



CrossWays

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

MARCH 2018

Stretch * Trust * And * Really * Shine

The WELCOME committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the STARS game. We hope you felt welcome to try new aspects of our church and that your relationship with God was strengthened along the way. In case you didn't hear: **20 cards** were collected (but we think more people played without handing in their card). Congratulations to the 3 grand prize winners, **Olivia Quinsland, Kathy Taylor, and Marie Immohr**. The top 3 squares with the most stars were "Attend Coffee Hour," "Visit the Church Thrift Shop," and a tie for third was "Visit Women's or Men's Fellowship" and "Help CIS with a Service Project."

Moving forward...**reach beyond the STARS**... Take time to **reflect** on your new experiences.

- Did you try something that brought you closer to God?
- Did the experience strengthen your understanding of our church?
- Did you form new friendships or strengthen existing friendships?
- Did you discover a new spiritual gift?

Of course we hope you felt welcomed at all the places you visited. (Here are just some of my initial thoughts: I enjoyed getting a tour of the Thrift Shop and learning about my spiritual gifts at the Monday night book study. Now that I know how to use the coffee maker and dishwasher, I am excited to sign up to host a coffee hour. My personal favorite was when I was **hugged** by 4 women when I went to Women's Fellowship for the first time! I felt **welcomed everywhere** I went and with everyone I was with, so helping to create this game with my fellow Welcome Committee members has been my own personal reward. ~Linae Wutzl) If you would like to **share some of your reflections** with our committee we would love to hear from you - just email them or write them down and put them in the Welcome Mailbox.

Feel free to continue to Stretch * Trust * And * Really * Shine!

*Remember: No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are WELCOME here!*

Council Notes: February 13, 2018:

Live Nativity Report: Positive feedback from church members and the wider community. Coordinators hope the event can be held again, but need more help. Ideally most of the work will get done by September to avoid competing with the Fair for peoples' time and effort.

Long Range Planning Committee Update: On behalf of the LRPC, Maurice D. and Larry R. brought a proposal to Council that defines the purpose and responsibilities of the LRPC. Mark L. made a motion that Church Council accept the LRPC proposal, subject to certain language changes agreed to by Council, as an amendment to the CCB By-laws; and called for the LRPC document be submitted to a vote of the congregation at the Annual Meeting to be held on April 29, 2018. The motion was seconded by Greg D. The motion passed with one abstention.

Moderator's Report: This year is the 50th anniversary of the Yankee Fair. Walt Fisher, Carolyn Lin-droth, and Sally Markiewicz will co-chair. John and Millicent Morrison have been named as Honorary Chairmen to recognize and thank them for organizing the first fair. All of the vacancies on the Nominating committee have been filled. Robin welcomed Carolyn L. as the new Nominating committee Council representative. Bryn made a motion to have Council formally accept Carolyn L., Sally M., and Carol Eagan as members of the Nominating committee. Eileen K. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Vice Moderator's Report: The Personnel committee has started conducting non-clergy staff reviews.

Treasurer's Report: More than half of pledge income is coming in via PushPay. Pledge income is about \$24K over budget for the year. Expenses are about \$1K over budget.

Worship Committee: A bell concert with dinner will take place on May 6th. On Easter Sunday, communion will be offered as usual at the 8:30 am service, but not at the 10:30 service. Communion will be offered at the 10:30 am service the following Sunday, April 8. Easter Sunrise service at Happy Landings will start at 6:15 am.

Deacons: The Deacons wrote a letter of recommendation for Jane Moran. Jane appeared before the Fairfield East Association ordination review committee who approved Jane for an Ecclesiastical Council.

Christian Education Committee: 7th and 8th grade Sunday school attendance has been very low. Attendees have the opportunity to help with the younger grades. Time for Children slots have been filled through February. Contact Sue Waschak if you know someone with a special talent the kids would enjoy. The Valentine's Day dance raised \$4,000 for the SYF mission trip.

Church House Committee: Council agreed that CH should continue looking into additional security options. Ken should check with Maurice D. about getting the additional funds they need to complete the wheelchair ramp and paint the barn.

Church in Society Committee: The committee thanks everyone for supporting its Christmas outreach programs. Feeding Hungry Hearts collections continue through February. The book collection continues through March. The Souper Bowl of Caring raised \$860 which went to Loaves & Fishes in New Milford and the Brookfield food pantry. The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is coming up in March.

Welcome Committee: Two visitors' gatherings were held recently. New members will be welcomed into membership on March 4.

Historian's Report: Serendippers celebrated its 25th anniversary on Feb. 13th. Claire Horner organized the first Serendippers lunch and was guest speaker at the celebration. Bob B. asked Council to think about what to do with the leftover pews and other sanctuary items that have been stored in the barn since the chancel was reconfigured.

Pastors' Reports: The Monday morning study group will be starting a discussion of Rob Bell's *What is the Bible?* on Feb. 26th. Jennifer made a motion to approve spending \$60 from the Christian Growth and Enrichment Fund to cover the cost of the Women's Retreat for Bryn and Toni. Linae seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The Lenten devotional booklet is now available. March Serendippers will be a Lenten lunch. As a trial during Lent, three one hour bible study classes will be offered on Saturday mornings right after Men's & Women's Fellowship. Toni S. will be undergoing surgery and will be out of commission for a while. She has recruited musicians and worked on recordings that can be used during her absence.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Let's answer some basic questions about this program.....

What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

As part of Our Church's Wider Mission, it is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis.

Who participates?

Seven Christian denominations - *American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and Church World Service*

How much of OGHS funds are used for mission?

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming.

How are the funds used?

The United Church of Christ responds to development, disaster, and refugee needs in 138 countries, and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States.

How can I help?

You can make a donation to this organization on March 11th by writing a check to CCB and putting "OGHS" in the memo line, putting cash in the OGHS envelope included in the bulletin that day, or using PushPay and noting "OGHS" when prompted.



NO MORE INK CARTRIDGES OR CELL PHONES



Church-In-Society and the Senior Youth Mission Team are no longer collecting used printer ink cartridges or old cell phones for recycling. The program we were using is no longer in service. We thank those of you who have faithfully dropped off your used cartridges over many years. So..... where can you get rid of those pesky things? Staples, Best Buy and Target all accept used ink cartridges at any of their locations. Best Buy also accepts old cell phones (3 per customer/day.) Thank you again and please recycle them elsewhere in the future!



SPRING FORWARD

Sunday, March 11th!!

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



Thank You for Coming!

The Christian Education and Fellowship Committees would like to send out a big thank you to all who attended the Shrove Pancake Supper on February 11th. It was a big success! We had about 60-65 people attend and it was great fun. Fellowship provided delicious pancakes, sausages and fruit salad, and CE served up a truly fun and exciting program to kickoff the Lenten season of 2018.



With Grace, Gratitude and Generosity, together we are LIVING THE VISION! Thank you for journeying with us through our Stewardship Campaign this year and submitting your pledge. We hope that you have found some new perspectives in viewing life here at CCB through the “slices of pie” that we serve up weekly in Worship, Teaching, Mission/Outreach and Caring. CCB counts on your pledges to help us fulfill our vision and meet this year’s pledge budget of \$355,830.

- Pledging is your financial commitment to give regularly in support of our vision.
- You may give with check or cash by using your envelopes in the offering plate, scheduling automatic payments through your bank, scheduling electronic payments with PushPay through the CCB website www.uccb.org or the CCB app on your smartphone.
- Each person/family pledging is assigned a donor number for accurate accounting and tax reporting purposes. It is important to note your donor number on your check, electronic giving method or cash submission.
- Please note if your donation is to satisfy your pledge or for another designated offering: Mission Trips, Wider Church Offerings, Music, Flowers, Other (describe in notes). Missed submitting your pledge card? You can still record your pledge by contacting the church office or by visiting the CCB website www.uccb.org.
- If you are increasing or changing your pledge amount this year please remember to update your automatic or recurring payment methods for the new CCB fiscal year starting April 1, 2018. Thank you!

Your pledge is creating opportunities to serve. We are part of something greater than ourselves!

With Gratitude,
Your Stewardship Committee

A note from our SERRV team...

Our **SERRV** Table on designated Sundays continues to grow in outreach throughout the world! Our congregation ardently supports SERRV, the non-profit organization that provides fair trade products from its global partners. Every product tells a story of talented, small-scale farmers or artisans working to break the cycle of poverty. The tag on each item indicates from which of 25 countries it originates. Here are some other places you can "visit" at our SERRV Table ...

Aid Through Trade is a leader in the fair trade fashion industry and employs over 75 women artisans in Nepal. Aid through Trade is recognized for its signature glass beaded Roll-On™ bracelet. The artisans enjoy prestige, sisterhood, dignity, fair remuneration and other benefits.

Located in Cambodia, **Sak Saum** is a ministry dedicated to the rescue, restoration, transformation and rehabilitation of vulnerable and exploited women and men. Its goal is to create a nurturing, empowering, restorative program. Sak Saum specializes in beautifully sewn goods such as purses and scarves.

Women's Bean Project believes all women have the power to transform their lives through employment. They hire chronically unemployed women who are taught to work by making nourishing products sold across the United States. This project supports women as they find their purpose and break the cycle of poverty.

And our newest missions...

Shanga is a heartwarming project based in Tanzania, employing over 55 Tanzanians with disabilities. Shanga has two shops and workshops where they do glassblowing, beading, tailoring, metal work, wand weaving. Most materials used are recycled waste products.

Coffee, anyone? **Equal Exchange** is one of the largest worker co-operatives in the United States, and the world's largest worker-owned coffee roaster. Its mission supports a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world. Coffee is sourced directly from **44 small-scale farmer co-ops in 19 countries**. The UCC is part of Equal Exchange's Interfaith Program, a vibrant network of thousands of faith communities working to make a difference.

Each purchase serves others in support of positive change around the world. **We hope you can join us on Palm Sunday, March 25th for our special Easter sale!**

Sincerely,
Linda, Karen and Marie



Souper Bowl of Caring Thanks!

The Youth Fellowship groups 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 & SYF were able to raise \$860.00 to support the Brookfield Food pantry and Loaves and Fishes Hospitality House in New Milford. These donations will allow them to fill refrigerators, shelves and stomachs through their ministries.

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 we have raised nearly \$4,000.00 through Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you for helping us work to combat hunger!

Overflow Shelter Volunteers Needed

You are invited to join the Volunteer Team at the Danbury Overflow Shelter, which is an ongoing ministry of First Congregational Church (United Church of Christ), at 164 Deer Hill Avenue in Danbury. Volunteers will be trained and placed with an experienced person for the overnight shift, from 9pm to 6:45am. Stretch yourself and try this new opportunity once, and see how you shine!

Interested persons should contact Roberta Sol for information: roblsol@charter.net.



Church-In-Society Children's Book Drive

Throughout March, CIS is collecting new and gently used (that means **no marks, tears, or stains**) Pre-K through 6th grade level books to be donated to classroom libraries in Danbury. We hope to enhance reading on the classroom level by providing teachers with a wide range of selections on their classroom library shelves from which students can choose. The wider the choices the more likely students will find something that interests and engages them. You can drop your donations off on, in, or near the wagons in Brooks Hall. If you have any questions please talk to Olivia Quinsland. Thank you in advance for helping us to continue to stress our theme of education this year.



Notes from the Choir Room

I read a Still Speaking devotional today about how hard it is to ask for help. I get it. It is hard, and it is hard to be in a position to have to ask for help. It is so much easier to be on the giving end than on the receiving end. But I am now facing surgery that will definitely put me on the receiving end. When you read this I will have had rotator cuff surgery and will not be able to play the organ for a while. I feel terrible about that, but I have discovered what a gift this church is. We have many talented musicians who will be covering for me and offering you their time and talents to make our worship services a thing of beauty. The offers of support have been tremendous. So I have learned that being on the receiving end can actually be a grace filled gift. Thank you for that gift, CCB!

On March 3, at Trinity Church in Torrington, our children will participate in a Youth Choir Festival with other children from around the state. Our conductor is Gabriel Lofvall, who directs Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus, a very fine auditioned children's choir. I am very excited that our children can have an experience like this. If you want to treat yourself to a beautiful experience, come to the concert at 2:00 at Trinity Church, Torrington (220 Prospect Street, Torrington, CT.) Note: If there is inclement weather the concert will be postponed to Saturday, March 10th. We will post information on our website if this is the case.

Toni Sullivan, Director of Music

**March Serendippers/Lenten Lunch Gathering
Tuesday, March 13th at 11:45am
Pastors Bryn and Jen will offer a Lenten devotional
and program in the spirit of the season.**

Our menu:
Little Red Riding Hood Soup
Roll
Dessert

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.**



News from Church School

Christmas may be over, but the kids of church school kept the giving going as busy stewards to the Town of Brookfield and beyond. Thanks to generous donations from our church school parents and the Christian Education budget, the children were able to make 60 mason jars of dried chicken noodle soup for Brookfield's Food Pantry and 34 Hero Bags for the Brookfield Police Department, deliver 4 giant 76.5oz containers of Gatorade powder to Brookfield Fire Department, and participate with Operation Gratitude by writing or drawing "Thank You" letters to be sent to active service members. Church School also welcomed 3 rescue bunnies and Toby the rescue Dwarf Goat to CCB as part of Compassion Sunday where they got to learn how to support efforts of rescue organizations, help stop animal cruelty, hear stories of healing for rescue animals, and experience firsthand the companionship and love an animal can provide. Thank you to all the church school families that generously donated food and supplies for Dawnee Doo's Animal Rescue and Jayna Larkin's Bunny Rescue.

During the Lenten season, Church School will be taking a break from our general *Faith Practices* Curriculum to participate in more specific Lent focused lessons. Kicking off with a lesson of "Lent In A Bag", the following week lessons will take a closer look at each object in the bag and how it can be used to help each of us create a spiritual "change" during Lent.

FUTURE CHURCH SCHOOL EVENTS:

Palm Sunday- Palm Parade at the 10:30 Service followed by a lesson on "COMMUNION: WHAT? WHY?" lead by Pastor Whipple. There will be **NO 8:30 Church School** due to the children's choir singing at the 10:30 service.

Easter Sunday: An Easter lesson and EASTER EGG HUNT will be available at BOTH 8:30 and 10:30 services.

All Church Talent Show Saturday, March 10th 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 to work with Dacotah Tipis Habitat for Humanity in Fort Thompson, SD. Anyone who wishes to participate or donate food/drink items toward the concession sale please speak with or e-mail Dan McKee or Pastor Jen (jennifer@uccb.org). There will be a rehearsal on Thursday, March 8th at 6:00-7:00pm in the Meetinghouse for those who wish to practice in the space and get a sense of timing for their act.

Youth Fellowship in March

Junior Youth Fellowship (6th-8th graders):

Sunday, March 4th— Women's Center Service Project & FUN—5-6:30pm

Saturday, March 10th—All Church Talent Show—6-9pm

Sunday, March 11th—**No Meeting** due to Talent Show

Sunday, March 18th—Around the Town Scavenger Hunt—5-6:30pm

Sunday, March 25th— All About Prayer—5-6:30pm

Senior Youth Fellowship (9th-12th graders):

Sunday, March 4th— Battle Balls at the Danbury Sportsdome (tent.)—7-8:30pm

Saturday, March 10th—All Church Talent Show—6-9pm

Note: Mission Team Members should plan to be on hand from 5-10pm for set up, the show, and clean up and plan to bring something to sell for the concession stand at intermission.

Sunday, March 11th—**No Meeting** due to Talent Show

Sunday, March 18th—Around the Town Scavenger Hunt—7-8:30pm

Sunday, March 25th— Tails of Courage Service Project & GA GA—7-8:30pm

Confirmation Class in March:

Sunday, March 4th—Trip to the United Jewish Center in Danbury

Meet at CCB at 12:30pm for this optional trip to the UJC. We will return to CCB by 3pm.

Monday, March 5th—Confirmation Class: Sacraments—7-9pm in the Youth Room

Sunday, March 18th—Trip to the Masjid in Danbury

Meet at CCB at 1:30pm for this optional trip to the Danbury Masjid to learn about Islam. We will return to CCB by 4:30pm.

Monday, March 26th—Confirmation Class: Other Faiths—7-9pm in the Youth Room

God & Me Religious Award Opportunity:

If you are a scout in grades 1-3 and are interested in receiving your God & Me religious award please let Pastor Jen know (Jennifer@uccb.org or 203-775-1259 ext 308). We are looking to begin a class to work toward this award in Mid-March on Wednesday early evenings from 4:45-6pm, with hopes of wrapping up by early May.

**12th ANNUAL WOMENS RETREAT
AT SILVER LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER
223 Low Road, Sharon, CT 06069
April 6-8, 2018**

Enjoy a few hours with friends, or soon to be friends, in the beautiful Retreat Center! We leave on Friday at 6 pm, and return in time for the 10:30 service on Sunday!

The RC holds a minimum of 20 sleepers and a maximum of 28. There are many advantages to staying in the RC - the bedrooms hold fewer people, are quiet as they are removed from the gathering room, and of course, it's renovated! It's also a relaxing spot to do as you wish: gather with friends, walk in the woods, have a massage or reflexology, create a craft, take in the labyrinth, enjoy fantastic meals created for us!

If you are interested in joining this year,
please call or email Sue Slater

Inter-generational Church Family Retreat

All are welcome! May 4-6 at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, CT
Join us for a relaxing and reflective weekend of activities, music, nature and fun. \$135 per adult; \$105 per kid for the whole weekend - a great deal for a weekend away!
Sign up on the church office bulletin board, or see Kerri Colombo or Amy D'Alessandro to learn more. (Note: There is also a Saturday only option. See the bulletin board for more details.)

Come Walk With Us during Lent!

CCB Adult Education Offerings

Continue to STRETCH, grow, and transform your faith by participating in one or more of our study and fellowship opportunities for adults during this Lenten season:

Monday Morning Women's Study – from 9:30 to 11am in the Church Library

"What Is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything" by Rob Bell

In **Love Wins**, Rob Bell confronted the troubling questions that many people of faith were afraid to ask about heaven, hell, fate, and faith. Using the same inspired, inquisitive approach, he now turns to our most sacred book, the Bible. Books are available for purchase (\$15 each) in the Church Office during the week and on Sunday mornings by the committee mailboxes under the stairs heading to Brooks Hall.

Monday Afternoon Adult Study – from 5 to 6:30pm in the Youth Room

Join us for a TED Talk and discussion on **Monday, March 5th**.

The group is in the process of deciding among 3 study topics for March:

"What Is the Bible?" by Rob Bell

Spiritual Gifts, Continued... Several who participated in the January Spiritual Gifts class expressed interest in continuing this exploration for another week or so (4 lessons from this Stephen Ministry curriculum were not used):

5. People We Admire: What Our Heroes Have to Teach Us
6. Love, the Heart of Spiritual Gifts
7. Finding Your Unique Calling
8. When Your Gifts and God's Vision Come Together

"Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope, and Repair" by Anne Lamott

We begin, Lamott says, by collecting the ripped shreds of our emotional and spiritual fabric and sewing them back together, one stitch at a time. It's in these stitches that the quilt of life begins, and embedded in them are strength, warmth, humor, and humanity.

Please email Pastor Bryn at bryn@uccb.org to join the on-line discussion about our next study or to find out more information. ***The group's new study will begin Monday, March 12.***

Saturday Morning Men's Fellowship – from 8 to 9:00am in Fellowship Hall (includes BREAKFAST!)

Saturday Morning Women's Fellowship – from 8:30 to 9:30am in the Youth Room

Saturday Lectionary Bible Study – from 9:45 to 11am in the Church Library

On **3 Saturdays in March (3/10, 3/17, 3/24)**, we will gather to look more deeply into scripture texts for upcoming weeks in our Lenten worship. NO previous Biblical knowledge is presumed or required – ALL are welcome!

NOTE: There will be only ONE Lenten Lunch this year, our **Serendippers Lenten Lunch on Tuesday, March 13, from 11:45am to 1:30pm**. All daytime available people are welcome, so please feel free to invite a friend or neighbor, but we ask that you RSVP to Walt Fisher at jwfisherhome@aol.com. Also, childcare can be made available, on request, but please let us know by Sunday, March 11. Thank you!



**We hope you will join us for our
Easter Celebration!
Sunday, April 1st**

Easter sunrise at 6:15am – at Happy Landings Open Space (55 Whisconier Rd., Brookfield) Join your friends from around town in this outdoor worship led by the Brookfield Ecumenical Clergy. A lone bagpiper plays in the dawn, and Jennifer Whipple brings the message, “*From Silence to Celebration*. Special offering supports Brookfield Social Services.

Note: **Parking is limited.** Carpool if you can, but parking is available at Happy Landings, along Route 25, and at Valley Presbyterian on West Whisconier Road.

Worship in the Meetinghouse at 8:30am and 10:30am

Rev. Jennifer Whipple preaches “*From Silence to Celebration*” on the Easter story from Mark 16:1-8. Communion will be served at 8:30am service only. Joyous celebration with adult and children’s choirs at 10:30am service. Church school and nursery care at both services.

Special Services of Holy Week

Palm Sunday: March 25

Festive Worship at 8:30 & 10:30 am, and the Children’s Palm Processional at 10:30am. Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia preaches, “*Wild Horses*,” on Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 & Mark 11:1-11.

7:30 pm Maundy Thursday: March 29

Candlelight Communion in the Meetinghouse with service of Tenebrae and special music from the Adult Choir. Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia preaches on the preparation of the Passover meal for the Last Supper, as described in Matthew 26.

10am Good Friday: March 30

All are welcome to join us in the CCB Meetinghouse to begin our annual ecumenical “Cross Walk” around town with our brothers and sisters from other Brookfield churches – sharing prayers, scripture, and reflections as we remember the solemn journey of Jesus to the Cross.



EASTER FLOWERS

The Flower committee is collecting donations for the flowers to decorate the sanctuary, and once again beautify our Meetinghouse as we celebrate the Joy of Easter!

Make checks payable to “The Congregational Church of Brookfield” and designate that the donation is for *Easter Flowers*—then fill out this form and return it with your remittance to the church office **by Monday, March 26th.** You can call either Kathy Wandelmaier or Tina Crepeau if you have any questions. Please note: any donations that exceed our cost for seasonal decorations remain in our designated flower fund until needed. Thank you!

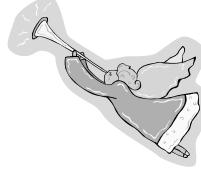
Name of Donor: _____

Amount of Donation: _____

Given for: _____

Please Circle one: In Honor of In Memory of

ANGELS FOR ANTHEMS

One of the highlights of the Easter services is the sound of all our voices united with our choirs proclaiming, “*Christ is Risen!*” The Music Committee welcomes your contribution to help cover the cost of special music, instrument maintenance, and repair needs that exceed our budget.

Make your check payable to “Congregational Church of Brookfield” and designate that the donation is for *Easter Music*—then fill out this form and return it with your remittance to the church office **by Monday, March 26th.**

Please note: any donations that exceed our cost for seasonal music will remain in our designated Music Fund until needed. Thank you!

Name of Donor: _____

Amount of Donation _____

Given for: _____

Please Circle one: In Honor of In Memory of

Fellowship Of Concern

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Sandy Boughton,
Lillian Covill,
Vivian Henley,
Ruthie Maxim,
Marion Miller,
Millicent Morrison,
Pat Roehling,
Dave Ryan,
Lavinia Schmalung,
Rod Schmalung,
Shirley Stoppel,



WITH THANKS:

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank all of you for your calls, cards, prayers, visits and good wishes during the weeks I was in the hospital. It meant a lot, and I really appreciated it. Thank you again, and it is good to be back at church.

Sandy Boughton

CrossWays Deadline

The deadline for the April 2018 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 20th**. If you have any questions please contact Jeannine at office@uccb.org or 203-775-1259.

Jesus did A LOT of traveling, which meant that he did A LOT of walking along with his disciples. I don't know about you, but when I walk with people it is interesting the conversation that ensues. Whether it is a "pastoral care" walk with a member of the church or a walk with Chloe (who loves to venture out and be in charge of where we are going), conversation comes naturally, and we get to learn about one another and the things that are important in our lives. We have the opportunity to notice things we have not noticed before and to see things from another person's perspective.

Our theme for Lent this year is "Come Walk With Me." In those words we recognize the importance of having others on the journey with us as we strive to grow in and live out our faith. In those words we also recognize an active invitation—an active invitation on our part to see God in each and every day of our lives and to bring others along with us as we travel the paths before us.

If we follow Jesus' example then that means turning to God each day for guidance, forgiveness, and love. (That is what the repentance part of Lent is all about—a turning back toward God and God's way.) It also means inviting both our dearest friends and new people to come walk with us on the journey. You can envision Jesus in the stories of the Bible picking up people along his routes (a la Forrest Gump running across the country). He had his closest confidantes with him, but he always welcomed others to join them along the way.

So I offer you a Lenten Challenge this year. If you see someone new to our community in worship on a Sunday morning don't hesitate to walk up to them and introduce yourself. You may find that it is their first time visiting with us, or you may find that they have been a member of the church for 20 years and you have always gone to different services. You may find that they have the same interests as you or that you have nothing in common. You *will* find that they have a story and gifts to share. And you may just find your newest "walking buddy"!

As we walk this Lenten Journey may we be bold in turning toward God in our own spiritual practices. May we be bold in reaching out to and welcoming others. May we be bold in our invitations to have people come walk with us. May we build strong connected community as we journey together.

Committee Chairmen and Church Council Reps

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	Tom Young
Stewardship	Susan Dodd
Welcome	Tom Young
Worship	Patty Moran

Church Council Representatives

Christian Ed	Kathy Taylor
Church House	Steve Waschak
Church-in-Society	Luke Duval
Deacons	Leslie Sands
Fellowship	Elayne Schwartz
Nominating	Carolyn Lindroth
Stewardship	Tom Brown
Welcome	Linae Wutzl
Worship	Eileen Koch
Historian	Bob Brown

Long-Range Planning Committee

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

Pastoral Relations Committee

Carol Eagan (chair), Gordon Markiewicz, Bob Lambert, Larry Ruschmeyer, Linae Wutzl

Personnel Committee

Robin Murphy (chair), Mark Lyon, 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	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 2017-2018

A-BRA	Leslie Sands (Stephen Ministry)
BRE-CR	Doug Fisher
D'A-EI	Jan Labas
EL-GU	Sherrie Ruschmeyer
HA-KE	Pete Lane
KI-MAL	Sue Boughton
MAN-MOR	Alex DeLucia
MU-RI	Mary Gallagher DeLucia
RO-SIC	Marie Immohr
SID-TU	Ed Insull
TY-Z	Greg Labas

Youth Deacons:

Chris Wutzl
Catie Coneybear

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 are 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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