

The Judea Journal

The First Congregational Church, UCC ,
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the UCC



Cleaning Up Loose Ends...

By the Rev. Cheryl Anderson, Pastor

At the quarterly congregational meeting this past month, I shared some projects that I would like to work on in my final year here, to tie up loose ends and get the congregation ready to welcome a new pastor when I retire next year. I would like your input about your priorities and projects you would like to work on with me.

A project that the Deacons and I are working is clarification of the role of Deacons and updating a Deacons' handbook. We will refresh the "institutional memory" about things like when we change the colors of the Bible bookmarks, where worship supplies are stored, and where and when we get things like palms for Palm Sunday and candles for Advent and Christmas (all traditional Deacon responsibilities). If you would like to help with this, or get trained to be a Deacon, please let me know, or talk to our senior Deacon, Wayne Hileman.

Our Christian Education staff expressed enthusiasm at the meeting when I brought up establishment of a "safe church policy." The purpose of a policy is to guide the congregation in creating and maintaining programs, facilities and a

community where adult members, children, visitors, Clergy, employees, and volunteers can worship, learn and work together in an atmosphere free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, exploitation or intimidation. We need to establish practices that will protect our children and train our volunteers and staff to prevent child abuse. If this is important to you, please contact me or

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Search Committee Update

Dear Fellows,

We of the Search Committee want to thank everyone who participated in the Holy Cow survey. We know it was not a short or necessarily easy process to go through, but we appreciate your patience in completing it. The results have given us a good sense of the congregation as a whole and will be important moving forward. Right now we are composing a Congregational Profile, which is a fairly detailed description of the Church and the larger communities we live

in. This Profile will be used to attract ministers seeking a Call, almost like an advertisement except only for clergy. We anticipate having the Profile complete before May, and we will update the Congregation on developments from there.

Most importantly, we are always available to listen to your cares and concerns regarding a

Worship Schedule

April

- April 1 - 10:00 am EASTER**
- April 8 - 10:00 am Magic Sunday⁺
- April 15 - 10:00 am Worship Svc*
- April 22 - 10:00 am Worship Svc*
- April 29 - 10:00 am Worship Svc*

⁺ Children in worship the whole time
^{*} Sunday School and Childcare Available
^{**} Children in Sunday School room in Parish House during the entire service

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Millie Johnson, our CE Chair on the Council.

When we did the Meeting House renovation last year, a sound system upgrade was begun but not completed. We still have connections that “short,” no HDMI capabilities, and the sound recording system was never connected to the new system. We would like to catch up with our member’s personal video capabilities to upload services to our website and stream our services to home-bound or traveling members. This is important for outreach to our community and any on-line seekers looking for a progressive Christian message. If you have skills and/or interest in getting us up to speed for the next chapter of this congregation’s life, please contact me or Michelle Gorra, our

Music Chair on the Council.

I am excited about the beginnings of a task-force to “Green” the church. We have a few people who have expressed interest in helping and Terri Tibbatts has agreed to chair it. I will be helping in any way I can. If this is important to you, please get in touch with Terri or mention it to me.

One of the priorities that emerged from our recent CAT Scan survey, was Christian Education/ Faith Formation for all ages. As many of our members are unavailable on Sunday mornings on any given week – particularly people employed and housed by one of the private schools in town who have weekend homes in another town or state – I would like to

offer an opportunity to gather for multi-generational worship and study at an alternate time that might work for our own members and as an outreach to our community. If you would be interested in participating or helping to create a new opportunity for worship and faith formation, please contact me or Millie.

If there is anything else that you feel ought to be a priority as we get ready to transition to a new pastor, give me a call and let’s discuss it. I hope to see you in church!




Pastor.cheryl@firstchurchwashingtonct.org

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: CARA MICHALSKI AND DAN LOVALLO (APRIL)						
DATE	USHERS & GREETERS	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	WELCOME ANNOUNC’M’TS	NURSERY	SUNDAY SCHOOL	COFFEE HOUR
APRIL 1 EASTER COMMUNION	Michael* & Abigail Gorra, Susan Jahnke, Conrad Weeks	Cara Michalski	Cara Michalski	TBD	Carrie Loyd	Deacons
APRIL 8 MAGIC SUNDAY	Millie Johnson & John Minnis	Carole Glintenkamp	Dan Lovallo	TBD	Carrie Loyd	Linda Frank & Judie Gorra
APRIL 15 SILVER LAKE SUNDAY	Emelie & Mike Burl	Youth TBD	Wayne Hileman	TBD	Carrie Loyd	John & Susan Loyd Turner
APRIL 22	Karen & Jim Esslinger	Katie Grinnell	Judie Gorra	TBD	Carrie Loyd	Sue Elliott & Terri Tibbatts
APRIL 29	Al Trowbridge & Peter Armstrong	Michelle Gorra	Judie Gorra	TBD	Carrie Loyd	Wayne Hileman

Meet Our Staff



Rev. Cheryl Anderson, Pastor
Carrie Loyd, Christian Ed Superintendent
Jesse Ofgang, Organist
and Principal Musician
Kathleen Sauvageau, Bookkeeper
Karen Esslinger, Admin. Assistant
Al Trowbridge, Sexton
Ministers: All the Members

Pastoral Search Update, cont'd

new Pastor. Simply because the survey period is over does not mean that we do not want any further comments from all of you. The survey gave us a lot of data about our congregation as a whole, but in a small community like ours the opinions of every member will always be important as well. So if you have a question or thought about this process or matters important to a new pastor, feel free to approach any of us and share your ideas.

And finally, thank you for your support and the faith you place in us. We will do all we can to find the pastor we know is awaiting our call.

Dimitri Willert
Chair, The Pastoral Search Committee

Flowers and Steeple Lighting Memorials

Flowers

- April 1 Easter Flowers
- April 22 In memory of Nancy B. Houldin, given by her family
- April 8, 15 & 29 **OPEN**

Steeple Lighting

- April 15 Given by Ron and Nancy Chute in memory of Nancy's mother, Ruth Vuille Stewart
- April 1, 8, 22 & 29 **OPEN**

Flowers are \$68 per week. Steeple Lighting is \$25 per week.

If you wish to sponsor flowers or steeple lighting at any time during the year to honor or remember someone or something, please contact Karen in the church office to check date availability.

Call (860) 868-0569 or email to: admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org

The Council's Corner

Council Members

Cheryl P. Anderson, Pastor 860-868-0569, ext 11
Trish Grinnell, Moderator, 860-799-0190
Tony Vengrove, Vice-Moderator/ Stewardship,
860-799-0054
Peter Armstrong, Treasurer, 860-921-7152
Millie Johnson, Christian Ed
Wayne Hileman, Deacons, 860-868-7235
Steve Wadelton, Finance, 860-868-9822
Jim Esslinger, Missions Interim, 860-919-5207
John Lintner, Personnel, 860-868-0019
Lee Parsons, Trustee, 860-946-7798

Annual Meeting : June 3

Pastor Cheryl works Wednesday through Sundays.
Daily schedule varies based on congregational needs.
It is best to call for an appointment.

Church Office Hours

Karen - Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 pm—5:30 pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am—1:30 pm

Bookkeeper - Schedule to be determined. Please call the office to check on availability or leave a message for call back.

(860) 868-0569 or admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org



bag it
is your life too plastic?



Pot Luck Supper and Movie!

WHEN: Friday, March 2, 6-9 pm (Movie starts at 7 pm)

WHERE: In the Parish House

There is still time to join us for this event to kick off the environmental initiative at our church. Come to learn, come for inspiration on ways we can green up this church, our homes and our communities. Come to share food and fellowship and conversation with others who are interested in caring for our environment.

RSVP online (link in home page announcement) or by emailing the church office at admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org, or contacting Terri Tibbatts at terri@territibbatts.com

MAGIC!

Sunday - April 8 @ 10 am

In the Meeting House

We again welcome the Rev. David Reed-Brown, entertainer and professional speaker who will help us to magically usher in spring—and Sabbath. He has been ordained clergy for two decades, so he tells amazing stories from life that inspire, teach, and celebrate what it means to be human; to overcome great challenges; to be our truest selves; to challenge our assumptions and experience a love that connects all of us together. **Bring your friends and family to church this Sunday and prepare to be awe-struck!**



A Journey for the Soul

Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem

with Chorus Angelicus and Gaudeamus, with The Choirs of St. Patrick - St. Anthony

And post-concert talk with Dr. Gabriel Lofval

Saturday, April 14 at 4:00 pm

Brought to you by Joyful Noise. For tickets, go to www.chorusangelicus.com, or call 860-496-8841

Our 2nd Annual Trivia Night!

To benefit the Loaves & Fishes Hospitality House New Building Fund

Saturday, April 21.... Doors open at 5:45 pm, Play starts at 6:30 pm

The game will consist of **TWELVE TEAMS of 5-6 people**. Each team will contribute \$100 to play. That amounts to \$20 or less per person for a night of fun and challenge. There will be other opportunities to contribute, too, with a 50/50 raffle.

Teams will bring refreshments and arrive between 5:45 and 6:15 for check-in and getting everyone seated. The game will begin at 6:30 pm.

We are currently accepting registrations for teams. **If you want to play but don't have a team, contact us and we can hook you up with a team. Please contact Karen [by email](mailto:karen@loavesandfishes.org) or phone 860-868-0569 as soon as possible if you are interested in participating as a contestant or if you wish to help out as volunteer.**



!!!GREEN FAIR 2018!!!

Preparations for the Green Fair are underway. Michael Gorra, Fair Chair, and the rest of the team **NEEDS YOUR HELP!** At this stage of the game we are looking for 2 things:

1) Time commitments and 2) STUFF!

What kind of time commitment? Well, anything you can give. Saying you are too busy is not acceptable. Fun is essential. We all are busy but we must find the time for fun and to make the 2018 edition another great fair. Let Karen know (in the church office) if you can help and we can connect you with something that suits your talents.

What kind of stuff? Again, anything you can part with, for the most part. Garden items - furniture, nice garden decorations, planters, garden tools in good condition, are always popular.

We need items for:

- NICE: **White Elephant** (Tag Sale)
- NICER: **Boutique**
- REALLY NICE: **Silent and Live Auctions** (*These things are **important to donate early** so we have time to promote them. Contact us soon if you have something great to donate.*)

It is easiest to list what we won't take:

- We won't take anything broken.
- We will take furniture but we won't take any mattresses nor any upholstered furniture.
- We also don't like electronics because they tend to be outdated and no one wants to buy obsolete electronics. Exceptions might be something that has historic value as an antique. And I don't mean an 8 track player!

Go on your own special "stewardship hunt"!

As you care for and clean up your house and yard this Spring, look around your house for items that are quite nice but don't fit anymore... items that might enjoy a new home and a new life with someone else who will love and treasure them as you once did. ***And then donate them to the Green Fair.*** We want quality stuff, too, ("nicer" and "really nice") items that can go in the boutique or silent or live auction. Things that might be so appealing to someone else that they might pay a pretty penny for it! Tell friends and family about it and let them get in on the fun!

Items you are considering donating can be brought to the church during Karen's hours. If the item is large and needs transportation or if you have a question whether we will accept the item, please call the church office (860-868-0569) or send an email to:

admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org website: www.firstchurchwashingtonct.org

Office Hours: Mon & Wed- 1:00 – 5:30 pm; Tue & Thu- 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER 6:35 am Sunrise Service on New Preston Hill 10:00 am Worship Service in Sanctuary	2 3:30 pm - Girl Scouts (PH) 6:30 pm - Single Life Discussion	3 9:30 AM - AA 2:30 PM - Rotary 6:30 PM- NB Divorce Support	4 10:30 am - Book Study 12:15 pm - ASAP 6:30 pm - Compassionate Communication	5	6 10 am - AA Meeting 6 pm - "Bag It!" Pot Luck Supper & Movie	7 6 pm - NB Pot Luck Supper
8 MAGIC SUNDAY 10 am Worship (Choir) (Children in service) 1 pm Comfort Shawl Project 3 pm - Search Committee Retreat 4 pm SingOutCT	9 9 am - Gunnery Meeting (MH) 3:30 pm - Girl Scouts (PH) 6:30 pm - Single Life Discussion	10 9:30 AM - AA 12:15 pm -Rotary 6:30 PM- NB Divorce Support	11 10:30 am - Book Study 5:30/ 6:30 Compassionate Communication	12	13 10 am - AA Meeting 6 pm - NB Pot Luck Supper	14 4 pm - Chorus Angelicus
15 SILVER LAKE SUNDAY 10 am Worship w/ Sunday School 11 am Teen Talk & Confirmation Class	16 9 am - Gunnery Meeting (MH) 6:30 pm - Single Life Discussion	17 9:30 AM - AA 6:30 PM- NB Divorce Support	18 10:30 am - Book Study 7:00 pm - Power of 8 Prayer Group	19 Noon - LSA Clergy Lunch & Comm. On Ministry 6:30 PM Council Meeting	20 10 am - AA Meeting 6 pm - NB Pot Luck Supper	21 TRIVIA NIGHT Doors open- 5:45 pm Game begins- 6:30 pm
22 EARTH DAY 10 am Worship w/ Sunday School 11 am - Worship planning meeting 1 pm Comfort Shawl Project	23 3:30 pm - Girl Scouts (PH) 6:30 pm - Single Life Discussion	24 9:30 AM - AA 12:15 pm -Rotary 6:30 PM- NB Divorce Support	25 10:30 am - Book Study 7:00 PM - Search Committee	26	27 10 am - AA Meeting 6 pm - NB Pot Luck Supper	28
29 10 am Worship 11 am - Deacons 5-7 pm Youth Group	30 9 am - Gunnery Meeting (MH) 3:30 pm-Girl Scouts	Deadline for May-June Judea Journal content is Thursday, April 19. Submissions of news from our members is encouraged! Call or email the church office if you have any questions.				

April Birthdays

2 Joe Mustich
 3 Henrietta Small
 5..... Austin Farmer
 6..... Eva Evans
 18 David Low
 26 Matthew Brady
 27 Michelle Gorra, Cooper Vengrove
 30 Dan Lovallo



Please let us know if we missed anyone so that we may update our database!!
 Contact Karen at (860) 868-0569.

Want to get more involved with your church??

Tell us what you love to do and we'll do our best to match you up with activities that ring your bells! Contact the church office for a paper or PDF version to be sent to you.

The First Congregational Church, UCC

6 Kirby Road - P.O. Box 1285 - Washington, CT 06793

Phone: 860-868-0569

E-mail: admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org

Website: www.firstchurchwashingtonct.org

Prayers for self and others: www.firstchurchwashingtonct.org/prayer.php