



CrossWays

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

MARCH 2017

Seekers on the Journey



Have you been inspired by the adventures of the wise men who set out on a journey to find the newborn king in response to seeing a new star in the night sky? The Stewardship Committee had fun during this year's pledge campaign exploring the mindset of the wise men, their motivation and their resourcefulness—a little tongue-in-cheek perhaps, using a GPS or Star-Finder App, stopping by Royal Gifts 'R' Us, and meeting and accepting others who are different and inviting them along on the journey. And each Sunday in worship we asked the question, "WWYB? What Will You Bring?"

We may ask ourselves what would prompt us into bold actions—thirst for knowledge, peace of mind, love for humankind, the desire to serve our God? Whether it be starting out on faith towards a goal or sticking with a plan when faced by challenges, are we prepared for the journey, what we will find, or how we will be called to serve?

Our spiritual life is supported by the home and relationships we share at CCB through the giving of our time, talent and treasure. You saw the increasing number of stars light up the sky backdrop in our sanctuary as your pledges have come in. Thank you for committing to this year's pledge drive, and many thanks for using the online pledge form. Through your generosity, CCB will continue to be a beacon of hope within our lives and in our wider community.

Whatever happens in Bethlehem stays in Bethlehem...unless we carry it back in our hearts and profess it in our words and deeds. What will you bring?



SPRING FORWARD

Sunday, March 12th!!

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

Council Notes: February 14, 2017:

Long Range Planning Committee: Michael Matson reported the status of the April 10 approved projects that are still in process.

1. Thrift Shop – The organizers are recording administrative procedures, success metrics, and funds usage in a manual.
 2. Meetinghouse Improvements – The carpet installation is complete, and there is \$4,000 left to spend on this group of projects. A decision needs to be made whether to purchase and install window shades.
 3. Parsonage Handicapped Accessibility – The first floor HC bathroom is done. The group will be meeting to discuss plans for the wheelchair ramp.
 4. Media and Information Technology Upgrades – there have been setbacks that have impeded progress, but quotes have been procured.
 5. Sewer Project – completed \$2,000 under budget.
- Barn Improvements – Three proposals presented. A final decision has not been made yet. Michael handed out sample pages from the maintenance plan the LRPC has been working on. The plan lists anticipated maintenance and associated costs for all of CCB's buildings and property.

Vice Moderator's Report: Informal reviews of non-clergy staff are in process. Council discussed the job descriptions, written by the Personnel Committee, for the new Office Manager and Business Manager positions.

January Minutes: Council reviewed the Worship Committee report in the January minutes to clarify the conclusion of the discussion about the Salvation Army kettle. The Worship and Church in Society Committees agree that the kettle will not be back at Christmas this year.

Treasurer's Report: Pledge receipts were on budget in January. Overall income was on target in January, but below budget for the year. Expenses are still running below budget, but the trend is not expected to continue.

Deacons: Reviewing membership lists in preparation for the Annual Report. Reaching out to their branch members to let them know about Lenten Lunches/Dinners. The Stephen Ministers are reading the book *Cancer – What Now?* as a continuing education study.

Christian Education: The theme of the Whole Church Retreat has been changed to connections and connectivity. More Sunday school teachers are needed. The dedication of Church School stewardship service projects will take place on March 12.

Stewardship: Good response to the pledge drive so far. There is a link to an online pledge form at www.uccb.org.

Church in Society: Intergenerational Interfaith Potluck will be on March 5. Upcoming Ben's Bells event on March 12. CIS has decided to donate the Thrift Shop proceeds for March, April and May to IRIS (our ministry partner for Refugee Resettlement).

Welcome: Planning "Bring a Friend to Church" month during March.

Nominating: Looking for members for Stewardship & Fellowship to complete this year. There are a large number of vacancies to fill before Annual Meeting.

Pastors' Reports: Winter Warmth Ministry for families will be hosted by Congregation B'nai Israel of Danbury. Jennifer made a motion to scholarship Toni Sullivan's attendance at the Whole Church Retreat for up to \$130 from the Christian Growth & Enrichment Fund. Motion passed unanimously.

Whole Church Retreat

Friday April 21- Sunday April 23, 2017

Join us for the first annual Whole Church Retreat **Friday, April 21 through Sunday, April 23** at **Silver Lake in Sharon, CT** (about an hour north of Brookfield, silverlakect.org.) This intergenerational retreat is focused on connecting our church family in fresh and new ways. It's an opportunity to connect with someone from church whose path you might not ordinarily cross, strengthening ties and connecting as a community.

Together, we'll stay in the Cedars Lodge in dormitory style bunk rooms, enjoy time together during scheduled programs that are fun for all ages and stages of life, and set off on our own to explore the campus or find a quiet place during free time. We'll serve meals to each other that are prepared by the Silver Lake chef, roast s'mores and sing by the campfire. Our weekend of fellowship will conclude Sunday after an outdoor church service with the Still River Ramblers sharing their musical talents.

To secure your space, please place deposit checks in the envelope in the CE mailbox, and sign up outside the church office. Reservations are "first come first served," based on deposits submitted. Please mark all checks "Whole Church Retreat." You can also pay with Push Pay.

A \$75 deposit for each Adult/Youth, and a \$55 deposit for each child age 2-10 is requested. Total cost per Adult/Youth is \$135, and \$105 per child age 2-10. Your cost covers 2 nights at Silver Lake, 3 meals Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Scholarships are available - Please speak confidentially with Pastor Bryn or Pastor Jen if you need assistance. If you have any questions about the Whole Church Retreat weekend, please contact: Kerri Colombo or Amy D'Alessandro.

2016 Solar System Performance



The Church House Committee is pleased to report on the performance of the Solar Powered Generation system installed on the Education Wing's roof, as 2016 was the second full calendar year of operation.

The total electrical demand of the Church building between January and December 2016 was 68,680 kwh compared to 69,757 kwh in 2015. This represents an overall -10.7% reduction in demand from our 2013 baseline and -1.5% reduction from last year.

During 2016, our Solar Power System produced 35,960 kwh of energy and Eversource supplied 32,720 kwh, yielding the 2016 total of 68,680 kwh. This is a 47.6%/52.4% (Eversource/Solar) split between the two sources.

On average we paid a combined 16.5 cents per kwh .

In September 2016 (21 months) we reached the break-even point, meaning we have paid ourselves back our original \$5,471 installation investment with our electrical bill savings.

Ken Arifian, Church House Chair



Souper Bowl of Caring Thanks!

The Junior Youth Fellowship would like to say "thank you" to all the people who helped our efforts in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Thanks to your generosity, JYF was able to raise \$525 to support Interfaith AIDS Ministry Food Pantry. 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 \$8 million on SuperBowl Sunday to support local projects that work to end hunger in the United States. Over the last 5 years, our JYF has raised over \$3,000 through Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you for helping us work to combat hunger!

Youth Fellowship in March

Junior Youth Fellowship (for youth in 6th-8th grades):

Saturday, March 4th—All Church Talent Show—6pm

Come share a talent or cheer others on in this great opportunity to have a great night of FUN and to support our SYF Mission Team.

Sunday, March 5th—No Meeting due to the Talent Show

Sunday, March 12th—Ben's Bells Night—5-6:30pm

Join us for a light dinner and an opportunity to participate in this all ages service project to support Ben's Bells sponsored by CIS.

Sunday, March 19th—All Things Green Around the Town Scavenger Hunt—5-6:30pm

Sunday, March 26th—TBD, more info to come

Senior Youth Fellowship (for youth in 9th-12th grades)

Saturday, March 4th—All Church Talent Show—6pm

Come share a talent or cheer others on in this great opportunity to have a great night of FUN. NOTE: *Mission Team Members, please plan to come at 5pm and stay through clean up.*

Sunday, March 5th—No Regular Meeting due to the Talent Show. Please join us for the Association of Religious Communities Interfaith Potluck from 5-7pm in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, March 12th—Ben's Bells Night—5-6:30pm

Join us for a light dinner and an opportunity to participate in this all ages service project to support Ben's Bells sponsored by CIS.

Sunday, March 19th—All Things Green Around the Town Scavenger Hunt—7-8:30pm

Sunday, March 26th—Tools for Life: What Is Prayer Anyway? - 7-8:30pm

Confirmation Class: Our Confirmands will meet for a regular class from 12-2pm on **Sunday, March 5th** to discuss Other Faiths, and then will have the Healthy Choices Retreat from 2:30pm on **Saturday, March 25th** to 12:00pm on Sunday, March 26th.



Dining For Women will meet on March 6th at Linda Siciliano's house. This month's featured program will take us to Timbuktu, Mali where we will learn about **Caravan To Class**.

Their mission is to bring literacy to the children of villages around Timbuktu. They want to train 200 women in 10 villages so they can bring literacy skills to groups of former nomads who are seeking a more settled life.

Join us to learn more about it on the 6th from 6:00 PM- 7:15 PM. As always it's a potluck affair so bring whatever is convenient and plan to take your leftovers home. Let Linda Siciliano or Olivia Quinsland know if you plan to attend.

All Church Talent Show

Saturday, March 4th 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 (dandidit2@yahoo.com) or Pastor Jen (jennifer@uccb.org). There will be a rehearsal on Thursday, March 2nd at 6:00pm in the Meetinghouse.

Intergenerational, Interfaith, Multicultural Potluck dinner Sunday, March 5, from 5-7pm

The Congregational Church of Brookfield will be hosting an Intergenerational, Interfaith, Multicultural Potluck dinner on Sunday night, March 5th, from 5:00-7:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Our Church-In-Society Committee volunteers are providing hot and cold drinks and participants from area faith communities are invited to bring a dish to share. Table discussion questions will be provided, as the hope of this event is to follow up on conversations that may have started at the Rally For Humanity which happened on Feb. 26th, and to build interfaith understanding among our congregants.

Church in Society News

February was "Feeding Hungry Hearts" month. Thank you so very much to those who donated bags of groceries and household items to benefit the Brookfield Food Pantry.

Save the Date - Sunday March 12, 2017 5:00 to 6:30pm. Church-in-Society Committee is a service project for all ages. We are offering a Ben's Bells craft night. We will serve pizza, beverages and dessert to go along with making of Ben's Bells in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome — please join us.

The mission of Ben's Bells is to inspire, educate, and motivate people to realize the impact of intentional kindness, and to empower individuals to act according to that awareness, thereby strengthening ourselves, our relationships and our communities.

Thrift Shop news:

The CCB Thrift Shop is excited to announce that \$2,100.00 was recently donated to Brookfield Social Services as the proceeds from the Thrift Shop for June – November 2016! Many thanks to everyone who has donated their gently worn clothing and/or shopped at the Thrift Shop. Please continue to donate and encourage your friends and neighbors to donate and shop.

We also thank Carol Jalbert from Country Clothes in Kent for a very generous donation of many fixtures for our Thrift Shop upon the closing of her store. Ken Arifian led a group of 6 pickup trucks for the journey to Kent to bring the donations back to Brookfield. We are hard at work redesigning the space in the Thrift Shop and look forward to unveiling our new look this spring. Sadly, we recently learned that Carol passed away in January.

Please remember to leave your donated clothing by the stairwell outside the Church Office and come shop on the first Saturday of each month from 9-12.

The CCB Thrift Shop Committee





Notes from the Choir Room

On March 19, the Alleluia Choir will sing the anthem, "Yesu, kwetu ni rafiki" by Mark Burrows. Along with two colleagues, he started a music academy for children in Kenya in 2009. They wanted to work with the children on some songs they already knew. He learned from some of his Kenyan friends that *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* is a very popular English language hymn in Kenya. He always liked the hymn, but it didn't sound very "Kenyan" to him. So he created a "Kenyan" version that could be sung as a partner song with the original. The children will join forces with the Chancel Choir to show you how effective this is. The translation is as follows: *Yesu kwetu ni rafiki* - What a friend we have in Jesus.
Maombi asikia - Take it in prayer.

Music for the month of March:

- March 5 - "Agnus Dei" Denglar - Chancel Choir
March 12 - "I Waited for the Lord" Mendelssohn -
Chancel Choir with soloists, Serina Quinsland and Nancy Trew Sugden
March 19 - "Go and Tell John" Pfautsch - Chancel Choir
"Ancient Voices" - Joy Ringers
"Yesu Kwetu ni Rafiki" Mark Burrows - Alleluia Choir
March 26 - "Be Not Afraid" Davis - Chancel Choir
"Gentle Shepherd" - Cherub Choir

Toni Sullivan, Director of Music

**March Serendippers/Lenten Lunch Gathering
Tuesday, March 14th at 11:45am
After a brief Lenten devotional in the spirit of the season,
Learn more about our Stephen Ministry program.**

Our menu:
Cabbage Patch Stew
Bread
Green Mint Chocolate Chip Ice Cream with Cookie

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.**

Mid-season “Replacements” Needed!*
(Your mission - if you are led to accept it.)

Though the new Church Year arrives in less than two months, these two committees below are currently not at full membership. Please read below and prayerfully consider if there is a call for you to help them with their “good work” soon.

“Blessed is she(he) who has found her(his) work.” Thomas Carlyle

MISSION: FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Committee’s work goes beyond coffee, donuts, and veggie sticks. They strive to unite members of all ages by creating fun, meaningful and (okay - admit it) **delicious** opportunities to share Christ’s love. They gave us Italian Food and Fun night, the Annual Spring Tea Party, etc. Are you the person who can help carry out this year’s proposed programs as well as develop new ones? To learn more, contact Kelly Kelly (mr.mrs.kelly@snet.net / 203-240-1069) or a member of the Nominating Committee.

Fellowship meets at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday each month, in Brooks Hall.

“Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying:

‘The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come...’ Matthew 22: 1-2

MISSION: STEWARDSHIP

Few of us like to discuss finances – much less ask people to give money. Stewardship members are charged with ensuring our beloved church thrives by nourishing the generosity of its members and shepherding the church’s giving. Stewardship volunteers are trustworthy, discreet, and creative – as we have seen during each yearly campaign. (Fun fact: many visitors’ first worship services during “Stewardship Season” inspired them to become members.) To learn more, contact Stewardship Chair Sally Markiewicz (hishmark@hotmail.com) or another member of the Nominating Committee

Stewardship meets at 7pm on the 3rd Tuesday each month, in the Upstairs Kitchen.

“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

From your friendly neighborhood Nominating Committee:
Jim Eagan, Wendy Elsen, Sharon Santi, Toni Sullivan, Tom Young

GREETER FAQs:

Make Jesus Your Mentor: Pray SHARE Welcome

WHEN (1) Our Greeter ministry finished a short annual winter hiatus. It begins again each March, when hopefully crocuses are in bloom.

WHEN (2) Greeters are usually “on duty” at the 10:30 service except for those who regularly attend the 8:30. (On Christmas Eve, we use greeters as well!)

WHEN (3) Greeters are generally at their “post” 10-15 minutes prior to worship.

WHERE At the 10:30 service, (weather permitting) greeters station themselves outside the Courtyard entrance - or inside the door.

WHO (1) Greeters are not our Ushers, who have other duties before, during, and after the service.

WHO (2) Greeters are not part of a Greeter Committee, thus have no meetings, budgets, reports, etc.

WHO (3) Tom Young works with you on your bio and fits greeter dates to a schedule that works for you.

WHY (1) Greeters offer our church family’s extravagant welcome to both people new to worship at CCB as well as current members of the congregation.

WHY (2) The idea grew out of desires voiced in 2014 for more opportunities to foster deeper connections among members. Sharing both a family’s bio and faith journeys is one route Welcome has tried to use.

HOW Answer the questions from the next page either on another sheet of paper or in an e-mail to Tom Young.

Please PRAY
To discern if you can SHARE
your time (and times of your life) to WELCOME people to our church.

Because members of a congregational church enter into **covenant** to engage in ministry together, we believe getting to know one another is vitally important – both to our spiritual health as individuals and to our efficient functioning as an organization of disciples of Jesus Christ. That is why the Welcome Committee is so grateful that you will help us with this new service by both greeting all congregants as they enter and leave and will begin conversation if opportunities present themselves. To encourage this, we ask you to fill out this brief (half-page) bio below. It will appear in the bulletin on any Sunday you agreed to schedule yourselves as greeters. Please fill in the blanks below – or compose your own bio – and return to Tom Young via e-mail (wilsonct203@aol.com).

Who are your family members? Whether they are here to greet with you or not or even “all grown up”, it would be great to read about them as well. (Include children’s ages.)

- A. *Where do you live and work?*
- B. *What is your family, faith, or educational background?*
- C. *How did you come to the area?*
- D. *What brought you to CCB?*
- E. *What do you love about / enjoy at CCB?*
- F. *What CCB projects / committees / initiatives have you been involved in? (Examples: Women’s Fellowship, Bible studies, prayer groups, prayer shawl ministry, usual booth or service provided at Yankee fair, mission trips, choir, bells).*
- G. *What are some of your hobbies or passions?*

CCB Mission Statement:

*As followers of Jesus Christ, and as a people gathered by the Holy Spirit,
we covenant together with God and each other
to receive and share the Good News
as we seek to live God’s Word in our church and in the world.*



Adult Study Opportunity Starting March 6th

Join us to study Marcus Borg’s book, “*Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Power and How They Can be Restored*” on Mondays at the 9:30-11:00am Women’s Study (in the Church Library) AND the 5:30-7:00pm Adult Study (in the Youth Room.) Note that both women and men are welcome at 5:30pm Adult Study. The former 5:00pm Sunday night Adult Study is now merging with the Monday night group, where childcare is provided. Books will be available for purchase (\$11.00) in the Church Office beginning February 27th.

Youth Deacon Spotlight: Jillian DeLucia

I'm a senior at Brookfield High School. My parents are Frank and Linda, and I have two older siblings, Julie and Paul. I work at Dunkin Donuts and play volleyball in the fall. I'm the secretary for Student Council at school, and I love reading. I have a really close small group of friends that I hang out with a lot, and I love playing with my dog Benny.

I was baptized at CCB when I was a baby and was confirmed in 2014.

Some ways that I have been involved at CCB are attending the South Dakota Mission Trip with Senior Youth Fellowship in 2014. I also sing in the choir when I am able to, and enjoy being a youth deacon. I also participated in the church talent show last year.

I love that I have made so many friends since I became involved at church. When I started confirmation I wasn't really friends with anyone else at church, but I ended up becoming close with some of the other kids. We still remain good friends. When I started choir last year I was one of two high school students in it but I still had fun with all of the welcoming adults who made me feel comfortable.

I said yes to being a deacon because my Aunt and Uncle (Alex and Mary DeLucia) are both deacons and they knew that I would enjoy it and be good at it. After learning more about it I realized that I would be helping reach out to other young people at my church and that sounded really great to me.

I love being able to help the other youth in the church. I have been able to reach out to some of the younger people in times of need, and recently I got to help lead a confirmation lesson which was an honor. I had such a great time at CCB throughout my childhood and high school years, and I love being able to be a part of that for other kids as well.

Winter Warmth Ministry

ARC in Danbury is starting a **Winter Warmth Ministry** specifically for homeless families and is looking for volunteers to welcome guests, settle them in, sleep overnight, and see them off in the morning. **Congregation B'nai Israel** on Clapboard Ridge Road is the host congregation for whatever cold nights remain this winter.

This is a pilot program that will accommodate no more than 10 people on cots, plus the volunteer -- starting at 8pm, with lights out at 9pm and departure the next morning at 6am. No food will be served, as this is a program strictly to get people inside a building and out of the cold. Many of these families have been sleeping in their cars as they struggle to find better housing options.

You may be aware that both the state of Connecticut and the local United Way have made a tremendous push, and have achieved a great deal of success, in housing homeless veterans as well as the chronic and mentally ill homeless in our area. In the process, ARC found there was a "gap" in the system, because there was no space available for INTACT families -- with mother, father, children and teens to sleep all together. Single mothers with small children had a place, but a mother with a child PLUS teenage boy over 12 or a husband had no option for the whole family, because of the restrictions at most gender-segregated facilities.

Simple guidelines and training will be provided for all volunteers, and guests will be carefully selected to ensure they are a good "fit" for this kind of small, family-friendly setting.

If you think you can help, please call Elke at ARC ([203-792-9450, ext. 103](tel:203-792-9450)) to find out more. There is a particular need for volunteers on Thursday nights. Thank you!

Fellowship Of Concern



CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Lillian Covill,
Evelyn Gerowe,
Anne Hardin,
Vivian Henley,
Kate Luce,
Colleen Marron,
Ruthie Maxim,
Millicent Morrison,
Pat Roehling,
Lavinia Schmaling,
Rod Schmaling,
Shirley Stoppel,

BAPTISM:

- Daniela Marie Abreu daughter of Mario and Kim (Brown) Abreu on February 19th.

BIRTH:

- Sebastian Jordan Zambrano, son of Allegra Jordan and Vicente Zambrano, born February 16th.

WITH SYMPATHY:

- Kate Luce and family, whose father, Ralph Rieth, died on Monday, February 20th.

CrossWays Deadline

The deadline for the April 2017 issue of CrossWays is **March 15th**. You can e-mail articles to Jeannine McCullough at office@uccb.org or leave them in the CrossWays mailbox outside of the church office. Please e-mail or call Jeannine McCullough, Office Manager at 203-775-1259 if you have any questions.

Annual Report Deadline

Annual reports are due to the church office by **Tuesday, March 21st**. If you have any questions please contact Jeannine at office@uccb.org or 203-775-1259.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ "You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

~Matthew 5:14-16 (The Message)

Our Lenten theme this year is "One Great Life of Sharing." In a year when so much seems a little disjointed in our world – where family members are at each other because of political differences, when folks have lost homes and more because of natural disasters, when there is a sense that more divides us than brings us together – we thought that it would be good to focus on the things, the stories, the beliefs that unite us in faith. We are getting "back to basics," as they say. We are taking an opportunity to look at the life of Jesus Christ and the way he shared himself – his time, his gifts, his spirituality, his relationship with God – and offered those to others around him, despite the differences that might otherwise divide.

We will be talking about opportunities to share the spirit, necessities, darkness, life, love, meals, the story – the good, the bad, and the in between, as we look at Jesus' life and the ways he offered all that he had to those around him, whether close friends or complete strangers. As we look at examples from his life we will have a chance to consider the ways we are called to do the same – offer the things that we might overlook or take for granted to the world, to let our light shine so that others might know God through our words and actions.

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. This year we offer you a number of opportunities to spend some time alone in prayer and study or together with a small group thinking about some of the basic tenets of our faith.

Our Stephen Ministers and Deacons have once again created a Lenten Devotional, which will include a devotion for each day of Lent, as well as the focus scriptures for our Sunday worship services. Each Tuesday during Lent there will be an opportunity to gather for either dinner or lunch to pray and engage scripture, as well as to learn more about the sharing ministries of our church – from Stephen Ministry and the Thrift Shop to SERRV and Mission Trips and more. Please see the schedule listed in our weekly bulletins and/or on our website (www.uccb.org) for more information. We have a new adult study beginning during Lent in each of our Monday groups (Monday 9:30am Women's Study and Monday 5:30pm Adult Study) about getting back to the basics of the language of our faith – a study of the book "*Speaking Christian: Why Christian Words Have Lost Their Power and How They Can Be Restored*" by Marcus Borg.

As we take dedicated time to engage these aspects of our faith whether alone, in worship, or in a small group we are reminded that one of the ways we share of ourselves is sharing our precious time with God, who equips us to learn, grow, and then go out into the world to share God's love. May we set aside some of that time this Lenten season to build and grow our relationship with our loving God, to get back to basics, and to shine our lights brightly so others might know the gift and joy of faith and faithful community that unites and supports as well.

“One Great Life of Sharing”
Lenten Suppers and Lunches 2017

Lenten Suppers – 4 Tuesdays, 6-7pm in Brooks Hall

Join us for a light supper before our church committee meetings begin at 7pm on these Tuesday nights.

Worship leaders will open with a brief Lenten devotional, Fellowship Committee will provide food and drink, and then (as we eat) various speakers will tell us a little bit about Church-in-Society (CIS) and other church projects and programs that help us **SHARE** God’s love with the world. Child care will not be needed for this intergenerational hour of prayer, program, food and fellowship. All are welcome!

March 7th – SERRV. Have you ever wondered why our Fellowship Hour often has tables of hand-crafted items available for sale, each with their own international flair? Marie Immohr, Linda Siciliano, and Karen Underhill will share their excitement at being able to help artisans from around the world share their talents with us.

March 21st – Mission Trips. Dan McKee shares stories from his years of experience helping out on *Senior Youth Fellowship (SYF)* Mission Trips, and how that inspired him to begin taking another Men’s Fellowship and wider community group, “*Men on a Mission*” to the Boston Rescue Mission each year.

March 28th – Dining for Women. Olivia Quinsland tells the story of this unique program, which organizes local community groups, like our church, to share potluck meals where they can meet new friends and learn about projects that help women around the world improve their lives. They take up a collection, estimated to equal what it would have cost participants to buy an equivalent restaurant meal, and donate the proceeds to the nonprofit organization featured at that particular meal.

April 4th – Silver Lake Conference Center (SLCC). Mark Lyon shares his years of involvement with the wider United Church of Christ through our Connecticut Conference church camp in the scenic countryside near Sharon, CT. Mark began at Silver Lake as a young camper, worked on SLCC staff, and has served on the SLCC Board of Directors. He has also sent his 3 daughters to SLCC as campers, counselors, and “camp family” members.

Lenten Lunches – 2 Tuesdays, 11:45am -1:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Daytime available? Then please join us for fellowship and punch at 11:45am, followed by a delicious lunch served to your table by our gracious Serendippers “crew.” During Lent, Worship leaders open our program time with a brief Lenten devotional, and then our Church-in-Society speakers will have time to share with us their passion for a mission program that helps us *SHARE* God’s love with the world. Child care can be provided on request. All are welcome!

March 14th – Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry leaders and members of their trained team of Stephen Ministers will share their experience of the spiritual growth available to both care givers and care receivers through this confidential ministry of one-on-one compassionate listening. Learn what resources may be available for us to share this ministry both among us and beyond our doors, in the wider community.

April 11th – Parsonage Thrift Shop. Joni Park shares the passion and vision that led a group of our church women to start a Thrift Shop in our Parsonage. Working with our new Long Range Planning Committee, they have made the Thrift Shop a monthly, first Saturday, event that is bringing in local friends in need and sharing thousands of dollars in donations to benefit worthy causes – from Brookfield Social Services to our own SYF mission trips to IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) in New Haven, which supports our CCB Refugee Resettlement ministry.

"Gratitude Experiment"

In gratitude for the pledges which were celebrated and dedicated on Sunday, Feb. 26, the Stewardship Committee, along with some additional volunteers, will be thanking our members and friends for their pledges with "Thank You" notes.

Please know that the amount of your pledge is confidential and our note writers are only told the names of those who pledge. Notes should be received by our pledgers by the end of March so please let the office or Sally Markiewicz know if you turned in a pledge and did not receive a note.

Our church depends on the generosity of our congregation. Each week as pledges were returned during our stewardship campaign we saw the night sky backdrop behind the pulpit come to life with stars representing each pledge we received. We thank you so much for your dedication and support. Our church is a blessing in the lives of so many, both within our walls and extending out into the world beyond. Your gifts enable these ministries.

Note: We hope that if you have not pledged yet that you will prayerfully consider what your response will be for the coming fiscal year. You can return a pledge by mail or in the church office, or you can fill out our new pledge form online by going to www.uccb.org and clicking the "online pledge form" button.

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 Lyn Lyon
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		bryn@uccb.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. Jennifer Whipple		jennifer@uccb.org
Organist/Choir	Toni Sullivan		toni@uccb.org
Church School	Barbara Crandell		barbara@uccb.org
Church Office	Jeannine McCullough	203-775-1259	office@uccb.org
Nursery Care	Debbie Marquardt	203-775-1259	

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
Chris Wutzl

Lenten Devotional

Our Deacons and 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. 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

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

The Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Jennifer Whipple, Associate Pastor

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