

# *Cross Ways*

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

**May 2015**

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## **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IS MAY 24, 2015**

The cherished memory of a loved one can be honored and the good of the church can be enhanced through our **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**. This memorial book is displayed in Brooks Hall, recording the names of those in whose memory gifts are made to the church together with the names of those making the gifts. (The amount does not appear).

On Memorial Day weekend and "All Saints" Sunday (in May & November), these gifts are recognized and dedicated in worship, and those persons are remembered in prayer. The Book of Remembrance appeals to a great many people as a most beautiful and appropriate way to pay tribute to those whom we have loved. Expenditures from the Book of Remembrance Fund are approved by a vote of the entire congregation.

We will read the names of those remembered in the Book of Remembrance at both 8:30 and 10:30 worship services on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information about the Book of Remembrance, please call the church office at 203-775-1259.

**Note: Deadline for May 24<sup>th</sup> Book of Remembrance is Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

If you wish to donate funds in memory of friends and loved ones, checks can be made payable to "Book of Remembrance":

Book of Remembrance Treasurer  
The Congregational Church of Brookfield  
160 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804

## **Meeting of Church Council:** April 14, 2015

*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.*

Moderator: Nancy V. opened the meeting with prayer and thanked all outgoing and continuing Council members. Larry R. moved to accept the call to the annual meeting as written in the agenda. Seconded by Jeanine H. The motion passed.

Vice Moderator: Dave G. reported that the 2015-16 budget will show an \$8K (rounded) surplus carry-over. The year ended with 99% of budgeted income received, but only 98% of budgeted expenses were spent. Pledge income rose from 92% of pledge budget in March to 97% at year-end.

Council nominated 7 members to be asked to serve on the new Long-Range Planning Committee.

Christian Growth and Enrichment: Mike A. moved approval of \$650 for camper scholarships for Silver Lake this summer. Bryn seconded. The motion was approved. The \$700 that was approved last month for Megan Montgomery's mission trip to the Dominican Republic has not been distributed. Megan is not able to make the trip at this time, but may try again at a later date.

In Jennifer's absence, Bryn made a motion to allow SYF to conduct a tag sale at the Barn as a fundraiser for their summer mission trip to Long Beach, NY. The sale will be June 6, the same day as the CIS Thrift Shop. Gordon M seconded. Jeanine H. raised concerns about poor air quality in the barn caused by animal droppings and possible mold. The motion was amended as follows: The sale will be allowed as long as we 1) disclose to all volunteers the air quality issues, and 2) have Church House inspect the Barn's floor to ensure there are no structural safety issues. The motion passed as amended.

Nancy suggested that Council review Fundraising Guidelines adopted in 2006 and prepare to discuss them at the May Council meeting.

Jeanine H. moved to accept the minutes of the March Council meeting with corrections. Jean D. seconded. The motion passed. Jeanine asked for a correction to January 2015 Council minutes to record the December 14, 2014 email vote which approved the Lindroths' 3-month stay in the Cottage. Nancy reported that Facilities Use Committee agreed to the Lindroths' request for a 3-month extension at the Cottage (through June 30) with the understanding that deadline would be final.

Treasurer: Sung G. noted that \$24K in income came in during the last week of the fiscal year. Some was pledge money and some was Facilities Use income. Fair income of \$753, held in the Church Council account, will be paid to Dan McKee when we get his bill for Yankee Fair t-shirts.

Worship: Easter Sunday attendance at the 10:30 service was 324 adults, standing room only. Sunrise Service at Happy Landings worked out well, with 58 people attending. Attendance at 8:30am on Easter was not reported. Lenten Suppers were not well attended, so Lenten Lunches may return next year.

CIS: Asked permission to allow "early bird" opening of the Thrift Shop on Friday evening June 5th, from 6 to 8pm. Gordon M. moved to allow the proposal. Bob B. seconded. The motion was approved.

CE: Planning a June 14 Sunday School Teacher Recognition Day and Church School Picnic.

Pastor's Report: Bryn reported a visitor gathering set for May 3 at 9:30am, with new members probably welcomed on May 17th. Planning Task Force informational meetings will be held on May 24 at 9:30 am and June 7 at 9:30 and 11:30 am. Bryn will be attending General Synod, and an informational meeting for anyone else interested in attending will be held at 9:30am on June 14. Gordon M. will be joining the Pastoral Relations Committee. Prayers requested for Martha Parvis, whose father died April 13.

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

**May Serendippers**  
**Tuesday, May 12th at 11:45am**

Please join us in Fellowship Hall as we welcome Linda Siciliano  
who will tell us all about SERRV  
and even have some items from the SERRV booth for sale

Our menu:  
Punch  
Rigatoni Royal  
Garlic Bread  
Tossed Salad  
Cheese Cupcakes

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

Happy Mother's Day to all our lovely CCB ladies!!  
**SERRV** would like to offer a special sale in honor of our mothers,  
because what mother does not love a sale?!?!?!?

The sale will be on **Sunday May 3rd** following both services  
**SERRV** items will be on sale at 20% off!!!!

Scarves, purses, jewelry, novelties, kitchen items, soups and candy will be on display.  
So come and shop till you drop!  
And help **SERRV** help others around the world!!!

SERRV (which originally stood for "Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation and Vocation") began in 1949 as a mission of the Church of the Brethren as a way to support struggling post-World War II refugees by selling their goods in U.S. churches – beginning with a German cuckoo clock! Today SERRV claims a broader mission:

***To eradicate poverty wherever it resides  
by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers worldwide.***

Its website ([serrv.org](http://serrv.org)) states,

*"We believe artisans and farmers around the world should have the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and support their families through fair payments and respectful relationships. Every basket, every tablecloth, every necklace we offer has a story behind it—of an empowered artisan or farmer who works in a safe environment, can send his or her children to school, and can save for the future with the reliable income he or she earns through fair trade."*



## **Confirmation at 10:30 on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**

Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> this year, at the 10:30am service. We have 11 confirmands who have worked hard throughout this year to learn more about their faith, to figure out who it is that they are as people of faith and young adults in our church community, and to make educated decisions about whether to confirm the faith that was affirmed for them at the time of their Baptisms and to join the Congregational Church of Brookfield through the Rite of Confirmation.

May 31<sup>st</sup> will be a busy day. The 10:30am service will look VERY different than usual and will be more crowded than normal with our mentors, confirmands, and their families in attendance as they take this next step on their faith journeys.

We invite anyone who prefers a more “normal” service of worship here at CCB to join us for the communion service at 8:30am that day. For those who would like to worship at 10:30am, note that there will be no formal sermon, as we allow time to bless and support our confirmands. We invite you to join us at 10:30am, but please be patient as we make sure we have seats for everyone and prepare for our celebrations with our youth that day.

Thank you, *Pastor Jen*

## **Notes from the Choir Room — Toni Sullivan, Director of Music**

1 Corinthians 12: 4-31 speaks about the Body of Christ being made up of many people, each contributing to the whole, using their unique and individual gifts and talents.

I thought about our choirs and how they model that picture of the Body of Christ, many members with diverse talents making up one body. I thought about the range of ages and musical backgrounds of our singers and ringers. And yet, they come together, supporting each other, blending with each other, and in that process making beautiful music together. In our Adult Choir (soon to be called our Chancel Choir), and in our bell choirs, children, teenagers and adults of all ages work together to make something meaningful happen. In our children's choirs, the children are learning about their own talents and gifts and how they can be used to serve God and add to worship. Choirs are the picture of the Body of Christ in action!

### **Music for May:**

**May 3** - Jubilate Ringers - *“Allegro Con Moto”*

Youth Choir - *“I Will Arise and Go to Jesus”*

**May 10** - Cherub and Alleluia Choirs - *“Do Unto Others”*

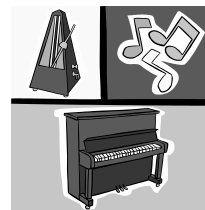
Adult Choir - *“Many Colors Paint the Rainbow”*

**May 17** - Glory Ringers - *“To Thee I Vow”*

Adult Choir - *“I Waited for the Lord”*

**May 24** - Adult Choir - *“I Will Sing with the Spirit”*

**May 31** - Adult Choir - *“And the Father Will Dance”*



## ***Live Your Faith* through Stewardship: Did you know?**

What would you guess if you had to answer the question, “Who (or *what*?) is the largest pledger to our church’s operating budget?”

First of all, all our pledge information is kept confidential by our Stewardship Committee and Office Manager, who do all the counting and recording of our weekly giving to the offering plate, or online donations. But did you know we have quite a few other sources of income from which we can draw to “keep the lights on for you”?

Perhaps the “*What* is the largest pledger?” is the clue you need. The answer is that this year \$45,239 was donated to our operating budget from our CCB endowment fund. And that is an increase of more than \$4,000 from last year!

Our church benefits each and every year from a giving formula adopted years ago by our Investment Advisors, who manage our endowment funds. According to this formula, which is known as the “Total Spending Rule,” 4 percent of the entire value of the general endowment funds at the end of each calendar year (December 31) is the contribution which is made to the operating budget of the church. Another 1.5 percent of that value, \$16,965 this year, is donated each year to the Building and Grounds Fund – which enables our Church House Committee (with a vote of the congregation) to pay for major repairs or enhancements to our property.

And exactly how did we get an endowment in the first place? The simple answer is that a number of people, just like us, loved the church and wanted to see the work of the church continue. Some people have left money to the church in a will or other bequest. Our former housekeeper put aside part of her very minimal salary from the church and instructed her family to give it to the endowment fund when she died. By the time Gena Smalley did pass away, the amount in that one bank account had grown to \$15,000! Another family (NOT church members) gave a large donation in gratitude for a Memorial Service and the pastoral care the church provided at their time of need. That donation went directly into the Building and Grounds Fund at their request.

Three anonymous donations were received this year from living donors for a total of \$120,000. Of that amount, \$10,000 was donated into the Mission Endowment Fund. The income from that Fund is given to the Church-in-Society Committee to be used to help others, near and far. Another \$10,000 went into the Building and Grounds Fund to help maintain our church campus. The largest portion went in the General Endowment. With this increase, the Investment Advisors were able to increase their donation to our 2015-16 operating budget by approximately \$4,000.

There are two other Endowed Funds which this year did not happen to receive any contributions, but they have in the past. One is the Youth Fund, which is available to help fund special events for our youth, such as a contribution last year to help with the expenses of the youth mission trip to South Dakota. The other is the Music Endowment Fund, which was established to help enrich the music program of our church.

Who can give to the endowment? Anyone! Some donations are large, but other gifts to endowment have been as small as \$25.

Regardless of size, your gift speaks of your love of our church. Whether you remember the church in your will or estate plan, donate in gratitude for a special event such as a birthday or wedding anniversary, or simply find that you have some extra money to share that will help you with a tax deduction, know that your gifts are always gratefully received by our whole congregation. For it is only with a vote of the congregation that disbursements from these special funds are made. By endowing the church for the future, even long after you are gone, you can ensure that our congregation can continue to share God’s love for generations to come.

With gratitude,  
CCB Investment Treasurer  
Audrey Himebaugh

Cleaning out your closets???



Think of Church-In-Society  
Donate your gently used clothing to our

**5th Annual Thrift Shop**

**Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 3 pm**

**In the Parsonage**

**NEW THIS YEAR – SPECIAL PREVIEW FRIDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**6:00pm-8:00pm**

**Help us Help others**

Bring your donations to the Parsonage Saturday mornings  
from 9am – noon beginning May 9<sup>th</sup> or  
donations may be left near the committee mailboxes outside the office

**We are looking for men's, women's, children's clothing, all seasons**

We will collect items until Saturday May 30th

Proceeds to benefit Senior Youth Mission Trip Summer 2015 and  
Brookfield Social Services



**STEPHEN MINISTRY MOMENT** by Gordon Markiewicz

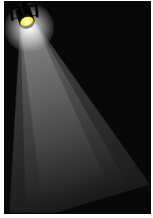
We are past Easter. We made it through Lent, which traditionally is a time of tension and apprehension, as we contemplate the series of events that led to the most glorious celebration in the Christian calendar. Personally, I think we have it backwards, seemingly making a bigger deal out of Christmas, but that is a topic for a future post.

One thing associated with Lent is giving up something. This year, upon the advice of an article written by a Jesuit priest, I tried something different. He argued that instead of giving something up, why not resolve to just be "nice." To everyone. All the time.

So I tried. It wasn't always easy, but the world became a tiny bit better during Lent.

Those of you who have given up sweets, TV, or whatever for Lent, you're understandably happy to be free from those self-imposed restrictions. But for me, why stop being nice? (O.K., or giving the appearance of it?) I've heard people reflect on that "Christmas spirit," and how "everyday should be Christmas" in our attitudes.

I would suggest that you try my Lenten sacrifice, and extend it through the year. Why not make a conscious effort to be nice? All the time? To everybody? The world will be a better place.



## *Spotlight: The Worship Committee*

The Worship Committee has the honor and the pleasure of working very closely with both Reverend Bryn Smallwood-Garcia and Reverend Jennifer Whipple in making sure that our worship services run smoothly and efficiently. We work “behind the scenes” and sometimes “in the scenes” to make sure everything during our worship services goes according to plan. The Flower Committee and the Music Committee are both sub-committees of the Worship Committee. Two important areas that we assist with are the coordination and scheduling of lay readers and the coordination, training and scheduling of ushers. A large part of what we do encompasses planning and implementation of plans for Advent and Lent. This includes setting up for the Maundy Thursday service, assisting with Easter Sunrise service details, and preparing the worship space for holiday services.

The Media Booth is also the responsibility of the Worship Committee. Currently, the Media Booth is staffed by youth in our congregation under the direction of John Smallwood-Garcia. The Media Booth is an important part of our ministry as it increases our outreach into the community by providing cable television access of our worship services to our homebound members. We also have the capability to record special events such as weddings and memorial services. The Music Committee is a sub-committee of Worship, and we are blessed to have our Music Director, Toni Sullivan, serving as chairperson. Toni reports on all musical aspects of our services and special musical events in which our talented musicians participate. The Flower Committee, another sub-committee, was until just recently chaired by Barbara Sikorski. There are several members of the Flower Committee who are in charge of the flowers for a particular month. Barbara for many years has been the coordinator of flowers and visual displays for holidays, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas/Advent, Palm Sunday and Easter. Since Barbara has stepped down as chairperson, we are grateful that Kathy Wandelmaier and Tina Crepeau have stepped up to the job. Many thanks, Barbara — and Kathy & Tina!

We enjoy being part of a committee that strives to make our church and worship services meaningful and welcoming for all members and visitors. Thank you to our congregation for your patience when we try something new or different. If there is anything that you would like to speak to us about concerning our worship services please be in contact. Members include: Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Toni Sullivan (Music Director), Bob Brown (Council Rep), Karen Garren (Secretary), Martha Parvis, Sara Cline, and Eileen Koch .

Patty Moran (chairperson)

**10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WOMENS RETREAT  
AT SILVER LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER  
223 Low Road, Sharon, CT 06069  
April 1 - 3rd, 2016**

For the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Retreat in 2016  
we are going back to our roots!

While our numbers grew from a humble beginning of 12 attendees, at the height of our wonderful retreat we had 33 attendees and moved from the Retreat Center to the much larger Cedars. Our numbers were down this year and in fairness to Silver Lake we are moving back to the newly renovated Retreat Center. The RC holds a minimum of 20 sleepers and a maximum of 28. There are many advantages to staying in the RC - the bedrooms are smaller and removed from the gathering room, and of course, renovated!

Silver Lake has asked us to send in a deposit at this time to hold our spot (the RC is highly coveted), so if you are interested in joining our group, please mail your \$130 (made out to CCB with Women's Retreat in the memo line) to Sue Slater, 12 White Pine Drive, Brookfield. Once we have 28 attendees we will start a wait list. Because we are a year away, if you are unable to attend after paying now, and notify us by March 1, 2016, we will "sell" your spot and reimburse you.

If you have any questions contact Sue Slater.



*On Monday, May 18th at 7:00pm  
in the Meetinghouse  
the Fellowship Committee invites you to a  
Spring Concert presented by  
the Brookfield High School Special Chorus  
under the direction of John LaMendola.*

*It is always a joy to hear this group's wonderful talent!  
Refreshments will be served after the concert.*

The Fellowship Committee is looking for bakers willing to help provide cookies for a reception in Brooks Hall after the concert. If you can help, please drop your cookies off in the upstairs kitchen on Sunday, May 17th or Monday, May 18th. *Thank you.*



## **Fellowship Of Concern**



### **CONTINUING CONCERNS:**

Sandy Boughton  
Pete Cushnie  
Judith Fisher  
Evelyn Gerowe  
Anne Hardin  
Ruthie Maxim  
Pat Roehling  
Shirley Stoppel

### **IN MEMORIAM:** Our sympathy is extended to:

- Martha Parvis and family on the passing of her father, Roy E. Coombs, in Pennsylvania on April 13.
- John Mangold and family on the passing of his father, Jim, on April 20 in Florida. John's address is 6 Banquo Brae, Brookfield, CT 06804.
- Sue Slater and family on the passing of her mother, Nancy Davies, on April 26th.

### **WITH THANKS:**

Thank you church friends for your prayers and concerns. God helped me over one mountain and now He is helping me over the second one. Many thanks to Pastor Bryn for reaching out even though you were away. A special thank you to Pastor Jen for your visit at the hospital the day of my surgery, but unfortunately Louise and I were asleep. I woke up with a beautiful prayer shawl on my bed.

Sincerely,  
Beth Ballard

To all my wonderful friends at church,

I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for their kindness and support for me and my family over the past several months. From prayers and cards to Christmas tree and meal deliveries! I have felt lifted and strong because of the kindness that has been shared with us, and I am forever grateful! You have also given me comfort as I head to Boston to complete my treatments. Having some of the pressure relieved by delivering meals to my boys is amazing.

Thanks, love & Peace,  
Tosha

## **Christian Education Task Force- Looking for volunteers**

*What should a student who “graduates” from CCB church school know and understand?????*

This question will be the central focus of the Christian Education Task Force. The Christian Education Committee is looking for CCB members who would like to discuss, pinpoint, and generate the skills and knowledge that we as a church expect our children to learn and do during their time in church school. For example, should a “graduate” of church school be able to know the difference between the Old Testament and New Testament? Should they know which stories belong in which testament? Which stories of the Bible are most important to know? Should they be able to find specific scriptures?

If these questions spark your interest and you would like to help discuss the curriculum framework for Church School, please contact Barbara Crandell, Church School Coordinator.

Note: *This task force should only require a few meetings in order to set the direction for the new program year and beyond. Meetings will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time for those who express an interest in participating.*



### **Wanted: SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS!**

Wondering how you might serve the Congregational Church of Brookfield this summer? Our Church needs motivated individuals who want the opportunity to help prepare our youngest members for a life in Christ. **Summer Church School Teachers** will lead discussion time, build crafts, go on nature walks as well as many other activities. Please contact Barbara Crandell, Church School Coordinator.

*Note: Our safe church policy requires that people have either been **active** members in our church for 6 months or **actively participating** in the life of the church for over 1 year in order to work with our children.*

### **CrossWays Deadline**

The deadline for the June issue of CrossWays is May 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.

## Learn More About the United Church of Christ & General Synod 30

Mark your calendar and plan to join us in the **Church Library at 9:30am on Sunday, June 14**, to hear more about the 2015 national meeting of the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, OH, from Friday, June 26 through Tuesday, June 30.

Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia will be traveling to Ohio as a delegate from our Connecticut Conference Association — Fairfield East. Resolutions of public witness that will be considered and voted include some designed primarily to raise awareness, such as a remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, to others urging our churches to take an active and prophetic stand against racism in many forms — from a “Resolution to Change the Racially Demeaning Name, Mascot and Imagery of the Washington NFL Team” to one co-sponsored by our CT Conference and the Justice and Witness Ministry of the UCC, “Dismantling Discriminatory Systems of Mass Incarceration in the U.S.”

Information about another dozen or so resolutions are posted on the national UCC website at <http://synod.uccpages.org/resolutions/index.html>.

If you have questions or insights to share, contact Pastor Bryn at [bryn@uccb.org](mailto:bryn@uccb.org).



### ***Go golfing ... and help a kid get to camp!***

Fore! Take a swing for the young people of our Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ and join the Board of Directors of Silver Lake Conference Center at the 9th Annual **Silver Lake Golf Tournament** at the **Wallingford Country Club on Monday, June 8, 2015**. You can play golf, become a sponsor, come to the luncheon and awards at 2pm, or do all three. Cheer on your favorite church foursome, support Silver Lake, and try out the fun beginning at **10am with a Shotgun Start**.

The Silver Lake Golf Tournament is an awesome way to support the vital ministry of SLCC, which each summer welcomes more than 1,000 young people from UCC churches across the Connecticut Conference for a week of life-changing, spirit-filled, friend-making, inclusive outdoor-centered Christian community. Many Christian Educators have told us they find one week of church camp can have a more profound impact than a year of Sunday school on their youth's faith development.

This year we offer online registration, making it easier than ever for you to register your foursome. Go online to [www.silverlakeect.org](http://www.silverlakeect.org) and click on Events. Invite your friends to join you on a foursome! If you have any questions, please call us at (860)364-5526. Thanks for your support.

Tim Hughes, Executive Director, SLCC

***Note: For those young folks who are looking to spend a week at Silver Lake this summer there are still spaces available in many conferences. You can check out the options at the website listed above for more information.***

At our recent Annual Meeting we had a chance to reflect a bit on the church year that has just passed and to look forward a bit to the opportunities and ministries that are awaiting us as we enter into a new program year together. Bryn mentioned in a recent sermon that we are a busy church full of busy people—people who are busy both within the walls of the church and outside of the church with work lives, school lives, family lives, community programs, public service, sports, etc etc etc. It gets exhausting just mentioning all of those things....and knowing that they are just the tip of the iceberg in some respects. We are a church full of do-ers. Yet, as we enter into this new program year and focus once again on our shared vision, we are invited to take a moment or two to remember where the strength, where the support, where the talents and gifts that we are so generous in offering come from. We are invited to take a moment or two (perhaps each day even) to connect or re-connect to the source, to sit with God and to just be. To be “human be-ings instead of human do-ings,” as the now popular term has been coined.

In order to assist with these few moments, I wanted to share some excerpts from one of my favorite meditations with you. It is from the book *Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith* by Henri Nouwen. The idea is to take a little bit of time as you read through the following words—to breathe and not just rush on through but to let the words really sink in. It is amazing what a few moments of just breathing can do to reset us and offer renewal. So here you go—a little gift from me to you...

**A Meditation on Psalm 46:10**

*Be still.* Be quiet...Be silent...Be tranquil. Be present...Be now....Be here...

The first task of the disciple is to be with the Lord....to sit at His feet, to listen and to be attentive to all He says, does, and asks.

Be still...It is hard. It means to let God speak to us...breathe in us...act in us...pray in us... To be still is to trust...to surrender...to let go...to have faith.

Be still...God is and God acts...not once in a while...not on special occasions...but all the time...Be still and listen to the one who speaks to you always, feel the actions of the one who acts always...and taste the presence of the one who is present always.

*Be still and know that I am God.*

*Be still and know that I love you...*that I hold you in the palm of my hand...that I have counted the hairs of your head...that you are the apple of my eye...that your name is written in my heart... “Do not be afraid...it is I.”

*Be still and know that I am God.* God is not in the storm, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire, but in the still, small voice, the gentle breeze, and the sheer silence...

Be still and know that I am God. Take these words with you in the week to come...let them be like a little seed planted in the good soil of your heart and let it grow...

*Be still and know that I am God.*

*O Lord, I know now that it is in silence, in a quiet moment, in a forgotten corner of my heart that you will meet me, call me by name, and speak a word of peace. Let me be still and know you by name. Amen.*

## **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	Sue Boughton
Mc-MU	Alex DeLucia
N-RI	Mary Gallagher DeLucia
RO-SC	Marie Immohr
SH-T	Dan McKee
U-Z	Gordon Markiewicz

## **Youth Deacons:**

Jillian DeLucia  
Shannon Downey  
Zach Mangold

## **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:** Dave Goral  
**Vice Moderator:** Robin Murphy  
**Clerk:** Kathy Wandelmaier  
**Treasurer:** Sung Goral  
**Assistant Treasurer:** Greg Dorrell  
**Investment Treasurer:** Audrey Himebaugh



### **Committee Chairs**

Christian Ed Melanie Shapiro  
Church House Ken Arifian  
Church-In-Society Sue Slater  
Deacons Sherrie Ruschmeyer  
Fellowship TBD  
Nominating Kim Downey  
Personnel TBD  
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 Leslie Sands  
Fellowship Sara Cline  
Nominating Kim Downey  
Stewardship Tom Brown  
Welcome Jean Dorrell  
Worship Bob Brown  
Historian Gordon Markiewicz

### **Pastoral Relations Committee**

Robin Murphy (chair), Gordon Markiewicz, Bob Lambert, Larry Ruschmeyer

### **Personnel Committee**

Dave Goral (chair), Robin Murphy, Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Michael Matson, Olivia Quinsland, Karen Underhill, Rick Hardin

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

## *Youth Fellowship News for May*

### **Junior Youth Fellowship** (for 6th-8th graders):

Sunday, May 3rd = Creation Challenge—5-6:30pm

Sunday, May 10th = No Meeting due to Mother's Day

Sunday, May 17th = Skyzone Trip—3-4:30pm

Sunday, May 24th = No Meeting due to Holiday Weekend

Sunday, May 31st = Regular Meeting—5-6:30pm

### **Senior Youth Fellowship** (for 9th-12th graders):

Sunday, May 3rd = Regular Meeting—7-8:30pm

Sunday, May 10th = No Meeting due to Mother's Day

Sunday, May 17th = Skyzone Trip—3-4:30pm

Sunday, May 24th = No Meeting due to Holiday Weekend

Sunday, May 31st = Regular Meeting—7-8:30pm

### **SYF Mission Team:**

Saturdays, May 16th, 23rd & 30th = Barn Sale Collection—9am-12pm

\*\*\*We may also be working on some special building/house projects throughout this month in order to learn and brush up on some skills before our trip.



### **Confirmation in May:**

Sunday, May 3rd = Confirmation Class - 10:30am-12:15pm in the Parsonage

Wednesday, May 6th = Meet the Deacons—6:45-7:45pm

Sunday, May 17th = Confirmands & Mentors FINAL Class—5:00-7:00pm  
in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, May 31st = CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

9:15am = Confirmation Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

10:30am = Confirmation Worship in the Meetinghouse



### **Informational Sessions on the work of the Planning Task Force:**

Come join us in the **Church Library 9:30am on Sunday, May 24**, and at **9:30am and 11:30am Sunday, June 7** to hear more about the developing plans for the projects identified by the Planning Task Force and “yellow lighted” for more research by Church Council on March 10, 2015. Church Council agreed the proposals had enough merit to warrant additional information (scope, costs, impact, etc), which is being gathered for further consideration prior to congregational approval.

The four projects are:

1. Plan for possible dual use of the Parsonage – Thrift Shop and church usage
2. Meetinghouse renewal – pew cushions, carpets & Brooks Hall speakers
3. Barn proposal for basic roof and cupola repairs
4. Outreach Garden

Note: PTF is looking for a leader for the Outreach Garden project. If you have interest and/or gardening or organizational skills to share, please contact Nancy Vodra or Jennifer Whipple.

### **CrossWays – the newsletter of**

The Congregational Church of Brookfield  
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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