul Nestro - Moderator (2019-2020)
Don Espach – Treasurer (2019-2020)
Lesley Kitchener (2019-2020)
Michelle Feller (2019-2020)
Chip Warren (2019-2020)

AUDIT TEAM

Mike Burke (2019-2020)
Wendy Corris (2019-2020)
Bruce Gibson (2019-2021)

*New member to Board/Committee/Team



YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

WHAT'S NEW?

KINDNESS SCAVENGER HUNT

Sunday, Sept. 29th from 11:15am-2:00pm(ish)

Lunch included

\$5 entry fee per person

Teams will race around Trumbull spreading kindness and competing for the grand prize! Friends welcome and encouraged!

****Drivers needed!****

RSVP to Michelle at mconsolati@charter.net or 860-729-5613

*****THANKS to a VERY generous donation from a member of our congregation, we will have some exciting opportunities this year! Stay tuned!!! *****

LOOKING BACK:



Thanks to all who volunteered in September at the **nOURish BRIDGEPORT ESL class** where we helped to provide childcare! Remember to sign up online on the TCC website for the **THIRD THURSDAY evening** of every month to join us in making a difference in the lives of these children!



Livvy Szabo shares her musical talents!

AND DON'T FORGET...

- Challenge yourself to get involved in worship in some new way - greet, read a passage, serve communion, sing, play an instrument, or ring the bell! Sign up online or see Michelle or Tim for more info.
- Save the **3rd SUNDAY** of every month for the **5:00pm FAMILY SERVICE!**
- Stay tuned for our **NEXT YOUTH EVENT!** If you don't receive youth group emails and texts from Michelle Consolati, please see her in church, email her at mconsolati@charter.net or contact Pastor Tim to be included in the email list!





Sunday School News

This year got off
to a fantastic start

with over 20 children and youth attending
our Watermelon Welcome Rally Day!
Watermelon fun, games and snack were
enjoyed by all.



We have
returned to our
Journey
through the
Bible with the

story of Abraham and Sarah and will
continue to learn about their descendants.
We also shared about our new partnership
with nOURsh BRIDGEPORT and talked
about ways the kids can get involved and
make a difference in the lives of our
neighbors in greatest need.



We encourage
the children and
youth of TCC
(and their
families) to get

involved and share their gifts during
worship. There are many opportunities for
all ages including greeting, acolyte, ring
the bells, reading, singing, etc. If your child
is interested in participating in any of
these please let me know or check out the
signup sheets in the round room!

TREASURER'S REPORT

A Note from the Treasurer: Pledges

The lifeblood of our church is our pledges.
Pledges are, by far, our largest source of income
(about 2/3 of it); they allow us to continue to do
God's work for ourselves and others.

Our 2019 fiscal year ended on August 31 with the
church sustaining a \$36,600 loss for the year.
Most notably, while expenses were in line with
the budget, Pledge Contributions fell \$10,800
short of the amount pledged. While it's
understandable that people are not thinking about
trueing-up pledge commitments in August, as
opposed to at the end of the calendar year, 38 of
our 67 pledge "units" (for lack of a better term)
did not meet their pledged amount.

We will be mailing 2019 Fiscal Year-End
Contribution Statements in the next week or so. If
you are short of your pledged amount, please
make every effort to become current. When
making such a contribution, note in the memo line
that the payment is for "fiscal year 2019 pledge"
so we can keep our records straight.

As we enter fiscal year 2020 (September 1 –
August 31), we continue to be faced with
financial challenges. Last Sunday, the
congregation approved a budget showing an
expected \$48,000 loss for the year. We continue
to rely on the returns from our investments to
make up part of our deficits, but investment
returns do not cover the entire shortfall and we
will continue to see our endowment shrink.

So, while our pledge campaign for this year has
formally ended, it is never too late! If you've
pledged in the past and haven't done so this year,
or have never pledged before, simply contact
Pastor Tim, Jodi or myself, or send a note to the
office, with your wishes regarding making a
pledge for 2020. Your church family needs you!
~Don Espach



Music Ministry Notes

Welcome October! And with it, welcome apple picking, all things pumpkin spice, and the beauty of changing colors in the leaves. This month also brings Pipescreams, the Greater Bridgeport American Guild of Organists annual concert to raise awareness about the beauty and fun of organ music. It's a family friendly event - everyone comes dressed up in their Halloween costumes and the program features some 'spooky' music too! Please check it out if you haven't in years past. It's worth it.

Here's more info about the concert from their website: Pipescreams!

A concert of Halloween-themed and Broadway musical pieces featuring the mighty pipe organ, amazing choral ensembles, with over 100 singers, incredible musicians, a 1920's silent film, costume contest with prizes, reception. Sunday, October 20, 4:00 PM, First Church Congregational Stratford, 2301 Main Street, Stratford. Plenty of parking. Wheelchair accessible. Costumes encouraged. Tickets \$15 per adult/\$5 students (12-17); Free for children 11 & under. Proceeds benefit the Louise M. Miller—Paul E. Knox Scholarship given annually by the Greater Bridgeport Chapter, American Guild of Organists. This scholarship, in memory of two distinguished area church musicians, is awarded annually to a promising college-age organist. Past winners have gone on to distinguished careers with international recognition.

Special thank you to all of you who came out to our kick-off concert on September 8th - we had 50 people in attendance and raised \$218 for our music fund! It was quite a good time.

Here is the October TCC Music Ministry Schedule:

October 6th: Choir & Communion Sunday: don't miss beautiful traditional choir music!

October 13th: Soloist Sunday: Thanks to Bob Krakovich for volunteering this month

October 20th: 5pm Family Service: we will be singing 'prayerful' pop songs. (Go to Pipescreams for a bit and then join us at 5pm to draw new meaning from some familiar songs!)

October 27th: Contemporary Sunday: offering contemporary Christian music

I hope this month brings with it peace, joy, and meaningful musical sounds for you and your family.

In song,
-Ilana

****The monthly Ladies Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 9th at 12:00pm. We hope to see you there!!!**



****The monthly Men's Luncheon will be held on Thursday October 17th at 12:00pm. Lunch and coffee will be served. Please contact Herb Gratrix with questions.**



The Trumbull Interfaith Council
cordially invites you to attend one of Trumbull's
most meaningful events of a beautiful time of year.

Trumbull Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 24, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

The Parish of St. Catherine of Siena
220 Shelton Road, Trumbull

Reception in the Church Hall will follow the service

Please bring a non-perishable food donation to benefit Trumbull Social Services.

ABOUT THE TRUMBULL INTERFAITH COUNCIL:

The purpose of the Council is to promote understanding, respect and cooperation between the various religious traditions serving the community in Trumbull. The group encourages all faiths that hold services in town on a regular basis to participate in the organization. We are part of a local, non-sectarian coordinating agency for charitable and volunteer activity in the town of Trumbull. The Council is comprised of Trumbull clergy and lay representatives from our churches who gather monthly to share culture and practices of the respective faiths. Two yearly events sponsored by the group are Thanksgiving and Good Friday services. This outreach lends spiritual strength to all age groups in our Trumbull community.

ARMENIAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY ASCENSION ~ CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH TASHUA
CHRIST THE KING ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ~ CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH ~ GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ LONG HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NICHOLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ~ ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. GEORGE ALBANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH ~ ST. STEPHEN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
ST. THERESA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ~ TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TRUMBULL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ~ UNITY HILL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST