

The Carillon



STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Incorporated 1921

DECEMBER 2023

Worship In Person or Online with SCC

Sunday at 10AM in the Meeting House or via Zoom or YouTube

Scan QR Code or Access Online Worship activities at
<http://www.storrscongchurch.org/worship-online/>.

“The Gift of Being Present” Advent and Christmas 2023

Advent 1: Being Present with **Hope** 12/3, 10a
Communion will be served

Advent 2: Being Present with **Peace** 12/10, 10a
featuring Lessons and Carols

Advent 3: Being Present with **Joy** 12/17, 10am

Advent 4: Being Present with **Love** 12/24, 10am

Christmas Eve: 12/24, 7:30 pm

Being Present with **Light**
featuring a candlelight service

*“In Advent we celebrate the coming
and indeed the presence of Christ
in our world.”*

-Thomas Merton



welcoming historic progressive Christian



Open and Affirming



Accessible to All



A Just Peace Church



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The Carillon is the monthly newsletter of

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ON THE JOURNEY WITH PASTOR DIANE



Dear Friends,
Happy New Year!

The beginning of Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year on the Christian calendar. On the first Sunday of Advent, December 3rd, we greet a season of anticipation, preparation, and waiting. It is a time that invites us to turn inward and introspective, as daylight wanes and the autumn air changes to a winter chill.

We light candles, we chase away the

shadows, we widen the circle of light. We celebrate hope, peace, joy and love as we travel closer to a manger in Bethlehem.

Beloved, how will you prepare for God's breaking-in to the world? How will you anticipate the coming of "God with skin on," God who enters the world as a vulnerable child? Let us prepare, anticipate, and wait together. Please read through the Advent offerings of SCC and see what is calling to you. Join the Sunday Advent worship services, sing along at "Lessons and Carols", say yes to Christmas Caroling, and pause once a week to regroup and center yourself with our Advent Book Study (on Zoom). Come to the Christmas Eve candlelight service and see what God has in store for you in this season. I hope you will peruse all that Storrs Congregational Church has to offer in this Advent issue of *The Carillon*, and say YES!

With the Peace of Christ,

Diane

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

On Sunday, December 24th we will receive contributions to the Christmas Fund, one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This fund provides direct financial assistance to those who serve or have served the church. It offers pension and health premium supplements to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to families of clergy and lay employees, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of low-income annuitants. Please give generously to support these Veterans of the Cross. You may use the special offering envelope included in this mailing or make your check payable to the Storrs Congregational Church with "Christmas Fund" on the memo line. Thank you.

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING ~ DECEMBER 12TH

The next meeting of the Governing Board will be on **Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 PM** in person in Room 201 and via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend! If you'd like to receive the Zoom meeting invite and materials packet (so you can follow along with the meeting), contact Deborah in the office to be added to the distribution.



Ministry Coordinator Reports are due to the office by Friday, December 8th. Items for consideration by the Governing Board at the upcoming meeting should be submitted to Carolyn Holmy (ceholmy@snet.net) and the office (sccoffice@storrcongchurch.org) by Friday, December 8th.

“SENIORS CONNECT!”: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH



Zoom in with Rev. Diane for this monthly **online** gathering! Open to SCC 'seniors' and any who wish to connect online. We will meet via Zoom the **second Thursday of the month from 11 am-12 pm.**

Online readers:

Click on the link below to join Zoom Meeting

Thursday, October 12th, 2023 @ 11:00 am

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83180484395](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83180484395)

Meeting ID: 831 8048 4395

Paper readers: Please note that at the time of printing, the link for the zoom meeting has not been added to our webpage however, we anticipate the functionality before the gathering! Look for updates in the weekly emails or check our webpage under 'Connecting In'.

Phone-In readers:

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 386 347 5053 US

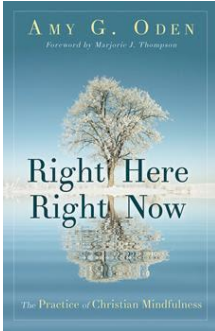
+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 360 209 5623 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

An Advent Book Study over Zoom!
“Right Here, Right Now”

(identical sessions each week, offered at three times)



Looking for a way to pause in the midst of the whirlwind season of Advent?

We will use Amy G. Oden's book, "Right Here Right Now", as a guide to explore the simple practice of Christian Mindfulness during a sometimes hectic season.

Mondays: 11/27, 12/4, 12/11 & 12/18 at 5-6pm

Hosted by Rev. Debbie Duval

High Street Congregational, Auburn, ME

Wednesdays: 11/29, 12/6, 12/13 & 12/20 at 7-8pm

Hosted by Rev. Diane Seaborn

Storrs Congregational Church, Storrs, CT

Thursdays: 11/30, 12/7, 12/14 & 12/21 at 9-10am

Hosted by Rev. Amie Giguere

Pilgrim Congregational Church, Harwich Port, MA

Zoom links are available on our website on the Advent and Christmas 2023 page. Scan the QR code for easy access or go to <https://www.storrscongregation.org/advent-and-christmas-at-scc/> and select the session link you would like to attend. Everyone is welcome to any or all of the sessions.

Questions? Email Diane:
diane@storrscongregation.org



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC

DECEMBER 3 *Advent 1 - Hope*

“O savior Rend the Heav’ns” by Brahms
“Keep Your Lamps” arr. by Thomas
with Matthew Abate, congas

DECEMBER 10 *Advent 2 - Peace*

LESSONS & CAROLS

with the Choir, SCC Ringers & Choir Matrix,
dir. by Sarah Kaufold, Janice Castle, piano
*Music by Arnesen, Bach, Hagenberg, Handel,
Jennings, Moglebust, Sherman and Sirett*

DECEMBER 17 *Advent 3 - Joy*

“Adam lay y bounden” by Ord
“Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring” by Bach
Join us for Caroling after worship!
Light lunch served, 12noon-2:30PM

DECEMBER 24, 10:00AM *Advent 4 - Love*

“The Angel Gabriel” by Pettmann
“The Advent Candle” by Chilcott

DECEMBER 24 *Christmas Eve, 7:30PM*

Candlelight Service
with the Choir and SCC Ringers

DECEMBER 31 10:00AM

“The Virgin’s Slumber Song” by Reger
Cathy Jeffers, soloist

OUTREACH UPDATES

The SCC Walk for Warmth Team collected \$900 for WAIM to use for energy assistance. The walk was preceded by an interfaith worship in Temple B'nai Israel where we passed the peace in Arabic and Hebrew. This was a moving time together when there is so much strife between the Muslims and Jews in the Holy Lands. (The proceeds from our Christmas Bazaar will also support WAIM's energy assistance program.)

Toys are being collected in boxes throughout the buildings, which will be distributed to families through WAIM. Our pantry clients will be invited to take part in this distribution.

The congregation has been most generous in the offering of warm coats. The coat hooks across from the elevator have been filled and there are few left. There should be no one cold this winter. **You may continue to bring in coats and hang them on the lower level between the two restrooms across from the elevator.** Gloves and hats are given out as quickly as we receive them, so they are always welcome.

Demands on the SCC pantry continue to grow. In October we had 332 visits from 150 families compared to 205 visits from 86 families for October 2022, and distributed 5745 pounds of food, up from 4418 pounds last October. We are blessed by dedicated volunteers from our church, the community and the university. If you would like to be a volunteer, speak to Jane Joesten or Jan Hoyle.

We provided Thanksgiving food to 50 families. In past years we have served 20+ families. This year, FoodShare provided 20 turkeys and 20 chickens, along with 900 pounds of produce, including potatoes, onions, carrots, apples and sweet potatoes and \$200 in gift cards for Thanksgiving distribution. We provided additional items donated by SCC members and from pantry stock. Husky Harvest, UConn's pantry, gave us an additional 15 FoodShare turkeys, produce and boxes of fixings.

The congregation has been most generous in their monetary giving and support of the Outreach projects. Together we are doing God's work.

Your Generosity at Work



SCC's 2023 Thanksgiving Food Ingathering will enable more than 40 families to enjoy a plentiful Thanksgiving. Other students and families will be warm walking through town and around the campus with warm coats, hats and gloves, because of **your** generosity.

The number attending the pantry increased 68% from the July through October quarter from last year to this year. The number of families receiving the food generosity has doubled.

People come to SCC because they know that SCC cares! It is evident by the way we live our Mission and respond to needs with an empathetic

ear! We listen to the needs and turn to you for help, and you never let us down! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



Donations are still available in the connector hallway. Help yourself or someone else and if possible, leave a donation of a clean & gently used coat.



STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2 N. EAGLEVILLE ROAD

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday **December 2nd**, 2023

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Sunday **December 3rd**, 2023

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

“To Go” Soup Available *(Sat. only)*

Local Vendors *(Sat. only)*

Quilted Gifts ♥ Bake Sale ♥ Pecans

SERRV International Gifts

Holiday Tag & Gift Sale

Fresh Sprays & Centerpieces

Poinsettias



Proceeds Benefit

WAIM

Energy Assistance Fund



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A Just Peace Church



All Church Caroling

Sunday, December 17th

Following Worship

A light lunch will be provided in the Lounge for carolers before they head out to sing and be merry.

Directions for the Caroling venues will be provided. We expect to leave at noon and be done around 1:30 p.m.

This is a multi-generational event!



Wear Festive Attire! Hats, antlers, ugly sweaters etc!

Caroling books, jingle bells and instruments provided
(or bring your own).

Come help us spread the spirit of Christmas!

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY

LUNCH & LISTEN GATHERING

The Lunch and Listen group **will not gather in December** but will **resume January 21st at 12:00 PM**, after the Sunday Service at Tolland Family Pizza.

We will leave church about 11:30 from the back parking lot. If you're not sure where the restaurant is located, you can car pool or follow Kathy or Annetta.

Kathy will be sharing some information from the book, "Health revelations from heaven and earth" before the sharing.

Contact Kathy Lindner at 201 723 0458 or kathyartist72@gmail.com to confirm your attendance....so we can let the restaurant know.

Joining with others, making friends, socializing and speaking so others are listening is a basic way to improve our own mental health.

At the lunches, after we eat and chat a bit, a facilitator will share a poem, a reading or a prayer and each person present will have the opportunity to speak and share their feelings or whatever they would like to share. You can pass if you wish. Others will listen. The only rule is there will be no "cross talk". Later when you are outside you can chat if there is other conversation you would like to have. This is called a "sharing circle". Kathy experienced it often when she used to attend programs at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Lenox, Mass. It can be very powerful.

It can also help us to "listen" to others without interrupting with our own stories.

Feel free to contact Kathy or Annetta with any ideas at any time.

Kathy Lindner

kathyartist2@gmail.com

Anntta Miller

annettakmiller@yahoo.com



Compassion for the Incarcerated Team Meeting Sunday, January 14th

This newly formed Just Peace team will meet again to discuss possibilities of assisting an incarcerated person when he is released in 2025.

A sponsor will be needed as well as housing and employment opportunities. Visits to him in prison are also being considered.

Let Kathy Lindner know if you can attend and contact her if you have any questions. 201-723-0458 or Kathyartist72@gmail.com

STAYING CONNECTED WITH...

Governance

In its meeting on Nov. 14, the Governing Board took action on the following motions:

Consent Agenda

MOTION: David Jordan moved, and Wes-Lang Rodean and Nancy Tomastik seconded, the approval of the following items from the Consent Agenda:

- Governing Board Minutes from Oct. 10, 2023
- The reports of the Lead Ministry Coordinators (with the exception of those that had requests for the Governing Board and were considered later in the meeting)
- Treasurer's Report from October

Education Wing Painting

MOTION: (TABLED): The board tabled a motion to approve the expense of preparing, re-glazing, priming, and finishing the painting of the upper windows of the Education Wing and the two arched windows above the auditorium for the price quoted of \$3,210. Action on the motion was deferred until the December meeting, once board members can clarify the source of funding for the project.

The following motions were passed with unanimous approval.

Heat Pump Valve Repair

MOTION: Nancy Tomastik moved to approve the emergency replacement of heat pump valves at a cost of \$7809.50, with funds to come from Major Projects. Carolyn Holmy and Wes Lang- Rodean seconded the motion.

Pollinator Garden Pathway

MOTION: Linda Blum moved that the board approve a pathway from the pollinator garden through the cemetery, to be paid for with a \$500 grant she secured, along with \$400 from the Looman Fund, and the remainder from the garden maintenance fund. Zoe Strickler seconded the motion.

Building and Grounds Report

MOTION: Nancy Tomastik moved to accept Duffy Brookes' Building and Grounds Report; Carolyn Holmy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sunday Morning Servers

The Sunday Morning Server schedule for December 18th – February 14th, 2024 (Ash Wednesday) is currently under construction. If you are interested in serving in a particular role on a particular day, send an email to the Role Contact or Deborah in the office to get you added to the schedule.

Fellowship Hosts

In case you were not aware, the automatic scheduling of the Sunday Morning Servers does not include assigning Fellowship Hosts. **The Fellowship role requires someone to volunteer to serve in this role.** Earlier this year, Laurie Brookes made the following statement.

The last several Sundays were a perfect example of our increasing growth and how important the Fellowship gathering is in our congregational life. We believe it serves a vital function in creating community among our members.

This role is perfect for individuals (or couples) who would be willing to serve on an infrequent basis. Training, assistance and supplies are happily provided, if needed. Set up forty-five minutes in advance of the service works well and everyone is ready to leave by noon with cleanup finished.

Can you commit to volunteer once every two months to be in charge of Fellowship? Consider your schedule and dates you may be available for this experience in hospitality and contact Deborah in the office for scheduling.

Building Upgrades

Last month, after several days of emitting eerie sounds, a heat circulating pump in the hallway utility room seized. After examining the same type of pump that controls heat circulation in the Meeting House, that one was found to be leaking continuously. A search for a plumbing firm that would replace the two pumps became more frantic as the temperatures outside continued to drop. Fortunately, Stafford Mechanical's service crew was willing to tackle the problem while many other firms did not want to get involved with our elaborate system. Steam from the University is used to heat circulating water in the Ed Wing and Meeting House. The circulating pumps drive an impeller unit that keeps the heated water moving to and from the heat exchangers. Stafford Mechanical replaced the units for us within three business days and everything is back to normal. Unfortunately, this unexpected expense came in the middle of our stewardship drive, but it shows the importance of being good stewards of our home and place in the greater community.

Pollinator Walkway

Absolutely amazing! That is the only expression I could come up with as I looked at the artistically crafted stone stairway leading through our beautiful pollinator garden into the historic cemetery behind the Meeting House. It looks like it has always been there, naturally blended into the nothingness of hardened soil. We are truly blessed to have the skilled hands of Bob Berube shape, place and secure the carefully selected stones for each step and topper along the edges. The next time you are at the Meeting House, take a moment to look outside the back and to admire the craftsmanship that enhances the landscape and invites people to explore beyond the slope.



Family Room Happenings

More visitors, and even families, are dropping into Sunday worship in recent months, coming to explore who we are and how we worship at SCC.

God calls us to offer a radical welcome, and this means choices for families...such as sitting together in the pews, and playing in the Playground, as well as providing a welcoming drop-off spot for children, or a resting spot for parent and child, in our Family Room (formerly the Nursery).

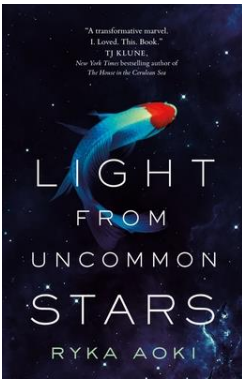
The Family Room has been operational for some time now, would you like to be a volunteer??

If you are interested in volunteering one Sunday a month or just periodically, please contact Zoe Strickler: zstrickler@spectrum.net or Rev. Diane: diane@storrscongregation.org to learn more!

Our Safe Church policy requires that we have two volunteers each Sunday, and they cannot be related to one another.

Thank you for getting curious about whether you might be called to serve God in this way!

SCC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Our next book discussion is **Sunday, March 17, 2024, 4:00pm** in-person at the SCC Library and on Zoom and we will discuss: **LIGHT FROM UNCOMMON STARS** by Ryka Aoki. (There will not be a January discussion.)

The science fiction and fantasy novel was nominated for the 2022 Hugo Award for Best Novel and selected for UConn Reads 2022-2023. In the story, Shizuki Satomi, the world's best violin teacher, coaches violin students, and then offers them fame and renown in exchange for their souls. Her final student is Katrena Nguyen, a transgender prodigy with little training. Santori meets Lou Tran, a retired starship captain, now

a doughnut shop owner who has brought her family to earth to escape war and plague. As these three women's lives intertwine, they transform each other in subtle surprising ways.

Availability: SCC Library, Library Connection, Local Libraries, Audio book and E-book Contact: [@Malta_Bailey](mailto:Malta_Bailey) (mbailey05@snet.net)

LIBRARY NEWS

ARE YOU PREPARING

for Advent?

for Individual growth?

for Sharing with people living with challenges?

for Gift giving?

for Christmas Eve?

for Christmas Day?

Advent and Christmas books are ready for your borrowing in your library. There is an abundance of titles available for all ages. Meditations, crafts, and both non-fiction and fiction for all ages.



You are welcome to stop by on Sundays after worship and Tuesday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. Come by anytime you are in the buildings and the room is not scheduled for other uses. Browse, borrow and reward yourself with a couple of minutes of renewal time.

*May we be among the first to wish you a Merry Christmas!
Janet, Marietta, Sue and Joan.*



A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION BY ELLEN BRADLEY

The other day I saw a picture on Facebook of a 1970 Sears Wishbook. It was captioned, "Do you remember?" You bet I do! Memories came flooding back when I saw the picture. I would have been seven years old and the excitement of receiving Christmas presents would have been at a fever pitch when that huge catalog came in the mail, to be continued for my entire childhood!

The Sears Wishbook was a really big deal. It was the official harbinger of the Christmas season (along with the heralded arrival of that first sparkly Christmas card which for us was always from my parents' friends in Brookfield who sent their cards at least a month before anyone else). The Wishbook would arrive in the mail in November, which was a great marketing strategy, giving us kids more than a month of wishing and dreaming and list-making and writing letters to Santa, revising them as often as our desires changed which was as often as a page was turned. The Montgomery Ward and Service Merchandise toy catalogs were much smaller and paled in comparison. Many happy hours were spent curled up in a chair with the Wishbook, the Christmas tree twinkling nearby. It was a dream, a fantasy, thousands of pages of possibilities. I used to think the lucky kids on the cover got to play with all the toys in the catalog. My brother and sister and I gazed upon the endless pictures and imagined ourselves playing with the most extravagant playhouses or toy cars and train sets and life-like baby dolls or a Barbie house that had lights and an elevator - or impress our friends with majorette costumes and batons and go-go boots and tape recorders, Creepy Crawlers, Light Brights, or maybe even bake a cake in an Easy Bake oven or earn money in the neighborhood the next summer making snow cones from a Frosty the Snowman snow cone maker!

But then, somewhere along the line, priorities change. As we began to get older, we began to think about what to get for others in our lives to make them happy, or what we can do for others to make them feel cared for, rather than just focusing solely on what material things we wanted. We start to have the awareness of other people not having it quite as good as we did. I believe that is the shifting point from the self-absorption of childhood, into the maturity and increased empathy of adulthood.

Once recent year I received a Heifer International brochure entitled "*The Most Important Gift Catalog You Will Receive*". I would have disagreed with that at age of seven, but thumbing through the brochure as an adult, seeing children thrilled at the prospect of their family receiving a goat or a pig or a flock of chickens so that their families can receive some nourishment made me think of how very lucky I was growing up, and even now. No, I didn't receive anywhere near the amounts of things I thought I wanted from that Wishbook, but somehow it wasn't important. We always had plenty. Plenty of gifts which

came not only in the form of some exciting packages to open, but also the gifts of plenty of food, love, family, and togetherness. Plenty of priceless things not found within the pages of a glossy catalog. And that kind of plenty is what I wish for you too, this holiday season and always.

LEGO ROBOTICS LEAGUE UPDATE

On November 18th, the Tolland County Robotics Foundation's 3 FIRST Lego



League Challenge teams competed at the Lyme Old Lyme Qualifier. There they showcased their robot and everything they accomplished this season through robot matches and judging. All three teams were a part of the select few chosen to advance to the state championship, and one of our teams won the robot design award! We're so grateful to the Storrs Congregational Church for providing us with a meeting space, we couldn't have had a season without you!

The 2023 Mitten Tree is ready to decorate

The Mitten Tree has taken its annual place inside the front doors of the Meeting House and is ready for you to decorate with hats, mittens and gloves to help people in need to be a little warmer this winter.

In case you think you're seeing double, you're not! We added a 2nd Mitten Tree to the Parish House for weekday donations. Anyone interested in being involved with this ministry should contact a member of the Food Pantry Team.

These donations are not just for collecting, they are for wearing!



If you know someone who is need now, send them over to choose from the donations already adorning our trees. Thank you to everyone who has added to the color assortment of outdoor items.

FROM THE ARCHIVES – A MOMENT IN TIME

by Mark J. Roy

Back in October of this year, Pastor Mike Lake handed out two one-dollar bills to each child (and a few adults) who sat with him for the “Time for All God’s Children” message. The recipients were asked how they might use their dollars. The idea was certainly to instill a sense of giving back – although someone’s grandson (okay, it was my grandson, Leo) offered that he would save his cash to someday buy a car.

Others suggested ways of using the dollar to give back to the community, ways in which we might nurture our stewardship of that community.

There was another time in the history of the church that dollar-bills were handed out – with the idea of growing those dollars to support the upkeep of church property.

“Trade Your Talents” was an idea that came from the Ladies Circle (precursor to Women’s Fellowship) in the spring of 1950. In a summary report to the organization the next year, Doris Fischer wrote that the project “sprang into being when someone approached Miriam McReynolds to head a committee for another bazaar. Such a bazaar would have been our third, as a way of earning money to be used in redecorating the Community House. Both previous bazaars had been successful – there was no doubt about that. But Miriam sagely opined that a bazaar might not go over again that something new and original was in order...”

Instead of the annual church bazaar in the fall, the project would have church members trade their expertise to increase their one dollar to ten, and thus, from the \$100 that was distributed, they would raise \$1,000.00 for “renovating, refurbishing, and redecorating the Community House (now known as the Parish House)”, according to an article in *The Hartford Times*. The article noted that the Ladies Circle “had handed out talent boxes and \$1 with the idea that each person receiving one would trade them.”

The trading was in the offering of particular talents over the summer of 1950, from baking to hair-styling and baby-sitting, pickle making to rummage sales and private tutoring, quilting to knitting and dress-making, and magic shows to midnight square dancing parties and Bridge parties.

This was the Ladies Circle, of course, the participants were all women of the church – and a grand list was made of all the talents that might be provided for a fee. A variety of sewing and baking skills are on the list; personal shopping and “taxi” service as well as typing and babysitting were among the most offered skills in the miscellaneous category.

The success of the project also uncovered perhaps some hidden talent as well – a number of participants reported their earnings/contributions in verse. Information about the project and subsequent updates included a variety of rhymes and that tongue-in-cheek approach brought about a number of poetic responses:

“I was a Bonny Baker, making bisquits by the acres
My Thimble was so Nimble, and my Thumb a gaudy Green
For Service, Miscellaneous, demand was less spontaneous
My Art was less Creative than perhaps it might have been!
But Here is my account of it; enclosed is the amount of it;
to small degree the Mercury to elevate, to win!”

“Painting one day at the woodwork,
I was wondering what to do –
For a talent to find
I was racking my mind
And using your many lists too!

While I was wielding the paint brush
It came on me like a flash!
I could sell my ability
And downright agility
In painting the woodwork – for cash!”

All through the summer, the women of the church turned their singles into multiples; putting their earnings into the Talent Box that each was provided. The Day of Reckoning, as they called it, came on November 9, 1950.

Each participant was given the goal of \$10.00, yet several submitted Talent Boxes holding up to as much as \$53.00. In addition, most, if not all, of the participants returned the dollar bills they were given at the start of the project.

They went well past the goal of \$1,000. A newspaper article at the time reported a total of \$1,520; however, a penciled note in the event scrapbook put the final total at \$1,636.90. In 2023 dollars, that’s equivalent to nearly \$21,000.

FABRIC SHOPPING WITH THE QUILTERS

The Parish Piecers (Quilters) invite you to join them on an all-day fabric shopping trip on **Friday, January 19th**. There are still some spaces on the Mansfield van, but you need to sign up directly with the Mansfield Senior Center (860-429-0262) to see if space is available. The van seats 10. We will meet at the Mansfield Senior Center on Maple Rd. at 9:20 for a 9:30 departure to American Fabrics in Waterford, then a late lunch at Oz’NBones BBQ in Colchester (approximately 1:00-2:00), then shopping at Colchester Mills Fabrics and returning to the Senior Center.

SOMEONE HAS STOLEN OUR PEACE



Our individually created, one of a kind, Peace Pole, dedicated in September 2021 in honor of Don Hoyle, a peace loving advocate of justice, who passed away March 27, 2019, **is gone**. The multicolored pole with 8 different languages pleading “May Peace Prevail On Earth” was smashed and grabbed! The post was broken off at the base and the pole was stolen from the property.

We notified the police, reported the vandalism and theft, and asked if there were cameras or some other method of identifying who might have perpetrated this seemingly

hateful act. There is not and we may never know who has stolen our Peace Pole or what was done with it.

What we do know is that **we will not stand for anyone stealing our Peace!** Peace cannot be taken, smashed or vandalized – it lives and breathes within us and we will not surrender to the forces that threaten it.

When Jan Hoyle, who provided the funds for the first pole in honor of her beloved husband, was asked what we should do about it, she said, “We will get another one.” When asked what she’d do if it happened again, she said “We will get another one.” We cannot and will not let people steal our peace!

Do you feel the same as Jan? Do you support her sentiment and tenacity? Many friends and members of SCC want to help replace the Peace Pole (which has already been ordered and is under construction as this is being written) and are eager to help contribute to the cost of the new pole.

If you would like to participate with the cost of **Reclaiming our Peace**, make your check payable to ‘SCC’ with ‘Peace Pole’ in the memo line. We will also need volunteers in the spring to help with replacing the pole. If you are able to help with that, let Duffy Brookes know that he can count on you when the time is ready for ‘planting peace’.

WITH MANY THANKS!

Dear Church,

We opened our doors, showed our hospitality, and they came!

What a great time we all had creating our Christmas Bazaar. Though we don't yet know the full financial picture, it is clear that we will have a substantial donation for WAIM fuel fund. This was possible only because of the enormous and joyful donations of time, talents, and treasures of so many of our members.

I can't possibly list all who contributed so much, but you know who you are — greens gatherers, table movers, arrangement makers, bakers, quilters, pecan sellers, SERRV team, soup makers, vendor coordinators, greeters, tag sale workers, publicity team and all who distributed flyers, those who came and participated! Our church was abuzz with meaningful activity and connection.

Thank you all for a special start to this special season.

In gratitude,
Jeri Hepworth, Bazaar Coordinator



Nancy Rucker & Malta Bailey display quilted goods by our Parish Piecers



Carolyn Holmy & Pastor Diane at the holiday Gift & Tag Sale



Mary Lake & Karen Johnson gladly showcase SERRV goods for sale



Bryan Klimkiewicz between Jamie & Wes Lang-Rodean, The Soup Crew



Malta Bailey, Marietta Johnson, Jeri Hepworth & Laurie Brookes Sweet Hospitality (and donuts!)

To all our wonderful Bakers

Thank you so much for donating your beautiful goodies: we not only had an assortment of cookies and bars but also there were several delicious looking pies, cakes and fruit/nut breads. **And they were all purchased shortly after we placed them on the Baked goods table!** For the first time we can remember we sold every single sweet and there was nothing left for Sunday sales. Many folks in need of fuel assistance will be helped as a result of your effort as the entire proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar will be donated to the WAIM Fuel Assistance program.

Thank you again for your generous contributions.

Laurie Brookes, Marsha Creese, Eileen Metzgar

A SIGN OF FRIENDSHIP



In these times of difficulty, as the suffering of war and division ripples across the globe and even across the UConn campus, many are wondering what can be done to bring peace. While there are no easy answers to this question, there are ways of offering continued friendship within our community.

With the help of our talented Parish Piecers, small table-topper quilts were recently selected to give to our neighbors at the Islamic Center of UConn and at the UConn Hillel House. Diane was able to present one of these beautiful quilts (and an accompanying pillar candle) to UConn Hillel at the interfaith "Breaking Bread" event held there on Monday 12/11. She will present a similar gift to our friends at ICUC this week. The third table-topper quilt will be sent in January to High Street Congregational Church, UCC, in Auburn, ME. As you likely know, the Lewiston/Auburn community was hit hard by the mass shooting attack in October. As the season of Epiphany and light begins in January, SCC will send the 'butterfly' table-topper quilt, along with a card and pillar candle, as a sign of hope, light, and transformation, to this sister congregation in Maine. Rev. Debbie Duval, one of our Advent Book Study hosts, is the pastor at High Street Church. In these ways, we remember the importance of staying in relationship with our neighbors and our community. May it be so.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HAPPENINGS

Birthday Celebrations:

<i>Sarah Johnson</i>	12/1	<i>Maye Henning</i>	12/16
<i>Annetta Miller</i>	12/3	<i>Haley Ignatowicz</i>	12/16
<i>Bedan Kimenyi</i>	12/5	<i>Paulla Dixon</i>	12/18
<i>Donna Latincsics</i>	12/7	<i>Kathy Hampton</i>	12/18
<i>Wade Johnson</i>	12/10	<i>Spencer Hamlin</i>	12/21
<i>Thany Litrico</i>	12/10	<i>Allison Cano</i>	12/23
<i>Betty Hanson</i>	12/11	<i>Elizabeth Hanks</i>	12/24
<i>Dulcie Vannais</i>	12/12	<i>Grant Gifford</i>	12/31
<i>Vicki Magley</i>	12/14		

Prayers for Peace in a Hurting World

We offer prayers for all who seek safe harbors in war-torn places. We hold in tender prayer all those whose dedicated military service aspires to bring peace to a hurting world.

- **Matt Allen**, submitted by Pam & Dick Roberts
- **Joseph Tanaka**, submitted by Patty Tanaka
- **Joshua & Dakota Conner**, submitted by Charlene Dickenson
- **Daniel Felkel**, submitted by Cindy Felkel



To request a prayer or to have a name added to this list and/or provide an update, please contact Pastor Diane at diane@storrsconchurch.org.

In Memoriam

We give thanks for the special people that God gives us to travel this journey of life with. The longer the road, the harder the parting and the deeper the ruts of experiences shared. May God grant the souls of the grieving Peace and bring them the comfort that their hearts long for.



Ruth Johnston, 98, passed away on 10/9/2023
Kenneth Holton, 89, passed away on 10/15/2023
Kenneth Doeg, 92, passed away on 11/5/2023
Eileen Griffin, 76, passed away on 11/5/2023

CELEBRATING FAMILY

William Aho was recognized by VFW Post 938 Commander, Edward D'Agata for his service in the army during World War II at the Willington Veterans Day Program on Saturday, November 11th, 2023. Additionally, in the same month, William Aho, poultry science professor, was featured front cover of the UConn magazine with an indepth article about the now, 105 year old. Bill is now the oldest retiree at s.uconn.edu.



UConn Extension agent and poultry sciences professor William Aho, left, talks with 4-H Club students visiting UConn in the mid-1950s.

Keeping In Touch

The Keeping In Touch list is going away...names, addresses and personal information need to be protected, even for those who want to receive mail. All our Friends, Members and staff have access to the Church Directory and all mailing information for our friends can be found there.

Here is the list of people who'd appreciate cards, letters and/or phone calls:

Keeping In Touch



Rev. Michael Ader, Jane Ann Bobbitt, Charlene Dickenson, Bob Guttay, Juanita Hall, Kathy Hampton, Elizabeth Hanks, Larry Mickel, Pat Mochel, Leslie Kennard & Doug Pease, Dianne Sprague, Annemarie Thompson, Adam Thorson.

Merry Christmas with Elizabeth



Jamie Lang-Rodean brought and shared Christmas cheer with Elizabeth Hanks. Elizabeth is celebrating this Christmas in her new home in Mystic with her traditional ceramic Christmas tree, red poinsettia, Santa, kitty cat and happy holiday smile.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

Our monthly newsletter contains material about what's happening in the ministries of the Church; Governing Board actions; Church Family news; information about upcoming meetings, events and celebrations. Articles to be included in the next monthly newsletter should be received in the office by the 22nd of the current month.

We've transitioned from the bulk mailing of the monthly *Carillon*, to the convenience and efficiency of electronic distribution, but if you'd like a copy mailed to you, please contact Deborah in the office. Copies of the *Carillon* are also available in the Parish House entryway if you'd like to stop in and pick one up.

GATHERINGS @ SCC

- Mondays**Service Sewing, 9:30 am (Room 207)
Food Pantry Open, 12:00 pm (Room 102)
- Tuesdays**Library Open, 9:30 am (Ed. Building – Library)
- Wednesdays**.....Parish Piccers, 10:00 am (Ed. Bldg. 2nd Floor)
C.A.F.E. Storrs, 10:30 am (PH – Lounge & Zoom)
Buddhist Meditation Group, 7:00 pm (Community Room)
- Thursdays**.....Food Pantry Open, 2:30 pm (Room 102)
Handbell Choir, 6:30 pm (Meeting House)
Adult Choir, 7:30 pm (Meeting House)
- Sundays**.....Adult Choir, 9:00 am (Meeting House)
Food Pantry Open, 11:00 am (Room 102)
Library Open, following worship (Ed. Building – Library)
Sunday Night Speaker Meeting, 7:30 pm (Auditorium)

MEETINGS @ SCC

- Dec. 2.....Christmas Bazaar, 9 am-1 pm (Parish House)
- Dec. 7.....1st Thursday Book Club, 1:00 pm (Library)
- Dec. 8.....ICF Gathering, 5:00 pm (Lounge)
- Dec. 9.....PEO Chapter S Meeting, 10:00 am (Lounge & Kitchenette)
- Dec. 12Governing Board Meeting, 6:30 pm (Room 201 & Zoom)
- Dec. 14Seniors Connect!, 11:00 am (online)
- Dec. 15ICF Gathering, 5:00 pm (Lounge)
- Dec. 17Christmas Caroling Event, 11:30 am (meet @ Lounge)
- Dec. 24.....**Advent 4 Worship @ 10:00 AM** (Meeting House)
- Dec. 24.....**Christmas Eve Worship @ 7:30 PM** (Meeting House)
- Dec. 25.....Office & Facilities will be closed. Food Pantry will be closed.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

MOBILE COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE

- Dec. 14 & 28 Mobile Food Share, 11:30 am (Mansfield Senior Center)