



No matter where you are on life's journey, YOU are welcome here!

SOUTH BRITAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

February 16, 2021

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT

"To be a dynamic, welcoming, and caring community of Christian faith by weaving the thread of Christ into the tapestry of our lives."

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



My grandmother did something strange when she wanted to remember something. She would tie a string on her finger or move her wedding ring to the other hand. She said that when she saw the string or when she went to move the ring back to the other hand it would remind her of the thing she wanted to remember. Now I can't say that I have adopted these practices and I lean pretty heavily on pencil and paper to remember things. Yet, the idea of remembering is an important one.

We are entering the season of Lent, a season of preparation and a season where we are called to remember. It is these forty days that lead us to the glory of Easter morning and the joy and excitement of the good news of the resurrection. So how are we going to prepare? How are we going to focus and remember all that God has done and will do?

I do not know about you, but for me, I was taught that Lent was about giving up something, that in refraining from ice cream, or chocolate, or not watching television, it would prepare me for Easter. But what I have come to realize is that the heart of Lent is when we think about the food or activity that we have stopped doing, when we reach for the candy that we have given up, we think of God. This whole thing, this whole idea of Lent, is all about being closer to God. Focusing on God more. So, in that spirit, we don't have to give up something for Lent to accomplish this. We could add something, add activities that bring us closer to God. In the midst of this pandemic where we have already had to give up things, let's not add to this Lent. Whatever brings us closer to God, whatever fills our spirit this Lenten season, build in time to do them each day, or as often as possible. And when we do them, turn our hearts to a God who loves us so much.

The forty days of Lent is based on Jesus' forty days being tempted in the wilderness. That, too, was not about how strong-willed Jesus was, it was about seeking God the Father, relying on Him for the meeting of the daily needs. This is why I put the link to the lovely praise song at the bottom of the letter. Let this Lent be about thinking, pondering, focusing on the one who is worthy of it all and doing things that bring God front and center in our hearts and minds!

Blessings,

Pastor Malcolm



Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths."



This is the air I breathe.



Link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFYAH-Z3_po

New Friends and Visitors: If you are interested in exploring joining South Britain Congregational, please reach out to Pastor Malcolm. pastor@southbritainchurch.org

BIBLE STUDIES

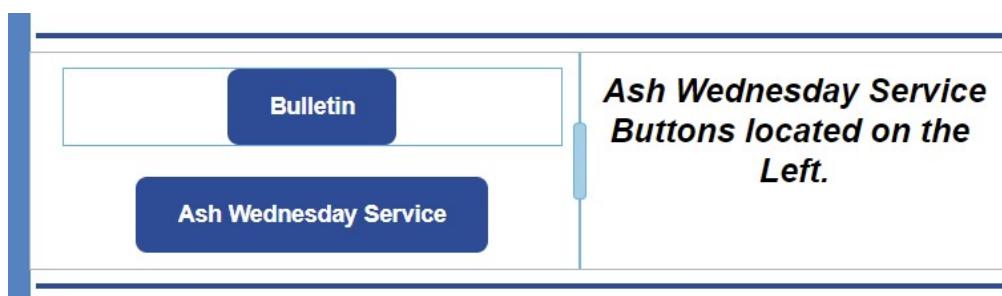
- *Daytime* bible study is **every Tuesday at 1:00 pm** and is open to all, even if you've never been before. Pastor Malcolm will send you a Zoom link. *Evening* bible study will be held the **second and fourth Thursday at 7:00 pm**. Pastor will send you a zoom link. The next evening session will be **February 25th**. Please contact Pastor Malcolm if you wish to join.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, February 17, marks the beginning of the church season of Lent. A pre-recorded service will be emailed, the imposition of ashes will be a drive-through at the steps of the church building, time 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Please wear masks, and enter at the East Flat Hill Road side of the church to receive.



This picture shows how to access the Ash Wednesday Service from the email before going to the Post.
Look for:





THOUGHTS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY

• **Snow Days**

It's funny the memories that stick with us from childhood. Who knows how accurate they are, all these years later, or how much has been added based on life experiences?

I do remember snow coming much earlier than it does now and pretty much sticking around for the entire winter. We used to build snowmen on Thanksgiving and many a Halloween required a winter coat under the costume. It was more the norm than the exception. It was rare for there NOT to be snow on the ground at Christmas. School outfits required, in my case anyway, the requisite snow pants under my dress (historical fact: we weren't allowed to wear pants to school) which swished like a one-person band when I walked. They had elastic straps that went under the arch of your foot so they didn't ride up. Getting them off in school was always fun. Picture Ralphie's brother from The Christmas Story and you'll get what I mean. Re-dressing for recess? Nope, I'd rather freeze my legs off.

Snowball fights during recess were common; nobody thought about ice balls to the head in those days. There was a field behind the school (which is called Gainfield now – it was The Southbury Consolidated School when I went there) that used to freeze over with water, and we were absolutely forbidden from sliding on it at recess. Guess what every kid in the school would do – until Miss Finn, the principal, found out. The line of kids outside her office one day was as long as the longest hallway – and trust me, you did NOT want to get called to Miss Finn's office. In those days a ruler to the palm of the hand was acceptable punishment along with a note to your parents, which you also did NOT want. My friend Cathy Cable and I were the only two kids who did not 'skate' on the field because we were both rule followers. As Miss Finn came up the line with her ruler, she took one look at the two of us, who must have looked like scared rabbits, and said, "You two weren't on the ice were you?" and we both just shook our heads 'no' and she let us go. Not so for the other kids in the line.

My 'sled' as a child was a fiberglass serving tray. Man did that thing fly. You couldn't steer it or stop it and if you hit a bump you usually flew off because there was nothing to hold onto - but sledding on that thing was awesome. Behind our house was a drop-off down into a swamp so you had to plant your feet in the snow before you got to the edge. I missed once – it was a long way down and an even longer walk back up.

In college we used either 'borrowed' cafeteria trays or the plastic-coated mattresses from our beds to sled. I was very happy to see a recent video from Quinnipiac showing students still do this to this day – tradition!

I still love snow, I am glad I don't have to drive in it anymore, but I still love it. There is something both serene and exhilarating about it all at the same time. I love walking when it is snowing, and everything is muffled and calm and I love hearing the two boys next door screaming in delight as they sled in their yard.

I don't know if my memories are accurate, but I will keep them anyway; they bring me joy.

-submitted by Cathy Somers

• **Chinese New Year**

Chinese New Year, also known as Spring Festival or Lunar New Year, is the biggest festival in China and many parts of Asia.

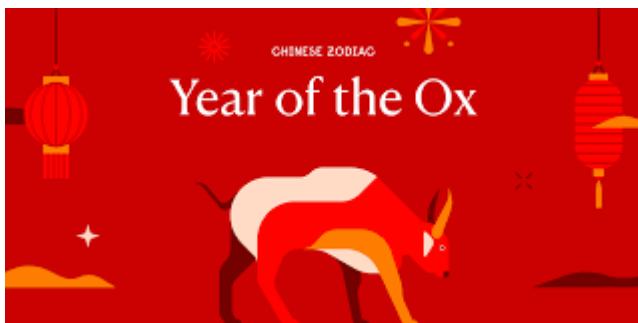
This year New Year's Day was on Feb 12th with the biggest part of the celebration happening on the night before.

It is a 7-day long holiday officially, but many people travel and the holiday is celebrated for several weeks. Hundreds of millions of people will travel back to their hometowns to be with their family.

China during this period is dominated by iconic red lanterns (everywhere you look), loud fireworks (all night long), massive banquets and parades. There is also a tradition of exchanging **Red Envelopes** filled with money and traditionally dumplings are shared at midnight.

Each year is represented by one of the 12 animals of the Zodiac.

This year is the year of the Ox.



春节快乐 !!!

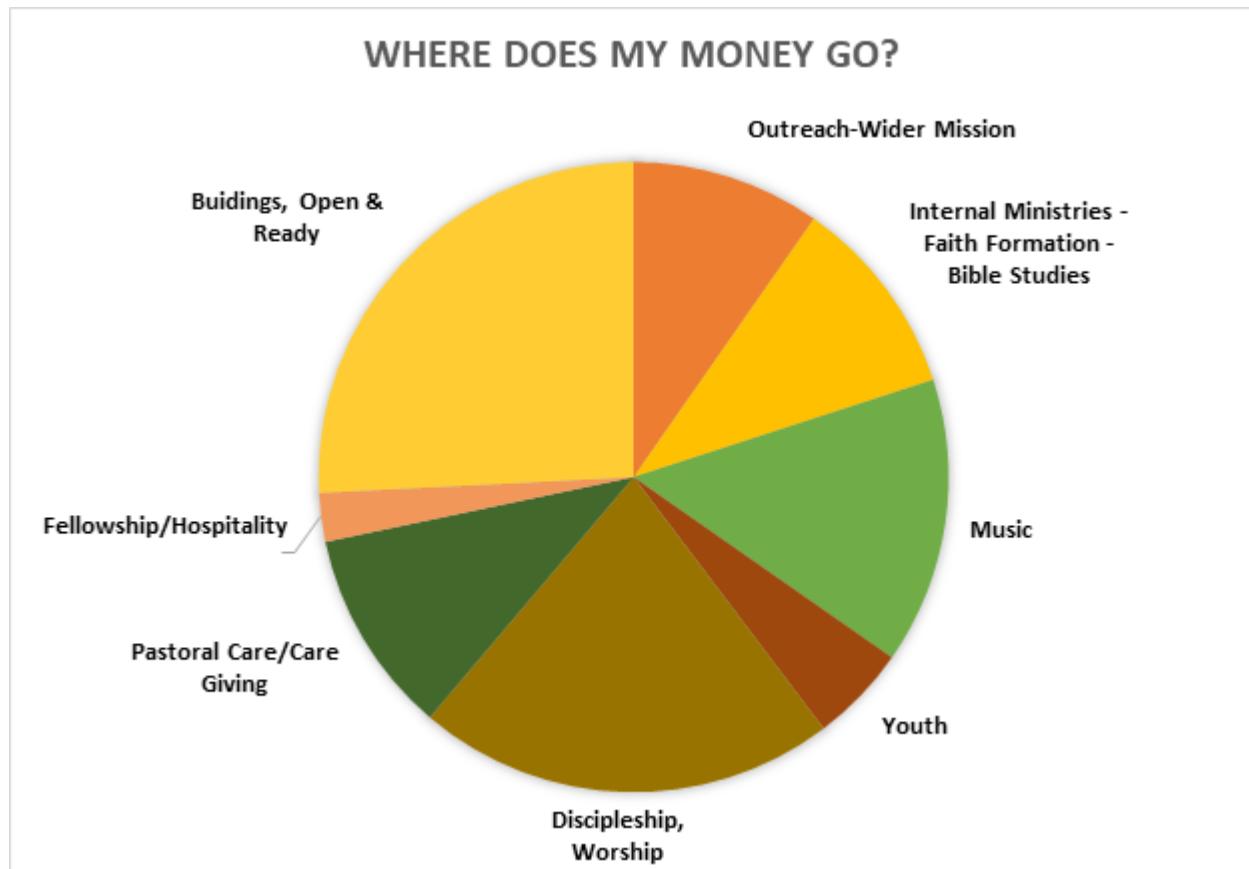
(chun jie kuai le---Happy New Year!)

-submitted by Britney and Pastor Malcolm Carr

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Thoughts

Each year we are asked to thoughtfully consider our pledge of financial support for our church. And each year we may consider a number of things. What can I afford to give? Where would God want me to invest that which he shares with me? How can I be the best steward of the things I'm blessed with? When I give to my church where does it go? What is being done with it? Most of those questions are best answered after careful consideration and prayer by each individual or family but the Stewardship Committee thought we might share this chart as a partial answer to "Where Does My Money Go?".





APPLE FESTIVAL

Help is needed now!

Mark your calendars! Apple Festival will be on September 25, 2021. As we all know, the format of the festival is subject to adjustment as restrictions and guidelines change. We pulled off a very successful and safe event last year, and whatever the festival looks like this year, it will surely be a great success and a good time. The event will be posted on the various marketing websites shortly.

We need a chairperson to coordinate our vendors this year. If you are looking to get more involved in the Apple Festival, this is a great opportunity! Please contact Amy Smith at amybsmith1120@gmail.com if you would like more information. This person will have guidance throughout the process as needed and assistance on the day of the festival; you will not be on your own!

Thank you in advance for considering offering your time and talent to this critical Apple Festival event.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING

- I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. -John 13:34
- The diversity of God

Michael Walrond, Jr., senior pastor at First Corinthian Baptist Church, tells NPR's Scott Simon that his church hopes to repair the trauma institutionalized religion inflicted on LGBTQ communities.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/02/13/967600318/embracing-the-diversity-of-god-harlem-church-engages-affirms-queer-members>

OUTREACH

Jodi Mitchell, Chris Dreton, Jeannie Mitchell, Char Moll, Lynn Plourde, Jean Dunn, JoAnn Bolin, and Cathy Somers



WE NEED YOU!

- The February **At-home Sandwich Brigade** will be next week due to this week's inclement weather. I guess there is no doubt that winter is in full swing! Mark your calendars for March 16th (pick up) and 18th (drop off) for the next Brigade. It's a minimal time commitment for a maximum reward, the satisfaction of helping where it's most needed. We would LOVE to see some new participants, the more the merrier! Please contact any of us on Outreach or Chris Dreton at holly422@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to sign up.
- Because we will be making 400 sandwiches a month for GWIM for the foreseeable future, please be sure to pick up some creamy peanut butter and jam when you make your grocery trips. There is a basket under the coat rack waiting for your donations. Many thanks!

- 2021 SOUPER BOWL! We beat last year's total with 325 cans total and we accurately predicted the Super Bowl winner! Our final tally was Tampa Bay 177, Kansas City 148. The Food Bank is the ultimate winner. Thank you to all who participated.
- February's Outreach Offering is our annual collection for our local friends and neighbors through the Southbury Food Bank. Chowders and cream soups can be brought to the Parish Hall to stock our shelf at the Food Bank.

FLOWER COMMITTEE

- Most Sundays are still available for flowers; please feel free to reach out to Nancy in the office and let her know which Sunday you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary.

-submitted by Cathy

FAITH FORMATION

Praying in Color

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Let us focus on one of the pillars of Lent, prayer. What is prayer? Simply put, prayer is our personal conversation with God. Through prayer we grow closer to God and become interconnected with others spiritually. This closeness and interconnection gives us strength and confidence to continue our faith journey. Lent is a time of reflection and self-examination. Daily prayer is a way for us as individuals and as families to strengthen our faith and bond with God and one another. As a child, my prayer time was every night at bedtime with "Now I lay me down to sleep...ending with God bless mom and dad, Lisa Amen. Growing up I lost that daily prayer time to the hustle and bustle of life. It has been more "prayer on the fly". A very special friend gave me a book of daily devotions. That is my special time to pray, reflect and be in God's presence. I thank God every day for his unconditional love. We all use a calendar for a visual reminder for our appointments and special events. Why not a personal prayer calendar?

MAKE YOUR OWN LENTEN PRAYER CALENDAR By Sybil Macbeth 1/25/2021

"Using your own calendar design or print out one of the attached calendar templates on the last pages of the post, make a list of 46 words that you use to anchor your prayer practice. Here are a few as an example: Hope, Fear, Cold, Heaven, Justice, Lonely, and Person's name. This can be done individually or with the family together. Place one word for each starting on the 17th, Ash Wednesday through April 3rd. Note: Lent is officially 40 days not including Sundays. However, I have left them in to keep the rhythm for daily prayer practice. Each day choose a word to ponder or a person to pray for. Write the word or name in the allotted space with a pen and draw or doodle around it. Add color with colored pencils or markers. Let that word or name speak to you. If words come to you as you draw, use them in your prayer. Let the word or name burrow into your mind and heart. Returning to the calendar each day establishes a special time to be present to God and to listen. You are creating a visual prayer." Example: Love, maybe surrounded with hearts and the words Mom and Dad. This calendar is for all young and old and with the family or individually.

Prayer will help us this Lenten season with the second and third pillars of Lent, fasting and almsgiving.

"Hear me when I call, O God...have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer...the Lord will hear when I call unto him." Psalm 4: 1, 3

Blessings,

Krista

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

- Just a reminder that the church office is open from 10 am – 2 pm, Monday through Friday. Nancy will be there to greet you with a smile and a “hello there.”

-submitted by Cathy

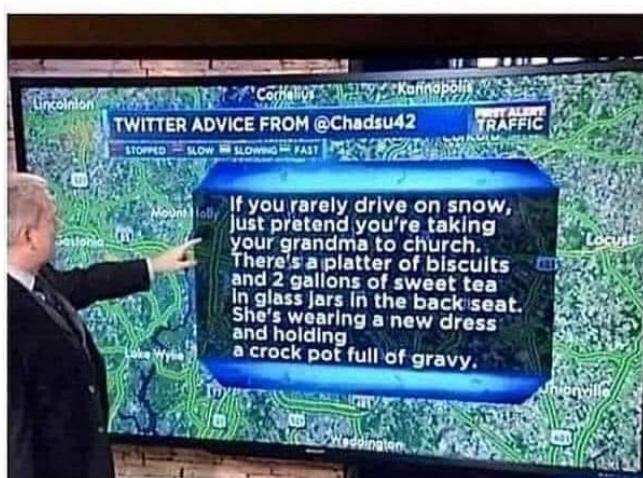
- One Church software is being fine-tuned, all should have received profile link, and Carl Dunn is spearheading the effort.
 - Data base has been updated, and there are 138 units in the church (possibly 1-5 people)
 - Please contact Carl Dunn if questions or have not received links.
carleton.dunn@gmail.com

NEWS YOU REALLY CAN'T USE

- Climate change is when your brother calls you from Arkansas and tells you it's -9, with 8" of snow while today it's getting up to 50° in Southbury.



- And yet in Kentucky the typical Weather Forecast, and my Great Granddaughter Khloe in Frankfort, KY having fun in the snow.



-submitted by the Simpson's

These are the type of articles we need folks, so tell us about your Aunt Jane with a new love, and those animals you love so much by snapping a picture and sending us the scoop to sbcc.pr693@gmail.com



THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

- Praying for continued recovery of Eileen
- David, Chad, Bert, Keith, and Albin
- The Morehouse Family
- The Palmer Family
- Krista's nephew Joseph
- Krista's son John
- The Bolin's daughter's friend Bob
- Prayers for Sal's cousin John
- Prayers for Francesca
- Chris Dreton's friends David, Bob and Ann
- Linda Long's niece Cathy
- Lillian Groody
- Prayers for Jennifer's parents Caroline & Joe
- Prayers for the Maxwell family
- The Dilley Family
- For all frontline workers, medical personnel, firefighters, police
- And those serving our country in the armed forces
- All those going for medical procedures
- For all those suffering with the effects of covid-19 either directly, indirectly, family, friends, or neighbors

Bulletin Board

If you would like to submit an article, birthday, anniversary, prayer request for the Parishioners Post please send us an email along with pictures to sbcc.pr693@gmail.com

Occasionally you will see words that are dark blue and underlined. The significance is either an email address, a link to a video, audio, etc.... Please while pressing the CONTROL button, click with your mouse. ENJOY

NOTE:

If you know someone that is missing out on the Parishioners Post because they do not have access to email, please drop a note to Nancy so we might include them in our mailing. sbcc.secretary@yahoo.com

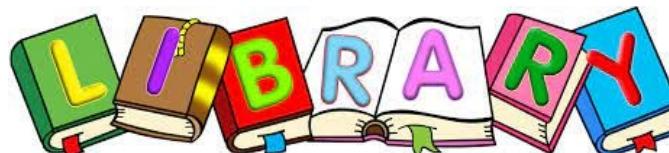
• **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

Please wish them a very "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" (we are using a new database for Birthdays, if there are errors or omissions please contact. sbcc.pr693@gmail.com

James Hartman	2	Charlene(Char) Moll	15
Jonah Locke	2	Jason Troy	18
Linda Perry	4	Joan Griffith	20
Jake Barbieri and Madison Barbieri (Margie Nichols Great-grandchildren	8	Diane Hynd	21
Ben Stiles	14	Ricardo Cruz	23
Sarah Stiles (Ben and Sharon's daughter)	14	Bambi Engelman	23
Virginia (Ginny) Geils	10	Kristi Lavoy	23
Wayne Gunther	11	Bert DeForest	24
Meghan Smith	11	Don Lang III	24
Ian Lowell	12	Lissa Pine	25
Nancy Maher	14	Brian Schaake	26

• **ANNIVERSARIES:**

Marge & Hugh Humiston 72yrs. 1/16/2021



• The updating of the SBCC Church Library is moving right along thanks to the helping hands of Cathy, Krista, Dennis, and Pastor Malcolm. Now we need YOUR help!

Do you have any special books you would like to see in our library?

What would make you use our church library more often?

What kind of events would you like held at our library?

Please call or email Chris Dreton with your suggestions. We would like to see a library that has something for everyone.

Chris Dreton
203-405-1052 holly422@gmail.com

- The calendars are still available for pick-up so head on down to the Parish House and grab your copy located in the Bassett Room (first door on the left)
 - Don't forget to sign off on the sheet so we keep an accurate record to reach out to those unable to travel.
- Normally the ovens would be firing up, the stove prepared, and our church folks working tirelessly getting ready for our annual pancake supper. Since today is Shrove Tuesday (or Fat Tuesday), let us all make pancakes for supper tonight. In doing this we can feel at home together as we enter the season of Lent.



- submitted by Cathy

- Hello all you lovelies,

It's been years and years and years since I have produced a major arts/poetry event, and the time has come :-). I am working with local art organizations and the town of Southbury to produce a virtual arts festival on March 20th, 2021. Mark your calendars and join us in the virtual world for a grand showcase of local arts and artists.

During these challenging times, it is easy for people to feel isolated, disconnected, even lonely. The arts help to build community, connection, bring joy and enrichment, can be thought provoking, even start a revolution. The only revolution we wish to start is to provide a sense of belonging, to bring a smile, to reach out to local residents who are feeling isolated, anxious, burdened by the restrictions of our time, and to support local arts and artists in the process, as well as the town of Southbury as a whole.

On March 20th, the SAF21 committee in partnership with the town and local arts organizations will broadcast a fully virtual arts festival via two zoom channels, a YouTube live stream, with portions to be broadcast on public access stations (times to be announced). Sponsors include the Economic Development Commission of Southbury, Arts Escape, The New Morning Songwriter Series, members of the Heritage Village Theatre Guild, Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Southbury, Southbury.com, Southbury Print Center, and the SAF21 festival committee.

JOIN US!!!!!!



- Building Community Through the Arts
- Bringing Joy, Enrichment, Connection

Virtual Event - March 20th, 2021, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Presented by:

SAFC (Southbury Arts Festival Committee)
New Morning Songwriters Series
Arts Escape Artists and Writers
Fred Astaire Dance Studio of Southbury
Heritage Village Theatre Guild
Town of Southbury Economic Development Council

How to participate in SAF21:

SAF21 Theater & Dance Channel:

www.southbury.com/SAF21/theater-dance/

Arts Escape Channel (musicians, poets, storytellers, artists):

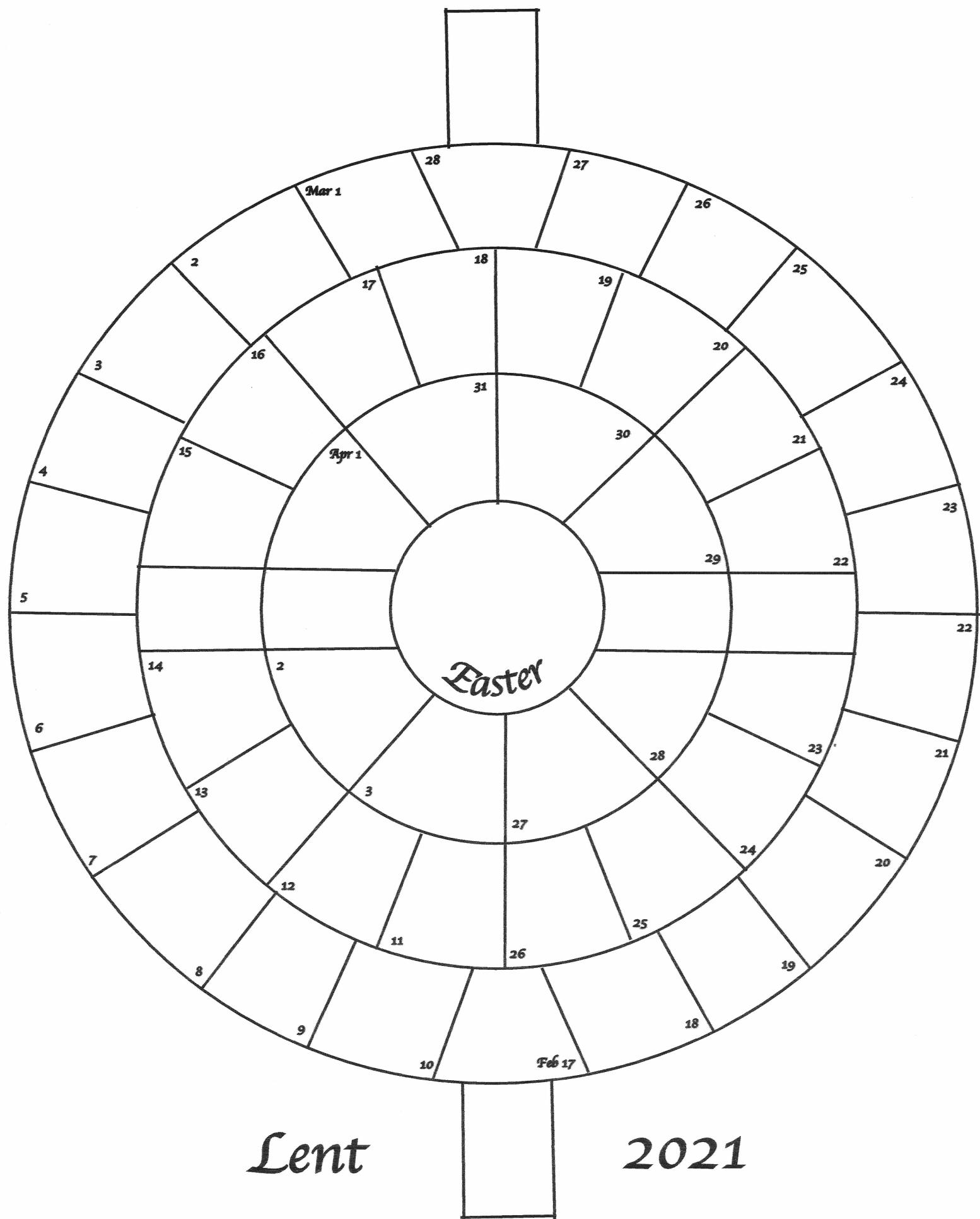
www.southbury.com/SAF21/arts-escape/

YouTube Live Stream on the day of the event:

www.southbury.com/SAF21/live-stream/

For more details and live links, check the events calendar at
Southbury.com or email us at southburyartsfestival@gmail.com

-submitted by Lissa



Lent 2021

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			February 17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	March 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	April 1	2	3