



Cross Ways

The Newsletter of
The Congregational Church of Brookfield
160 Whisconier Road,
Brookfield, CT 06804
(203) 775-1259

April 2014

We hope you will join us for our Easter Celebration!

Sunday, April 20th - *"Find New Life on the Way"*

Easter sunrise at 5:30am – Location TBA

Rev. Jennifer Whipple preaches, and outdoor worship is led by the Brookfield Ecumenical Clergy group.

Communion Worship in the Meetinghouse at 8:30am

Worship with Choirs in the Meetinghouse at 10:30am

Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia preaches on Matthew 28:1-20, the resurrection and the "Great Commission," as the followers of Jesus are sent out to "make disciples."



Meeting of Church Council: March 11, 2014

In an effort to keep the congregation better informed as to the actions taken or being considered by the Church Council, we include a summary of significant actions in the monthly Crossways.

Council discussed a slate of nominees to serve on the Personnel Committee.

Stewardship has received 140 pledge cards so far, and 38 more are expected. Last year 170 pledge cards were turned in.

Jennifer is working on a final draft of the Funds Guidelines report to be presented to Council in April.

Moderator's report: Jennifer requested \$100 from Christian Growth & Enrichment Fund for the CCB Women's Retreat. Council approved the request.

Vice Moderator's report: Council will discuss the final draft of the revised bylaws at the Leadership Retreat on May 10.

Treasurer's report: The cash reserve account appears at the bottom of the balance sheet this month under "unrestricted net assets." \$2,500 for memorial projects has not been spent yet. P & L: Pledge income is \$9,300 under budget so far. Committees are under budget on expenses, so overall we are \$11,000 ahead as of the end of February.

The Worship committee requests that the sliding doors to Brooks Hall always be open during worship to accommodate those who cannot be comfortably seated in the pews. After 15 years of service Dan Leniart is retiring from the Reach Booth, and Patrick Downey will head to college in the fall, leaving only 2 trained operators. Charter Communications will train volunteers to video edit at no cost.

Church House: The lighting upgrade project is finished. The solar panel project application has been entered and must be selected by lottery in order to start. Our chances of being selected are not very high. Both of the large trees in front of the Meetinghouse are slated for removal under the state's post-Sandy guidelines. An all church work day will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 9 am – to 1 pm. The tile floors will be stripped and waxed before Easter.

Fellowship: The Pancake dinner was a success thanks to the combined efforts of the CE and Fellowship committees.

CE report: Healing Ministry is the next topic in CE 101 on March 23. All-church picnic will be June 15. Vacation Bible School is at CCB this year from July 7 – 11. Also on May 2: the Adult Prom at Capel- laro's Grove. Scholarships are available.

CIS delivered 96 bags of groceries to Brookfield Social Services. The CIS share of the investment income distribution was given to the SYF mission trip. The remainder of the CIS operating budget monies were given to Silver Lake, Danbury Women's Center, the water and stove project in Nicaragua, Simply Smiles and Brookfield Social Services.

Welcome: New members will be formally welcomed at the 10:30 service on April 6.

Pastor reports: Bryn asked for general prayers for those in fragile health. Lenten Lunch speakers will be from other churches or faiths. The Sunday evening study group is beginning a new study of *Faith's Family Album*. Jennifer said Jane Moran has agreed to be our intern this summer. Former intern Kendra Joyner is going to North Carolina for her pre-ordination meeting and is getting married on August 2. SYF raised approximately \$1,800 at the Talent Show. There is no decision yet where the Easter sunrise service will be held, but it will be at 5:30am on April 20th.

You are always welcome to attend and observe the Council Meetings. To be added to the agenda of the monthly meeting, please contact Nancy Vodra, Moderator or Dave Goral, Vice Moderator.



**April Serendippers/Lenten Lunch Gathering
Tuesday, April 8th at 11:45am**

Please join us!

Our menu:

Quiche
Fruit
Coffee

Please contact Eleanor Loesch for additional information
OR you can contact the Church Office 203-775-1259
Hope to see you all there!

****NOTE: If school is delayed or cancelled, there will be no Serendippers.***

Annual Meeting - April 27, 2013

Our church's Annual Meeting will be held April 27th immediately following the **SINGLE 10:00am** service of worship and a delicious brunch.

Just the words "annual meeting" might make your eyes glaze over, but it truly is an exciting opportunity to see our vision statement, "***Make Jesus Your Mentor - Pray, Share, Welcome***" at work in all we do. It is no accident that "pray, share and welcome" are action verbs. Our annual report shares what we have been doing this past year and looks forward to the coming year which is filled with hope and promise. We elect members to serve on committees. We make decisions about how we spend our financial resources. We chart the course for the coming year. So please plan to attend our church's Annual Meeting.

LIFE in the Wilderness – *Lent-Easter 2014*

**The road of life can be rocky and hard –
join us in worship this Lent to help find your way...**

This Lent, get yourself spiritually prepared for all that life throws at us as we journey through this world – with all its “dangers, toils and snares.” Our April worship explores how we can travel as a Pilgrim people together through the often barren, and sometimes even hostile, landscape of our daily lives.

Sundays at 8:30 & 10:30 am

Lent 4: April 6 ***“Get Ties that Bind”*** Communion /New Member Sunday –
Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia preaches on Ezekiel 37:1-17, the
great prophet’s vision of “the valley of dry bones.”

Palm Sunday: April 13 ***“Walk Softly on the Earth”***
Worship with Palm Processional –
Rev. Jennifer Whipple preaches on Matthew 21:1-11, the triumphal
entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, to cheering crowds waving palms.

Easter Sunday: April 20 ***“Find New Life on the Way”***
Easter sunrise at 5:30am – Rev. Jennifer Whipple preaches, and
outdoor worship is led by the Brookfield Ecumenical Clergy group.
Communion Worship in the Meetinghouse at 8:30am –
Worship with Choirs in the Meetinghouse at 10:30am –
Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia preaches on Matthew 28:1-20, the
resurrection and the “Great Commission,” as the followers of Jesus
are sent out to “make disciples.”

Special Services of Holy Week

7:30 pm Maundy Thursday: April 17 ***“Share Your Supplies”***
Candlelight Communion in the Meetinghouse with Tenebrae and music from the Adult Choir
– Rev. Jennifer Whipple preaches on Exodus 12:1-14, the story of the first Passover – the
Jewish holiday that was the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples the night before his cruci-
fixion.

10am Good Friday: April 18 All are welcome to join us in the CCB Parking Lot to begin
our annual “Cross Walk” around town with our brothers and sisters from other Brookfield
churches – sharing prayers, scripture, and reflections as we remember the solemn journey of
Jesus to the Cross.

Join us to study The Bible: Faith's Family Album Sundays 5-6:30 pm in Church Library, through June

All are welcome to join us for a new book study in the Church Library Sunday nights 5-6:30pm. *The Bible: Faith's Family Album* uses both creative storytelling and sound scholarship to provide an excellent introduction to how to read the Bible – and perhaps more importantly, WHY. Its author is a UCC pastor, Rev. Jack Good, who has ample real-life church experience to help ordinary Christians better understand and interpret the Bible for themselves – and to learn more about the times and the ancient peoples for which Holy Scripture was written. Although we began study of this new book March 16, you are welcome to join us at any time – even for just one meeting, as you have time available. Reading the chapters ahead of time is obviously helpful, but all are welcome to attend and participate in discussion. Please order your own copy of the book– it is out of print (St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1998), but there are many inexpensive copies available on Amazon and other good internet used book sites.

Sunday Night Adult Study *The Bible: Faith's Family Album*

Ch. 3 – The Community Traces Its History	April 6
Ch. 4 – The Community Survives Crisis	April 13
<i>EASTER (no 5pm class)</i>	<i>April 20</i>
Ch. 5 – The Community Produces Artists and Philosophers	April 27
<i>CCB BELL CONCERT at 4pm (no 5pm class)</i>	<i>May 4</i>
<i>MOTHERS' DAY (no 5pm class)</i>	<i>May 11</i>
Ch. 6 – The Community in Transition: Between Hebrew & Greek	May 18
<i>MEMORIAL DAY PARADE (no 5pm class)</i>	<i>May 25</i>
Ch. 7 – The Community Encounters a Unique Figure	June 1
<i>Remaining June dates and summer class schedule is still to be determined...</i>	

Gospel Light's
**SONTreasure
ISLAND VBS**

Save the date!
July 7th thru July 11th, 2014
at Congregational Church of Brookfield

Please follow us on facebook : [Brookfield Ecumenical Vacation Bible School](#)

**Join us for Adventure at SonTreasure Island —
Brookfield's Ecumenical Vacation Bible School!**

All school-aged children (entering grades Kindergarten through 6th grade) are invited to be part of the excitement as Brookfield's only Ecumenical Vacation Bible School gears up for another year! Each year, representatives from Valley Presbyterian, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the Congregational Church of Brookfield work together to share God's word with local children. The curriculum this year is *Gospel Light's SonTreasure*.

Son Treasure will have children "explore the oceans" to learn of Jesus' love through Bible stories, arts and crafts, and uplifting music and games. Young adventurers will take away lessons of love and memories of laughter that last long after VBS is over.

Come experience the adventure at **Congregational Church of Brookfield from July 7th- July 11th**, 2014. Registration forms are available at the church office, or request an email form from leannefuccillo@yahoo.com. Cost is \$25 per child with a maximum of \$60 per family. Classroom experiences are for those children entering grades Kindergarten through 6th grade, and a CIT program (including service hours) is available for those entering grades 7 and 8. Assistant teaching opportunities are available for those in high school, and we are always looking for adult volunteers in other areas such as crafts, snacks, games, etc.

Questions? Contact: Leanne Fuccillo at leannefuccillo@yahoo.com for more information.

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook at Brookfield Ecumenical Vacation Bible School for updates and reminders on our program!!

Did You Know?

SERRV is an acronym for Sales Exchange For Refugee Rehabilitation and Vocation. It was started by the Church of Brethren in 1949 for the displaced refugees of WWII. The very first American product was a German cuckoo clock! Most of the refugees and merchandise have changed since then, but the mission is the same: To eradicate poverty wherever it resides by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers world wide.

SERRV is a non profit founding member of the World Fair Trade Federation. They strive for meaningful actions that drive real change. This is accomplished by paying fair wages, prepaying for merchandise, encouraging equal rights for women and providing grants and education for new design and skill development in over 30 countries.

Please join us on **Palm Sunday, April 13th** for a sale to support this amazing 65 year old mission!

Divine chocolate and Easter treats will be on display!
Thank you for all your support,

Linda Siciliano, Karen Underhill and Marie Immohr

Join Us for Lenten Lunches

Tuesdays, April 1st, 8th and 15th
12 pm to 1 pm in Fellowship Hall

*A light lunch will be served, and our speakers (guests from other faith traditions) will share with us their thoughts on the question: **What does the "wilderness" mean in your faith tradition and your personal faith?** Speakers include:*

April 1 – Rev. P.J. Leopold (Danbury Association of Religious Communities)

Serendippers April 8 – Rabbi Jon Haddon (Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Shearith Israel in Ridgefield)

April 15 – Chaplain Shazeeda Khan (Director of Islamic Education, Baitul Mukarram Masjid of Greater Danbury)

Note: Please let the office know if you need child care
(203-775-1259 or office@ucgb.org)



Fellowship Of Concern

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Sandy Boughton,
Judith Fisher,
Evelyn Gerowe,
Anne Hardin,
Vivian Henley,
Pat Roehling,
Shirley Stoppel,
Betsy Wurtmann,

BAPTISM:

- On March 16th, Sabrina Taylor Mendes, daughter of Luis and Elaina Mendes.

CrossWays Deadline

The deadline for the May issue of CrossWays is April 15th. You can e-mail articles to Jeannine McCullough at office@uccb.org or leave them in the CrossWays mailbox outside of the church office. Please e-mail or call Jeannine McCullough, Office Manager at 203-775-1259 if you have any questions.



WITH THANKS:

To All,

Thank you to all of my church friends for all of your cards and concerns after my sister Patty's death.

Thank you,
Beth Ballard

With our family so far away, we cannot thank you enough, church family, for all the practical support, prayers and words of comfort and encouragement during my recovery.

God Bless,
Cindy, Tom & Natasha Radtke

To my dear friends at CCB,

I cannot thank you enough for the kindness extended to me during my recuperation from knee replacement surgery. Your thoughts, prayers, presents, cards, emails and calls meant the world to me. Thank you to the Serendippers for meals that were such a treat! And to so many others I extend my heartfelt gratitude. I truly know how blessed I am to have such a loving church family.

Warmly,
Linda Siciliano

Congregational Church of Brookfield,

On behalf of all the guests and volunteers at Dorothy Day Hospitality House, thank you for your most generous donation of \$2,970.36 in honor of Brookfield's 225th Anniversary. Your gift is a real blessing to us.

With deepest appreciation,
Joe Simons
Dorothy Day House Treasurer

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you so much for your recent food drive. Donations tend to taper off after the holiday season, so your generous collection was very well timed.

With appreciation,
The volunteers of the
Brookfield Food Pantry

"Do not be afraid....remember, I am with you always to the end of the age."

~Matthew 28: 5 & 20

I very much appreciate the stories in the Bible where people react as I imagine I would react if placed in their shoes. In Matthew's account of the resurrection the women go to the tomb only to be met with an earthquake, an angel, stunned frozen guards, and an encounter with the risen Christ. As we can imagine they are full of mixed emotions. They are frightened. They are overwhelmed. They are joyful.

Those famous words are spoken twice. You know the words. **"Do not be afraid."** First the angel tells the women not to be afraid. Then the resurrected Christ chimes in with the same words. My question is always, how could they not be afraid? Some crazy stuff is happening, and they certainly were not prepared for it. After all, no one could quite interpret Jesus' prediction before his death of all that was to happen in the days following. How could they not be afraid when the world was literally rocked under their feet, and death itself was turned upside down?

And yet how could they not be joyful? They came to anoint the body of their dead Rabbi, and it wasn't there. Not only wasn't it there, but there he was greeting them on their way back to share the good news of his resurrection with the disciples. The scripture says they were joyful and worshiped him. Then they went on their way. But even Jesus had to tell them not to be afraid. There were implications to this good news of Jesus' resurrection. The authorities certainly wouldn't be happy about this news coming down the pike.

Enter the disciples who meet the risen Christ with joy, fear, and doubt. How could this be? It didn't make any sense. With one last set of instructions Jesus leaves them to go about the business of preaching, teaching, healing, and baptizing....making disciples of all nations. And with one last reassurance they are sent on their way. "And remember, I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

If I were in the shoes of the women at the tomb or of the disciples my guess is that I would have been filled with mixed emotions too. Excitement, doubt, joy, fear, comfort...you name it, and I think I would have felt it. Boy, am I glad I have their example to follow. Because thankfully their mixed emotions didn't stop them from following through. The women went ahead and told the disciples that Jesus had risen, and that they were to meet the risen Christ. The disciples went to the meeting and listened to the set of instructions Jesus would give. And because they did we are here drawn together in community—caring for one another, wrestling with questions, growing together in faith, serving within the church and out in the world in God's name. All the while we have the reassurance of Jesus promise to be with us always.

As we celebrate Easter with joy and hope in new life, may we be reminded to feel all of the things that our faith provokes in us, but may we also be reminded to follow through on Jesus' call to share our faith in word and deed in the world. We never know when the assurance of Jesus' presence shown through our words and actions may be just what someone else needs.

Easter blessings to you all!



A Note of Thanks...

The 2014 Stewardship Campaign has drawn to a truly wonderful conclusion, and we are moved to express our sincere thanks to one and all for your heartfelt participation in this year's pledge drive. We are ever mindful of the needs of those beyond our body of faith, and also within. The generous gifts of time, talent and – yes – treasure have been and will continue to be gratefully received. We feel blessed to serve as your Stewardship Committee.

Faithfully, Sally Markiewicz (chair), Robin Murphy, Thom Grogan, Alan Peck, Desere Edwards, Mike Sikorski, Tom Brown, Dan Smolnik, Richard Nyers and Sissy McKee



Important Reminder to Online Givers – Or those who wish to be!!

Please be sure to go online through the Vanco website to set up or make any necessary changes to your online giving profile based on your 2014 pledge!

Go to www.uccb.org and click on the Stewardship tab on the far left. For help, call Jeannine in the Church Office at 203-775-1259.

Thank you! Your Stewardship Committee

Board of Deacons

Your Deacon Branch provides a way for you to have a specific member of the Board with whom to relate. If you have requests or concerns that you'd like to share with a lay person, your Deacon is available. Naturally, if you're more comfortable calling one of the other deacons, or one of your pastors, please feel free to do so. Such requests or concerns might include:

- a need for prayer
- a request for help (transport to a doctor's appointment, church function, etc.)
- a sorrow (illness, accident, death)
- a joy (a birth, graduation, upcoming wedding, etc.)
- something that particularly pleases you, or would better meet your needs in the worship service

Remember, if you don't know your Deacon, ask someone to introduce you. He or she will look forward to meeting you – in church or out!

Deacon Branches 2013-2014

A-BEN	Leslie Sands —
BER-CI	Barbara Anderson –
CL-DI	Joanna Sanderson—
DO-FI	Sherrie Ruschmeyer—
FO-HI	Carol Howe –
HO-LA	Sue Boughton—
LE-MAR	Walt Fisher—
MAT-MU	Mike Anastas —
N-RI	Margitta Savo—
RO-SI	Linae Wutzl –
SL-T	Dan McKee –
U-Z	Martha Parvis—

Youth Deacons:

Carolyn Marron
Cory McCullough

Committee Chairmen and Church Council Reps

Please call these elected representatives with any questions or comments regarding any matter of interest or concern to you:

Moderator: Nancy Vodra
Vice Moderator: Dave Goral
Clerk: Kathy Wandelmaier
Treasurer: Laurie Matson
Investment Treasurer: Greg Labas



Committee Chairs

Christian Ed Bob Pursell
Church House Ken Arifian
Church-In-Society Sue Slater
Deacons Sherrie Ruschmeyer
Fellowship Eleanor Loesch
Nominating Kim Downey
Personnel Walt Fisher
Stewardship Sally Markiewicz
Welcome Carol Eagan
Worship Jean Dorrell

Church Council Representatives

Christian Ed Dave Honeyford
Church House Larry Ruschmeyer
Church In Society Kathy Taylor
Deacons Mike Anastas
Fellowship Sarah Cline
Nominating Kim Downey
Stewardship Desere Edwards
Welcome Jean Dorrell
Worship Bob Brown
Historian Gordon Markiewicz

Pastoral Relations Committee

Jean Dorrell (chair), Dave Honeyford, Robin Murphy, Leslie Sands, Bob Lambert

Personnel Committee

Nancy Vodra, Dave Goral, Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Walt Fisher (chair),
Barbara Anderson, Michael Matson, Olivia Quinsland

Senior Pastor	Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia	bryn@uccb.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. Jennifer Whipple	jennifer@uccb.org
Organist/Choir	Toni Sullivan	sullivantt@hotmail.com
Membership Care	Sue Ronan	sue@uccb.org
Church School	Heather Berner	bernerheather@hotmail.com
Church Office	Jeannine McCullough	203-775-1259 office@uccb.org



Annual Meeting & Brunch Sunday, April 27th

Please join us on Sunday, April 27th at our Annual Meeting and Brunch in celebration of all our members who have served and will be serving on our church committees.

The Nominating and Fellowship Committees will host a brunch in Fellowship Hall after the **SINGLE 10:00 service**, immediately followed by the Annual Meeting.

If you are willing to bring fruit, muffins, bagels or a breakfast casserole, please fill out the form below and drop it in the offering plate, return it to the church office, or contact Kathy Wandelmaier .

NAME _____

PHONE _____

I will bring to the Annual Meeting on April 27th

Fruit _____

Bagels or Muffins _____

Breakfast Casserole _____

(Recipes are available in the church office or from Kathy)

CrossWays – the newsletter of

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(203)-775-1259 Fax (203)-775-3466
Email: office@uccb.org

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE
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Sunday Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Jennifer Whipple, Associate Pastor
The Rev. M. S. Desmond, Pastor Emeritus

Youth Fellowship in April

Our Junior and Senior Youth Fellowship groups will meet on April 6th and 27th this month. We will not meet on April 13th due to spring vacation or April 20th due to Easter.

Junior Youth Fellowship (6th-8th graders):

Sunday, April 6th— I love to tell the story.— 5-6:30pm

- Join us for some story telling, bread baking, Easter preparation.

Sunday, April 27th—Trail hike and clean up— time TBD

- In honor of Earth Day we will take to the fresh air and trails.

Senior Youth Fellowship (9th-12th graders):

Sunday, April 6th—Spring Service & GA GA—7-8:30pm

- We will create the Spring goody bags for the seniors at the food pantry and then play GA GA....so be sure to wear your coolest socks!

Sunday, April 27th—Meeting details TBD



Confirmation Class:

Healthy Choices Retreat—Saturday, April 5th-Sunday, April 6th

We will meet in the CCB parking lot at 2:30pm on Saturday to travel to the Congregational Church of Naugatuck and will return to CCB on Sunday about 12:15pm after joining the congregation there for Sunday morning worship.

Class Meeting—Sunday, April 27th from 5-7pm

We will think about the question "What if I don't believe that?" as we begin to make some decisions regarding confirming faith and church membership.



CCB ADULT PROM

Come walk the red carpet and join us for an evening of music, dancing, food and FUN!

Date: Friday, May 2nd
Time: 7-11pm
Place: Capellaro's Grove
42 Vail Road, Bethel

Tickets will be for sale for \$25 through any of our SYF Mission Team members and at church on Sundays in April. (Scholarship assistance is available if the cost is prohibitive.)

Hors d'oeuvres and desserts will be provided. Cash bar will be available.

There will also be a basket and silent auction.***

All proceeds will benefit this year's SYF Mission Trip to South Dakota.

***Note: If you or someone you know would like to donate an item, basket or service to the auction please be in touch with Pastor Jen.

