



December 10, 2019
NACCC NEWS
The Messenger



Retired Ministers

Michael Chittum, Executive Director

One of the joyful things for me to do as Executive Director of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) is to stay in touch with our retired ministers. With the help of Casey vanderBent, the NACCC sends greetings and best wishes during the year on birthdays and on the anniversary of ordination to our retired ministers, for example. Every December, though, the NACCC also is able to send a check to the retired minister or to a surviving spouse. The amount is not large, and I always wish it could be more, but the check is a reminder of our appreciation for the faithful service these ministers have offered to our member churches.



400 YEARS OF *Faith*
AMERICAN
CONGREGATIONALISM
SINCE 1620

As we commemorate 400 years of American Congregationalism we will bring you historical information about the landing of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, as well as current events taking place in our member churches.

What is your church doing to commemorate 400 years of Congregationalism in America? [Email us](#) with your plans and we will highlight member church events over the coming year!

Congregational History Bulletin Inserts

Find them all on our [website](#) , or download the current month here:

[December 15](#)
[December 22](#)
[December 29](#)
[January 5](#)

Tax Efficient Giving Vehicles

Debby Fulton, Director of Development and Communications

December is often a time of the year that many people make their year-end giving decisions. If that someone is you, why not consider a gift through **Appreciated Assets**. If your stocks are worth more today than when you bought them, consider donating the stock directly to the NACCC or Congregational Foundation and avoid long-term capital gains tax.

Are you 70½ years of age or older, and own an IRA? If so, consider a donation to your favorite charity through an **IRA Charitable Rollover**. This vehicle allows you to direct gifts from your IRA account to a charity without paying federal income tax on the withdrawal. Distributions made under this law can be used to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The rollover allows for a charitable gift to fulfill the RMD without adding to tax liability.

Let me know how we can help. Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas from the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council



Thank you for caring for and supporting missions around the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

Pictured: The ministry council at their fall retreat, left to right: Greg Carmer, Julie Johnson Staples, Missions Administrator Julie Robie, Jamie Bonnema, NACCC CFO Dan Drea, Barbara Dabul, Jan Wilson.

Member Church News

On December 15th, Goshen Congregational Church of Goshen, MA will host a Community Carol Sing, featuring local musicians and a brass quartet.

On December 22nd, First Congregational Church of Akron presents their annual "Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant", where attendees of all ages are invited to pick up a costume as they enter the Meetinghouse to participate in this annual event.

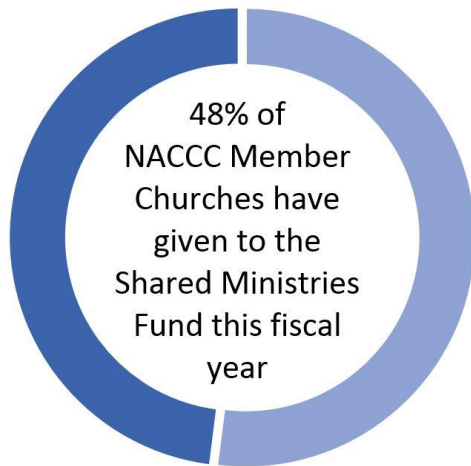
In the entrance hall to Union Congregational Church of Oakville, CT there is a basket of toy soldiers. Members of the congregation are encouraged to take one home and place it somewhere to remind them to include those serving away from home in their prayers.

Reminders from the NACCC Office

The NACCC Office will be closed from December 24th - January 1st!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Shared Ministries Giving



*Send us your news and photos!
Submissions for the January issue are due by December 20, 2019
development@nacc.org*

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

8473 S. Howell Avenue, P.O. Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154
800-262-1620 ext. 1610

IRA Rollover Gifts

Want to make a charitable gift through your IRA to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches or Congregational Foundation?

Congress made the charitable IRA rollover permanent. If you are age 70 ½ or older, you can make tax-free gifts directly to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) and the Congregational Foundation (CF) from your traditional IRA account.

What a great way to support the NACCC/CF and have the extra benefit of avoiding the income tax you are required to pay on your IRA distributions.

Benefits include:

- Income tax is totally avoided on IRA rollover transfers
- These gifts directly transferred satisfy the Annual Required Minimum distribution (RMD) for your IRA account
- Annual IRA rollover gifts up to \$100,000 qualify

Making an IRA rollover gift is easy to do: To make an IRA rollover gift to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches or Congregational Foundation please contact us for the instructions that your IRA administrator will need:

Mail

NACCC/CF
Debby Fulton/Dan Drea
8473 South Howell Av
P.O. Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154

Email or call

dfulton@nacc.org or ddrea@nacc.org
414-856-1610 (Debby)
414-856-1616 (Dan)

Please note: IRA administrators frequently do not include the donor's name on IRA rollover checks, which they mail out. Therefore, please alert the NACCC/CF Development Department before making an IRA rollover gift, so that we may identify and acknowledge your gift promptly. (examples of letters to the NACCC/CF and to your Trustee/IRA administrator are available)

Thank you in advance for your generous support!

As always, please consult your tax advisers about the best way to support the NACCC/CF in your situation.



Did you know Lloyd C. Douglas...

Lloyd C. Douglas was a Congregationalist pastor who became one of America's most successful novelists in the 1930's and '40's. He grew up in Indiana, the son of a Lutheran pastor. He followed his father's career path in the Lutheran Church until 1915 when he became a Congregationalist, pastoring churches in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Akron, Ohio, and Los Angeles.

In his spare time he wrote a novel that was published in 1929 under the title, *Magnificent Obsession*. It sold millions of copies and was made into a movie in 1935. It is the story of a hedonistic young man whose life is saved after an accident, but causes the death of an eminent doctor. The young man then determines to become a doctor. He dedicates his life to serving others, and in the process, becomes a Christian. With this initial success Douglas resigned from the ministry to write full time. He enjoyed tremendous success as a novelist. Most of his novels became best sellers and several became popular films. All of his novels had moral and religious undertones. Two of his most popular works were set in the time of Christ.

The Robe, published in 1942, is the story of the Roman soldier present at the crucifixion of Jesus who wins the condemned man's robe in a dice game. It takes him on a journey to discover who Jesus really was and to join the Christian movement. *The Big Fisherman* is about the apostle Peter. Both novels were made into very successful movies.

...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism
Learn more about our Congregational History at naccc.org



Call To Worship

L: Each day will have its trials

C: Each day we'll see God's grace

L: For God has promised surely

C: To bless us in our place

L: May we live with a pilgrim's spirit

C: This hour and every day

L: To cast our lot upon the Lord

C: In work, in worship, and in play

Invocation (in unison)

Gracious God, we thank You for Jesus Christ, who inspired our ancestors to be who they became, and for each like revelation of Yourself in the hearts of all who followed them in the last four centuries. Teach us to know that Christ can inspire us this and every hour to be what we ought to be ourselves. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Norm Erlandson

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard



Did you know Samuel Fuller...

Samuel Fuller came to America on the *Mayflower* in 1620. He was a physician, in fact the only one in New England for a long time. Leaving his wife and daughter behind for the time being, Dr. Fuller was among the signers of the Mayflower Compact. He soon became a deacon of the church at Plymouth.

Colonists had mixed opinions about Fuller's medical abilities, although most of his patients seemed to appreciate his talents. One grateful patient was John Endicott, the leader of the Salem Colony, who when he fell ill, Dr. Fuller was called for. Endicott reported that Fuller was a great help, not only to him personally, but to the whole colony.

Endicott had heard some negative rumors about Plymouth Colony, but Dr. Fuller was able to convince him that those reports were erroneous. Gaius Glenn Atkins wrote that Fuller, "according to a tradition that Congregational historians cherish, converted doubting Endicott to Congregationalism."

This was important, because John Endicott went on to become the longest-serving governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, where he had also served as town councilor, magistrate, militia leader, and deputy governor. Massachusetts Bay Colony was the beginning of true Congregationalism, maturing out of Separatism.

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Call To Worship

L: We are keepers of the Way

C: We come, aware of our place as 21st Century pilgrims.

L: May we bring to this worship hour and to our very lives, a commitment to refashion this world for Christ.

C: May we renew and cherish our life together, as God's free people.

Invocation (in unison)

We thank You, good Lord, as we pray, for Your blessings on this day and this hour of worship. We thank You for the pilgrim spirit which You have instilled in us from the beginning of the Christian Church, through the time of the Pilgrims of our shores 400 years ago, and into this congregation. May our worship honor their faith and their spirit.

Historical story by: Rev. Robert Hellam Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard



Did you know Anne Bradstreet...

"The finest bread hath the least bran; the purest honey the least wax; and the sincerest Christian the least self-love." This devotional lyric was written by Anne Bradstreet, early Puritan wife, mother, and America's first published female poet.

She was born into an upper class Puritan family that afforded her the opportunity to receive an excellent education in history, literature and language. Anne married Simon Bradstreet in 1628. Her father, Thomas Dudley, worked closely with John Winthrop to form the Massachusetts Bay Company and organize the first Great Puritan Migration to New England. In 1630 Anne sailed with Simon and her family on the Arbella to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Anne's father and her husband served as its governor. Anne and Simon had eight children.

In the midst of her many household duties she made time to journal her thoughts in a book she always kept at hand. In it she wrote letters to herself, to her husband, to her children, or poems about her love for God and her family. Her writings show her to be a loving wife and mother. Anne also wrote poems that expressed her religious beliefs, her thoughts on life in the Colony, and her opinions about the role of women in Puritan society. A collection of her poems was published in London under the title, *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America*, (1650).

Today Anne Bradstreet is appreciated as colonial America's first published female poet.

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Invocation (in unison)

Let Your holy presence be among us, O Lord, in this year of remembrance, that we, being made aware of the conviction and character of those before us, may enter into our inheritance, standing firm in the convictions for which they ventured to this new world freedom. Let our forebears' dedication to freedom and righteousness be their gift to us this day, and all our tomorrows. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Norm Erlandson

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard



Did you know Tabitha Moffatt Brown...

Tabitha Moffatt Brown was a social reformer and educator. She married the Rev. Clark Brown, a Congregational minister and raised three boys and one girl together until Rev. Brown died in 1817.

Tabitha was an American pioneer colonist who traveled the Oregon Trail to the Oregon Country. She arrived fairly poor in the Willamette Valley. Some of her spare clothing was bartered with several Kalapuya to acquire buckskin. She used the material to begin manufacturing gloves, which were purchased by fellow settlers and loggers and she soon made a living for herself.

She helped to found an orphanage with Congregational minister, Rev. Harvey L. Clark who, with his wife Emeline, had moved to Oregon Territory as missionaries to Native Americans. He established Congregational churches in Forest Grove and Oregon City, and served as chaplain to the Provisional Legislature of Oregon.

As a teacher, Tabitha was always interested in education and she assisted Rev. George Atkinson, another Congregational missionary sent by the American Home Missionary Society and proponent of women's education, in the founding of Tualatin Academy, which would grow to become Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. Brown was honored in 1987 by the Oregon Legislature as the "Mother of Oregon."

Tabitha died in Salem while living with her daughter on May 4, 1858. She is buried in Salem at the Pioneer Cemetery. A World War II Liberty Ship built in 1942 was named in her honor. Her great-granddaughter, Mary Strong Kinney, was an advocate for women's rights and Oregon's first female State Senator.

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Call To Worship

L: Redeem the time O God, before its gone and lost

C: When hearty pilgrim souls measured the cost

L: And made the long voyage with hopes of something new

C: We come to worship expecting something new!

Invocation (in unison)

Almighty God, who was before all that is, who remains beside us, one who fills our lives with blessings, we celebrate this day the lives of the men and women known as Pilgrims. In Your singularity, they found commonness; in multiplicity of their world, they found diversity; in their chords and discords, they experienced a harmony in life. In their worship, they found strength and courage and hope. So may we worship You, knowing You expect the same from us. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Garry Fisher

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard