



Cross Ways

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

MARCH 2019

Begin Your Lenten Journey with Ash Wednesday Worship

7:30-8am Wednesday, March 6th

This Lenten season, we will be "Braving the Wilderness" together in worship from the first Sunday in Lent, March 10 through Easter, April 21, as we journey with Jesus from his desert experiences of temptation to his cross and resurrection in Jerusalem.

We encourage you to join us March 6 for a brief, intimate Ash Wednesday worship service. If you have never attended an Ash Wednesday service, we encourage you to be brave and try something new. Many of us find imposition of ashes is a powerful ancient ritual that helps us to prayerfully begin the Lenten season.

All are welcome to join us for this simple 30-minute service of scripture, song and contemplative prayer in the Meetinghouse... the morning of Ash Wednesday. You may participate in the imposition of ashes, on your forehead or hand if you desire, but this part is entirely optional.



SPRING FORWARD
Sunday, March 10th!!

*Remember to change your clocks before bed
on Saturday, March 9th!!!*

No February 12th Church Council notes as meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

CONFIRMATION PROJECT – DAWS SUPPLY DRIVE

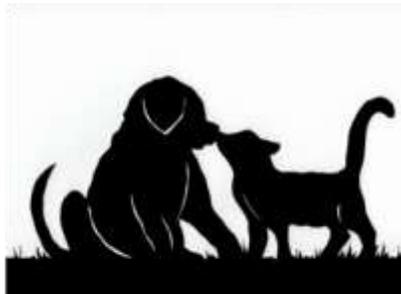
My name is Geslin, and in the month of March I will be collecting items for DAWS (Danbury Animal Welfare Society) for my confirmation project. The items I will be collecting are listed below. You will find dog food is not listed because it is their number one donation, and they are not in need of it. What they are really lacking is both kitten and cat food.

The collection box will be located in Brooks Hall. There will be a sign indicating the things I am collecting. Again, I'm collecting throughout the month of March. I will be delivering all donations to DAWS during the first week of April.

Thank you in advance for giving me both your time and your donations.

List of Items I will be collecting:

- Hand Sanitizer
- Kitten food (wet and dry)
- Cat food (wet and dry, Friskies brand preferred)
- Cat and dog toys
- Latex gloves
- Dawn dishwashing soap
- Hand soap
- Paper Towels
- Sponges
- Laundry detergent
- Pillow cases
- Towels
- Blankets (without filling)
- Toothbrushes
- Kitty litter (clay, non-clumping)



QUESTIONS & FACTS ABOUT ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

What is One Great Hour of Sharing®?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

How is the United Church of Christ's offering used?

62 percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for missionaries. Currently there are 2 OGHS supported missionaries and 1 Global Mission Intern working in disaster relief, health care, education, sustainable agricultural development, and refugee support. The offering also funds disaster preparedness and response, and disaster related volunteer initiatives in the U.S.

Where and how are OGHS funds shared?

The United Church of Christ responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Specifically, we support sustainable development and refugee needs internationally, and provide disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States. The United Church of Christ responds as a member of organizations such as Church World Service and the ACT Alliance. We also support the direct mission efforts of churches and church-based organizations that the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have direct partnerships with through Global Ministries. Nearly one-fifth of the UCC's OGHS offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee services, and disaster programs worldwide.

How many dollars are given to the UCC's OGHS offering?

In 2017, the OGHS offering received more than \$2 million. Nearly sixty-five percent of UCC congregations participate annually.

What percentage of OGHS donations are used directly for mission?

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming; and 5 cents is for interpretation materials. The associated administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support.

How are decisions made to fund the various projects?

Most of the expenditures are put into the budget to support long-term sustainable development. All funding is reviewed and monitored by a leadership committee that also reviews grant requests for long-term disaster rehabilitation initiatives.

WE WILL RECEIVE OGHS DONATIONS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MARCH.

Make your check payable to CCB and note OGHS on the memo line, or give with our PushPay app using the pull down menu, typing OGHS in the notes section.

From Stewardship...

Thank you for your pledge, your good faith commitment to financially support our church. CCB relies on the combined tally of pledges received to establish our operating budget and fulfill the goals and missions of the church. Increases in staff insurance premiums and the church oil bill will require an \$11,000 increase in the church budget for this coming year. These were factors beyond our control. Your generous giving allows CCB to truly ***make a world of difference*** here at home, in our community and out in the world. Thank you for continuing to live and expand the vision!

Below is a "Time With Our Children" offered by Richard Nyers on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019:

"Ripples"

Gathering around a pool of water: You might be wondering why we have a pool of water here. Well, Jesus often taught his followers in parables or stories to help them understand things better. So, today we are going to perform a little science experiment to help us see what happens when we give something to our church.

And what do we give?

We can give our time by being present.

We can give our talents by doing something that we are really good at.

We can also give some of our money, so that if we can't always be present or do something good it allows others to do something good.

Are you ready? Let's think of this pool as our church and these pebbles as something that we give to our church. I am going to drop a pebble in the water. Did you see what happened?

- Yes, it sunk—it stayed right here.
- Yes, it splashed—it made a big impact and reached out and touched several people around the pool.

Did you also see the ripples across the surface of the water? Watch again when I drop a pebble on this side. Do you see the ripples go all the way to the other side? That's just what happens when we give of ourselves. We have the greatest impact right here where we give or do something good. But what we do here also touches those around us and can even reach all the way to the other side of the world!

Let's pray together:

Dear God, through your grace you give us many good gifts and teach us to be generous with our time, our talents and our resources. Help us to see that we can really ***make a world of difference*** by our giving, knowing that everything we do has an effect on those around us, both near and far, like ripples reaching out across the water. Let us make lots of ripples! **Amen.**





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 \$670.00 to support the LaComida Food pantry in Danbury 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 \$8.7 million on Super Bowl Sunday to support local projects that work to end hunger in the United States. Over the last 10 years we have raised over \$5,300.00 through Souper Bowl of Caring. Thank you for helping us work to combat hunger!



We are off to India on **Monday, March 4th** to learn about *Her Future Coalition*. The mission of *Her Future Coalition* is to provide shelter, education, and employment to survivors of gender violence, so they can become and remain free forever. The purpose of this project is to expand the services of three Red

Light Area Resource Centers in Kolkata (Calcutta) in order to provide women with job training, employment, counseling, and informal education. It will also provide education, counseling, safe spaces, and therapeutic arts for these women's children.

As always it is a potluck affair where you bring whatever is convenient (and plan to take your leftovers home!) since we know many of you come directly from work. Both women and men are welcome to join in this educational opportunity.

The concept of Dining for Women is that you donate what you would have spent for dinner that night had you gone out to eat. Whatever you put into the basket will go directly to this program. Please consider joining us and invite an interested friend! **We begin at 6:00pm and end by 7:15-7:30pm.**

We will meet **Monday, March 4th at Karen Underhill's house.** Please let her know if you plan to attend. You can also let Olivia Quinsland know.



Notes from the Choir Room

This year the priority in our CCB Vision Statement has been Prayer. During this winter we have been talking and singing about prayer. For the Cherubs it is understanding that God is always there and that when we are feeling sad or afraid or happy, we can talk to God about it with the assurance that **God is always there to listen and love us. The Cherubs will sing "God Is Always There" on March 17.**

The Alleluia choir has defined prayer as communicating with God. That means talking to God as well as listening. We explored ways God talks to us. Their answers ranged from a kind word from a friend or a hug, to ideas and answers popping into our heads at just the **right time. They are singing a song "Be Still and Know that I am God" on March 24. It reminds us that there are times when we must be still to know and feel God's presence.** Like the Cherub anthem, it also assures us that God is always there for us.

I am always so impressed with the thoughts, ideas and insights that our children have about faith and about God. They are a gift to be loved and appreciated.

Toni Sullivan, Director of Music

**March Serendippers/Lenten Lunch Gathering
Tuesday, March 12th at 11:45am
Pastors Bryn and Jen will offer an interactive program based
on our Lenten Theme of "Braving the Wilderness."**

Our menu:
Beef Stew
Italian Bread Supreme
Mint Chip Cake

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.

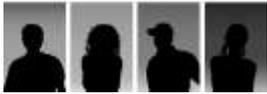
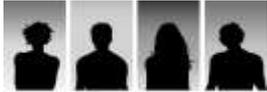


All Church Talent Show
Saturday, March 2nd at 6:00 pm in the Meetinghouse



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 Reach Beyond Missions in Washington D.C. Anyone who wishes to participate by sharing an act or donating food/drink items toward the concession sale please speak with or e-mail Dan McKee (dandidit2@yahoo.com) or Pastor Jen (jennifer@uccb.org).

March Youth Fellowship News



Our Junior and Senior Youth Fellowship groups were busy in February with Souper Bowl of Caring, service projects, conversations about tough but important topics and some FUN. This month the JYF and SYF will participate in our All Church Talent Show, go around town searching for clues pertaining to St. Patrick's Day, and serve others. Our groups will meet on Saturday, March 2nd and Sundays, March 10th, 24th and 31st. (Note that there will not be regular Sunday meetings on March 3rd or 17th.) If you have a young person in grades 6-12 in your family and would like to be added to our weekly email reminder and details lists for Junior or Senior Youth Fellowship please email Pastor Jen at Jennifer@uccb.org to be added.

Confirmation Class in March

Sunday, March 3rd: Sacraments – 12-2pm in the Parsonage

Sunday, March 17th: Optional trip to the Masjid – 1:45-4:15pm

This is an opportunity to learn about Islam, its tenets and worship, along with other confirmands from nearby churches. Please let Pastor Jen know if you will plan to attend.

Sunday, March 24th: Other Faiths – 12-2pm in the Parsonage



SAVE THE DATE!
All-Church Inter-generational Retreat
Friday, May 3rd through Sunday, May 5th
at Silver Lake Retreat Center in Sharon, CT.

Do you like nature? Could you use a break from cooking? Do you want to get to know people on a deeper level? Do you like to let loose and have a big belly laugh?

You are welcome here! Come to the All-Church Intergenerational Retreat
May 3-5 at Silver Lake Retreat Center in Sharon, CT.
All ages and stages of life are welcome and encouraged to join us.
Come for the whole weekend, or just for Saturday.

This interactive weekend is a blend of spiritually based small group programming with plenty of free time to enjoy nature, games, music or other optional programs. A popular campfire with songs and games on Saturday night is a favorite, and we wrap up on Sunday morning with a simple and poignant outdoor worship service. All meals are included, so no cooking required for the whole weekend!

Cost, whole weekend retreat:
Includes 4 meals (3 Saturday + Sunday breakfast) & overnight accommodations.
\$100 per person, age 11 or older; \$70 per person, age 2-10.

Cost, Saturday-only option:
Includes 2 meals (lunch & dinner)
\$30 per person, all ages.

See or email Amy D'Alessandro or Kerri Colombo for more info or to sign up

Scholarships are available, please see Pastors Bryn or Jen to discuss privately.

Fellowship Of Concern



CONTINUING CONCERNS:

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

WITH SYMPATHY:

- Dave and Sung Goral and family on the passing of Dave's sister, Ginny McKinstry, on January 28.
- Karen and Bob Underhill and family on the passing of Bob's brother Fred Underhill on February 8 and Karen's brother-in-law, Ken Fisher, her sister Emily's husband, on February 20.
- Tina Crepeau and family on the passing of her father, Carlos Mulvey, on February 12.

CrossWays Deadline

The deadline for the April 2019 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 Administrator at 203-775-1259 if you have any questions.

Annual Report Deadline

Annual reports are due to the church office by **Tuesday, March 19th**. If you have any questions please contact Jeannine at office@uccb.org or 203-775-1259.

Pastoral Care Corner

As your pastors, one of the ways we try our best to offer care to people is by visiting should someone find themselves in need of a stay in the hospital or a rehabilitation center. In these spaces we have an opportunity to check in with people, to help the hospital staff see them as children of God (instead of just the person in bed 2), and to pray for healing with our church family members and their family members. We have also been known to deliver a prayer shawl or two during these stays as well, so people know that they are wrapped in the prayers of our church community.

Once upon a time in ministry a pastor could call the hospital in the morning, ask if anyone from their church was a patient, and receive that information readily. With small communities and minimal privacy concerns it just happened that way. However, with strict patient privacy legislation, big hospital systems, and complicated intake information forms, this is no longer the case. *So we need your help!*

We feel awful when we find out after the fact that someone has been in the hospital or in a rehab center recovering from an injury or ailment, and we have provided no care. *However, the only way we know that you or a loved one needs care is if you or someone from your family lets us know. Please do give a call or drop us an email (office@uccb.org, bryn@uccb.org, or jennifer@uccb.org) if you or a dear one is in the hospital or rehab center.* Know that we will respect your privacy and only share the information that you allow us to **share...and will only visit if it is all right with you. This will give us an** opportunity to hold you in our private prayers too. Many thanks for your help in this matter.

Blessings,

Jennifer & Bryn

Pastoral
CARE



Lent began last year for me, as it has done for many years now, at 7:30am in our Meetinghouse, with a simple service of scripture, prayer, song, and imposition of ashes (for those who want to participate). Ash Wednesday 2018 was the morning of Valentine's Day, and the terrible news of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School soon followed. The image that hit me like a gut punch was of the weeping mother, reunited with her daughter in the school parking lot, because she was wearing the ash smudge of a black cross on her forehead.

I suspect Ash Wednesday, and Lent, will be forever different for me now. The phrase that we repeat to those who receive the ashes is so powerful. We look each person in the eye and speak to them by name, and then say, "ashes to ashes, dust to dust; remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." This is not how friendly Christians like us typically greet one another!

In spite of the prevalence and popularity of quite graphic violence in our wider culture – whether from first-shooter video games to bloody TV shows, or movies – I think our church tends to prefer that we dwell on lighter, more cheerful and positive thoughts. We are inclined to avoid the negative and to sometimes even deny the reality of death. And yet, we know we are called to remember our mortality, even as we celebrate the great spiritual gift of eternal life.

Lent gives us a chance to reflect on our mortality, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending 6 weeks later with the death of Jesus on Good Friday, as we join our fellow Christians from other churches in town on our walk with the cross around Brookfield Center. I believe there is spiritual benefit in these remembrances, during this dark "purple season" of the church year.

Ash Wednesday this year falls on March 6th. From the quiet of that intimate **7:30am service in our Meetinghouse** we will enter Lent, concluding in our church parking lot with our **Good Friday "Cross Walk" at 10am on April 19th**. During those Biblical "40 days and 40 nights," we will have opportunities to explore this year's Lenten theme – *Braving the Wilderness*.

This Lenten theme takes its imagery from the many stories of Jesus, who called disciples to quite literally walk with him bravely into the wilderness, through Samaria, and on to Jerusalem – and Holy Week's Last Supper, cross, tomb, and resurrection. Along with our two Lenten **Serendippers programs on Tuesdays March 12 and April 9**, we hope to offer two family-friendly **Sunday evening potlucks, on March 24 and April 7**, to learn more about prayer.

Our "*Braving the Wilderness*" theme will touch on Brené Brown's book of the same title, which we will be reading in our **Monday 5pm Adult Study**. Her 2017 book, subtitled "The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone," explores the challenges we face – especially in these polarized times – as we try to be authentic to ourselves and "speak our truth in love," as Ephesians puts it, and still come together in loving community with one another.

I hope our Lenten season worship will offer sermons that help us to go deeper into exploring many familiar stories of Jesus. As we "brave the wilderness" with him, we will hear again texts – from the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness to some key parables of Luke, like the "Good Samaritan" and "The Prodigal Son," which help us better understand qualities that our faith can draw out and develop in us – like wisdom, courage, compassion and forgiving grace.

And after the darkness of Lent will come the dawn of **Easter Sunrise**, which this year will be celebrated with other Christians in our community again at **Happy Landings Open Space, at 5:45am on Sunday, April 21st**. And in our Meetinghouse, you can join us for our two **Easter services, at 8:30 and 10:30am**. However you choose to participate in this Lenten season, know that your church is grateful for your presence with us – as we gather to pray, share, and welcome others in Christ's name.

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

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.



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The Congregational Church of Brookfield
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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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