

Cross Ways

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

May 2017

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IS MAY 28, 2017

The cherished memory of a loved one is honored and the good of the church is 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 28th. For more information about the Book of Remembrance, please call the church office at 203-775-1259.

Note: Deadline for May 28th Book of Remembrance is Sunday, May 14th.

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

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

Church Council Meeting Summary: April 11, 2017

Long Range Planning Committee - Barn: \$19K remains in the Barn projects budget. The next phase of the project is about to begin. Parsonage: Members of the team met with the Historic District Committee and received informal approval to proceed with the path and wheelchair ramp. Thrift Shop: The back room has been painted and donated store fixtures have been set up. Worship upgrades: They decided not to replace the large window shade in the sanctuary. There will be money left over. Media and A/V: The estimate came in \$4K higher than their original number. The shortage could be made up from surplus funds from other projects. Robin moved to allow the LRPC to reallocate unused funds from other projects as needed without a congregational vote. Tom Brown seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Information Technology: Most of their budget has not yet been spent. They are getting quotes for a new phone system.

Moderator's Report -Accessibility: A church member sent a letter requesting additional parking spaces designated for people who have difficulty walking. Welcome Committee makes an effort to hold doors and assist with the lift. Ken A. has blue-stenciled an additional handicap parking space. Adding ADA compliant parking would mean losing regular spaces because ADA spaces are wider. Making signs designating spaces close to the door for people with mobility issues is preferred because movable signs could be put out only when needed. The lift is getting more user-friendly signs, and greeters will be trained. Personnel Committee Update: The business manager position was eliminated due to budget constraints. Ken Arifian has offered to do some financial systems analysis on a volunteer basis. The Personnel Committee proposed a Finance Task Force, which would make its first report to Council in June. Motion: Jennifer/Greg D seconded. Council thanked Martha Parvis, Sara Cline, Jean Dorrell, and Dave Goral for their service on Church Council.

Vice-Moderator's Report-Budget Update - Unless additional donations come in, \$13K must be cut from the budget. Church in Society and Church House are the only committee budgets large enough to yield significant cuts. Actions to consider: cutting Miss Debbie's hours that were added last year to provide child care during choir, reviewing PushPay's income guarantee, and reviewing the list of "outstanding" pledges (names only, no numbers).

Christian Growth & Enrichment spending requests - Robin moved to spend \$5,294 from CG&E to cover the costs of scholarships for the Bell Festival, continuing education classes/programs for Toni Sullivan, All Church Retreat costs for Toni & Bryn, and to cover costs for our delegates to attend the CTUCC Annual Meeting in June. Bryn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Loss for the year totals \$13,575, mostly from pledge shortfalls. If we had not underspent expenses, the deficit would have been bigger. Some large payments are due in March.

Investment Treasurer's Report - The market was down for several investments including treasury bonds and international markets. Total endowment funds were up approximately 6-7% for the calendar year.

Deacons: Membership rolls have been reviewed, and 15 inactive members were moved to the Reserve list. One member was also reinstated to active membership.

Nominating: Susan Dodd and Susan Brothers will join Stewardship.

Church House: SYF will spread gravel under the barn as part of the grading project.

Stewardship: New pledge numbers are in place, while follow-up continues.

Welcome: "Bring a Friend to Church" month was moderately successful, and was great for morale.

Pastors' Reports: Bryn: Holy Week is in process, with Easter Sunrise at Happy Landings again.

There is a lot of good energy among new members. Merging the Sunday and Monday evening book discussion groups has created a nice multi-generational class. The Worship committee would like feedback on Lenten Meals: Do we need to do this every year?

Jennifer pointed out the kids' quilt that is now hanging in Brooks Hall. The kids are all fired up about Read-to-Feed. They JYF made Easter baskets and SYF stuffed Easter eggs for Brookfield Social Services. Amy Diezeman, of Brookfield Social Services expressed admiration and thanks to CCB for consistently supporting BSS. A leadership workshop is under consideration for May 21. It will be a Sunday evening, and dinner will be included.

May Serendippers

Tuesday, May 9th at 11:45am

Please join us in Fellowship Hall to learn more
about our Stephen Ministry program with Leslie Sands.

Our menu:

Iced Tea

Spring Romaine Salad with Chicken

Jello Salad

Bread

Ladyfingers Supreme

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 2nd Sunday of each month if you need childcare.



SERRV Mother's Day Sale

May 7 after both services

Stop by our SERRV booth
and enjoy the latest in spring
jewelry, purses, foods and gifts
from our international marketplace!

SERRV is a nonprofit, fair trade organization dedicated to lifting disadvantaged artisans, farmers, and their families out of poverty.

In our world today, handcraft production is the second largest form of employment behind agriculture. Through SERRV's nonprofit mission and deep commitment to fair trade principles, we create opportunities, strengthen communities and empower women around the world.

SYF Mission Trip Support Opportunities:

Our SYF Mission Team is traveling to Boston to work with the Boston Rescue Mission and various other organizations that serve those in need this summer. We have a number of ways you can help support this crew through prayer and fund-raising. The cost per person for the trip is roughly \$400, and we try to offset that cost for our participants and chaperones who are giving a week of their summer to help others in need. To that end please save the following dates:

Sundays, May 14th, May 21st, and June 11th – Stock Sale

For \$10/share, you can be a stockholder in the trip. We send a "shout out" to all of our stockholders from the road, and you will be invited to a Stockholders' Breakfast with our mission team in September.

Friday, June 2nd & Saturday, June 3rd – CCB Thrift Shop Takeover

We are tentatively planning for an SYF Mission Team CCB Thrift Shop Takeover. More information will follow.

Youth Fellowship in May:

Sunday, May 7th—JYF & SYF join with other youth fellowship groups from around the area for a Giv2 Beach Cleanup in Danbury from 2-5pm.



Sunday, May 14th—No Meeting due to Mother's Day

Sunday, May 21st—Regular meetings—JYF @ 5-6:30pm & SYF @ 7-8:30pm.

Sunday, May 28th—No Meeting due to Holiday weekend.

Confirmation Class:

Wednesday, May 3rd — Confirmands Meet the Deacons — 7-7:45pm (Youth Room)

Sunday, May 7th — **FINAL** Confirmation Class with Mentors — 5-7pm(Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, May 21st — **Confirmation Sunday**

Confirmation Breakfast —9:15am (Fellowship Hall)

Confirmation Worship —10:30am (Meetinghouse)



CCB in the Brookfield Memorial Day Parade:

My confirmation project is to get CCB and the Sunday School kids to participate in the annual Brookfield Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 28, 2017. CCB has been in the parade in the past, and I think this is a great way to show off our church, and to get our church family, especially our children, involved in something fun. Working with my mentor, Mr. Lyon, and Mrs. Crandell, my plan is to drive a tractor that will pull a trailer that the children will ride on, or walk next to, along the parade route. We will work together to come up with a theme for the trailer. It is also important to have parents and other adults join us for the parade, so I hope you can march with us, too! I will be looking for people to help with decorations and construction of the trailer. If you would like to volunteer to help, please email me or Mr. Lyon. The decorating will take place in the Brookfield High School parking lot just before the parade steps off. The parade starts at Brookfield High School at 2:00 pm. Thank you for supporting my confirmation project. If you have questions, please contact me or Mr. Lyon.

Thank you, Ben Ronan



Confirmation at 10:30am on Sunday, May 21st

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 21st this year at the 10:30am service. We have 8 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 21st 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 with Pastor Bryn preaching. 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*



Join us at our next Dining For Women get together on June 5th at Dianne Mariano's house. We will travel to Guatemala to learn about Limitless Horizen Ixil. This featured program looks to enable a team of local female staff to educate and empower 110 indigenous girls and women living in extreme poverty by providing access to education and academic support, career training, life skills workshops, mentorship, and income-generating opportunities including a community-led artisan program.

Men and women are welcome at these meetings. It's NOT about ONLY women helping out women around the world. It's about anyone who cares about empowering women and girls helping them gain skills and education to become leaders in their respective communities.

Marie Immohr will give us more in depth information on June 5th 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 Dianne know if you plan to attend or let Olivia Quinsland know.



On Monday, May 22nd 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 21st or Monday, May 22nd. *Thank you.*



Notes from the Choir Room

There are events in life that touch your heart in a very special way. One such event happened for me during a recent choir festival where our Alleluia Choir participated. The theme was "Peace," and we had learned several songs and anthems about Peace. The children were asked to share their ideas about Peace with the audience. Two of our

children volunteered to share, and their words touched deep places in our souls.

Ashley Colombo: When you have Peace you know you will feel calm. There are many places to find Peace, but you will have much Peace when you have God in your heart.

Scarlett Shapiro: What is Peace? Peace is the joy and happiness found with others and with God. Peace is calm and fills you with warmth. Many people feel Peace in different ways. Maybe you feel Peace when you're alone in a quiet environment or maybe when you are surrounded by others. When you think of peace you probably think of no war, but Peace goes deeper than that. Peace is in your soul. God is Peace. He fills the world with joy and our hearts with love. When you hear choirs sing about Peace, really think about what it means to you. May Peace be with you.

We have so much we can learn from our children!

Music for the month of May:

May 7- Jubilate Ringers - *A New Gloria* (Cathy Moglebust)

May 14 - Alleluia Choir - *Ode to Peace* (Gallina)

Chancel Choir - *Set Me As a Seal* (Clausen)

May 21 - Chancel Choir - *And the Father Will Dance* (Hayes)

May 28 - Chancel Choir - *No Man Is an Island* (Ringwald)

Toni Sullivan
Director of Music

Fellowship Of Concern



CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Sandy Boughton,
Lillian Covill,
Evelyn Gerowe,
Anne Hardin,
Vivian Henley,
Ruthie Maxim,
Millicent Morrison,
Pat Roehling,
Lavinia Schmaling,
Rod Schmaling,
Shirley Stoppel,

WITH SYMPATHY:

- Joe Lamparelli and family on the passing of his son, Corey, on April 11.

WITH THANKS:

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, concern and love received when my brother, Ken, passed in February.

The warmth and compassion shown by all was very comforting.

I want to give a special thank you to Pastors Bryn and Jennifer for the kind messages and offers of help.

All of this is why "I LOVE MY CHURCH FAMILY!"

Carol Ryan

BIRTH:

- Ella Rose Arifian born on April 22nd to Drew and Faith Arifian.

CrossWays Deadline

The deadline for the June issue of CrossWays is **May 15th**. The June CrossWays is the issue that covers upcoming events for June, July & August. 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.

On Sunday morning, April 23, our church had three worship services for our congregation – the usual 8:30 and 10:30am services in our Meetinghouse, and a 9:30am service at the Waterfall Chapel at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT. Jen preached in Brookfield, and I led the outdoor service at Silver Lake, but the theme was the same – our mutual love as Christian community, connected through the living “vine” of Christ described in John 15. Similarly, our church connects each year at Annual Meeting – with one single 10:00am worship service and a brunch meeting following.

As much as we cherish our old friends and our local church, the vine of Christ grows and is nourished by new connections as well. This was my experience growing up in a Congregational Church in Greensboro, NC. Each summer I connected with old friends and made new ones at church camp – which for me was John’s River Valley Camp, in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

What an amazing experience that always was for me, coming from the suburbs of a medium-sized city, getting to meet and learn and worship with such a wide variety of new friends – from white kids who lived on remote farms to black kids from housing projects in downtown Durham to Vietnamese refugee kids adopted by church families across our state.

So it’s always exciting for me to see our own Brookfield kids get to make some similar connections at Silver Lake! For information, or to register, parents can go to www.silverlakeect.org/. Fees for a conference week can be costly, so talk to me or Pastor Jen if you need scholarship assistance.

We adults have great opportunities to make connections with our wider United Church of Christ neighbors as well – but many of us do not take advantage of all we can learn and do at the meetings that are provided for us. In a spirit of making wider (and perhaps stronger) connections, here are a few events coming up that you could experience, if you want to attend:

Fairfield East Association (FEA) meeting – from 6-9pm on Wednesday, May 31, at Monroe Congregational Church. (6pm dinner, 7pm worship/meeting, 8pm program.)

Connecticut Conference meeting – from Friday, June 16, through Saturday, June 17, in Hartford, CT. This year, we get to hear from our national United Church of Christ (UCC) President, John Dorhauer, as we meet to discern whether to unite three New England conferences – Rhode Island, Massachusetts and CT – with the name RIMACT.

UCC General Synod 31—from Friday, June 30, through Tuesday, July 4, in Baltimore, MD. Pastor Bryn is going again as our FEA delegate, but anyone can attend as a visitor.

I encourage you to think about going, and invite a fellow church member to go with you – because having a friend along always makes these things less intimidating and more fun. There are always workshops and small groups, as well as inspiring speakers and exciting worship. Know that there is Christian Growth and Enrichment funding available, so if you apply to the Church Council for that money, you don’t even need to pay your own way! Just come back and share with us all the great things you learned and tell us about the new connections you made.

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



Committee Chairs

Christian Ed	Amy D'Alessandro
Church House	Ken Arifian
Church-in-Society	Lyn Lyon
Deacons	Sherrie Ruschmeyer
Fellowship	Kelly Kelly
Nominating	Sharon Santi
Stewardship	Susan Dodd
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	Linae Wutzl
Worship	TBD
Historian	Bob Brown

Long-Range Planning Committee

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

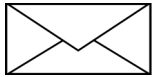
Pastoral Relations Committee

Gordon Markiewicz, Bob Lambert, Larry Ruschmeyer, Carol Eagan

Personnel Committee

Robin Murphy (chair), 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
Nursery Care	Debbie Marquardt	office@uccb.org



A note from Stewardship...

Welcome Spring...and the new CCB fiscal year! Thank you, again, to all members who have made pledges committing to financially support the works, ministries and running of our church over the next year. As you know the annual church budget is set based on the anticipated financial resources to be received from your pledges.

This past Stewardship pledge campaign fell short of meeting the 2017 proposed budget goal, so the Church Council proposed a budget diet—cutting back on expenditures that affect our ministries. Our thanks to all who contributed to that appeal, but know you can still give if you haven't already done so. Your giving and generosity is always appreciated.

If you make a regular offering but have not made a pledge, please consider doing so now. Without an accurate estimate of pledge income, our operating budget is affected, because we can only rely on committed income. You may still record a pledge with the CCB office by emailing Jeannine at office@uccb.org or by going online at www.uccb.org (click on the green GIVE link).

REMINDER: Please check the printed list in Brooks Hall and outside the CCB Office for your assigned pledge number. In an effort to streamline our pledge list and reduce costs associated with providing giving envelopes the Stewardship Committee may have assigned a new pledge number to you for recording your contributions for tax purposes. Please note your pledge number on your check or bank payment; it is helpful to the stewardship counting team. Thank You!

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

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Brookfield, CT



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

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