

# Cross Ways

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

**September 2016**

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**Join us Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> for  
“Welcome back to CCB” Church School Peace Party!!!**

Register your child and learn more about  
Choirs and Adult Education opportunities\*

**Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 & 10:30am in Fellowship Hall**

*Church School will host a “Piece Table” coffee hour  
&  
Intergenerational peace craft after both services*

Church School Registration will be held in Fellowship Hall following both services. Register your child (ren) for church school and meet our teaching staff and nursery care provider. Learn more about the music program and various children choirs available. If you cannot make it, don't worry. You can register your child any Sunday with our Church School Coordinator, Barbara Crandell.

**Hope to see you there!** *The Christian Education Committee*



**\*Note:** See inside article for details about church school and Adult Education

## **Summary of Summer Meetings of Church Council**

**June 14, 2016: Long-Range Planning Committee:** Joni Park asked for more **Thrift Shop** space at the Parsonage. Motion passed to allow the Thrift Shop to use the Parsonage library, in addition to the back room. June Thrift Shop proceeds (\$2,400) will go to modifications. Michael Matson (LRPC Chair) thanked attendees at LRPC's procedure workshops. Motion passed for **Parsonage Handicap Accessibility Team (PHAT)**: Parsonage may be used in any manner permitted to a church located in an R-40 Residential zone according to Brookfield zoning regulations. Such use includes, but is not limited to: housing for clergy and church guests, church office or meeting space, activities or events related to the Church's mission, storage of Church property. For planning purposes, this usage will be in effect until 2026. **Septic:** Michael shared estimated costs to tie into Brookfield's town sewer line. Connection will not be until after Oct. 1, when bond is retired & the cost drops. Church House is pumping the failing system weekly until the tie-in. LRPC hopes plan and budget to be voted by congregation end of August.

**Moderator:** Dave summarized votes taken at the June 11 Connecticut Conference (UCC) meeting:

Vote on potential merger of RI-MA-CT Conferences will be at next year's meeting, June 16-17, 2017. Three motions were passed: an increase in per capita membership dues from \$8 per person to \$10 per person, to recommend churches provide gender-neutral restrooms & one to advocate for CT renewable energy & reduction in greenhouse gases. Two motions for advocacy in the CT legislature failed: to oppose further legalization of cannabis & to support a \$15/hour minimum wage.

Motion from Personnel passed to accept Laura Westby as a consultant for the Coordinator of Membership Care and Involvement (CMCI), to work short-term on evaluating this role, especially to coordinate caring ministries. Personnel approved Bryn's 2017 sabbatical dates, from July 24 – October 24.

**Vice-Moderator:** Personnel's annual pastoral performance review process is under way, with help of PRC. Nominating Committee still needs 3 people. Council made nominations and VM will ask.

**Clerk:** Minutes of May Church Council meeting and 2016 Annual Meeting were corrected & approved.

**Treasurer:** Invoice from PushPay will arrive next month & will be charged to "on-line fees," not Stewardship. Audrey will transfer \$1,100 to Church House for septic pumping. Motion was approved to designate Laurie Matson financial overseer of LRPC projects approved by the congregation April 10.

**Investment Treasurer:** Audrey reviewed 1st quarter 2016 report. Investment Advisors recommend no change to funds balance at this time. Council approved IA motion to move Youth Fund from Neuberger-Berman to Vanguard.

**Deacons:** New deacons were commissioned in May.

**Historian:** Rev. Tony Villareal of PA, is researching the history of CT Congregationalist missionaries to Hawaii. The Ruggles siblings from CCB were on the first journey. Tony began his research June 13 at Bob Brown's home, where the Ruggles were born and raised. Tony will guest preach on August 14.

**Church House:** Barn work is in its second week. Replacement of two chimneys (at Cottage & Meetinghouse) is complete, as is Memorial Garden wall expansion, using the same stone masons.

**Christian Education:** Kids' Sunday was a success. CCB summer church school theme is Superheroes of the Bible. Brookfield Ecumenical Vacation Bible School is at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church July 11-15. Midweek campfires will be held on the 4 Wednesdays in July. Sunday School hopes to purchase a Heifer Project Ark (\$500 raised so far). A formal fundraising proposal will be submitted. A Whole-Church retreat at Silver Lake Conference Center has been scheduled for April 21-23, 2017.

**Worship:** Met with LRPC on projects & procedures. Bob Brown heads carpet team, with Desere' E. as LRPC liaison. John Smallwood-Garcia heads media team, Roman D'Alessandro as liaison. Target start dates are July for media and August for carpet. Policy on camera & cell phone use is being discussed.

**Welcome:** Bryn urged people to volunteer as greeters, as Tom Young hopes to be able to continue program through summer. Volunteering for Call to Share also helps us get to know one another better.

**Pastors:** As not all was spent from the \$850 Christian Growth and Enrichment Fund request for CTUCC meeting, balance will be returned. Refugee family arrived June 2, in time for all-church picnic. Jane Moran will meet with Fairfield East Association July 5. Schultz "Godspeed" is June 26.

**July 12, 2016: Long-Range Planning Committee:** Septic plan goes to town Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) in July. If approved, bids will be obtained and a proposal will go to Council in August. Meetinghouse carpet (close to the original red) will be installed early August. Media Booth project is still under review. Proposal to furnish one upstairs guest room in the Parsonage passed unanimously.

**Vice Moderator:** Vacancies remain on Nominating. Pastors' reviews are underway and goals will be set soon. Council voted to accept Lyn Lyon for Church-in-Society and Luke Duval as CIS Council rep.

**Treasurer:** Income was 5.43% (\$8,142.30) low in June, but expenses were also 5.9% (\$7,154.82) low, yielding a positive balance of 3.42% (\$987.48).

**Deacons:** Two new Stephen Ministers have been matched with care receivers.

**Stewardship:** Will be sending out instructions by email on how to transition from Vanco to PushPay.

**Church House:** Barn repairs continue. Dogwood tree in front of Brooks Hall may need to be removed.

**Welcome:** Working with Laura Westby to write content guidelines for the CCB Facebook page.

**Pastor:** Council approved the gift of a filing cabinet for the Church Office. A replacement American flag for Fellowship Hall was redirected to a refugee family. Historian will spruce up the old flag and base. Bryn asked that we follow policy for weddings and funerals, using trained ushers and coordinators. Jen reported (via text) that SYF mission trip is going well (photos on CCB Facebook page). Bryn reported Brookfield's Ecumenical Vacation Bible School also is going well. Bryn and other Brookfield clergy have been leading daily prayers. Laura Westby has been getting to know us, through worship & meetings.

**August 9, 2016: Long-Range Planning Committee:** Michael Matson reported on projects: **Technology:** phase 1 (new office computers) complete, phase 2 has not started. **Barn:** Only \$2,500 spent, thanks to volunteer labor. Phase 3 postponed. **Media Booth:** upgrade plan still being developed, no expenditures yet. **Thrift Shop:** 3 sales so far (June-July-August). Proceeds go to Brookfield Social Services (BSS). Church may be required to collect state sales tax, so an accountant is being consulted. **Parsonage:** WiFi is available there and in the parking lot. Planning continues on a ramp and an accessible bathroom.

**Meetinghouse:** Carpet installed last week within budget. **Choir Robes:** Music Committee to choose new robes August 17. **Septic:** Town rejected septic repair proposal, requiring us to tie in to town sewer line. \$5,600 of \$7,000 allocated in April has been spent so far. Total expenses could be as high as \$140,000. Drafting a proposal for Council and Congregational meeting are on hold as we await final 2 of 4 bids.

**Moderator:** Council approved Tom Young as Nominating Committee member and its Council rep. Council approved Jen/Bryn's request for spending \$275 from the Christian Growth and Enrichment Fund to cover the cost of sending Kerri Colombo, Amy D'Alessandro, and their four children to a UCC retreat in New Jersey this fall – to gather ideas for our own Whole Church Retreat April 21-23, 2017.

**Yankee Fair:** Council voted to donate 50% of Fair proceeds to BSS. Council approved a tag sale at the barn August 27, if Thrift Shop sale could be the same day. If not, a Barn "free day" would be offered.

**Treasurer:** Net Income was about 32.5%. (\$9,725.93) above plan for the month. Stewardship reported a couple of large annual donations, putting income above plan, while expenses continued under budget.

**Historian:** A time capsule (1990s era) was found under chancel stairs during carpet installation, but was not opened. Guest preacher will stay Aug. 13 in the new guest room at the Parsonage and share with us in worship his sabbatical research about Ruggles' Hawaiian missionary journey on Aug. 14.

**Christian Education:** Campfires were a big success with new families and tons of kids. Summer "Superhero" church school ends Aug. 28. Church School will host coffee hour on Sept. 11, CE's Fall kickoff Sunday. Confirmation meeting for parents is also Sept. 11. Sept. 18 is Mission Trip Sunday.

**Deacons:** Working to clarify responsibilities. Stephen Ministers attended continuing ed with SM team at St. Paul's. Member-in-Discernment Jane Moran had annual check-in with Deacons, after her review with Fairfield East Association, and will be doing a brief summer pastoral internship with CCB this month.

**Nominating:** Working to fill openings on Fellowship, Stewardship, and Welcome. Sharon Santi is chair.

**Welcome:** Met with Laura Westby to review tasks and roles. Greeter program continued through summer.

**Church-in-Society:** Choosing a theme, researching support requests & promoting what CIS does.

**Pastor:** Bryn and Laura have been taking Jane on pastoral calls, and Jane will preach Aug. 21. Many friends and families in the congregation are dealing with cancer, and many prayer shawls have gone out.



## **NOTES FROM THE CHOIR ROOM - SEPTEMBER, 2016**

This is a great time to join one of our choirs. Auditions are easy. They consist of simply walking through the door. You will be welcomed by an enthusiastic group of singers (or ringers) who will help you get settled in. Our Chancel Choir sings a variety of styles of music, so you are bound to find something you like. There are bell choirs for different levels of experience and our children's choir program is graded by age group. There is a place for "All God's Critters" in one of our choirs. Our website outlines more of the specifics for each choir. Check it out!

### **CHOIR SCHEDULES:**

#### **Wednesdays: Beginning September 14**

**4:00 - 4:30pm - Joyful Noise Choir** (ages 4 and kindergarten)

**4:30 - 5:00pm - Cherub Choir** (grades 1-3)

**5:00 - 6:15pm - Alleluia Choir** (grades 4-8)

5:00 - 5:45pm - Singing

5:45 - 6:15pm - Handbells

**5:45 - 6:15pm - Joy Ringers** (Beginning Handbells - This intergenerational choir includes the Alleluia Choir, plus adult and older beginners who do not read music.)

**6:45 - 7:30pm - Glory Ringers** (Intermediate Handbells - This intergenerational choir includes those who have had some ringing experience and adults who already read music and would like to try their hand at ringing bells.)

**7:30 - 8:30pm - Jubilate Ringers** (Advanced Handbell Choir)

#### **Thursdays: Beginning September 8**

**7:30 - 8:30pm - Chancel Choir** (High School and Adult Singers)



### **BACKPACK BLESSING – at 8:30 & 10:30 Services September 4<sup>th</sup>**

Children in PreK-12th grade are invited to bring school backpacks to church for a special blessing during Time For Children. Children will receive a small gift to help them be strong and of good courage this school year and remember that God is with them wherever they go.

## **Confirmation Class of 2017**

### ***Informational Meeting – Sunday, September 11th at 12:00noon***

All incoming confirmands (and a parent) are asked to attend this meeting in the Youth Room in order to learn more about our Confirmation Program.



## Youth Fellowship in September

We want to welcome all of our young folks in grades 6 through 12 to join us as we begin this new year of youth fellowship. Our **Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF)** group is for youth in grades 6-8, and our **Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF)** group is for youth in grades 9-12.

They meet regularly on Sundays, most often in the evenings. Please see the schedule below for more information and details about events and timing. **Youth Fellowship groups will kick off on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**, and we hope to see many of our young folks there. This year's main JYF advisors will be Laurie Matson & Jennifer Wurst, and our SYF advisors will be Kathy Taylor & Dan McKee. Please do be in touch with the church office or one of the advisors if you have any questions.

### **Junior Youth Fellowship:**

**Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> - Welcome to JYF Night - 5-6:30pm**

Join us as we get to know one another, talk about expectations for the year ahead, and plan out some fun and faith-filled activities for this year. We want to hear from you, so we hope you will join us!

**Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> - Trip to Mountain Fun Indoor Rock Climbing Gym - meet at CCB at 2:30pm**

### **Senior Youth Fellowship:**

**Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> - Welcome to SYF Night - 7-8:30pm**

Join us for icebreakers, covenant-building, and planning for this coming SYF year. What do you want to do? What do you want to talk about? What is important to you? What kinds of mission activities can you imagine? We want to know it all, so join us as we discuss, dream, plan, and get to know one another a bit.

**Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> - Trip to Mountain Fun Indoor Rock Climbing Gym - meet at CCB at 2:30pm**

## ***SYF Mission Trip Thanks & Save the Date***

Our Senior Youth Fellowship Mission Team would like to thank our church family for all of your support of our trip to work with Appalachia Service Project in Johnson City, TN in mid-July. It was an amazing week full of hands-on service projects, relationship and faith building.

We are excited to share some of the stories and images from our mission trip with all of you and will be doing so on **Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at both services**. (Our Stockholders' Breakfast will also take place in between worship services that day.) We hope you will be able to share in worship with us as we tell the stories of our trip and the amazing people we met in Tennessee!

## What is Stewardship?

And the Lord said, *“Who then is the faithful and prudent **steward**, whom the master will set over his service to give them their portion of food at the proper time?”*

~Luke 12:42

The Stewardship Committee needs just one more member to offer time and talent in shepherding the financial giving that sustains the life of our church. The Stewardship Committee meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

Committee members are trustworthy and hold information in confidence. Tasks include: counting and recording weekly offerings with a seasoned partner (following an easy procedures manual), making bank deposits, investigating ways to update giving options, and running the annual pledge campaign.

A pledge is a commitment to financially support the church over the coming year, and the amount pledged allows the church administrators along with the congregation to determine our annual operating budget.

No one likes to talk about money—in fact, one of our past pledge campaigns referred to our church’s financial needs as the “Elephant in the Room.” But Stewardship is not about harassing the congregation by always begging for money. Rather, Stewardship is charged with expanding awareness that our church is self-funded. We hope to inspire generous giving, so that our beloved church will live and thrive.

Please prayerfully consider a call to serve on the Stewardship Committee. If you are interested in serving, you can contact Nominating Committee Chair Sharon Santi (or the Church Office ([office@uccb.org](mailto:office@uccb.org))).

Thanks to you, WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!

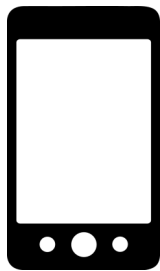


## Saving Money

The Stewardship Committee is always looking to make your giving options more convenient and find ways to cut our own expenses. We want your generous giving dollars to be directed to the vital needs and outreach ministries of our church and not wasted! One way we hope to cut costs is by reducing the number of giving envelopes we need to order each year.

As you probably know, every giver is assigned a number for recording and tax purposes. This number also becomes the envelope number of those who pledge. And envelopes can only be printed sequentially. As church membership changes and a growing number of givers choose electronic payment, we now have a startling number of obsolete numbers in sequence and therefore a waste of printed and unused boxes of envelopes that the church has to pay for and then discard! The Stewardship Pledge List Coordinator will be updating the current active pledge list and may be assigning new numbers to pledge givers. Members will be notified when this occurs.

If your giving method has changed to electronic payment please notify the church office that you no longer wish to receive printed envelopes.



## **There's an app for that!**

CCB has activated a new giving app called PushPay. If you would like to electronically put something in the virtual offering plate, text **uccb** to **77977**. You will get a text message. Use the drop-down account "offering" or "pledge payment." In addition, if you would like to donate to the Youth Mission Trip, you may use the Mission Trip drop-down choice. You may use Push Pay or create your own new CCB on-line giving account. Thank you!

## **What Does It Mean To Be a 5 For 5 Church?**

The Church In Society committee highlights 5 special offerings throughout the year. We believe it would be helpful if you, the congregation, had more information about these offerings and how supporting them supports mission beyond our walls.

### **OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION (OCWM)**

OCWM is supported through our regular annual budget. Over the last few years CIS has appropriated \$10,000 from our budgeted amount to OCWM. This helps support both the CT Conference and the national ministries of the United Church of Christ. Our support of OCWM includes basic support for the funding of core programs, and special support for mission opportunities. Some of this money is used to help respond to national and international disasters. Our Church's Wider Mission strengthens our own outreach to the world in ways that we can't as a local church.

### **NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

This program helps support UCC peace and justice programs including our ministries to Native Americans. We support this program because of our connection with the Lakota reservation in South Dakota where our youth and men's mission trips have served. It is a September special offering collection.

### **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**

This is the national UCC refugee, relief and development offering. It transforms lives through health, education, agricultural and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries. It is a March special offering.

### **CHRISTMAS FUND**

For many years this was called "Veterans of the Cross." Donations to this program help retired clergy and other church workers who struggle to make ends meet. They may have worked for small congregations that couldn't afford larger salaries or pay into a retirement account on their behalf. This program offers them some extra funds, assistance with healthcare premiums and special gift checks at Christmas time. We invite your giving to the Christmas Fund special offering in December.

### **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH**

There are many small, struggling congregations out there. They have difficulty meeting basic obligations like paying the electric bill or the pastor. This program assists such congregations. It also provides funds for new church starts. Gifts from this program also help provide support for youth and young adult spiritual development and the "God is still speaking" advertising initiative.

CIS does not actively solicit donations for *Christmas Fund* or *Strengthen The Church*. But we believe that you should have the opportunity to give if you wish. If you would like to donate to either collection please make your check payable to CCB and note the fund for which it is intended in the memo line.

## ***Refugee Resettlement Ministry in Full Swing This Summer***

The Alhamwi family has had a very busy summer. They arrived June 2 not speaking ANY English but thanks to many committed tutors, they are now able to speak whole sentences. Ezat and Qamar will begin formal English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in early October.

We are in desperate need of transportation folks. If you are willing to help out, please contact Jennifer Wurst. We need drivers for English classes, job interviews (and eventual work), nursery school, state-required meetings, medical visits, shopping. Without more drivers, the family may have to relocate where public transportation is more accessible.

Ezat eagerly met with the employment committee in August to begin his job search. He was a taxi driver in Jordan but will not be able to take his Learner's Permit test until Sept. 27. He is capable of doing many things — including janitorial, grocery store or gas station work, landscaping, construction, etc. He says he will do anything to provide for his family. If you have a job lead, contact Rodger Wutzl or Rick Hardin.

Qamar is busy cleaning house and taking care of her 3 children. Her goals are to improve her English, obtain a driver's license, and become a Certified Nursing Assistant/Medical Assistant.

Hamzeh enjoyed playing the sport squirt program and loves to be Spiderman in his spare time. Katrin celebrated her 3rd birthday July 23 and loves Hello Kitty. She has also enjoyed the library story hour with Qamar and Ellen Deming. Ghazel will turn 2 on September 29.

A huge thank you to Wedyan for her dedication to helping us with translation and all that she is doing to help the Alhamwi family adjust to life in the United States. She provides the guidance and understanding to them that none of us can possibly relate to. She is a gift!

## **Take the Church-In-Society "Be the Change Challenge"**

The Church in Society Committee's (CIS) mission is to connect our church and its members' time, talent and treasures to local, national and international mission outreach opportunities. This year, CIS has selected the quote ***"Be the change you wish to see in the world"*** as its theme. This quote, attributed to Mahatma Gandhi, inspires and challenges us to take action and participate in programs and activities that create and support positive change.

To put our theme into action, CIS will help our church participate in a variety of outreach programs that support positive change at the local, national and international level. We encourage you to take the ***"Be the Change Challenge"*** and explore ways to share your time, talents and treasures at least once a month. Upcoming and ongoing ***Be the Change*** participation opportunities to watch for include: Thrift Shop, Refugee Resettlement, Yankee Fair, Loaves & Fishes, The Giving Tree, Alternative Gift Fair, Men's, Women's & Youth Mission Trips, "Feeding Hungry Hearts" Food Drive and CCB's 5-for-5 Offerings to the wider church.

If you have a ***Be the Change*** program idea or want more information about how you can ***Be the Change***, please contact CIS Chair Becky Bishop. Together we can make a difference!

***'TIS THE SEASON... for YANKEE FAIR VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP...***

**Sunday, September 11th in Fellowship Hall after both services.**

Just look for our own Mr. Fair, Walt Fisher, with his clipboard, or he will find you!



# 2016 Yankee Fair and Barn Sale

## Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016

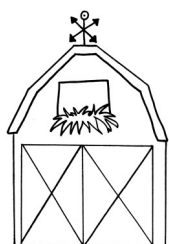
We are pleased to be your 2016 Yankee "Share" Fair and Barn Sale chairs this year!

In keeping with our church vision, Pray-Share-Welcome (and we are in a *Share* year), the theme of the 2016 Yankee Fair and Barn Sale is sharing. We are looking for fun ways to tie sharing in to the fair and we would love you to share your ideas with us! We will share 50% of the proceeds with Brookfield Social Services, and the remainder will support programs at CCB through our Christian Growth and Enrichment Fund and our Buildings and Grounds Fund.

The barn is in the process of being cleaned and organized. **Beginning Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> we will take donations 9 AM to 12 noon on Saturday mornings through Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.** After that, our talented volunteers will transform the barn for the big event. If you have time the week leading up to the fair please consider stopping by to lend a hand.

The Quilters, Crafters and Garden Booth have been working for many months getting ready by creating wonderful homemade items for their booths. If you are a home crafter and would like to contribute items, please contact one of us and we will get your creations to the proper place. Also, we would love lots of baked goods for the bake shop and coffee shop. We are requesting this year that each edible donation be labeled with ingredients. Although it is always a delightful surprise to guess what is inside, we would love it if you would give us a general idea (i.e. nuts, artificial sweeteners, peanut butter, etc.)

If you have not found a place to put your time and talents to work for the Yankee Fair and Barn Sale we would be happy to find the perfect way for you to spot for you. Share your time and talents with the wonderful people of our church family to make the 2016 Yankee Fair and Barn Sale the best one yet!



Faithfully, Your Share Fair Chairs, the McMurphagans  
(Kristi & Pete McPadden, Mike & Robin Murphy and Carol & Jim Eagan)

### ***Barn Save the Dates...***

Barn donation drop off dates are **Saturday mornings 9AM to 12 noon Sept. 3rd, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, and Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.** Please spread the word to friends and family and thanks in advance for your donations!

*Note: All donations are accepted at the discretion of the barn booth chairs or fair chairs. Any donation not accepted can be placed in the dumpster for a fee of \$35.*

### ***Items that cannot be accepted:***

Bedsheets/Bed Pillows	Big entertainment centers or tube TVs (accept flat screens only)
Box Springs/Mattresses	Metal desks and metal filing cabinets
Building Materials	Outdated Children's Items – Car Seats, Cribs, etc. (must meet current codes)
Custom Draperies	Outdated Sports/Exercise Equipment (old skis, skates, treadmills, etc.)
Encyclopedias	Gas Grills/Propane Tanks
Sofa Beds	Tires

Questions: Please contact Jack Brown, Barn Chair or  
Robin Murphy, Fair Chair



***Please join us!***

**September Serendippers “Gathering  
Toni Sullivan with songs and surprises!  
Tuesday, September 13th at 11:45am**

Our Menu:

Welcome Back Punch

Chicken salad, egg salad and tuna salad on a bed of lettuce

Local tomatoes and cucumbers

Swirl bread

Peach and blueberry crisp

Please contact Eleanor Loesch for additional information

OR you can contact the Church Office 203-775-1259

Hope to see you all there!

*Serendippers is open to everyone! Sponsored by our church Fellowship Committee, the Serendippers hospitality team provides a lunch and monthly program for daytime-available members and their friends. Please let the church office know by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month if you will have a need for childcare. Note: Serendippers does not meet in July or August.*

**Beyond Coffee and Donuts:**

***What is the “Fellowship Committee” all about?***

*While it is true that the Fellowship Committee has most often been thought of as the “hospitality people,” hosting gatherings where there is eating, our mission goes a lot deeper! On our committee, we strive to create fun, meaningful and delicious opportunities, uniting all ages of members of our congregation, in sharing our common bond in Christ! Examples of our past programs are Italian Food and Fun night, and our (we hope!) Annual Spring Tea Party. We also co-host a variety of different events with other committees, which we really enjoy doing. Fellowship Committee meets once a month, and our meetings include a sharing of fun ideas, laughter, engaging program opportunities, and inspirational devotions. So, besides being the “food people,” we like to think we are the “fun people”! Interested in joining us? Please contact Kelly Kelly for further information!*

*Thanks so much,*

*Kelly Kelly, Fellowship Chair*

## Fellowship Of Concern



### **CONTINUING CONCERNS:**

Nellie Ciliberti  
Lillian Covill  
Pete Cushnie  
Evelyn Gerowe  
Anne Hardin  
Vivian Henley  
Ruthie Maxim  
Millicent Morrison  
Pat Roehling  
Lavinia Schmaling  
Rod Schmaling  
Shirley Stoppel

### **WITH THANKS:**

Dear Ladies of the Prayer Shawl Group,

Thank you so much for thinking about and praying for our family during this very difficult year. My husband and I appreciate the gifts of the prayer square and shawl so much. The ministry you serve is a wonderful way to give people hope. Again, thank you for your kindness and prayers.

Jo Adams (Parents of Mark Adams)

Dear CCB,

The Brookfield High School Post Graduation Committee would like to thank you for your generous donation to the 2016 BHS Grad Party. It is with your support that we can attain our goal of providing a safe and unforgettable party for the students of the graduating class of 2016. Our budget is entirely self-funded and your contribution, along with the rest of the community, helped to make this year a success.

Thank you again for your generosity,  
Eileen Centuori, Grad Party Volunteer

Dear CCB,

Thank you so much to everyone at CCB for supporting me during my internship in August! I'm very grateful to be part of such a vibrant and caring church community. Though my time working at our church was very brief, I know that I learned a great deal, and I appreciate all the work that went into making that possible for me. I miss all of you, and I look forward to coming back to visit!

Jane Moran

## **Deacon Spotlight: Marie Immohr**

Deacon Branch: Last names **RU-SI**

Who is Marie Immohr? I am the daughter of Hilda and Frank Felicissimo (meaning 'most happy' in Italian); older sister of Frankie, Dianne, and Michael; wife of Lawrence Immohr for 47 years; mother of Susan and Dan; and grandmother of Zachary, Samuel, and Rebecca.

I was born at Danbury Hospital...a baby boomer. My early years were spent in Danbury, Connecticut attending public elementary and secondary schools. I received a Bachelor of Science degree, 30 hours, and a Master's Degree from Western Connecticut University/Wesconn starting when it was known as Danbury State Teacher's College.

After marrying, I moved to Burlington, Vermont for a year while Larry took a Master's degree program at the University of Vermont. It was there, I taught my first class of 32 students in an experimental school exploring individualized instruction. As a result of that experience, I formulated my teaching motto that there are no learning disabled students...each student is simply differently "abled". Next, we moved to New Milford, CT before settling in Bridgewater in 1976.

I have worked as a teacher in Vermont, New Fairfield, and Region #12 before retiring last June. Over the years, I have taught Remedial Reading, third, fourth, and fifth grades, and Math Intervention.

Upon retiring, my days have been filled with substitute teaching both for Region #12 and for my daughter Susan in New Jersey. Susan home schools her children in fifth, fourth, and first grades. As she has been in treatment and recovery from breast cancer over the past year and a half, I have spent a lot of time on the road. As she now works to return life to normal, I find I have more time at home on my hands for reading, gardening, and attending church events. I eventually would like to rejoin the Friends of the Library in Bridgewater, the Bridgewater Historical Society, and the Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club.

I have been a member of CCB since March 6, 2011. I first attended church at the Outdoor Chapel. I was moved each week by a reading or sermon that seemed to speak to me. I have been involved over the years in the Barn Sale, SERRV, Serendippers, Women's Fellowship, Dining for Women, Prayer Group, and the Monday morning Book Study.

When Sharon Santi approached me about being a Deacon, I was honored to think I could do more for my church in a personal way. I have enjoyed serving the people in my RO-SC...now the RU-SI branch by sending cards and emails, making phone calls, paying visits, providing rides, helping with baptisms, administering Communion, and always praying. I strongly believe in the power of prayer. Max Lucado encourages us to pray during the 4W's each day. As a teacher this concept appealed to me: 1. waking (as we start our day), 2. waiting (as we wait in lines or traffic), 3. whispering, (as we appreciate those quiet times in nature) and 4. waning (as we end our day) times.

The Congregational Church of Brookfield has given me a new life in worshipping God. Serving as a Deacon is little enough to say, "Thank You" for opening my eyes and heart to a stronger faith.

### **CrossWays Deadline**

The deadline for the October issue of CrossWays is September 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.

## **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 2016-2017**

A-BO	Leslie Sands (Stephen Ministry)
BR-CL	Doug Fisher
CO-DON	Jan Labas
DOR-F	Sherrie Ruschmeyer
G-HOR	Pete Lane
HOW-LEN	Mark Lyon
LES-MA	Sue Boughton
Mc-O	Alex DeLucia
P-RO	Mary Gallagher DeLucia
RU-SI	Marie Immohr
SL-T	Dan McKee
U-Z	Greg Labas

## **Youth Deacons:**

Jillian DeLucia

As our church is looking at our ministry through the lens of the SHARE priority of our *Make Jesus Your Mentor: Pray SHARE Welcome* church vision in 2016-17, I hope you'll think about sharing your time and talent with the church in a new way this year. Think about challenging yourself to grow spiritually in new directions and to share your gifts in a new church "mission field."

We know Jesus calls every Christian to share the Good News of God's love and to serve together in faithful discipleship. In the famous (and final) passage from the 28th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, in the sermon we have come to know as "The Great Commission," Jesus says, <sup>19</sup>*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*  
<sup>20</sup>*teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.*"

But this is a daunting challenge, even for those of us who've spent a lifetime going to church! It's hard to hear that call from Jesus as any kind of "Good News," because who among us feels adequate to go out to speak or teach of our faith, much less guide others to "obey everything" that Jesus tells us to do? Yet we all have real and practical gifts to share that, as we come together in the church, we may be able to put to good use. And I'm sure we all have room to grow in our life of faith.

Toward this end, I have a few suggestions:

1. Think about joining one of our adult study or fellowship groups this school year. Check out the opportunities listed on the Adult Ed section of the church website ([www.uccb.org](http://www.uccb.org)) or contact me ([bryn@uccb.org](mailto:bryn@uccb.org)) to get more information.
2. Talk to someone on the church Nominating Committee about opportunities to serve in one of the many vital ministries of our congregation. Sharon Santi (Nominating Chair) or Tom Young (Council Rep for Nominating) would love to hear from you and help you figure out a place for you to meet new friends and enjoy serving the church.
3. Think about helping out this year in the Church School as a Teacher's Assistant or Resource Aide. We have wonderful, dedicated, skilled teachers in place, but they could use some in-classroom backup and helpers, especially those with special skills (music, art, special ed training, etc.) Church School Coordinator Barbara Crandell ([barbara@uccb.org](mailto:barbara@uccb.org)) will help find a place for you to use your gifts or just share your supportive presence with our wonderful children.
4. Think about joining a choir this year. Contact Music Director Toni Sullivan ([toni@uccb.org](mailto:toni@uccb.org)) to find out more. Toni is a wonderful teacher and would love to help you develop talents you might not yet even know you have!

When Jesus said, *"In my Father's house are many rooms"* (John 14:2) maybe you didn't think literally of THIS CHURCH as God's house with a lot of rooms! But on any Sunday, or any weekday church meeting night, all our church rooms are bursting with activity. And I am certain there is a place here for you. As Jesus says to his disciples there in John's Gospel, *"If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?"* May Jesus help you find that place prepared for you to serve his church, where you can SHARE your gifts with us and grow stronger in your faith!

## **Committee Chairmen and Church Council Reps**

Moderator: Dave Goral  
Vice Moderator: Robin Murphy  
Clerk: Kathy Wandelmaier  
Treasurer: Greg Dorrell  
Assistant Treasurer: Kristi McPadden  
Investment Treasurer: Audrey Himebaugh

### **Committee Chairs**

Christian Ed Melanie Shapiro  
Church House Ken Arifian  
Church-in-Society Becky Bishop  
Deacons Sherrie Ruschmeyer  
Fellowship Kelly Kelly  
Nominating Sharon Santi  
Stewardship Sally Markiewicz  
Welcome Tom Young  
Worship Patty Moran

### **Church Council Representatives**

Christian Ed Wendy Elsen  
Church House Steve Waschak  
Church-in-Society Luke Duval  
Deacons Leslie Sands  
Fellowship TBD  
Nominating Tom Young  
Stewardship Tom Brown  
Welcome Jean Dorrell  
Worship Martha Parvis  
Historian Bob Brown

### **Long-Range Planning Committee**

Michael Matson (chair), Roman D'Alessandro, Maurice Downey, Deseré Edwards,  
Cindy Field, Sian Hunter, Larry Ruschmeyer

### **Pastoral Relations Committee**

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

### **Personnel Committee**

Dave Goral (chair), Robin Murphy, Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Olivia Quinsland, Bill Robertson  
Karen Underhill, Rick Hardin



Senior Pastor	Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia		<a href="mailto:bryn@uccb.org">bryn@uccb.org</a>
Associate Pastor	Rev. Jennifer Whipple		<a href="mailto:jennifer@uccb.org">jennifer@uccb.org</a>
Organist/Choir	Toni Sullivan		<a href="mailto:toni@uccb.org">toni@uccb.org</a>
Church School	Barbara Crandell		<a href="mailto:barbara@uccb.org">barbara@uccb.org</a>
Church Office	Jeannine McCullough	203-775-1259	<a href="mailto:office@uccb.org">office@uccb.org</a>
Membership Care and Involvement	Rev. Laura Westby		<a href="mailto:laura@uccb.org">laura@uccb.org</a>
Nursery Care	Debbie Marquardt	203-775-1259	

**SERRV SALE**  
**Sunday, September 25th, 2016**  
After both services!

Please join us for a SERRV sale previewing many new fall products  
from SERRV, Sak Saum and Aide through Trade.

SERRV is a Fair Trade nonprofit organization that works to eradicate poverty world-  
wide by providing opportunity for (primarily Third World) artisans and farmers to sell  
their wares – especially as a mission project of churches like ours in the First World.

Help us help SERRV help others around the world!!!



**CrossWays – the newsletter of**

The Congregational Church of Brookfield  
160 Whisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804  
(203)-775-1259 Fax (203)-775-3466  
Email: [office@uccb.org](mailto:office@uccb.org)



**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



## Yankee "Share" Fair and Barn Sale – Sat. Oct. 15, 2016

### **Volunteers are needed before, during and after the fair!**

Please volunteer your time at the fair.

It's not too early to sign up! Join with us in the spirit of fellowship.

*Please indicate below where you'd like to help. We can't do it without you!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **I can help with the following:**

_____ Set-up (4PM Wed/Thurs/Fri) on Saturday mornings	_____ Barn donation help
_____ Bake for the Coffee Shop*	_____ Clean-up
_____ Bake for the bake Shop*	_____ Barn Sale Set-up
_____ Bake pies for the White steeple Inn *	_____ Help anywhere

#### **I'll work at a booth:**

_____ Autumn Harvest	_____ Bake Shop	_____ Barn
_____ Cheese	_____ Family Fun Zone	_____ Crafts
_____ Coffee Shop	_____ Collectibles	_____ General Store
_____ Fudge	_____ Garden Shop	_____ Parking
_____ Grill	_____ Jewelry	_____ Silent Auction
_____ Quilts	_____ SERRV	_____ Used Toys
_____ Treasurers	_____ Used Books	_____ White Steeple Inn
_____ Second Hand Rose/clothing		

**\*Please label your baked goods, and also a general listing of ingredients (i.e. nuts, peanut butter, artificial sweeteners, etc.)**

Fair Chairs: The Eagan's, McPadden's and Murphy's

Volunteer coordinator: Walt Fisher

Please fill this form out today and drop it in the collection plate, or mail to:

The Congregational Church of Brookfield  
160 Whisconier Road  
Brookfield, CT 06804

## **Barn Project Update**

With completion of the new roof and repairs to the cupola last year, this summer work Church House began on the next steps in renovating our CCB Barn. We are now replacing the sills at the rear section of the barn as we shore up our barn structure. This work involved lifting the barn, replacing rotted and water damaged wood, repairing collapsed foundation walls, and re-grading the yard around the Barn to improve drainage. As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, this work was accomplished with the help of our own volunteers contributing more than 240 man-hours of labor, mixing in excess of 260 bags of concrete, and installing heavy 8x8 pressure treated beams and supports.



**South Side – Before**



**South Side - After**

In August and September we hope to complete this phase of the restoration, including getting the cupola painted, all of the glass windows and doors sanded, repaired, and primed and completion of all the grading. During the winter the Barn committee will be preparing a plan for the Congregation to complete this project by residing the building and painting the building and replacing the driveway next year.