

# CrossWays

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

**MARCH 2015**

We'll leave the **light** on  
for you



*From your Stewardship Committee...*

*As we joyfully and gratefully gather to dedicate and celebrate our pledges, we are ever mindful that our collective commitments in treasure, time and talent have the power to shine a bright beam on the bountiful goodness of God's love.*

***Thank you for leaving the light on for us all!***

*Sally Markiewicz, Desere Edwards, Alan Peck, Tom Grogan,  
Richard Nyers, Tom Brown, Pete Lane and Sissy McKee*



**SPRING FORWARD  
Sunday, March 8th!!**

*Remember to change your clocks before bed  
on Saturday!!!*

# Meeting of Church Council: February 10, 2015

## Moderator's Report

Council members submitted nominations for an opening on the Nominating Committee and on the Personnel Committee.

## Vice Moderator's Report

Dave opened discussion of an amendment to the by-laws that would establish a Long Range Planning. Discussion will continue at the March Council meeting. Nominees will be approached about their willingness to serve.

## Treasurer's Report

Income is \$19,720 behind year-to-date budget. Spending is behind budget as well, but net income is still projected to be approximately \$7,000 in the red. Nancy asked all committee reps to instruct their committees to keep spending down in order to minimize negative carryover.

## Committee Reports

*Worship:* The committee received a request for \$845 from CG&E. It will cover the cost of scholarships for sending members of the bell choir to the bell festival at U Mass. This represents half of the actual cost for scholarships needed. The other half will come from the designated Music fund. Training includes bell repair, not just music instruction. This has saved money on repairs. Bob B. moved to approve the request, Gordon M. seconded. The motion was approved.

*Fellowship:* Two Lenten soup dinners are planned for 3/3 and 3/24, plus a Lent-themed Serendippers on 3/10.

*Church House:* CH has been concentrating on energy efficiency. The solar and lighting upgrade projects have been completed, and attention has turned to improving insulation throughout the campus.

*Church in Society:* The Giving from the Heart project has distributed 60 bags so far. \$500 left over from the Women's mission trip will be donated to the Irons Homestead (the UCC Camp in RI) and the Providence Rescue Mission. The committee is in the process of updating their profile on the CCB website. CIS also submitted a proposal for using the Parsonage for the annual Thrift Shop. Council approved the motion.

*Stewardship:* The committee thanks everyone for sending in their pledge cards. Pledge dedication has been postponed to March 8th.

*Deacons:* Communion will not be served at the 10:30 am Easter service, only at the 8:30 service, and also on Maundy Thursday.

*Christian Education:* CE is still trying to recruit people to lead Time for Children. Jennifer DiLorenzo is coordinating. Barbara C. has created a stewardship curriculum and a Lent curriculum. The theme of the Lent curriculum is "Questions about God." CE needs Sunday School teachers.

*Welcome:* Welcome is planning to launch a \$500 print advertising campaign. It was debated whether print ad results were worth \$500. The decision will be left to the Welcome committee.

## Pastors' Reports

Jennifer made a motion to request spending up to \$450 from CG&E to cover a full scholarship for one of our youth to go to Silver Lake this summer. The deposit will be paid from the Pastor's Fund. The motion was approved. This summer's SYF mission trip will be to Long Island to assist with ongoing Hurricane Sandy recovery. The Monday morning discussion group will be reading Convictions by Marcus Borg.

Bryn thanked everyone for sympathy expressed at the passing of her uncle Jake. A family who heard Olivia Q's stewardship talk expressed their appreciation for her words because they were looking for an O&A church. Bryn will be preaching at Allysa DeWolf's installation service in Santa Barbara. General Synod will be in Cleveland June 26 – 30. Bryn will be attending as a delegate from our association.

*Church Council Meetings are open to all and are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 in Brooks Hall. If you would like to have something put on the agenda for a Church Council meeting please contact Nancy Vodra, Moderator or Dave Goral, Vice Moderator.*



**March Serendippers/Lenten Lunch Gathering  
Tuesday, March 10th at 11:45am**

We will consider some of the big questions of faith  
as you have the chance to “Stump the Pastors.”

Our menu:  
Vegetable Soup with Basil and Garlic  
Ice Cream

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.**

***Youth Fellowship in March***



**Junior Youth Fellowship (for youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades):**

- March 1<sup>st</sup> - Regular Meeting - 5-6:30pm
- March 7<sup>th</sup> - All Church Talent Show - 6pm
- March 8<sup>th</sup> - No Regular Meeting due to the Talent Show
- March 15<sup>th</sup> - St. Patrick's Day Mall Scavenger Hunt (time TBA)
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Teambuilding Night - 5-6:30pm
- March 29<sup>th</sup> - Easter Goody Bag Creation & GA GA - 5-6:30pm

**Senior Youth Fellowship (for youth in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)**

- March 1<sup>st</sup> - What are Dreams All About? - 7-9pm (note extended time)
- March 7<sup>th</sup> - All Church Talent Show (mission trip fundraiser) - 6pm
- March 8<sup>th</sup> - No Meeting due to the Talent Show
- March 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> - Mini-THON at BHS - 6pm Friday to 6am Saturday
- March 15<sup>th</sup> - No Meeting due to Mini-THON
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Teambuilding Night - 7-8:30pm
- March 29<sup>th</sup> - Regular Meeting - 7-8:30pm



## Notes from the Choir Room: March 2015



I watch the Cherub Choir kids joyfully moving to the music. They use their entire bodies to express the ways the music makes them feel. We talk about the meaning of the words “Jesus loves me, He cares for me.....I will share His love and care.” They think of ways they can share their love with others. They sing the words, and they know the words in their hearts and in their minds and in their bodies. I am reminded of the words of one of my favorite ladies in the children’s choir world, Helen Kemp. We have a poster with her words hanging in the choir room; “Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice; It takes a whole person to sing and rejoice.” Just watch the children as they sing, and you see it in living color!!

### March music schedule:

March 1: Joy Ringers

Glory Ringers - “Steal Away” (Eithun)

March 8: Adult Choir - “Agnus Dei” (Butler)

Youth Choir - “Pie Jesu”( Lightfoot)

March 15: Adult Choir - “God So Loved the World” (Stainer)

Cherub and Alleluia Choirs - “I Will Give My Heart to the Lord”(Patterson)

March 22: Adult Choir - “Let This Mind Be In You” (Butler)

Glory Ringers - “Grazioso” (Sherman)

March 29: Adult Choir - “Lift Up Your Heads” (Mathias)

Cherub and Alleluia Choirs -“ Hosanna in the Highest” (LeDoux)



### **Lenten Dinners**

Join us in Brooks Hall on Tuesdays, March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:45 pm for simple suppers and stimulating conversation. We will be examining some of our big faith questions – drawing on our own beliefs, as well as some of the information from our current adult study opportunities and Sunday worship services. We hope you will come out to join us for this special part of our Lenten journey.

## ***All About SERRV***

On designated Sundays at what is known as our “SERRV Table,” our congregation has the opportunity to extend its reach throughout the world, supporting several organizations simultaneously. Every product tells a story -one of artists, farmers or artisans working towards improving their lives. Families are empowered to break the cycle of poverty through fair wages and respectful relationships. Let’s look more closely at some of the organizations represented during our sale.

**SERRV** is a nonprofit organization that provides hope and sustenance to thousands of small-scale artisans and farmers in 30 countries. Its mission is to eradicate poverty wherever it resides. Founded in 1949 as a refugee organization, SERRV has expanded greatly to represent opportunity for fair trade crafts and food both at home and abroad. In addition to purchasing and marketing products, SERRV works with its partners to provide tools to work their way out of poverty, including product design, training, information and technical assistance.

**Aid Through Trade**, one of the founding members of the Fair Trade Federation, was started in 1993 by a former Peace Corps volunteer. It is now one of the leaders in the fair trade fashion industry and employs over 75 women artisans in Nepal. Aid through Trade is recognized in the industry for its signature glass beaded Roll-On™ bracelet. The artisans enjoy prestige, sisterhood, dignity, fair remuneration and other benefits.

Located in Cambodia, **Sak Saum** is a ministry dedicated to the rescue, restoration, transformation and rehabilitation of vulnerable and exploited women and men. Its goal is to create a nurturing, empowering, restorative program. They facilitate economic and educational development for 12 girls full-time, and 50+ men and women in their Vocational Training Center. Sak Saum specializes in beautifully handmade goods such as purses and scarves.

Each purchase has the unique ability to give twice, both to its recipient as well as the artisan or farmer producer. Please join us on Palm Sunday, March 29th for our special Easter sale to support these amazing missions!

Sincerely,  
Linda, Karen and Marie



## ***CCB Parsonage – Did You Know?***

Many of you may not even realize that we have a parsonage on our property here at CCB. The big white house across the parking lot was purchased in 1958 as pastor housing. Since that time 6 pastors and their families have resided in the parsonage. However, during our last pastoral transition it was clear that the parsonage needed a number of significant repairs and upgrades, so we decided to make the parsonage project a part of our last Capital Campaign during our Anniversary Year in 2007. (While those repairs and upgrades were being completed, both of our current pastors purchased their own homes.)

So what has been happening with the parsonage? Morrison's Gang, along with a number of contractors, completed the necessary repairs and upgrades to keep the parsonage safe and stable as a home and meeting place for our church. We had a small group working on a vision for the parsonage when we came to realize that the parsonage was only a small part of a much needed full scale long range plan for our church and its properties. To that end the Planning Task Force (PTF) was formed and has been considering the use of the parsonage among other important projects and ministries.

That does not mean that the parsonage has been sitting empty and unused, however. Morrison's Gang has used it as its meeting place and center of operations for years, as they have worked on repairs all around our church campus. The Yankee Fair has used the parsonage to house Second Hand Rose, Collectibles, and Used Toys. The Church in Society (CIS) committee has used the space for the annual spring thrift shop to benefit Brookfield Social Services. We used the building for some of the PTF Listening Sessions this past summer, and the parsonage was even used recently for a small family memorial service. Due to our facilities use agreement with the Danbury Chinese Alliance Church and space usage constraints for our programs and ministries on Sunday afternoons and other times during the week we have begun to use the parsonage more regularly for our ongoing ministries as well. Our Deacons and Church House committee have been meeting there regularly, as have the confirmation class, our Sunday evening adult study group, and the Sunday afternoon Open Jam.

We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback about the parsonage and its use. If you would like to speak more about it or wish to have a tour please be in touch with Pastor Jen.

### **CrossWays Deadline**

The deadline for the April issue of CrossWays is March 15th. You can e-mail articles to Jeannine McCullough at [office@uccb.org](mailto: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.

## ***Church In Society Committee: Call for Program Suggestions***

**Who we are:** The Church in Society Committee (CIS) is responsible for organizing the church's participation in local and worldwide outreach programs, educating the congregation about local and worldwide outreach concerns and social issues, allocating budgeted funds for outreach and encouraging congregational involvement in ecumenical and interfaith groups and events. Current committee members are: Sue Slater (chair), Jennifer Whipple (pastoral support), Marianne Gaffey, Karen Underhill, Kathy Taylor, Jennifer Garbus, Jeanine Hanewicz, Michelle Ostrom and Becky Bishop.

**What we do:** To put our responsibilities into action, CIS selects a theme for the year. CIS then initiates, organizes and educates ourselves and the congregation about the theme and the specific theme-related needs in our community. Our committee also encourages congregational participation in local and worldwide outreach programs around the theme. This year's theme is Mental Health Awareness. To educate ourselves about mental health needs in the community, we invited a member of Brookfield CARES to speak at a CIS meeting, and Brookfield CARES member Marianne Seeber gave a presentation to the congregation during a church service to share about what is happening in Brookfield with our youth and issues they face today. We also provided mental health educational information in the Church Bulletin. CIS organized two well received all church participation events around our theme. The fall pizza and painting event for "Ben's Bells" supported a program in Newtown that reminds people to be kind. CIS also partnered with the Stephen Ministers to provide a pizza and movie night to watch the movie "It's Kind of a Funny Story" followed by discussions about mental illness and suicide. Some examples of financial donations made this year with our mental health awareness theme in mind include Brookfield CARES, ARC, Dorothy Day's Morning Glory Breakfast Program in Danbury, and UCC's military chaplain's ministry - Holy Joe's Cafe.

CIS also organizes and supports many ongoing programs and opportunities for the congregation that go beyond the year's theme. Just a few examples include the spring thrift shop, support for the men, women and youth mission trips, the Giving Tree, the Christmas Card Tree that supports the Blanket Fund, the February food drive, Loaves and Fishes, and Miriam's Kitchen and the printer cartridge and cell phone recycling initiative. CIS is responsible for the distribution of the interest earned in the Mission Designated Fund. SERRV and Refugee Resettlement also fall under the CIS umbrella. CIS is actively involved in many areas of the Yankee Fair, and we make recommendations to the Church Council regarding who should receive Fair Funds. A poster board with information on the many groups the congregation supports through CIS is located in fellowship hall. We encourage you to take a look! Finally, CIS oversees our congregation's commitment to being a "5 for 5" congregation. This means that our congregation participates in all five of the UCC Special offerings. These include: (1) Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) annual donation to support the Connecticut Conference and national ministries of the UCC, (2) Neighbors in Need, (3) One Great Hour of Sharing, (4) the Christmas Fund, and (5) the Strengthen the Church fund.

**We want to hear from you:** Our amazingly generous congregation is the reason CIS is able to support so many local and worldwide programs. CIS wants to continue to provide the congregation with a wide variety of interesting educational, program and outreach opportunities that encourage congregational participation. If you have an idea for an outreach program or ecumenical or interfaith event that you would like CIS to consider supporting, please contact CIS members Becky Bishop (bbishop1004@yahoo.com) or Jen Garbus (jfgarbus@gmail.com). As always, thank you for your generous support!

## CIS Treasurer's Report February 11, 2015

Total Operating Budget	21,214.50	
Our Church's Wider Mission	10,000	
CT Conference dues	3648	
Fairfield East dues	1140	
Brookfield Volunteer Fire Dept donation	250	
Thrift Shop Signs	30	
Bens Bells Project -supplies and food	182.29	
ARC - table at annual breakfast	200	
Brookfield Cares donation	500	
Lehigh Engineers Without Borders dona- tion	500	
Movie Night with Stephens Ministers	157.18	
Loaves and Fishes lunches (to date)	214.51	
Women's Group Outreach	40.12	
Morning Glory Breakfast Program dona- tion	500	
TBICO donation	500	
Holy Joe's Café donation	500	
Total Disbursed to Date	18,362.10	
Amount left available for distribution	2852.40	



### **Church School News**

Throughout the months of January & February our church school children learned about stewardship of time, talent, treasures and creation. They participated in a number of service projects – for Heifer Project, Brookfield Social Services, and a local animal shelter, and they discovered ways they could use their gifts in service to others and the world.

During the month of March our children will be learning about worship and the season of Lent, as well as learning more about prayer and how we can hear God's voice in our lives. We will no longer be having regular children's chapel gatherings. Rather children will be learning about the parts of worship in their classes and preparing for our Children's Sunday in June.

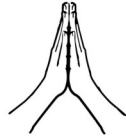
We are always looking for volunteers to assist with church school – whether as regular helpers or as part of our teacher rotation. If you wish to offer your time and talents to work with our children please be in touch with our Church School Coordinator, Barbara Crandell, at [Barbara@uccb.org](mailto:Barbara@uccb.org).





### **Souper Bowl of Caring Thanks!**

The JYF would like to say "thank you" to all the people who helped out our efforts in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Thanks to your generosity, the Junior Youth Fellowship group was able to raise over \$680 for the Interfaith AIDS Ministry Food Pantry in order to help support their mission. This will allow them to purchase nearly two months' worth of groceries for families struggling with the impact of HIV and AIDS. Nationwide, thousands of groups worked to raise over \$7 million on Super-Bowl Sunday to support local projects that work to end hunger in the United States. Thank you for helping us work to combat hunger!



### **Healing Prayer Service**

**Sunday, March 8th ~ 8:30am**

**Sunday, April 21st ~ 8:30am**

The healing prayer service in December was so well received, that more healing prayer services are planned.

Please join us for this more intimate, early service setting in Brooks Hall that includes powerful healing prayer as we support one another during the many trials that come our way.

### **Annual Report Deadline**

Annual reports are due to the church office by **Monday, March 23rd**.

If you have any questions please contact Jeannine at [office@uccb.org](mailto:office@uccb.org) or 203-775-1259.

## Calling All “SuperWomen”

### 2015 Women’s Retreat

The women’s retreat began years ago when a number of us church ladies decided that a weekend retreat was in good order. Stressful jobs... those of you juggling, kids, spouses and households... it can be draining!

We want to make sure you understand that this annual retreat is your opportunity to rest, relax, regroup, and recharge through fun and fellowship. Please don’t worry that you may not know many of the other “SuperWomen” you see at church. Retreats like this one can change that, providing the basis for long term friendships.

If that isn’t enticing enough... consider this...  
you don’t have to cook for 36 hours!

And you might even come home to a new appreciation for all you do.

Details are below... please consider joining us. It is time for the next wave of “SuperWomen” like you to take a bit of time for yourselves.

Friday Evening 3/20 Through Sunday Morning 3/22

Two Nights and Four Meals - \$130

Real Beds; Full Kitchen; Full Bathrooms with Hot Showers

Floor to Ceiling Stone Fireplace

Massage and Reflexology Available (at additional cost)

Please do not let economics prevent your participation.  
Scholarships are available through our Pastors.



### *All Church Talent Show*

*Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Meetinghouse*

We hope you will share a talent of your own or come to cheer on others in our church. This is a great night full of goodies & FUN! It also helps to support the SYF in their mission trip fundraising. A free will offering will be collected and concessions sold during intermission to support this year’s SYF Mission Trip. Anyone who wishes to participate or donate food/drink items toward the concession sale please speak with or e-mail Dan McKee or Pastor Jen (jennifer@uccb.org). There will be a rehearsal on Friday, March 6th, from 6:00pm - 7:30pm in the Meetinghouse.

## Fellowship Of Concern



### **CONTINUING CONCERNS:**

Judith Fisher  
Evelyn Gerowe  
Anne Hardin  
Ruthie Maxim  
Carlo Santi  
Shirley Stoppel

### **SYMPATHIES:**

We extend our sympathy to Bill and Bev Robertson on the passing of their son, Jeff, on February 16th. .

### **WITH THANKS:**

Dear CCB,

Once again you have been a huge supporter of the Great Pumpkin Challenge and I can't thank you enough. This year it was really special because Zoe and Avery came down and got to see all of the pumpkins. It means the world to me and I know it does to Avery and Zoe. This year we collected 93 pumpkins and donated \$3,014 to The Hole in the Wall Gang camp.

Love,  
Mackenzie

Dear Brookfield Church Family,

I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday - I loved the candlelight service pictures and seeing the church snow covered - it was so beautiful! It warmed my heart to think of you all gathered in the sanctuary singing *Silent Night*.

I hope all is well with you. I miss the Monday morning book groups; Ken stopping by the cottage to fix things; laughing with Jen through the doorway; and all the love you showed me my summer with you. I definitely fell in love with ministry that summer, and I am so grateful for all you taught me.

I love getting notes, updates, and even have Brookfield on the Christmas tree this year (thank you, Sharon). You are an amazing teaching parish, and I am grateful that I got to be with you. God is doing wonderful things in Brookfield! (woot woot)

With great love,  
Kendra Joyner Miller  
(former Yale Divinity School student intern)



## **“Big Questions about God” Lent 2015**

Christians worldwide observe the season of Lent, which officially began on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015. We are observing Lent this year with a sermon series in response to some of the questions about God that we, as your pastors, are most often asked.

- March 1 – “Is God Spiritual or Religious?”** If you’ve ever wondered why Christians have the reputation of spreading shame, and self-hate, this communion homily is for you! Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia reflects on Jesus’ view on spiritual things in Mark 8 and Paul’s thoughts on “sins of the flesh” in the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter of his Letter to the Romans.
- March 8 – “Does God Provide?”** Be prepared for a pop quiz on your 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and your 10 Commandments, as we reflect on our “Good Shepherd” God who provides, and the God of Exodus 20, “who brought you out of slavery” and who leads us on the right paths today. Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia speaks to our all-too-human control issues, and the difficulty we have in trusting that God’s care could really be enough.
- March 15 – “What Does It Mean to ‘Be Saved’?”** Why does God apparently answer some prayers for help or healing and not others? And what does faith have to do with it? Rev. Jennifer Whipple addresses the issue of God’s “salvation” using Psalm 107, in which the Hebrew writer gives thanks for literal salvation in the desert, and the Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, which expresses the doctrine of “salvation through faith.”
- March 22 – “How Do We Know God’s Voice?”** All kinds of people have claimed to hear God speaking to them – from Noah, Moses, and Jesus to the Muslims’ Mohammed, the Pilgrims’ Anne Hutchinson and the Mormons’ Joseph Smith – so how do we know what is authentic revelation and what is not? And what does it mean when we say we listen to God “still speaking” as a church today? Are we Christians truly a “priesthood of all believers” as the Letter to the Hebrews would proclaim? Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia shares some ideas from Jeremiah 31, Psalm 19 and 51, and Hebrews 5.
- March 29 – Palm Sunday: “What Does God Look Like?”** Rev. Jennifer Whipple discusses the crowd’s reaction to the triumphal entrance of Jesus to Jerusalem, as is recounted in Mark 11, and Paul’s great Christological hymn from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of his Letter to the Philippians. What does it mean today that we follow a humble, “self-emptying” God and not a warrior king?
- April 5 – Easter Sunday: “Is Heaven For Real?”** In the Resurrection narrative found in John 20, Mary Magdalene meets the risen Christ in the garden and believes him to be the gardener. Is this just another good “ghost story” or is the afterlife proclaimed by the church a real thing – “the Gospel truth”? Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia discusses what we, as modern, thinking Christians, might be able to believe about heaven and hell.

Traditionally, Lent has been a season of the church year when Christians make time each day for extra prayer and introspection. Many of us intentionally plan to engage in more study of scripture and more internal wrestling with tough questions of faith – as we delve more deeply into our beliefs, examine our souls, renew ourselves spiritually, and prepare to experience the joy of Easter once again.

When we do this we are following the example of Jesus, as immediately after his baptism he retreated into the wilderness to fast and to pray – and to wrestle with some tough questions that seriously tested and challenged his faith. The Gospel texts name the voice of that questioner “Satan,” which understandably has led many Christians (and Christian churches) to discourage any questioning or any admission of doubt. But, as descendants of the Pilgrims, we come from a faith heritage that encourages study and questioning, growing and changing – a spiritual boldness and restlessness that we undertake both alone and in community.

This Lent, we encourage you to offer yourself the gift of time for reflection and faith growth. There are a number of ways you can join us in community to reflect and explore more about our Lenten theme – the Big Questions of Faith. Our Lenten sermon series will focus on a number of questions that we pastors are often asked about faith—questions about the relationship between science and religion, whether or not God really provides for us, how God still speaks to us, and what salvation is all about. We will be holding two simple Lenten Suppers, as well as our usual Serendippers gathering that will focus on our questions. (Please see articles elsewhere in this edition of Crossways for dates, times, and details.) Our adult study groups will be examining some of the questions of our faith through various book and scriptural resources, so we invite you to join us on Sundays at 5pm, Mondays at 9:30am (for our Women’s Study) and/or Thursdays at 9am. If you would like to spend some time on your own in reflection and are looking for a good resource to prompt some of your own thinking, you are invited to pick up a copy of our Lenten Devotional created by our Stephen Ministers. This devotional guide can help you center yourself in God’s presence and seek answers to your deepest questions of faith.

May you bring both your faith and your doubts into the presence of God this Lenten Season and be blessed by the Holy Spirit’s response to your willingness to trust and listen for answers to our “still speaking” God.

Lenten blessings to you all,

*Bryn*

## **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:** Sung Goral  
**Investment Treasurer:** Greg Labas



### **Committee Chairs**

Christian Ed Melanie Shapiro  
Church House Ken Arifian  
Church-In-Society Sue Slater  
Deacons Sherrie Ruschmeyer  
Fellowship Eleanor Loesch  
Nominating Kim Downey  
Personnel Nancy Vodra  
Stewardship Sally Markiewicz  
Welcome Carol Eagan  
Worship Patty Moran

### **Church Council Representatives**

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

### **Pastoral Relations Committee**

Robin Murphy (chair), Leslie Sands, Bob Lambert, Larry Ruschmeyer

### **Personnel Committee**

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

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

## **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 2014-2015**

A-BRI	Leslie Sands (Stephen Ministry)
BRO-C	Barbara Anderson
D-EA	Jan Labas
EC-F	Sherrie Ruschmeyer
G-H	Carol Howe
I-LE	Mark Lyon
LI-MA	Robin Murphy
MC-MU	Mike Anastas (council rep)
N-RI	Margitta Savo (memorial garden rep)
RO-SC	Marie Immohr
SH-T	Dan McKee
U-Z	Gordon Markiewicz

#### **Youth Deacons:**

Jillian DeLucia  
Shannon Downey  
Zach Mangold

## ***Lenten Devotional***

Our Stephen Ministers have prepared a Lenten Devotional comprised of scripture, devotions pulled from a variety of sources, and original writings. Copies of this devotional will be available at the church. If you would like an electronic copy, we invite you to be in touch with the church office at [office@uccb.org](mailto:office@uccb.org). The season of Lent offers us an opportunity to take some time to reflect upon our relationship with God. This devotional booklet offers a great companion for that journey of reflection.



### **CrossWays – the newsletter of**

The Congregational Church of Brookfield  
160 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804  
203-775-1259      Email: [office@uccb.org](mailto:office@uccb.org)

### **Sunday Worship at 8:30am and 10:30am**

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

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