



The CRIER

The Trumbull Congregational Church

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December 2019

Notes from Pastor Tim.....

"So, if I ever can't see the magic around me, please take my hands off my eyes." – *Through the Ages*, by Cloud Cult

God calls us to be a Church – an interpretive community of intentional practice – so that we can help one another take our hands off our own eyes and see the magic around us.

I am more convinced of this than ever. Too often we think of the Christian journey as personal and private. And, too often we think of it as the process of being a "good person" and doing the things God would have us do.

I believe that it is more than these things. I believe it is ultimately about intimacy with God. I believe with the Apostle Paul that it is about being "raised with Christ" or "hidden with Christ in God."

I know, these are confusing terms. They are especially confusing when the world that shapes us values autonomy, affluence, and ego above human contingency upon God, gratitude, and humility. It is easy for the Church to slip into a pattern of engaging in "churchy" behaviors while operating within the world's way of thinking.

Here's what I mean: we can "do good in the world" without experiencing God in action; we can worship without giving ourselves to God; we can build fellowship without becoming the likeness and image of God to and for one another. When these things happen, we find ultimately that we do not need the church, and that is because the church isn't truly being "The Church."

To be true to The Church's mission we need intentionally to practice our values of contingency, gratitude, and humility. We need intentionally to practice experiencing God, giving ourselves to God, and embodying God. Equally important is the practice of interpreting our experiences together. By sharing the Christian journey together, we make God real for one another. By sharing our answers to the question, "How did you experience God?" we open one another's eyes to the magic of God's presence and we learn to interpret our experiences theologically. In other words, we learn to say, "There's God!" when we might otherwise miss God.

This is why God has called us to be The Church here together at TCC. God has given us to one another so that we might help take the hands off our eyes and see the magic of God. Let's be intentional about this!

Peace,


Tim

A New Care Team?

Who is the minister of our church? All of us! We are all ministers. This is a core value of the congregational system of church. To build on this value the Ministry Fulfillment Committee and I would like to convene a "Care Team" of members who will be available to respond when people in our church need help. Maybe someone needs help with grocery shopping, or with meals, or transportation, or something else. Would you like to be on a team that organizes this kind of care? Please let either Lesley Kitchener or me know. Thanks, Tim





Changes to our Prayer List?

I would like to use our prayer list to help us more intentionally and more actively hold one another in prayer. Currently, names on our prayer list are only removed upon request. Therefore, names often remain indefinitely and the prayer list becomes a bit static. I think the prayer list can be a more powerful tool! If the list is new and renewed every week – a more intentional list – we'll be more apt to use it more actively for heartfelt support of one another.

My idea is that prayers can be submitted via email, phone call, pew card, and website each week for the generation of a new prayer list, which will appear in the Sunday bulletin. We can use these lists actively to pray for one another and reach out to one another in support. Our prayers will be energized by the confidence of knowing that the prayer requests are current. Of course, I wouldn't want to discourage long-term prayers for anyone. Under this new system it would be perfectly appropriate for the same name to be submitted week after week as long as prayer for that person is desired.

What do you think? Please let me know! Thanks, Tim



Baby Center collection –
Thanks to all who donated
during October!



nOURish BRIDGEPORT Night

The next date will be December 19th. Please mark your calendars and be sure to invite family and friends to share in this great opportunity! Sign up on the TCC website or let Pastor Tim, Holly Breidfjord or Deb Rosati know how many are coming.



Women's Book Group – the next meeting will be in January. Keep on the lookout for more information!

****The monthly Ladies Luncheon will be held on
Wednesday, December 11th at 12:00pm.
We hope to see you there!!!**



****The monthly Men's Luncheon will be held on
Thursday December 19th at 12:00pm. Lunch
and coffee will be served. Please contact
Herb Gratrix with questions.**

Music Ministry Notes

Lo, Advent comes! Welcome December. Advent is one of the most musically beautifully liturgical seasons in the life of the church, I think. The quiet anticipation that is the tone of much of the Advent music is in stark contrast to the hectic pace of the world outside the sanctuary. I hope you can tap into some of that Advent peace and quiet anticipation through the TCC music ministry offerings this month!

A quick look back to thank all those involved in our November musical offerings. Our choir wowed us with a beautiful composition by Paul Mealor called "I am the Gentle Light," originally commissioned for the National Youth Choir of Scotland. Jimi-Charlotte Han joined them as a guest soprano soloist. We also had another guest singer, Nicole D'Onofrio share a song by Lauren Daigle called "You Say" -Nicole offered a vocal tone that was slightly different than what we usually hear in church because her training was in musical theater at Westminster Choir College. Our 5pm Family Service was fun and musical as always -thanks to our talented TCC singers. And our contemporary team closed out the month share some praise and worship songs with us. Thank you all.

Looking ahead, here is the December TCC Music Ministry Schedule:

December 1st: Choir & Communion Sunday

December 8th: Soloist Sunday

December 15th: 5pm Family Service - Don't miss the TCC Christmas Pageant tonight!

December 22nd: Contemporary Sunday

December 24th: Christmas Eve Service- 5pm

December 29th: Sing-along Sunday -we will have a participatory anthem and hopefully a hymn sing as well!

I hope all of you experience an abundance of blessings this Advent season and have a very Merry Christmas.



In song,
-Ilana



Sunday School **News**

During December we will be learning about Advent and the meaning of the candles on the

Advent Wreath. We will also be busy practicing for our Christmas Program which will be held during the December 15th 5:00 Family Service. All children are invited to join us in the Christmas program!

12/1 - Advent wreath craft & Christmas Program Rehearsal

12/8 - FINAL REHEARSAL for Christmas Program

12/15 - CHRISTMAS PROGRAM during 5pm Family Service

12/22 - Sunday School Christmas Celebration / The birth of Jesus!

