

The Carillon

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

Incorporated 1921

FEBRUARY 2022

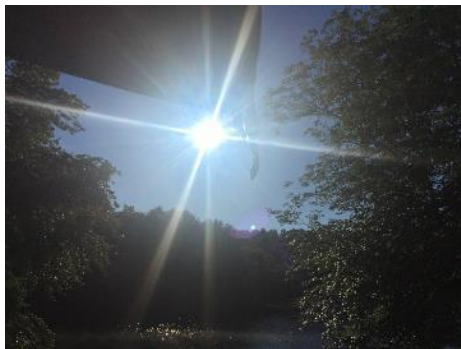
Worship In Person or Online with SCC:

All the information for joining in worship is sent out via email on both Friday & Saturday before worship.

Access Online Worship activities at

<http://www.storrscongchurch.org/worship-online/>

Our sermon theme and scripture for the month of February is “Grace Emerging.” During this season of Epiphany where there will be more signs to come, we are reminded of God’s dwelling and presence in and among us. As we journey through these four weeks together, may we partner with the Spirit in revealing to the world what has been illuminated for us – the light of Christ made visible.



Sunrise over lake; photo by Pastor Debbie

February Scriptures and Sermons

February 6: Luke 5:1-11 | “Caught”

February 13 (Racial Justice Sunday): Luke 6:17-26 | “Power”

February 20: Luke 6:27-38 | “Merciful”

February 27 (Transfiguration Sunday): Luke 9:28-43 | “Chosen”

welcoming historic progressive Christian



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Accessible to All



A Just Peace Church



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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 monthly newsletter should be received in the office by the 22nd of the month.

The Carillon is the monthly newsletter of

STORRS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ALONG THE JOURNEY WITH PASTOR DEBBIE



Dear Ones,

Do not let your hearts be troubled... (John 14:1)

It has been over a year now that I have been with you all. It is with wonder and excitement that I ponder the “signs to come” we will experience at SCC as we begin this new year together. I am appreciative of our church leaders and past Governing Board members as well as our ministry coordinators. I believe that our various ministries are at the “heart”

of this church and aptly so this month as we celebrate Valentine’s Day. I welcome also, with a grateful heart, our new leaders and look forward to working with you all in the coming months.

Last year at this time we were not meeting in person for services or meetings. My prayer is that this winter and spring we will be able to stay strong and healthy and take care of each other in compassionate, loving ways.

In the words of Joyce Rupp in her book *Out of the Ordinary*, we thank the Holy One for the love that lures us toward the sacred, love that calls us to new vision, love that longs for peace among humankind, love that offers the hand of warm welcome, love that urges us to have courage, and love that surprises and fills us with awe.

In my March letter, I will share with you plans for the Lenten season.

This month, may your hearts be open to God’s love for you as you share your love with others.



In love and gratitude,
Pastor Debbie

GOVERNING BOARD NEWS



Governing Board Minutes

Regular Meeting – January 12, 2022

A. = attachment in Board packet

(* present)			
* Malta Bailey	* Cass Crewdson	Paul Schur	
* Bruce Bergen	* Darryl Hilliard	* Nancy Tomastik	
* Jane Ann Bobbitt	* Susan Irvine	* Pastor Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine	
* Elaine Chague	Nolan Klimkiewicz	* Stacy Malecki (clerk)	

Also in attendance: Ellen Bradley (Communications and Digital Ministry), Dr Trisha Snyder (Director of Music Ministry), Duffy Brookes (Buildings and Grounds LMC), Lisa Haupt (Faith Formation), and Bob Malecki (Treasurer)

Present to Speak – Ellen Bradley our new Communication and Digital Ministry Specialist introduced herself and expressed enthusiasm about her new role. Her typical schedule will be Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30-1:30 PM, but she will be available to support urgent priorities outside of those times as needed.

Consent Agenda The following items were approved by the Governing Board as part of the Consent Agenda.

1. That the Board approves the Minutes of the December 8, 2021 meeting of the Board. **A.**
2. That the Board acknowledges receipt of the November Treasurer’s report. **A.**
3. That the Board acknowledges receipt of updates from the Lead Ministry Coordinators. **A.**
4. That the Board approves the Leadership Discernment Committee’s nomination of Kathy Hampton and Patty Tanaka as the Caring Ministry Coordinators.
5. That the Board approves the Leadership Discernment Committee’s nomination of Kathy Lindner and Annetta Miller as the SCC Delegates.
6. That the Board approves a Sanctuary Curtain Task Group– Jane Ann Bobbitt, Marsha Creese, and Eileen Metzger.

7. That the Board, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, approves updated SCC account authorizations found in the file 2022-01-12 SCC Account Authorizations.xls. **A.**
8. That the Board, confirming the prior email vote, approves the transfer of \$2000 from the 2021 Employee Relations budget line (509200) to an off-budget Employee Relations account to be created.
9. That the board, upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, approves an overspend of up to \$1450 for Director of Faith Formation compensation in the 2022 budget. Rationale: Upon setting up payroll for 2022, the Treasurer noticed a formula error in the 2022 Annual Budget spreadsheet that understated 2022 DFF compensation by \$1,448.43.
10. That the board approves the recommendations from the Memorial and Special Gifts Committee for the distribution of a 2021 Special Gift in honor of Kristine Dellafera to the off-budget Choral Scholars account. The recommendation has been reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee of the governing board.
11. That the board acknowledges that the finance committee has received the report from Mark Makuch CPA who conducted an external financial review.

Tech Team – Sound quality improvements have been made and quality of audio for those on Zoom is now good – even with speakers wearing masks! This is greatly appreciated by all who utilize Zoom to participate in the Sunday service.

Search Committee – Cass reported that there were a few questions from conference on the profile, but that it should be up for potential candidates to view by the end of the week.

Task Force for Resuming In-Person Gathering – Paul reviewed highlights from the all-church email sent on in person gathering. The Task Force will continue to meet as the needed to ensure that our church is operating within health expert guidelines.

Highlights of Pastoral Report – provided by Rev. Dr. Debbie Pallatto-Fontaine

- Pastoral support and care through phone calls, cards, home visits, and funeral services including two for dear members of our congregation.
- Participated in a four-week Advent Prayer program sponsored by our Conference staff. Many of the materials were used for our Advent activities, services, and Monday devotions.

- Advent Vespers concluded on December 21.
- Over 25 people came to the holiday brunch on December 17 and a good time was had by all!
- We had a full house on Christmas Eve with many positive comments. People seem to really like the 5:00 p.m. service time. Luminaries were placed outdoors, our Nativity interactive staging was set up on the chancel, candles were lit, meaningful hymns and carols were sung, and people received a Just Peace button on the way out symbolizing the “refugee” status of the Holy Family.
- Sunday after Christmas we held service via Zoom with an informal liturgy and prayers of the people.
- Supported meetings including Governing Board, Task Force on In-Person Gatherings, Pastoral Relations, and the Interfaith Working Group.
- Epiphany Sunday service was held remotely due to weather. This was disappointing because we had a beautiful service planned including Star Words for all congregants as well as star pins for the women in our congregation in recognition of Women’s Christmas. These gifts will be placed in the Lounge.
- Staff performance evaluations were completed on January 11 and shared with the Personnel Committee.
- January 7 marked my one-year anniversary as interim here at SCC.
- Propose to purchase a dozen COVID home test kits to have on hand here at church in case a member needs access to one quickly.
- I will be on retreat at Mercy by the Sea February 6 (after church) to the morning of February 10.

Facilities-HVAC – Nancy Tomastik, on behalf of the Buildings and Grounds subcommittee of the Governing Board, made a motion to move forward with the installation of HVAC mini-splits in the Meetinghouse and Chapel. This motion was subsequently modified and is stated later after summary of discussion.

Nancy thanked Duffy, Debbie, Lisa, and Trisha for being present to answer questions. She also outlined a proposed plan to move forward including an email to the congregation with some information about the project in advance of the annual meeting of the congregation to be held on Jan 30. Assuming a positive reception by the congregation at that meeting, the team will move forward with additional quotes, and determining the placement of units and compressors. A follow-up congregational meeting would be held to approve moving forward once all of the details are known. One of the

estimates received so far is for \$64,000. The funding sources will include Major Projects and Waring Funds and also fundraising specifically targeting this project. Nancy mentioned that a donor has offered to match up to \$8000 of donations!

Trisha provided an update on the impact to the organs. (1) She shared more about the history of the organ in the chapel which was installed by Rev Wagner giving it historical significance for our congregation. It is in need of repair. The Bellows will need to be replaced (approx \$5000) if they can be removed from the wall. Trisha and Duffy will work to determine how this can be done. (2) The Fisk Organ in the sanctuary is very special and it will be important to place the inside units in locations that assure uniform organ temperature to prevent damage. We will want to have an organ expert involved in determining the placement of the units.

The possibility of adding ceiling fans in the sanctuary was discussed and could help assure a uniform temperature distribution. A humidifier could also be helpful during the dry winter months.

Other comments that were made for consideration included (a) include some contingency in the project budget for unforeseen costs, (b) consider aesthetics and noise as part of decision (it was noted that these units are very quiet) (c) women's fellowship legacy fund may be interested in participating in funding some part of this project.

After some discussion, a revision to the motion originally proposed was voted on and passed unanimously.

MOTION: by Nancy Tomastik, seconded by Sue Irvine, that the HVAC mini-split project be proposed at the annual meeting to gauge congregational interest and support with the intent of moving forward towards completing this project as early as this spring. A combination of funding sources are anticipated including Major Projects, Waring and Legacy Women's Fellowship funds along with donations from the congregation.

Budget Surplus Recommendations

Bob presented a proposal for distributing the budget surplus from 2021. Since the total is more than 2% of the budget this will also need to be approved by the congregation:

2021 Operating Budget Surplus Distribution Recommendation	
2021 Budget Transfers	
- Sr Pastor Moving Expenses	\$1000
- Sr Pastor Search	\$2500
2022 Budget Reductions	
- Flowers	\$1500 (to off-budget line)
- Snow Removal	\$1000 (create an off budget account)
- Local Missions/Outreach	\$2000
Other	
- Accounting Services	\$5000
- Properties Projects	\$2000 (2022 budget did not recover back to 2020 level)
- Ministry Initiative Fund	\$2500
- Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$1000
Operating Reserve	Remainder

MOTION: Cass made motion, with second by Elaine to approve recommendation for distribution 2021 budget surplus.

Motion passed unanimously

Accounting Services – Bob provided an update to previous conversation about the possibility of hiring a resource to provide accounting services to make the treasurer's role less time consuming in the future. Upon the recommendation of our outside financial review accountant Bob followed up with Common Sense Payroll and recommends that we engage with this small company that has experience providing payroll and accounting services to churches. The payroll cost is less than we are currently paying ADP and the accounting services will be charged at \$50/hour. This could begin on Feb 1, 2022 and Bob can engage and get this started.

MOTION: Jane Ann made a motion with second by Sue that the church change our payroll service to Common Sense Payroll and that we also engage with Common Sense Payroll for accounting services starting on Feb 1, 2022.

Motion passed unanimously

Pastor Debbie asked that the minutes reflect appreciation for Bob Malecki as treasurer for the past 8 years and his willingness to provide transitional support beyond the annual meeting.

Parking Update – Duffy asked for guidance from the Governing Board regarding the possibility of refunding part of the spring parking cost if the student cannot use the space due to university Covid protocols. The governing board did not think that a motion was required, but supported Duffy’s suggestion that a portion of the parking fee could be re-funded if the student is unable to use it due to a university decision.

Plan Agenda for Annual Mtg – In addition to the typical items that are covered at the annual meeting – including election of the slate proposed by the Leadership Discernment Committee there should be a motion to approve distribution of the 2021 budget surplus and to discuss the HVAC project so that fundraising can begin in parallel with project detail development.

Review of tasks

- Nancy to send letter to congregation about HVAC project
- Paul/Duffy to consider potential major projects needs in next few years
- Sue to publish agenda
- Duffy to follow-up on parking

Meeting was adjourned with closing prayer at 9:05 PM

Summaries of Ministry Reports

Buildings & Grounds Reported the following updates on activity – Duffy Brookes

- Consultations have taken place with HVAC experts in preparation for an analysis of our options for considering installation of AC units in the Chapel and Meeting House. Nancy Tomastik has been instrumental in this endeavor by heading up the study committee preparing an informational presentation to the Governing Board.
- Antonio and I selected and purchased a new, lightweight ladder which will allow access to difficult areas to reach in our buildings. The legs can be offset to work safely in challenging areas that have elevation changes such as stairways and the balconies.
- Several electrical issues are being addressed including faulty outlets and malfunctioning timers.

- The inevitable first weekend snow accumulation was relatively easy to handle using a leaf blower and did not require a volunteer crew. If only this could be the norm for the entire season.
- See SCC Annual report for 2022 goals

Faith Formation – Lisa Haupt

January 2022 SCC Faith Formation Report

On-going Faith Formation:

- Quiet Reflection in Waggoner Chapel, Wednesdays at 10:00am
- In-person and virtual (Zoom) C.A.F.E. Storrs, Wednesdays 10:30am-noon
- Faith Seeds: Exploring Epiphany Star Words for Guidance, each Friday
- YU? YLM: Using Faith Element for Youth

December Events:

- 5 participants for UConn Tuesday Talks Student Dinner
- 1 participant for weekly Quiet Reflection in Waggoner Chapel
- Advent Wreath/Candle Designing Workshop- November 28, after worship- use of Google Forms for ordering- 14 participants
- Advent Readers- for in-person and virtual Advent Candle-lighting
- Advent Story- using a short Canva-made video with congregant & staff participants for daily Advent email-18 participants
- Assisted Rev. Debbie with Advent Vespers
- The Christmas story seek & find crafts for children at the Christmas bazaar- 9 participants
- Youth volunteer assisted in craft preparation for Caroling gifts/Christmas bazaar
- Interactive Christmas Eve- ‘Entering the Story’ Nativity Intergenerational activity

January Events/Activities:

- take heart-TAKE ACTION! Planning session January 22nd
- Epiphany Star Words for the congregation
- Women’s Christmas “gifts”
- Support for “Danger of a Single Story’- Windham/Willimantic NAACP- 23rd, 2-4pm

- SNEUCC Faith Formation/Youth Ministry Community of Practice, Trainings:
- Serving Together — Mission for All Ages- January 22nd , 8:30-12:30

Outreach Coordinators' Report • Submitted by Carolyn Holmy and Janis Hoyle

- Carolyn Holmy & Jan Hoyle worked with Deborah Gacek and Bob Malecki to distribute remaining Outreach budgeted funds.
- Linda Blum organized Christmas giving to WAIM families – replacing Covenant to Care for this year.
- The food pantry continues to serve a growing number of students along with community members. Check the map on the bulletin board next to the archives room to get a glance at where our students are coming from.
- The mittens and hats left on the tree in the narthex are being distributed to family in need, some students coming to the food pantry, and to the No-Freeze shelter.

Worship Coordinators' Report • Submitted by Jamie Lang-Rodean and Paul Schur

- Communion was served on December 5, 2021.
- Paul Schur developed a communion servers' schedule for January through April 2022. This is a new system that we are putting into place.
- Poinsettias were delivered on December 22 and Paul Schur and Jamie Lang-Rodean placed them around the chancel and table to add to our Christmas decorations for Christmas Eve.
- Peter, Samantha, Wes and and Jamie Lang-Rodean put out luminaries along our walkway and Meeting House steps prior to the Christmas Eve Service.
- Paul Schur and Dick Roberts helped people pack up their poinsettias to take home after our Christmas Eve service. Paul Schur handled the remainder of the poinsettia pick ups and deliveries.
- All Christmas decorations were taken down and put away on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Many thanks to Duffy and Laurie Brookes and Wes Lang-Rodean for their efforts.
- Three poinsettias were delivered to Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation.

Summary of Director of Music Ministry Report –submitted by Dr Trisha Snyder

- The First Annual Christmas Card video from the Ringers was sent out Dec. 1. A great tradition to begin!
- Lessons and Carols December 12
- Christmas Caroling included at home visits as well as Juniper Hill and MCNR and reached about 50 people with this very meaningful ministry.
- Two new ringers have joined the Handbells. There is much positive energy in this group.
- The choir and a small ensemble of ringers made an extra effort to be present for the earlier Christmas Eve service. All went well.
- An organ consultant from Foley-Baker, Milovan Popovic, inspected the chapel organ and will send a proposal for renovations
- The Music Advisory Team (MAT) (Dave J, Jan C. Cathy J) met on Jan 2 and came up with a number of ideas for the coming year. Five major goals among many are:
 1. Update website with Ellen so that there are more representative music photos.
 2. Move to a stipend basis for the choral scholars. Contract to be devised with the MAT to be approved by Governing Board
 3. Schedule one or more of the ‘a cappella’ groups to sing for worship this semester.
 4. Host an ‘Orgelkids’ organ building session for Middle and High School students. The kit is already reserved from the Hartford Chapter AGO for April 18-22 during school vacation. (May change dates). This event to be called “Bells and Whistles” and will have a tour of the carillon, organ demo of the Fisk and participation from local AGO and church volunteers to help build the kit. It’s a small table top organ with bellows.
<https://orgelkidsusa.org/>
 5. Plan a series of special post-worship mini recitals (20 min) during Lent. To be discussed at the next Worship Team meeting.

Summary of Treasurer’s Report – November 2021 from Bob Malecki, Treasurer

2021 budget is expected to have a significant surplus.

Upcoming Governing Board Meeting

At the time of print, the date & time for 2022 Governing Board Meetings has not yet been determined. Watch for updates about the monthly meeting schedule in the weekly SCC emails and Sunday bulletins. Ministry Coordinator reports should be submitted to the office a week prior to the meeting. **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 by the Friday before the upcoming meeting to be added to the distribution.

FROM THE LIBRARY

February: snow, and more snow, projects and more projects and days of celebration – Ground Hog Day, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Black History Month – and whatever else you choose to focus on! In my family it is the month of birthdays, anniversaries and yes, start preparing taxes. Here in our area it is the month of non-stop UCONN basketball! Wouldn't a nice, warm, safe environment away from COVID concerns feel good? For many of us, it all sums up to being safe in our homes.

If you would like just a good novel for a really good change, there are new ones arriving all the time. We will be displaying some of these titles in the library. We will be willing to delivery books to you if you are unable to come to the buildings. Just give Janet a call at 860-423-5930.

Make the most of FEBRUARY!!!!

WAIM & NO FREEZE SHELTER DONATIONS



WAIM accepts donations of **winter clothing and essential household items only**. Applicable items may be brought to their loading dock on Riverview Avenue, Willimantic CT, Tuesday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon or left in the bin at the Parish House entryway in the coatrack area.

Items for the No Freeze Shelter, such as individual shampoo, soap, body wash, lotion or new/gently used socks may also be brought to the Parish House entryway for collection.



INTRODUCING ELLEN BRADLEY

Welcome Ellen Bradley as Communications and Digital Ministry Specialist!

My name is Ellen Bradley, and I am the new Communications and Digital Ministry Specialist. Although this is my official *Carillon* introduction, I've actually been here for two months now! I've had a chance to meet a lot of you by now and am learning names, although it's been a challenge to only see half of people's faces and hope to remember who they are! In this time, I've been immersed in learning the ins and outs of the church's daily life as well as gaining familiarity with all aspects of my position. I have been very impressed with the warm and welcoming atmosphere, the helpfulness of everyone I've encountered, as well as the dedication to all of the varied ministries here.



I arrived with 24 years of experience in UCC offices: two years at Thompson Congregational Church, followed by 22 years at First Congregational Church of Woodstock. I have found over the years, and especially since the pandemic began, that we are more than ever living in a digital world and there has been much more of a need for a church to effectively communicate with members, friends, and the community. I am pleased to now have the opportunity to focus on this exclusively.

I live in Union, CT with my husband of five years, Edward (Ted), who is the organist at the Church of the Good Shepherd in West Woodstock, our two cats, Nori and Maki, and our rescue dog, Willow. Ted and I are both involved in many musical activities in our church and community. I also have an adult daughter whom I enjoy spending time with. Among my hobbies are gardening, cooking, canning, writing, playing bass, sewing, chess, and cribbage.

My office hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The weekly email letters on Tuesdays and Fridays are generated by me, so anything you would like to have included should be directed to me at ellen@storrscongchurch.org. I have also been updating the church website and will be changing the news and pictures regularly! I am eager to help with all of your communication needs so please feel free to reach out anytime I can be of assistance.

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY LOFT!

A look behind the scenes....

It's Sunday morning, the choir is just finishing rehearsal, the congregation is gathering and worship is about to begin. Have you ever been curious about what it took to get here? I'm not talking about the beautiful clean space, the carefully printed bulletins, the liturgists and greeters and ushers and deacons, the tech crew, the hours that went into sermon preparation etc. etc. etc., the effort it took you to get ready. This is just about the music, right now in this place and time.

The starting place for everything is the WORD. Whether one follows the lectionary or not, biblical scripture gives rhyme and reason to much of our liturgy. We're currently following the three year Revised Common Lectionary cycle. This is my starting point for hymn selections, responses and choral repertoire. Even if there is only one focus scripture being used on a particular Sunday, it is an opportunity for me to reinforce the message, perhaps with an anthem that references one of the other readings or the Psalm for that day. Thus the work begins.

I have a shelf of hymnals in my library and another stack beside my desk, many from different denominations. The Pilgrim Hymnal, New Century Hymnal and Glory to God (Presbyterian) are ones we primarily use. There are hymn suggestions for many of the scriptures in the indices (see NCH p. 910-918) and some denominations publish extensive supplemental suggestions. I also frequently refer to *Psalms for All Seasons*, a publication of the Calvin Institute for Worship among others, which has multiple musical settings for all of the psalms. There can easily be more than a dozen choices of hymns for each week. Consideration is then given to hymns that are familiar, hymns that would be good to add to our cadre of hymnody, texts that reinforce the sermon topic, hymns that uplift or hymns that provide solace, hymns that give us pause to think, hymns that reinforce our mission and beliefs, hymns in varying styles old and new. Whew! For seasons like Advent and Lent, it is almost imperative that the whole season be planned at once so that we don't find ourselves on the fifth Sunday of Lent needing a hymn that was sung on the third. And finally, after all this sorting of text and music has happened and the choices are whittled down, off it goes to the clergy for approval. The same goes for the seasonal responses and Doxology.

The choral anthems are also approached in much the same way. Again, there are different denomination guides to assist in selection. There are other church websites to peruse. (I'm always inspired by what Tom Trenney is doing at First-Plymouth, Lincoln, Nebraska, one of our larger UCC churches.) In addition to fitting anthem to scripture and theme of the day, there are multiple parameters to think about. Is the anthem new or familiar, is it too easy or too challenging, is it suitable for the voices in the choir, does it add to our stylistic diversity, does it add to the diversity of composers we're singing, will it move us musically, is the text worthy, and so on. Then comes the fun! Lots of listening takes place, lots of searching through choral catalogues, lots of thought about what would be inspiring for the choir to work on, lots of thought about what would educate both choir and congregation. We are incredibly fortunate to be able to sponsor four Choral Scholars because that has kept open the door to the larger body choral repertoire and many wonderful contemporary pieces. The bell repertoire is a little more fluid, depending on who's available, but is also carefully planned.

Now it's time to think about hymns and Prelude and Postlude. What is the mood of the opening hymn? What key is the music in, major or minor? Are there any hymn introductions or harmonizations that would be inspiring? What music gathers us or draws us into worship? What music sends us forth? Are there compositions on any of the hymns of the day? Will they work on this instrument? (I did a lot of baroque music during the pandemic, simply because it didn't require a stop puller assistant or page turner.) Then the big question – do I have time to learn this from scratch or bring it back up to performance standard? Does it need to be short because there's a meeting or should the organ really sound forth in celebration of the season. And always, the resolution to practice more!

Enter the bulletin preparation. We now have Zoom participation as well as in-person worship so the hymns need to be printed in the bulletin. The majority of our hymns are now reprinted from the *Glory to God* hymnal. The text is usually closer to the original and we purchased online access, both for the slides we used to use and the printed music. Each week I insert the hymns in a music template where I crop them, enlarge them and then process all the text, music and copyright information for the 'Notes and Acknowledgements' section of the bulletin. Deborah also adjusts them to fit and if there are any hymns from the New Century or Pilgrim Hymnals, she scans them and assigns the page numbers.

Before any of this invites your active participation singing or passive engagement listening there are the dedicated and devoted singers and ringers who show up every week, rain or shine to practice. Scores and bells get set

out, there are chairs to arrange, the rehearsal order to decide upon, music to learn and practice, new scores to number and catalogue. In an ideal world repertoire is chosen and put into rehearsal six weeks before you will hear it in worship. There needs to be a nice mix of easy and difficult, contemplative and upbeat, old and new. It needs to work with the voices that will be present. And, after all is finished and offered in worship, there is music to put away.

Most importantly, of all the above, it is you, the congregation, singing the hymns that is the crowning glory of our worship. I look forward to a time when more of us can be together in person, raising our voices together, praising and praying twice.

Soli Deo gloria!

Trisha Snyder

Director of Music Ministry



JUST PEACE PROGRESS

BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC - COMBAT THE CLIMATE CRISIS

By Kathy Lindner

The UCC Just Peace movement around the country involves realizing, becoming educated and advocating for social justice issues that are harmful to people and our planet. The goal is to find ways to alleviate these harms.

Climate change is the most pressing issue that is harming our planet.

Fossil fuel burning like coal, oil and natural gas which releases carbon dioxide causes a “greenhouse effect” which traps the heat from the sun from reflecting back and increases the temperature of the planet. Other gases like methane from livestock production also contribute to the greenhouse effect. Glaciers are melting, more hurricanes are forming, more fires and droughts occur.

When we think of climate change, we often think, “What can I do?”

Tackling the problem of plastic pollution is often overlooked as a factor in combating climate change. Plastic production from fossil fuels and incineration in landfills could emit 2.8 gigatons of CO₂ per year. It accounts for 10-13 percent of the carbon emitted. So imagine if we could change our lifestyle and not use plastic. I like to think of what our planet looked like when the indigenous tribes inhabited North America.

We are all familiar with trying to reduce plastic waste which will reduce the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere:

- Use reusable water bottles
- Use reusable grocery bags
- Use reusable utensils, straws and plates
- Use reusable mesh produce bags (buy on amazon)

But we are less familiar with reducing our use of plastic film. Plastic film should not be recycled in the regular recycling bins because it gets entangled in the recycling machinery. Plastic film is broken down into small pellets which are turned into composite lumber, bags, containers, pipes, crates and more.

Recently we started ordering 3 meals a week from Every Plate. Within the packaging there is a bag of some kind of plastic film material that keeps the shipment cold with instructions on how to recycle it. They refer customers to www.plasticfilmrecycling.org. Perhaps you know about this, but it was a real eye-opener for me.

You collect the following items and then bring them to a separate recycling location (found on the website). Locally, Price Chopper has a drop off place in the right alcove where bottles are also recycled. Big Y's also have drop off places

Here's what you can collect. We end up with a big bag every week and take it to Price Chopper.

- Retail, carryout, produce, newspaper, bread and dry cleaning bags
- Zip-loc food storage bags (clean and dry)
- Plastic shipping envelopes (remove labels), and bubble wrap
- Product wrap on cases of water/soda bottles, paper towels, napkins, disposable cups, bathroom tissue, diapers, and female sanitary products
- Furniture and electronic wrap.
- Plastic cereal box liners (but if it tears like paper - no)

Do not include:

- Pre-washed salad mix bags
- Frozen food bags
- Candy bar wrappers
- Chip bags
- Six-pack rings

So have fun using reusable plastic bottles, etc. and collecting your plastic film. It's a small part we can do as individuals to help climate change, but imagine if everyone did it! I hope to see you bringing your plastic film to the drop off places at Price Chopper or Big Y! The more we recycle plastic and plastic film, the less is incinerated into the atmosphere!

From
Kathy Lindner
Just Peace Team



EARTHKEEPERS BULLETIN FROM THE INTERRELIGIOUS ECOJUSTICE NETWORK

Dear Interfaith Community

February is a good month to show love to each other, and to our Earth.

Join us for our first webinar of the year on Thursday, February 3 from 7-8:30 PM to ponder Climate Change and Immigration:



Why do people leave the homes they love? Among our panelists will be Ali Noorani, President of the National Immigration Forum.

Please register at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-change-and-migration-why-do-people-leave-the-homes-they-love-tickets>

Then on Thursday February 24 from 6:30 to 8PM, join Lori Brown from the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters in a workshop on:

How to be an Effective Advocate. Learn how to make your concerns for the environment heard! Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-be-an-effective-advocate-tickets>

All IREJN Webinars and workshops are free.

Donations to help our work are much appreciated at www.irejn.org. Sending hope of healing to Mother Earth and all her inhabitants!

Lynn Johnson

SCC PRAYER CIRCLE



Do you or someone you know need prayer? Please direct prayer requests to Pastor Debbie verbally or via email or Ellen Bradley via email, ellen@storrscongchurch.org. Prayer Circle intentions will be included in the Friday Weekly email and the Sunday Bulletin.

As a reminder, due to HIPAA regulations, we are unable to publish prayer requests intended for someone else without that person's permission.

BUILDING & GROUNDS UPKEEP

The cold air and start of the snow season have focused our attention on a number of issues: It gets very cold in the Chapel and its exterior incurs a lot of winter damage. Also, a tour of our buildings has shown a significant number of doors and windows that have been allowing easy access for cold air. The Chapel and occasional Meeting House heat problems are being addressed by an ad hoc committee headed by Nancy Tomastik. The result will be a proposal that will be presented for consideration at the January 30th annual meeting. For the last three weeks, there has been a concerted effort to better seal and improve the efficiency of interior and exterior doors in our buildings. Thus far, the Education Wing windows and doors, Auditorium and Courtyard doors have all been worked on with the Chapel and Meeting House to next get attention. The window panels on the Education Wing and Chapel have suffered serious weathering in recent years. The panels on the playground side of the Chapel and those on the library side of the Education Wing have been replaced in the last two years. A composite material called Azek is installed in these areas once the old weather trim has been removed. The replacement panels and trim are very durable and because they are bright white do not require paint. The panels on the parking lot side of the Chapel are currently being replaced. They have been very susceptible to weathering because when the lot is plowed, a lot of snow is pushed up against that side. Three of the four panels have been replaced with Azek and the last will probably have been completed by the time you read this. We've included before and after photos to show the resulting difference.



Antonio and Duffy are assisted by a skilled handyman, Bob Berube, who is largely responsible for many other improvements throughout our facilities.

BOOKS FOR BROOKLYN

Dear Friends,

When Janis Hoyle learned that inmates at Brooklyn Correctional Institute may only receive books when sent directly from the publisher or a bookstore, she took swift action. She contacted the Institute's principal, engaged the SCC Just Peace Team, and began the process of starting a lending library. The principal has taken responsibility for examining used and other donated books and setting up the library.

Now, we need your help in getting the library stocked with books. Please donate your gently used hardcover and paperback books that are free of mildew, smoke, and other odors. New books are also appreciated. Please remove your name or other markings from books.

The principal suggested books around the following topics:

- Spanish-language books of all levels, elementary through college-level, fiction, and non-fiction
- Business books: writing business plans, starting new businesses, managing businesses
- Self-help books: meditation, exercise, yoga, philosophy, mindset, etc.
- Black history/Black experience books
- Non-fiction of the less esoteric subject matter, science, history
- Fiction: popular mystery authors, science fiction, book series

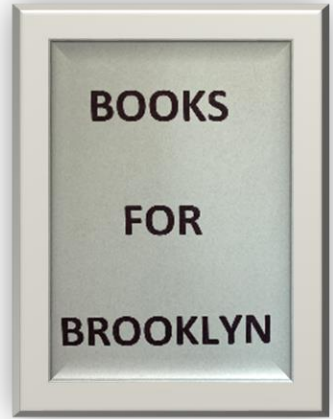
Books may be placed in specific boxes labeled "Books for Brooklyn" in the entryway of SCC from January 28 through February 28, 2022. If there is an additional future drop off period, we will announce it.

We appreciate your help with this project and are excited about providing books that will fulfill a need in Brooklyn and our community.

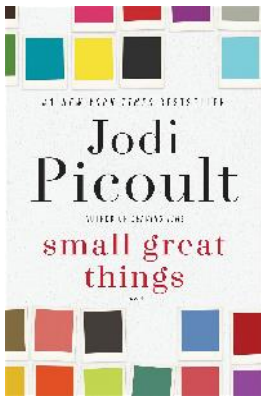
Malta Bailey

Nancy Rucker

Co-chairs, Books for Brooklyn Project



SCC BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



Our next book discussion is March 20th, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom where we will discuss:

SMALL GREAT THINGS by Jodi Picoult

In preparing to write **SMALL GREAT THINGS**, a book that deals with race, privilege, prejudice, justice and compassion, the author did much research. The title refers to a Martin Luther King quote, “If I can’t do great things, I can do simple things in a great way.”

Turk, a white supremacist, and Brittany Bauer come to the delivery room for the birth of their baby and demand that Ruth Jefferson, an African American nurse, have no interaction with their son. Ruth has the choice to heed her humanity and her oath as a nurse to follow orders. She follows her own beliefs but can’t prevent serious consequences. She is charged with felony crimes. The story continues as racism shines through aspects of character and plot.

FOOD PANTRY HAPPENINGS

Supply shortages and inflated prices have put a strain on the already stressed community of those who struggle with food insecurities. Our SCC Food Pantry has been a valuable resource for many, in our local area and from surrounding towns that cannot offer any resources. While our pantry receives some items from FoodShare, donations are still needed to stock the Food Pantry.

Most critical items at this time are:

- Oatmeal
- Pasta (Elbows, ziti, shells)
- Syrup
- Ramen Noodles
- Dried beans
- Soups/Broth
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
- Health and beauty supplies
- Feminine products
- Pet food
- Clothes detergents
- Dish Detergent (any size)



SCC FAITH FORMATION



take heart! TAKE ACTION! Summer 2022

How Can You Help?

Last spring, with the COVID-19 vaccine distributions becoming a reality and we were beginning to meet in person once again, Pastor Debbie and I began planning and advertised for a small group of middle school students to work with on a few community-service projects. With more than twenty applications, we were thrilled to have such interest and quickly looked for more adults to assist. The “camp week” was very busy with baking for the soup kitchen, assembling summer fun packs for children in domestic violence shelters, moving our food pantry items from its former location to its new home, learning how to create with Zen-tangle to make cards and decorating pots for flowers to give away, visits of guest speakers from the community, spiritual practices, and more!

For summer 2022, we would like to expand! With a proposed week for high school students in June and for middle school students in August, we need everyone to help make this happen—an SCC Intergenerational Event! Please look at the list below to see how you might be able to contribute to making this summer “take heart—TAKE ACTION” a bigger success!

- Camp Assistant- for the High School week in June
- Camp Assistant- for the Middle School week in August
- Finance Assistant- to help with budget & possible fundraiser
- Partner Organizer/Collaborator- to communicate & schedule
- SCC Playground Consultants- to oversee this effort
- Snack Coordinator- to help keep our campers fed & fueled
- Registrar- to correspond with parents and for record-keeping
- Assistant for student meetings—next meeting: Feb. 26, 1:30-4:00
- Intergenerational Hike- Feb. 26, 3:00-4:00
- Adult Planners- Next session: early March

- Pray-ers to hold us as we do this important “Kin-dom work of justice”, by praying this prayer:

Holy One,



May we all **take heart! TAKE ACTION!**

to reach in to see...

the light that shines inside each one of us,
in the goodness of our hearts...

to reach out to others in our community...

because—when we work and speak out of the fullness
of YOUR light shining inside (not out of anger, fear, or
blame)...

WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD AROUND US! Amen.

How Can You Help?



take heart--TAKE ACTION !

2022

Contact Lisa: lisa@storrscongchurch.org

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE HAPPENINGS

Anniversary Celebrations:

- Janet & Adrian Atkins* 2/1
- Cass Crewdson & Alice O'Donovan* 2/28



Birthday Celebrations:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Campbell Sion</i> 2/2 | <i>Alison Latincics</i> 2/12 |
| <i>Cathy Jeffers</i> 2/2 | <i>David Kapinos</i> 2/14 |
| <i>Rebecca Wilson</i> 2/3 | <i>Annemarie Thompson</i> 2/15 |
| <i>David Vaughan</i> 2/4 | <i>Alexander Villar</i> 2/16 |
| <i>Amaya Hodge</i> 2/5 | <i>Matthew Abell</i> 2/16 |
| <i>Julie Klimkiewicz</i> 2/9 | <i>Rebecca Shafer</i> 2/18 |
| <i>Kyle Enderle</i> 2/10 | <i>Jake Harakaly</i> 2/20 |
| <i>Suzanne Hathaway</i> 2/10 | <i>David Litrico</i> 2/22 |
| <i>Adrian Gibson</i> 2/10 | <i>Greg Dione</i> 2/22 |
| <i>Molly Breault-Fisher</i> 2/12 | <i>Marcy Mochel</i> 2/27 |
| <i>Stacy Malecki</i> 2/12 | <i>Peter Talbot</i> 2/28 |

Pray For Our Military

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

ON THE MOVE

Our Faith Family has had some comings and goings in the past year and contact information may have changed for folks you are trying to reach. If you'd like an updated Church Directory please stop by the Parish House Lounge, where copies are available or email the office for an electronic file.

Keeping In Touch



GATHERINGS @ SCC

- Mondays**Service Sewing, 9:30 am (Ed. Building – Room 207)
.....Food Pantry Open, 1:00 pm (Room 102)
.....Ballroom Dance, 7:00 pm (Auditorium)
- Tuesdays**Library Open, 9:30 am (Ed. Building – Library)
.....Pastoral Search Committee, 6:30 pm (PH – Lounge & Zoom)
.....Swing & Blues Dance, 7:00 pm (Auditorium)
- Wednesdays**.....Quiet Reflection, 10:00 am (Waggoner Chapel)
.....Parish Piecers, 10:00 am (Ed. Bldg. Quilt Room)
.....C.A.F.E. Storrs, 10:30 am (PH – Lounge & Zoom)
.....University Ballet Co, 6:30 pm (Auditorium)
- Thursdays**.....Food Pantry Open, 2:30 pm (Room 102)
.....Handbells, 6:30 pm (MH)
.....Adult Choir, 7:30 pm (MH)
- Fridays**.....Table Tennis Club, 4:00 pm (Auditorium)
- Saturdays**.....Table Tennis Club, 11:30 am (Auditorium)
- Sundays**.....Food Pantry Open, 11:00 am (Room 102)
.....Consonare Choir Rehearsal, 4:00 pm (Auditorium)
-

MEETINGS @ SCC

- Feb. TBD Governing Board, Date & Time pending (PH – Lounge & Zoom)
Feb. 24 Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting, 10:00 am (CE – Library & Zoom)
-

EVENTS @ AND WITH SCC

- Feb. 10/24 Mobile FoodShare, 11:30 am (Mansfield Senior Center)
-

UConn & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES @ SCC

All student group activities are suspended during the winter break and scheduled to resume the 1st week of February pending UConn's clearance for indoor student gatherings.

RECOVERY MEETINGS @ SCC

- Thursdays, Step Meeting, 7:30 pm (Ed. Building – Room 201)
Fridays, UConn Recovery Meeting, 7:00 pm (Ed. Building – Room 201)
Sundays, Speaker Meeting, 7:30 pm (PH – Auditorium)

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

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