



Cross Ways

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

FEBRUARY 2019



More than 29 years ago, the **Souper Bowl of Caring** began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."

Since that day, more than \$143 million has been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Sunday, February 3rd members of our Youth Fellowship groups will stand at our church doors with soup pots to collect your donations after worship. Every dollar donated goes to support Loaves & Fishes Hospitality House in New Milford and La Comida Food Pantry in Danbury, our 2019 Souper Bowl of Caring Charities of Choice. Our JYF folks are looking forward to lending their time with a special project for the clients who use the La Comida Food Pantry, and our SYF youth will participate in Souper Bowl of Caring by making the hot dinner for the Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen in New Milford that day as well.

Thank you in advance for your support and Enjoy the Game! (If you would like to write a check for your donation please make it payable to "CCB" with "Souper Bowl" in the memo line or PushPay with a note about "Souper Bowl".)

Church Council Notes: January 15, 2019

Moderator's Report: Congregational Meeting on Jan. 6: The congregation approved a preliminary budget that calls for a 10% increase in pledge income and a 4% increase in overall income. Currently there are 144 pledge units. Personnel: Annual Non-clergy staff evaluations are beginning. There is a vacancy on the Personnel Committee.

Treasurer's Report: At this time last year pledge income bumped up after a special appeal was made. Income is still 3% ahead of plan.

Church House Committee: We failed our fire inspection. The Fire Marshall will send a list of the violations that need to be corrected—including the "stuff" stored in the boiler room and electrical closet.

Christian Education Committee: Gordon M. led an adult education session in January and will lead another on February 24th. The one in January was well attended. CE is hoping to record future sessions.

Welcome Committee: Three people attended the Visitors' Gathering on Jan. 13. There is another gathering scheduled for February 10th.

Safety Committee: Scheduling a CPR training class. Saturday morning is the best time to hold the class, which will run around three hours, depending on the number of attendees. Ushers, Staff and Sunday school teachers/youth volunteers should plan to attend.

Deacons: The Deacons are checking their branch lists to see who should receive a letter asking for confirmation of membership status. Bryn and Jennifer will review the list before any letters are sent.

Worship Committee: 529 people attended the three Christmas Eve services. Attendance at the 8:30 service is up. Representatives from Artech came to take precise measurements for the pew cushions. The committee is writing a procedure manual for events and holidays.

Stewardship Committee: The "Making a World of Difference" stewardship campaign began on Jan 6. Each week the bulletin will have a story about a person in the wider church who is making a difference in the world. The purpose is to make a connection between money we send out and the impact it has in the world. Every weekend during the campaign we will hear from someone who is doing this type of work. There is a map in Brooks Hall with pushpins indicating places where CCB-supported work is being done.

Nominating: In February an opportunity brochure will be available. The Opportunity Fair will take place in late Feb or early March. (Note: Date has now been scheduled for March 3.)

Pastor's Reports: Jennifer shared some prayer concerns of our church family. Bryn has plentiful praise for the continuing education classes she is taking and is thankful for the opportunity to visit family in CA. Lent planning will take place in early February.

New Business:

- Christian Growth and Enrichment Spending Request: Linae made a motion to approve up to \$1,000 from the Christian Growth & Enrichment Fund to cover the costs for Barbara Crandell to attend the Vibrant Faith – Faith Formation Symposium October 3-5, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.
- Cottage Request: Valley Presbyterian (VP) asked permission to have their interim minister use the cottage for around nine months starting in April/May. VP will provide details once they are available. Council consensus is that we are open to the arrangement.
- Children's Garden Proposal: Gillian A. proposed creating a children's garden. Ken A. asked her to make a presentation to Church House. Council took no action.
- Live Nativity: \$1,800 from CG&E was approved for the 1st Nativity, but not formally set aside. There is around \$250 left over. Jennifer asked for the creation of a holding account for the left over money. December 7 has been chosen as the date for the event this year.
- Great Pumpkin Challenge: Jennifer asked for after-the-fact approval of \$175 from CG&E for supplies for the GPC. Jennifer made the motion. The motion carried.
- Records Inventory: Mark asked all committees to gather their meeting minutes and other important documents. The goal is to have all important records copied and stored in a safe, central location.
- Some assistance is available for members or friends who have been affected by the government shut-down. Let Jennifer know if you know someone who needs help.



All are invited to our
February Serendippers Gathering
Tuesday, February 12th at 11:45am

Join us as we learn about our Presidents with a presidential trivia game!

Our menu:

Almond Cranberry Punch, Pulled Pork, Asian Quinoa Salad, Million Dollar Cobbler

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.**

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 each month if you will have a need for childcare.



Silver Lake Conference Center Registration Open

Silver Lake is a place where people of all ages experience nature, make new friends, and explore their faith. With more than 60 acres of wooded land on lakeside shores, Silver Lake offers many opportunities for people to take healthy risks and try new things with the support of an intentional Christian community.

Time and again we hear from our campers: "Silver Lake is where I can be the real me!" We invite you to take the plunge this summer and find your true self, new friends, and a closer connection to God.

At Silver Lake people worship, learn, play, serve, and work together, respecting the right of private judgment. Silver Lake seeks to provide a safe environment of acceptance regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, reflecting our unity in Christ and respecting the faith journeys of all of God's children.

There are **conferences this summer** beginning in June for children and youth entering 4th grade through those who have completed 12th grade. There are service conferences, conferences that focus on sports and music, on Racial Justice and the new Silver Lake high ropes course. There are also opportunities for families to join in the Silver Lake fun with Family Camp. Information and registration can be found at www.silverlakeect.org.

Silver Lake scholarships are available through our Fairfield East Association and our own Christian Growth and Enrichment fund here at CCB. Please speak with Pastor Jen if you would like more information about scholarships.

Feeding Hungry Hearts 2019

Your help is needed! Please support Feeding Hungry Hearts 2019, the annual food drive for the Brookfield Food Pantry, sponsored by Church-in-Society (CIS).

The months following the holidays are some of the more difficult ones for our town food pantry. Donations typically are down at this time of year, so keeping up with the needs of local families that rely on the pantry can be a challenge.

There are two ways you can help!

Add a few items to your weekly shopping list. – We will have bags available in Brooks Hall that include a list of requested items. Please take a bag, pick up a few extra items from the list and return it to Brooks Hall. A representative from CIS will deliver the bags to the Food Pantry throughout the month.

Make a monetary donation. – We will have a box set up in Brooks Hall for monetary donations. The Brookfield Food Pantry can purchase items through programs such as the CT Food Bank, Emergency Food Assistance and from grocery stores offering bulk food at greatly reduced prices to food pantries.

Many thanks for your continued generosity!

The Church-in-Society Committee

If you have any questions, please contact Linda DeLucia.



Save the Date for our...

ALL CHURCH TALENT SHOW –

The evening of Saturday, March 2nd at 6:00pm.



STEWARDSHIP PRESENTS...

Kearstin Bailey
UCC Missionary Intern

Meet Kearstin and learn about her life and work with refugees in Greece and Hungary in an informal "roundtable" discussion!

February 9th - Joint Men and Women's Fellowship Potluck Breakfast - 8AM to 9:30AM
If you did not receive an email invitation and wish to attend, please feel free to contact...

Walt Fisher - Men's Fellowship
Susan Dodd - Women's Fellowship

You're invited!

Kearstin Bailey
UCC Missionary Intern

On Sunday February 10th, Stewardship is hosting a church-wide potluck to hear more great stories from Kearstin Bailey, a UCC missionary doing work in Hungary and Greece. She will be presenting a video program about her life and her work with refugees. Join Us from 5pm to 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall.

Name _____

Number Attending _____

> Entrees _____ > Side Dish _____

> Salad _____ > Dessert _____

> Gluten Free Options _____

> Dairy Free Options _____

Beverages Provided

Please return this completed form to the church office by 02/03/19.

Note: Childcare will be available for this event per request. Please indicate your need on this RSVP form by checking the space provided. Childcare needed _____



From the Stewardship Committee

Inspiring lives of service—**being the hands of God in our midst; that's what our Stewardship giving allows.** The giving of our time, talents and treasure not only supports our church campus and administration, that giving also goes to work in our Christian Education programs, and in our community outreach through Church in Society (CIS), and by the very example of our daily lives as we take the message from our worship services with us into living lives of action. Imagine the influence your **giving, no matter how great or small, can have on the world...or even just on one person.** The ripple effect from just one drop in the water—or many—can have a broadening reach. We can make a world of difference!

Influence

By Joseph Norris

Drop a pebble in the water,
And its ripples reach out far;
And the sunbeams dancing on them
May reflect them to a star.

Give a smile to someone passing,
Thereby making his morning glad;
It may greet you in the evening
When your own heart may be sad.

Do a deed of simple kindness;
Though its end you may not see,
It may reach, like widening ripples,
Down a long eternity.



Youth Fellowship in February

Junior Youth Fellowship (Grades 6-8):

Sunday, February 3rd – Souper Bowl of Caring Collection & Service Project

Youth volunteers will help collect the monetary donations for our recipients after both worship services. We have tentative plans to travel to La Comida in Danbury from 12:30-2pm to help with a service project.

Sunday, February 10th – Making a Difference

Bring your families and join us for a potluck dinner and an opportunity to learn about some good work being done in the world from a real life missionary. This will take place from 5-6:30pm

Sunday, February 17th – No Meeting due to the long weekend

Sunday, February 24th – Regular Meeting from 5-6:30pm

Senior Youth Fellowship (Grades 9-12):

Sunday, February 3rd – Souper Bowl of Caring Collection & Service Project

Youth volunteers will help collect the monetary donations for our recipients after both worship services. We will meet in the parsonage from 12-1:30pm to make dinner for the people who will dine at Loaves & Fishes Hospitality House that evening.

Sunday, February 10th – She Mattered

Join us from 7-8:30pm to help support one of our own SYF members with her Girl Scout Gold Award project. We will have special guest Debbie Berman with us to share a bit about her family's experience with mental health struggles and her daughter's death by suicide. We will be participating in large group and small group discussions and activities. We will have extra adults on hand for this meeting and will be sending out more information ahead of time.

Sunday, February 17th – No Meeting due to the long weekend

Sunday, February 24th – Regular Meeting from 5-6:30pm

Fellowship Of Concern



CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Kim Abreu
Lillian Covill
Liz DeLambert
Revs. Joe Glaze & Jenny Montgomery
Vivian Henley
Greg & Jan Labas
Marion Miller
Millicent Morrison
The Ruschmeyers,
Dave Ryan
Lavinia Schmaling
Rev. Ted Walker

WITH SYMPATHY:

- Laurie Matson and family on the passing of Laurie's father, Don Brush.
- Lillian Covill on the passing of her sister Margaret (Marge) Gruneberg.
- Pete Lane on the passing of his stepmother Faye.

CrossWays Deadline

The deadline for the March 2019 issue of CrossWays is **February 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 Administrator at 203-775-1259 if you have any questions.



Confirmation Class:

Confirmation Class will meet on **Sunday, February 10th** to discuss Christian History and learn more about our denomination, the United Church of Christ. We will meet in the parsonage from **12-2pm**.

Confirmation Save the Dates:

Sunday, March 17th @ 2-4pm – Trip to the Masjid in Danbury to learn about Islam
Sunday, March 31st @ 12-pm – Trip to the Synagogue in New Milford (tentative)



**13th ANNUAL WOMENS RETREAT
AT SILVER LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER
223 Low Road, Sharon, CT 06069
April 5-7, 2019**

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 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, are 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 4 fantastic meals created for us!

Cost is remaining at \$130 for the weekend.

(If you are in need of financial assistance to attend, please speak with Pastor Jen.)

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

About Silver Lake:

Silver Lake Conference Center is 38 miles from Brookfield in Sharon, CT. SLCC is a beautiful property of the CT Conference of the United Church of Christ that our congregation has supported through mission dollars and participation in retreats and summer conferences for many, many years.

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver ~2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (ESV)

I have been thinking a lot about gifts lately—not the kind you buy at the store, necessarily, but the ones that we have to offer from our own “stores” - the stores in our hearts, our watches, and yes, our wallets. During “stewardship season” we talk a lot about our gifts of time, talent, and treasure and the ways we are called to put them to work in the church. This year we are especially mindful of the ways that those gifts don’t just remain within the confines of the church, though, but how they make an impact in the world beyond our walls—the ways in which they make a difference.

“Stewardship” can seem a scary word. The dictionary definitions of the word, however, get at the heart of it. They say that stewardship is the responsible overseeing, protection, and management of something considered worth caring for. Aren’t our gifts worth caring for? Aren’t they worth protecting and building up? Aren’t they worth managing well and perhaps even using for the greater good?

We spoke about gifts early on in this New Year with our youth fellowship groups, and we even had them take a spiritual gifts inventory, as we do with our confirmands each year. It was really interesting, eye opening, and just plain cool to see the ways that they reacted to reading about their number one gift and the others that were close seconds and thirds. It was a blessing to hear them talk a little about the ways that they see themselves using their gifts now and perhaps putting them to use in the future as they think about their lives beyond school.

One of the gifts measured on the inventory was the gift of encouragement, and as I thought about that gift I thought about a gentleman in the church where I grew up. His name was John, and he was a mailman in town for years—knew just about everyone. John was the consummate greeter at church, welcoming everyone by name and making sure visitors settled in OK. He was the uber usher, walking people to their seats as he chatted with them about what was happening in their lives. He was a listener and an encourager by nature. Well, when I felt my call to ministry and started pursuing it, he was right there. Sometimes he had words of pure encouragement and other times words of gentle challenge that led to encouragement. He was always checking in with my folks about how I was doing, and when I was back in town and in church he would be sure to pull me aside to listen and joke and nudge me forward. He didn’t need to be prompted to share that gift—that gift of loving encouragement. He did it intuitively, cheerfully, generously. He used his gifts from God—gifts of time, talent (and I am almost certain treasure as well) - to reach out to and support others, to accompany them, and to make a difference.

As we learn more about our own gifts with the help of the Holy Spirit, and as we make our own decisions about the ways we wish to steward them, I hope and pray that we might do so with a spirit of generosity and cheerfulness...and with a desire to see the ways they can be used to make a true and lasting difference in the life of our church and in the world.

News from Church School



Happy New Year, CCB! January has already seen the children of church school busy at work continuing to strengthen each of their connections to God. Children have experienced various techniques used to pray in order for them to begin to identify *personal techniques* to use during prayer that help them feel connected to God. Children have also *created* and shared a personal prayer technique.

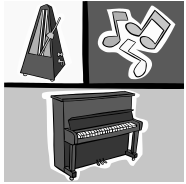
The month of January ended with each child decorating a personal prayer box. The boxes contain an inspirational message to encourage them to pray and are filled with objects, scripture, drawings, writings, etc., that they feel facilitate personal prayer.

February includes service projects and a visit from Pastor Jen. Pastor Jen will extend the conversation of prayer with a lesson entitled: *Why do we pray? The day my emotions joined me in my prayers*. This lesson will also include a closer look at prayers found in Psalms. There are currently 2 service projects planned for the month of February. Children, for a 4th year, will be making Mason Jar Dried Chicken Noodle Soup for the Brookfield Food Pantry. For the 2nd year they will be packing Appreciation Bags for the Brookfield Police Department, donating Gatorade powder to the Brookfield Fire Department, and writing letters or drawing pictures for our service men and women as part of *Operation Gratitude*.

Future Happenings:

- Service project for packing 6 Church World Service Emergency Clean-up Buckets thanks to a matching grant from the UCC
- Possible Shrove Pancake Day led by a CCB Confirmand and mentor
- Service Project for our "Adopted" preschool in South Africa that will have the children decorating a little canvas tote bag for each preschool member to carry their lunchboxes and books in to and from school.

Barbara Crandell
Church School Coordinator



Notes from the Choir Room

This month our Chancel Choir has the opportunity to participate in a Choir Festival with other choirs from around the state. Music has been chosen, and we are busy practicing it. Some of the **selections are old favorites of ours, such as "I Believe" by Mark Miller.** The setting is beautiful with balconies on both sides of the chancel, **allowing antiphonal singing and rounds. We will be singing "Dona Nobis Pacem" with** singers in different places in the sanctuary.

You are all invited to attend. It will take place at St. Rose of Lima Church,
35 Center Road
Meriden, CT

The program is at 5:00pm on Sunday, February 24. The snow date is the following Sunday, March 3.

Toni Sullivan, Director of Music

Ordinary People Wanted

God looks for ordinary people to do His work in this world.

This is not new information. Mary was a Jewish peasant girl who likely did not have youthful aspirations of growing up to be the mother of the Savior. Yet when God sent the angel Gabriel, she said "yes" and followed God's call. The shepherds were on the low end of Jewish society's social spectrum but heard the news of Jesus' birth and found themselves to be the first to worship - and they did not even get a star to follow! The disciples? They were fisherman, tax collectors, and other ordinary folk who each had the original "come to Jesus" moment - and followed.

At CCB, we also believe that God calls us all just as He has called others throughout all time. We all have our stories as to how we came to this church, whether through luck of birth or luck of the draw. Maybe it was as easy as falling off a log, maybe it was during a time of desperate need, or maybe we got slapped upside the head (in a good way).

During the next month, your Nominating Team asks us all to remember the call that first brought us together and to listen to perhaps new calls to fellowship and service in Christ's church. If you feel the call to serve this year, or if you have questions about where you might be able to put your gifts to use, please contact me.

Tom Young, Chair
Nominating Committee

Committee Chairmen and Church Council Reps

Moderator: Mark Lyon
 Vice Moderator: Sue Waschak
 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 Marie Immohr
 Fellowship Kelly Kelly
 Nominating Tom Young
 Stewardship Susan Dodd
 Welcome Sharon Santi
 Worship Kim Downey

Church Council Representatives

Christian Ed Wendy Elsen
 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

Church Safety Committee: Rodger Wutzl (chair), Tina Crepeau, Walter Ostrom,
 Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Kathy Taylor, Linae Wutzl

Long-Range Planning Committee: Maurice Downey (chair), Barbara Crandell, Michael Matson,
 Deseré Edwards, Sian Hunter, Larry Ruschmeyer, Rick Hardin

Pastoral Relations Committee: Carol Eagan (chair), Gordon Markiewicz, Bob Lambert,
 Larry Ruschmeyer, Linae Wutzl

Personnel Committee: Mark Lyon (chair), Sue Waschak, Bryn Smallwood-Garcia,
 Olivia Quinsland, Bill Robertson, Monica McInerney

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 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 2018-2019

| | |
|-------|---------------------------------|
| A-Bo | Leslie Sands (Stephen Ministry) |
| BR-CO | Martha Parvis |
| CR-DO | Jan Labas |
| DR-GI | Jeanine Hanewicz |
| GL-I | Pete Lane |
| J-LI | Sue Boughton |
| LO-MA | Alex DeLucia |
| Mc-O | Mary Gallagher DeLucia |
| P-RI | Ed Insull |
| RO-SC | Marie Immohr |
| SE-TE | Greg Labas |
| TH-Z | John Pondiccio |

Youth Deacons:

Chris Wutzl
Catie Coneybear

SERRV Valentine's Sale

Would you like an opportunity to help those in need and find a gift for your favorite Valentine at the same time? A SERRV sale can fill that role!!! Shop with us **Sunday, February 10th, at 9:30am and 11:30am** for the latest in heart filled gifts: Divine chocolates, "For Freedom" Sak Saum purses, SERRV gifts and scarves, Women's Bean Project cookie, soup, and dip mixes and Horizon Unlimited woven scarves and beaded items .

Hope to see you at the SERRV booth!

Linda, Karen and Marie

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

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The Congregational Church of Brookfield
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Sunday Worship at 8:30am and 10:30am

The Rev. Bryn Smallwood-Garcia, Senior Pastor
The Rev. Jennifer Whipple, Associate Pastor
The Rev. M. S. Desmond, Pastor Emeritus

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