

The Carillon

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Incorporated 1921



ADVENT...Draw Near

Sunday Worship 10am

Christmas Eve 7pm

Sunday Worship of Advent

Sundays, November 27, December 4,
11, 18 10am

Labyrinth Walk of Advent

Sunday, November 27 9:30a-noon

Monday Meet-Ups of Advent

Mondays, November 28, December 5,
12, 19 noon-1pm

Quiet Reflections of Advent

Wednesdays, November 30, December
7, 14, 21 10am

Wonderful Wednesdays of Advent

Wednesdays, November 30, December
7, 14, 21 5:30-7pm

Christmas Eve of Advent

December 24 7pm



welcoming historic progressive Christian



Open and Affirming



Accessible to All



A Just Peace Church

In this Issue

Our Advent Journey.....	3
Monday Meet-Ups of Advent.....	3
Wonderful Wednesdays of Advent	3
Altar Poinsettias ~ Ready to order	3
News from the Governing Board	4
Upcoming Governing Board Meeting.....	8
Here we go a Caroling.....	8
Music Notes.....	9
Faith Formation News.....	10
Your Outreach is Making a Difference.....	11
Food Pantry Advisory Board Meeting	12
Prayer Shawl Ministry Update	13
Holiday Goods for sale ~ December 4 th , 2022	13
2022 Annual Report time line	13
Faith Formation News.....	14
SCC Book Discussion Group – Date Change!.....	14
CWS Kits – Items Still Needed.....	14
Caring ministries – Sharing the Love	14
Library News	15
A Reflection by Ellen Bradley	17
Christmas Fund Offering.....	18
Congregational Life Happenings.....	19
Anniversary Celebrations	19
Birthday Celebrations	19
Pray For Our Military.....	19
Would you like to Serve on Sundays?	19
A Note from Patrick Barton.....	20
3 Month Medical Report From Rev. Mike.....	20
Weekly Gatherings @ SCC.....	22
Meetings & Events @ SCC	22

The Carillon is the monthly newsletter of

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268 | 860.429.9382 | www.storrscongchurch.org

Ministers All of the Congregation

Senior Minister Rev. Diane Peterson Seaborn – diane@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 23

Director of Music Ministries Dr. Patricia Snyder – trisha@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 26

Director of Faith Formation Lisa Haupt – lisa@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 22

Communications & Digital Ministry Ellen Bradley – ellen@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 22

Office Administrator Deborah Gacek – sccoffee@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 21

Sexton Antonio Aguilera – antonio@storrscongchurch.org | Ext. 21

OUR ADVENT JOURNEY

Dear friends,

As the last of the maples shrug off their final leaves and the day's sunlight wanes, we turn toward the season of Advent, and we draw near. We enter a time of waiting with hope and anticipation. For we wait for the Lord, for our not-yet-and-already-here God, who breaks into our lives, and into our hearts, again and again. In this season of Advent, you are invited to draw near, to lean into the dark blue skies, to join in the wonder of this season of God's coming. To the curious seekers and to the sure, to the young and to the old, to the seasoned and to the new...come!

Draw near.

Advent blessings,

Diane



Monday Meet-Ups of Advent

Join us for conversation about meaningful Advent and Christmas memories, rituals, and reaching out to others...

Where: In-person and online from the Library

When: Mondays from 12pm - 1pm (Bring a lunch if you like!)

Wonderful Wednesdays of Advent

Join Pastor Diane and Director of Faith Formation, Lisa Haupt, on Wednesday evenings during Advent for a light meal followed by an Advent activity for every age! Feel free to invite a friend!

When: 5:30pm - 7pm Wednesdays: 11/30; 12/7; 12/14; 12/21

Where: In the Parish House Lounge

ALTAR POINSETTIAS ~ READY TO ORDER



Some of you may be planning on purchasing poinsettias in advance of the holidays for decorating your homes. Please don't forget that our tradition of decorating and beautifying SCC is to display poinsettias in our chancel for the Christmas Eve service. Your purchase of a poinsettia can be in honor or remembrance of others and can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service. (*order form is available on back page*).

NEWS FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

Governing Board Minutes—Oct. 12

Attendance: Bruce Bergen, Cass Crewdson, Tina Huey, David Jordan, Annetta Miller (Clerk) Paul Schur (Chair), The Rev. Diane Seaborn (Senior Minister) Zoe Strickler, Nancy Tomastik

Paul Schur convened the meeting at 7:04. The meeting opened with a prayer and reflection.

Present to Speak: Carol Jordan spoke about the pecan-sale fundraiser. Pecans will once again be available for pre-order from Schermer Pecans in Georgia. A number of varieties will be available. The pecans will be sold at a fixed price of \$12 per bag as in years past. Proceeds will go to WAIM's energy assistance fund. The pecans are slated to arrive sometime in November.

Consent Agenda:

Nancy Tomastik moved to approve the following agenda items, with thanks to all for their good work. Zoe Strickler seconded the motion, and the board approved unanimously.

1. That the Board approves the Minutes of the September 14, 2022, meeting of the Governing Board.
2. The Board acknowledges receipt of the September 2022 report of the treasurer.
3. The Board acknowledges receipt of updates from the Lead Ministry Coordinators

OLD BUSINESS

Stewardship Update: Paul Schur reported that the Stewardship Committee was hard at work on this year's campaign. Fliers and a bulletin insert were complete, and speakers lined up to participate in Sunday services.

Oct. 9 Congregational Meeting: The board reviewed comments from the special congregational meeting on October 9 and set funding priorities based on the results of a priority-ranking exercise completed by those who attended.

The results of the exercise were as follows, ranked from highest to lowest priority.

1. Heat and air condition (AC) the Office and Memorial room
2. Heat and AC the Auditorium
3. AC for the Parish House Lounge (heat is adequate)
4. Portable AC for the offices, library, and room 201
5. Complete the repairs of the chapel organ

6. Consider repair or replacement of the windows in the Meeting House
7. Consider window treatment such as sheer curtains, shades or drapes for darkening, or not have window coverings
8. Consider ice sheet shields to prevent damage to parked vehicles or harm to people from ice falling from the slate roofs. Block off parking / walkways as necessary
9. AC for the Meeting House. There were several comments that this should be removed from consideration.

Funding: David Jordan, Assistant Treasurer, spoke about possible funding sources--both budgeted and off-budget-- that might be available for financing the projects. A contribution of \$5,000 is also anticipated.

Special Congregational Meeting on Oct. 23: Based on the congregation's input, the information Dave provided, and board discussion, the board unanimously approved a motion to call a special congregational meeting on October 23. Nancy Tomastik made the motion and Cass Crewdson seconded.

Motions to be considered at the congregational meeting:

MOTION: To approve the expenditure of \$9,360 to install mini-split heat pumps for the Office Administrator's office and the Memorial Room both serviced by a single condenser for heating and cooling to be funded as follows:

Women's Fellowship Legacy Fund:	\$ 5,000
Putnam Dividends Fund:	\$ 3,110
Eversource Rebate:	\$ 1,250
TOTAL	\$ 9,360

Nancy Tomastik made the motion, which was seconded by Cass Crewdson. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

MOTION: To approve the expenditure of \$17,275 to install three mini-split heat pumps for the Parish House Auditorium serviced by a single condenser for heating and cooling to be funded as follows:

Donations:	\$ 5,000
Major Projects Fund:	\$ 12,275
TOTAL	\$ 17,275

Nancy Tomastik made the motion, which was seconded by Tina Huey. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

MOTION: To call a special congregational meeting for Oct. 23, 2022, following worship to consider these projects and other items the congregation may wish to raise.

Nancy Tomastik made the motion, which was seconded by Cass Crewdson. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Other budget discussion:

- Duffy Brookes said he has a line on a possible donation of 5 air conditioners for the lounge.
- Dave presented options for financing the second phase of the projects, i.e., projects 4, 5, and 6 on the priority list.

MOTION: To authorize board members to investigate ways to complete Projects 4, 5, and 6 on the priority list. Nancy Tomastik made the motion; Zoe Strickler seconded. The motion was approved with no dissent.

Weekend Holidays: The board discussed the possibility of offering more flexibility to staff for paid time off when holidays fall on a weekend. The Personnel Committee will further consider the matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation

MOTION: The board moved to accept the resignation of Elaine Chague from the board, with gratitude for her service.

2023 Budget Discussion: Paul announced that December 4 was being considered for a congregational budget discussion meeting. The board will discuss the budget at its next meeting, which was moved from Nov. 6 to November 16 to accommodate budget discussions.

- Dave Jordan reviewed an initial draft of the budget, which revealed a projected deficit. However, Dave said the operating reserve fund could be used to help offset this.
- He said church members often step up with donations in the face of such shortfalls. On a positive note, he said the church property and buildings have gone up in value and are now worth between \$2.25 million and \$2.5 million.
- Zoe Strickler noted that more members of our congregation are on fixed incomes and that there are fewer young families in the church, which has contributed to shrinking budgets.
- Paul encouraged board members to talk to congregants about what their priorities are for the budget

Food Pantry Expansion: Pastor Diane said there has been conversation among Food Pantry volunteers about expanding the food pantry to be more inclusive of food-insecure UConn students. The question is whether to further expand here at the church or put energy into supporting the development of a food pantry on the UConn campus.

Christmas Bazaar: Pastor Diane noted that plans for the Christmas Bazaar were uncertain, as no one has stepped up to take a leadership role this year. There may not be time to pull a team together.

Pecan Sale:

MOTION: Bruce Bergen moved, and Tina Huey seconded, a motion to approve the pecan sale fundraiser, with proceeds going to WAIM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Safe Church Policy: While Elaine Chague has resigned from the board, she is willing to help review the policy. Cass is still looking for one more person to help with this review.

Review of Lead Ministry Coordinators: Paul suggested having conversations with each Lead Ministry Coordinator to discuss their ministries. Pastor Diane noted that a decision about whether to make Just Peace a lead ministry was pending and would be considered by Sue Irvine, chair of the Leadership Discernment Committee, and Jan Hoyle, lead ministry coordinator for Outreach.

Confidentiality of Prayer Requests: Paul noted that our worship services are public on YouTube and asked the board to consider whether prayer requests should be confidential. Right now, Paul said he would pull together a committee to look into the matter.

Heritage Sunday Honoree: The board considered whether the church should recognize an honoree this year on Heritage Sunday. It was decided that, in the interest of time, such honors should be conferred at a later date.

Juneteenth Holiday: Should Juneteenth be added to the calendar as a holiday for church staff? The matter was deferred to the Personnel Committee.

Spring Fair Proceeds: Dave Jordan noted that the Board had never officially approved a recipient for the proceeds of the Spring Fair.

MOTION: Dave moved to establish an Environmental Justice Fund that could be used to support environmental causes, with the recommendation that it be distributed by the Outreach Ministry. Cass Crewdson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

MOTION: Bruce Bergen moved, and Tina Huey seconded, a motion to approve the pecan sale fundraiser, with proceeds going to WAIM. The motion was unanimously approved.

TASKS:

- Paul to send the dates for the next meeting and communicate with the Leadership Discernment Committee about open positions on the board.
- Cass to look into finding another person for the Safe Church Committee, and to look into the adding the Juneteenth holiday for church staff.
- Everyone: Review the budget before the next meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm. Next meeting: Nov. 16 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Annetta Miller

Upcoming Governing Board Meeting

December 14th at 7:00 PM in Room 201 and via Zoom

Our Governing Board will meet at 7:00 PM in person in Room 201 in the Education Building 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.



Agenda, reports, topics for consideration and zoom link will be distributed via email on Friday, December 9th, 2022.

Ministry Coordinator reports and topics to be added to the Agenda should be submitted to the office a week prior to the meeting for consideration.

HERE WE GO A CAROLING

Sunday, December 18th following worship

A light lunch will be provided 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!

Everyone is invited

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

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

Plan to come help us spread the spirit of Christmas!



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC

NOVEMBER 27 *Advent 1 - Hope*

“Invitation to Love” by Garrett
Choir Matrix, guest singers, Sarah Kaufold, director

DECEMBER 4 *Advent 2 - Peace*

Solo Selections from MESSIAH by Handel
sung by the Choral Scholars
Chorus: “And the Glory of the Lord”

DECEMBER 11 *Advent 3 - Joy*

LESSONS & CAROLS
with the Choir and SCC Ringers

DECEMBER 18 *Advent 4 - Love*

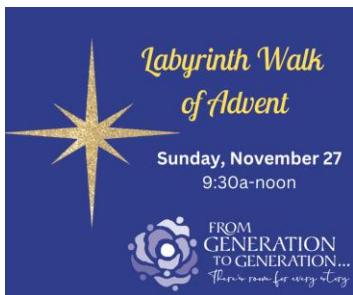
Magnificat!
“Rejoice Greatly” from MESSIAH by Handel
Cathy Jeffers, soprano

Join us for Caroling after worship!

DECEMBER 24 *Christmas Eve, 7:00PM*

Candlelight Service
with the Choir and SCC Ringers

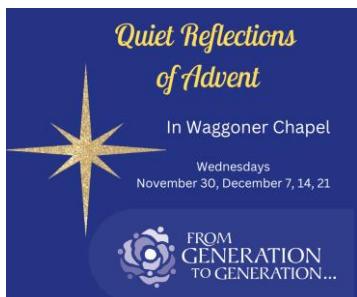
FAITH FORMATION NEWS



Faith Formation offerings at Storrs Congregational this Advent season begins with a Labyrinth Walk on **Sunday, November 27th**. Join us for a guided meditation "from Generation to Generation...there's room for every story." This **Labyrinth Walk of Advent** will take place in the auditorium. All ages are welcome!

Wonderful Wednesdays of Advent will take place each Wednesday evening from 5:30-7:00pm. On the first Wonderful Wednesday, on November 30, alternative Advent candles and traditional Advent wreath-making supplies will be available. Join us for a different Advent activity each week!

Quiet Reflections of Advent will be held in the Waggoner Chapel on Wednesdays at 10:00am. Brief theological reflection through works of art, a form of Visio-divina, will be followed by a time of silence.



Like to bake? Want to have a variety of cookies for your holiday entertaining? Join us on **Sunday, December 11th** (after Lessons and Carols) for a Christmas Cookie Exchange. How does a cookie exchange work? Bake some of your favorite Christmas cookies and bring them to church on Sunday, December 11th. Following Sunday worship, gather in the Lounge to choose the cookies you wish to take home with you. If you bring one dozen, you will take one dozen; if you bring three dozen, you will take three dozen of someone else's home-baked treats.

*Peace and joy,
Lisa Haupt
Director of Faith Formation*

YOUR OUTREACH IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

This is a busy time of giving as our church continues to assist food insecure individuals four days a week in our pantry and with special Thanksgiving and Christmas deliveries. This is possible because of your generous giving through your pledge, your extra contributions of money and products and our association with CT Foodshare and Midwest Food Bank, Big Y Tolland, Big Y Mansfield, and Price Chopper. Thank you for your donations and, especially, for your gift of your time and energy.

Volunteers from the congregation are always needed in the pantry. Please communicate with Jane Joesten or Jan Hoyle to sign up. We have several dependable UConn students and a couple of community volunteers each week in addition to church members. Communications between SSC pantry, CT Foodshare and representatives of the Student Government at UConn is continuing as we determine how to best serve more undergraduate students. The Food Pantry at the Storrs Congregational Church currently serves 171 households (390 individuals) in the community, more than half of which include UConn Students. The number of visits to the pantry has grown from 155 in August to 220 in October, while the number of individual families who visit remains constant at 83 per month. The "typical" pantry guest visits the pantry twice a month and leaves with 15 pounds of food, although a quarter of our visitors leave with 25 to 75 pounds of food on a visit. The total amount of food distributed has grown from 3558 pounds in August to 4818 pounds in October. The scale of food insecurity in our community is large. The good news is that about half of the families who visited the pantry in July through September, did not visit in October, suggesting that for these families the situation that led to their food insecurity has resolved. Behind the numbers are many personal stories. Thanks to the strong backs and open hearts of pantry volunteers, SCC pantry has become a welcoming and non-judgmental place where members of the community can "shop" our shelves, fridge, and freezers to provide nourishing meals for their families. "We share in God's love....."

Two pop-up clothing giveaways took place in our courtyard this summer and fall. We received many items from the past members of Wesley Memorial Church in East Hartford who are remaining active in missions even though their church has closed and they are working through other churches.

Also, two cooking demonstrations and tastings were held to share nutritional information and creative recipes for the products available in the pantry. Thank you Don, Lisa, Nancy, Charles, Swapna, Chandra, Ray, Jane, Jan, Cindy, Laurie, Duffy, Anne and the SNAP program for making this happen.

WAIM Walk for Warmth place took place on November 20th. A donation of 1500.00 was sent from the Outreach budget because of the great need for heating assistance this year. If you wish to contribute to this fund, or any Outreach project, you may always do that by sending a check to SCC, indicating in the memo line where the donation should be distributed. It is also possible to do this online.

A Christmas tree will be set up in the narthex of the Meeting House for your donations of socks and gloves or mittens to be donated to the homeless, along with the many fleece hats that were made by the high school students in our summer program. Thank you to Lisa Haupt for providing the youth with the opportunity to reach out to others.

Included on page 20 of this *Carillon* is a note of 'thanks' from Patrick Barton. He is studying the manual in preparation for getting his first driver's license upon his release in March. Transportation is vital to anyone looking for work and he hopes to be able to afford a used car. Let's all be on the lookout for a reliable, affordable vehicle going on the market. You may place an order for his original design Christmas cards using the order form found on page 21 in this issue of the *Carillon*. This money will go into the account of card money and donations that will be available to him at his release.

In the season of Advent keep an eye out for ways we can help the people in the community less fortunate than ourselves. Possible areas for either gift giving or donations may include requests from WAIM and Covenant to Care in Hartford. These potential needs will be posted in the weekly emails and in the Sunday bulletins. Thank you for your generosity.

As you make your pledge and approve the church budget, remember that part of your giving goes toward many projects that help people in our community and beyond. Thank you for being a generous people.

FOOD PANTRY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 28th, 2022, 4:00 PM in the SCC Library

Consider joining this group that meets the 4th Monday of the month in the Library. We discuss our Food Pantry, its role in the community, how we can better serve those who use it and creative ways of using items. We continue to grow in knowledge of the community and the need for culturally diverse food items. We have nutrition specialists from UConn providing guidance, informational resources to the community as well as participate with demonstrations. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Jan Hoyle or just come to the meeting on Monday, November 28th @ 4:00 PM.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY UPDATE



Our Church prayerfully blessed 13 newly completed prayer shawls on October 16th during Sunday worship. We are grateful to all our knitters who contribute their time and talents to this ministry.

Our group usually meets on the 4th Thursday of each month, but because Thanksgiving falls on that day, we will gather on Thursday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m. in the SCC Library and on Zoom. That will serve as the last meeting for this year. However, that does not mean that the work is done because we are always in need of shawls to comfort and celebrate those in need of them.

We encourage any knitters or crocheters to join in as you are able. It is a ministry that can be done at home to fill in some of the darker, colder days of the winter season. Our group also provides the prayer squares that are given to visitors and newcomers to the church – a great way to use up small amounts of yarn and can usually be completed in less than an evening.

Please consider joining the group on December 1st – and Happy Holidays!
 “Prayerfully” submitted,
 Sue Schur

HOLIDAY GOODS FOR SALE ~ DECEMBER 4TH, 2022

In support of our local missions, both the Parish Piecers and SERRV International will be selling their quilts and Fair Trade products following the Sunday, December 4th Budget Meeting in the Auditorium. There will be Christmas and seasonal table runners, table mats and handmade quilts by our Parish Piecers. SERRV will feature Christmas decorations and gifts made by artisans around the world. This is a part of our Justice and Mission outreach to create a fair trade market for third world artisans, and offer beautiful items for you to enjoy and/or share as gifts.

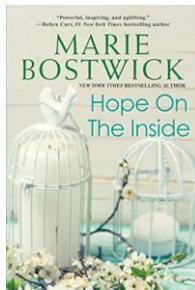
2022 ANNUAL REPORT TIME LINE

Reminder



The 2022 Annual Report will be available for distribution on January 22nd. To ensure that this date is met, please have reports submitted via email to Deborah by Tuesday, January 16th. If you need assistance or a copy of last year's report, contact Deborah for assistance.

SCC Book Discussion Group – DATE CHANGE!



December 4th, 2022 @ 4:00 PM in the Library and zoom

Our next book for discussion will be *Hope on the Inside* by Marie Bostwick. Marie tells the story of Hope Carpenter who seeks inspiration and a financial boost when her savings and marriage are strained. Hope gets a job teaching crafts at a local women's prison. She and the women eventually bond over a quilting project as they learn piece by piece that life is both surprising and beautiful.

Author Debbie Macomber said, "Reading Marie Bostwick is like wrapping yourself up in a warm hand-crafted quilt."

Availability: SCC Library, Library Connections, Local Libraries, Audio book and E-Book.

CWS KITS – ITEMS STILL NEEDED

THANK YOU for your support of our mission to create school bags and health kits that will wind up being distributed locally and even worldwide.

Currently, we are finishing up this year's contributions and have thus far completed 47 school bags and 29 health kits. We could still use items for some of the partially completed bags. These include the following items: **pencils, scissors, nail clippers, wide-toothed combs, band aids and toothbrushes.** Please place any of these items you wish to contribute in the designated box in our Parish Lounge.

CARING MINISTRIES – SHARING THE LOVE

The banner in front of our sanctuary says 'Love One Another'. In this coming holiday season, please take a few moments to share the love that our church has for the members and other people. Addresses have been published in the *Carillon*, and in other publications to give you an idea of someone to send a card to. Sometimes a phone call is also something that would brighten a person's day. Our 'Rides Ministry' could use help in transporting people who need to go to appointments during the week or come to church on Sunday. Please pick up a copy of our **Keeping in Touch** list and pick out somebody to send a card saying hello. There is a saying that God made us so when we do good we feel good. Feel good this holiday season!

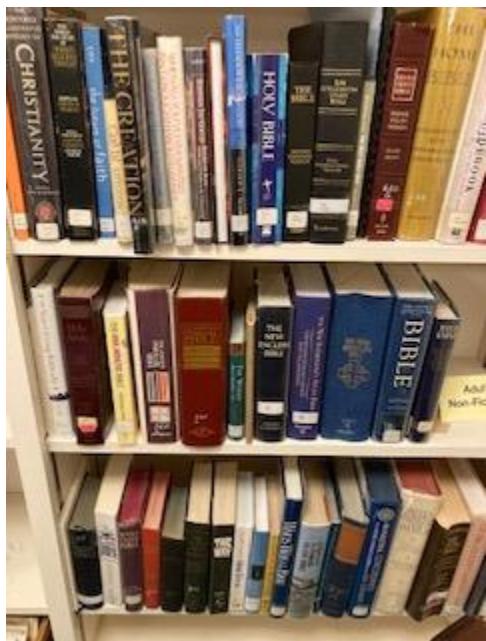


Advent and Christmas in the Library



First Sunday of Advent is Nov. 27th followed by four weeks of preparation for the birth of Jesus. How will you prepare yourself, your loved ones, and others for this momentous time in our Christian lives?

Continue to prepare yourself for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. How will you celebrate this year? Will it be different than Christmas when you were a child, or in 2020 when COVID was rampant, or will Christmas 2022 be a new way of preparation, consideration, giving, gathering, nourishing ourselves, and ways to serve our community.



The Edwina Whitney Library committee is ready to make this time meaningful for you with needed sources: making wreaths and decorations, new recipes to try, Christmas novels and Christmas non-fiction for everyone. You might like to try a different translation of the *Bible*. Are you aware of the wide selection of holy *Bibles* we have on the shelves? Many of our seasonal books will be on display to make selecting the right one easier.

And if you don't find what you're looking for, your "librarians" will be happy to assist you.

Pause, relax, and enjoy this special time of the year.



The season of Christmas *begins* Christmas Eve... and extends for 12 whole days -- a season of joy and gratitude, of reflection on what's truly important, and of generosity and giving.

Our Truest Lover -- the God who creates and redeems and sustains us all -- has given us far more than just calling birds, French hens, or turtle doves. In particular here at Storrs

Congregational, we know that God has given us a joyful, wondrous, and transformative part in God's mission to this community and to all the world.

We know that we here at SCC have had no lack of invitations to share generously from our financial resources in recent months. But we also know that as the end of the calendar year -- and, thus, the tax year -- approaches, many people make prayerful decisions about some final offerings of financial support. And we'd like you to consider whether you may be hearing the call to make Storrs Congregational Church UCC a part of that *end-of-the-year giving*.

Perhaps you might think about a special end-of-the-year gift to SCC in one of these ways:

- an *unrestricted/undesignated gift*, which helps support our ongoing life and ministry as a congregation; or
- a contribution to the *Ministerial Discretionary Fund*, which is an account used solely by the pastoral staff for financial assistance in confidential and/or emergency cases, among both congregants and members of the wider community.

These are only a couple of options, but they do represent a some of our strongest needs at the moment.

To make an end-of-year gift, please make sure the church office receives your donation on or before December 31st. If you intend for a contribution other than an unrestricted/undesignated gift, please clearly indicate it with your contribution (anything without clear indication will be assumed to be an unrestricted gift).

If you have questions about making a contribution, need information about other possible uses or purposes to support, or otherwise need to check on something, please be in touch with our collector, Donna Latinacsics (donnalatinacsics@gmail.com), or with Deborah in the church office (sccoffice@storrscongchurch.org).

Many thanks, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year to you all!

A REFLECTION BY ELLEN BRADLEY

Happy Late Fall! Can you believe, we are beginning the holiday season? Some of you know how much I love to cook and bake, and that is what I am thinking about today. With the arrival of frosty weather, my cravings have turned from summer and fall grilling, salads, and smoothies, to stews, casseroles, and the comfort foods of the holidays.

Although we live in a culture where any foods are available to us any time of the year, like strawberries in January, sometimes it just feels better to eat the way our ancestors did – by utilizing the foods that are naturally plentiful at each season. Did you ever notice how the colors of seasonal food often reflect the season? Fresh vibrant greens to the bright sunshine hues of summer produce, have given way to the deeper reds and oranges of pumpkins, apples, cranberries, squash, and sweet potatoes which seem to mirror the color of the foliage, and now the leaf piles being raked up. And most of these take much longer to prepare, the oven radiating warmth and coziness as the temperatures drop. I think eating seasonally helps you to subtly connect with your surroundings and it also gives you more of what your body and soul intuitively need, continuing to reflect the thousands of years that our genes evolved in concert with the environment.

Of course I don't just eat from the garden – I enjoy making treats as well! I have my favorite recipes, especially for the holidays, and there is no need for a bookmark or any searching whatsoever when I pull out my favorite, treasured old cookbooks. The books naturally fall open to the dog-eared pages that are covered in petrified food splatters. The worse a page looks, the more I treasure that particular recipe!

And my Gold Standard of baking is this: when making any of the recipes handed down by my grandmother, all I need to do is one simple thing: step outside while baking and clear my lungs, then come back in and notice the aroma that greets me when I walk in. If it immediately takes me back to my childhood and my grandmother's kitchen, then I know my creation will be a success.

May you all enjoy and savor the holiday season and the blessings and special cozy joy it brings with it.



CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

On Christmas Eve 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.



THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

CALL TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING December 4, 2022

Pursuant to the By Laws of the Storrs Congregational Church:

By vote of the Governing Board, the members of the Storrs Congregational Church are called to the Annual Budget Meeting to be held December 4, 2022. The meeting will be held following the Sunday morning worship service. The meeting will be in the same format as worship, in-person and/or online via Zoom Meetings. The business of said meeting shall be to:

1. discuss and approve the 2023 budget for the Storrs Congregational Church
2. discuss any items the congregation wishes to raise.

The presence and participation of all members is requested; **a minimum of thirty is required to transact business**. In the event that the scheduled meeting must be postponed due to weather or other emergency, it shall be held on the following Sunday.

Rationale – This is the annual budget meeting to discuss and approve the budget for 2023

Printed copies of the 2023 Budget will be available on Sunday, November 27th

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HAPPENINGS

Anniversary Celebrations

Gary & Eileen Griffin 2-Dec

Birthday Celebrations

Sarah Johnson 12/1
 Annetta Miller 12/3
 Bedan Kimenyi 12/5
 Donna Latincsics 12/7
 Thany Litrico 12/10
 Wade Johnson 12/10
 Betty Hanson 12/11

Dulcie Vannais 12/12
 Vicki Magley 12/14
 Maye Henning 12/16
 Haley Ignatowicz 12/16
 Paulla Dixon 12/18
 Kathy Hampton 12/18
 Spencer Hamlin 12/21
 Julia Chilinski 12/23
 Allison Cano 12/23
 Elizabeth Hanks 12/24
 Grant Gifford 12/31

The following list contains people called to active duty. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. ***Do you have someone who should be added to this list?*** Is there someone that we should be praying for as they protect and defend to the best of their ability? Submit updates to Deborah in the office.



- Matt Allen, submitted by Pam & Dick Roberts
- Joseph Tanaka, submitted by Patty Tanaka
- Joshua Conner & Dakota Schroeder, submitted by Charlene Dickenson

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE ON SUNDAYS?

Would you like to serve on a Sunday Morning Server team? All roles are active with in-person worship. If you have questions about getting started and "training" please contact the "Role Coordinator" listed below. Even if you've never served before, you are welcome to sign up - we'll make sure you have all the information you need to feel confident in serving.

Role: Greeter, Welcome Table Host, Head Usher, Usher & Liturgist

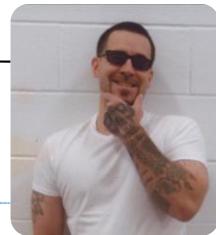
Coordinator: Jamie Lang-Rodean (langrodeanje@gmail.com) & Laurie Brookes (thebrookes@aol.com)

Role: Tech Team

Coordinator: Andy McCabe (andy@rescueworld.com)

Role: Hospitality & Congregational Life Ministry Coordinator. ***This position is still open. Anyone interested in serving in this role should contact a member of the Leadership Discernment***

A NOTE FROM PATRICK BARTON



Hi friends,

I hope as you're reading this letter you are in the best of health and in high spirits. As winter approaches so does my release in the spring, which is amazing as spring symbolizes new beginnings and I am looking forward to just that. I want you to know I am deeply grateful for your support and well wishes. I'm not sure how I would've done this without all of you. Thank you so much!

Agape,
-Patrick-

3 MONTH MEDICAL REPORT FROM REV. MIKE

Dear SCC friends,

After two months recuperating at home I decided to write a progress report to you, now that my pain and discomfort have subsided somewhat and the way to normal life is out there on the horizon.

This week I will meet with the orthopedic surgeon who will perform the artificial hip surgery. I still have lots of physical therapy before that operation, but the good news is that new bone is forming in my pelvis. I can put weight on my left leg and get around with my walker.

I'm glad of this limited independence because I can dress myself, get out of bed on my own and get to the bathroom; today I even had my first shower! This all means that there's that much less dependence on Andrea, allowing her to reclaim more of her life for herself.

It's hard to believe that it was three months ago that I had my fall. I thank God and you at SCC for your meals, cards, prayers, wheelchair loan and other kindnesses throughout my ordeal. All things do work together for good. You have made an ordeal, so much more tolerable.

My love, thanks, and blessings to you all.
Rev. Mike Ader

Original Design Note Cards by

Patrick Barton

Circle and indicate the number of each card requested



Original design note cards by Patrick Barton are available for ordering through the church office. **Donations** made in support of these cards will be used to assist Patrick as he transitions back to the community.

Thank you for your support!

To order cards: call the church office at 860-429-9382 or email selections to scoffice@storrscongchurch.org, or mail order form to church office.

Name: _____

Contact Information: _____

WEEKLY GATHERINGS @ SCC

MondaysService Sewing, 9:30 am (Room 207)
.....Meet Up Mondays, 12:00 pm (Library & Zoom)
.....A2A Work Group Sessions 1:00 pm (Room 201 & Zoom)
.....no meeting on Monday, December 26th, 2022
.....Food Pantry Open, 1:00 pm (Room 102)

TuesdaysLibrary Open, 9:30 am (Ed. Building – Library)
.....Staff Meeting, 12:30 pm (PH – Lounge)
.....Food Pantry Open, 3:00 pm (Room 102)
.....Tuesday Talks, 8:00 pm (Room 106)

WednesdaysQuiet Reflection, 10:00 am (Waggoner Chapel)
.....Parish Piecers Quilt Group, 10:00 am (2nd Floor)
.....C.A.F.E. Storrs, 10:30 am (CE – Library & Zoom)

ThursdaysFood Pantry Open, 2:30 pm (Room 102)
.....A2A Work Group Sessions 4:30 pm (Library & Zoom)
.....Handbells, 6:30 pm (MH)
.....Adult Choir, 7:30 pm (MH)

SundaysStudent Breakfast, 8:45 am (Auditorium)
.....Food Pantry Open, 11:00 am (Room 102)
.....Consonare Rehearsal, 3:00 pm (Auditorium & Lounge)
.....Sunday Night Speaker Group, 7:30 pm (Auditorium)

MEETINGS & EVENTS @ SCC

Dec. 1 Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10:00 am (Library & Zoom)
.....1st Thursday Book Club, 1:00 pm (Library)
.....Mobile FoodShare, 11:30 am (Mansfield Senior Center)

Dec. 2 A Cappella Concert: CDN, 7:00 pm (Meeting House)

Dec. 3 A Cappella Concert: Ruby Fruit, 4:00 pm (Meeting House)

Dec. 4 Annual Budget Meeting, following worship (Meeting House & Zoom)
.....Book Discussion Group, 4:00 pm (Library & Zoom)
.....A Cappella Concert: Husky Hungama, 7:00 pm (Meeting House)

Dec. 10 A Cappella Concert: Drop the Bass, 7:00 pm (Meeting House)

Dec. 11 A Cappella Concert: TakeNote!, 3:00 pm (Meeting House)
.....A Cappella Concert: The Conn Men, 7:00 pm (Meeting House)

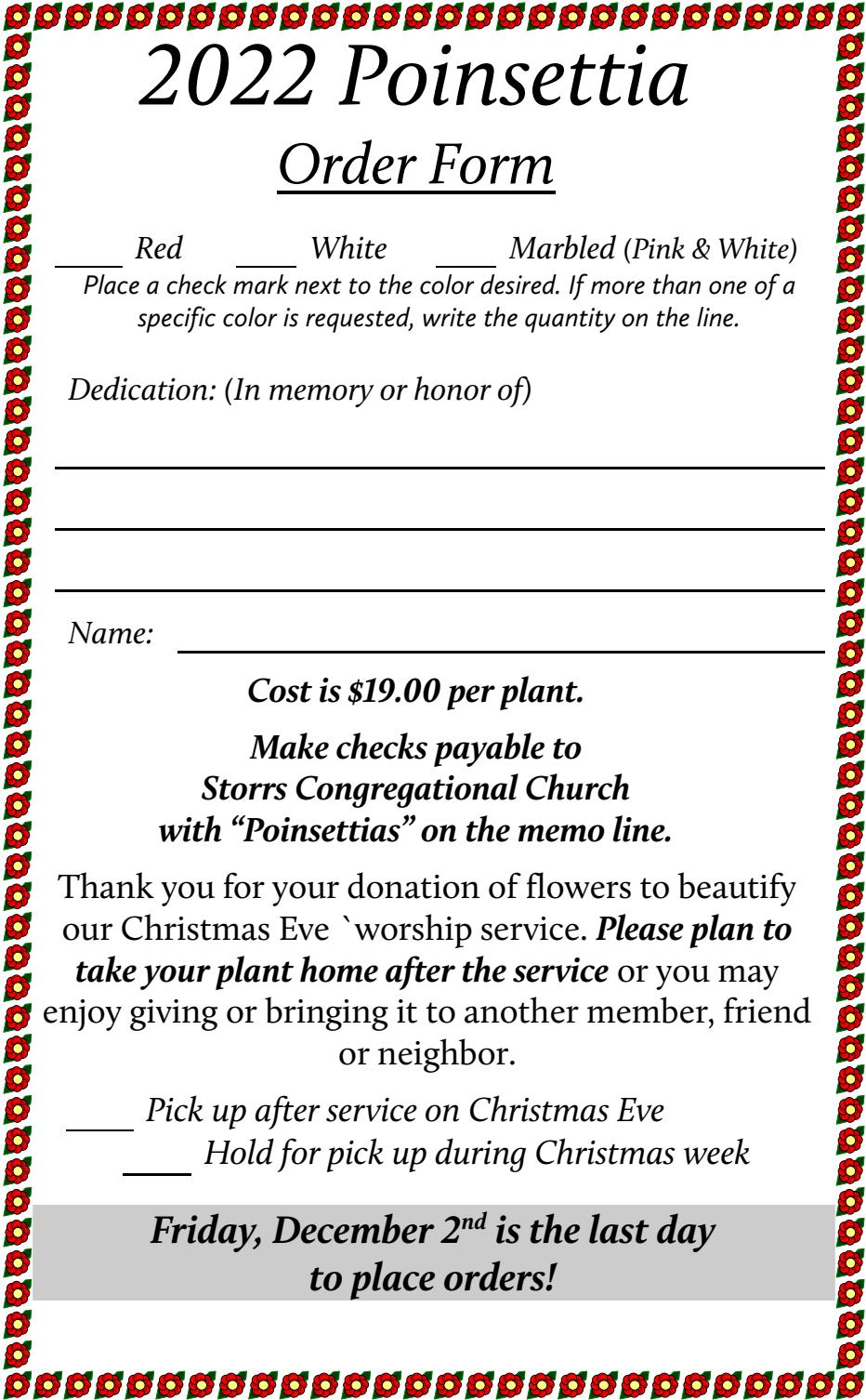
Dec. 14 Governing Board Meeting, 7:00 pm (CE – Room 201 & Zoom)

Dec. 15 Mobile FoodShare, 11:30 am (Mansfield Senior Center)

Dec. 18 SCC Caroling Event, following worship (gather in Parish House)

Dec. 26 Food Pantry Advisory Board Meeting, 4:00 pm (Library)

Dec. 29 Mobile FoodShare, 11:30 am (Mansfield Senior Center)



2022 Poinsettia

Order Form

Red White Marbled (Pink & White)

Place a check mark next to the color desired. If more than one of a specific color is requested, write the quantity on the line.

Dedication: (In memory or honor of)

Name: _____

Cost is \$19.00 per plant.

*Make checks payable to
Storrs Congregational Church
with "Poinsettias" on the memo line.*

Thank you for your donation of flowers to beautify our Christmas Eve worship service. **Please plan to take your plant home after the service** or you may enjoy giving or bringing it to another member, friend or neighbor.

Pick up after service on Christmas Eve
 Hold for pick up during Christmas week

**Friday, December 2nd is the last day
to place orders!**

Storrs Congregational Church
2 North Eagleville Rd.
Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
STORRS, CT 06268
Permit No. 33