

# CROSSROADS

VOL. 73, No. 10

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST), STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT

OCTOBER 2015

## WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY – 10:30 A.M.

- October 4**    **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
*Holy Communion, Deacons Fund  
and Food Trunk Offering*
- October 11**   **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**
- October 18**   **Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**
- October 25**   **Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

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### SUNDAY FLOWER MEMORIALS



To donate flowers for our Sunday worship service, contact the church office for more information or to request a form. The cost for a bouquet to decorate the chancel is \$60. Checks should be made payable to FCC Stamford with "Flowers" in the memo section and may be mailed to the church or placed in the offering plate on Sunday. Please contact the office for open dates.

## FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR'S DESK

OCTOBER 2015

~  
*"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)*

On Sunday, October 4th and on Sunday, October 18th, FCC will gather after worship to continue to discern how God is calling us to faithfully steward our building and resources. We come with a variety of gifts and opinions and ideas, and together we discern how God is calling us to live as God's one beloved community here at 1 Walton Place.

Finding unity in the midst of such decisions challenge the most faithful of congregations. I know that for some folks that entering into these decisions can be painful. I am also aware that just these very conversations we are having are life giving for a congregation.

In his book, *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writes, "The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them. Just as love to God begins with listening to His Word, so the beginning of love for the brethren is learning to listen to them. It is God's love for us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear. So it is His work that we do for our brother when we learn to listen to him." (sic)

What could be more exciting than learning about your neighbor's dream for the church, of how your neighbor sees God moving in his or her life and this congregation, of how your neighbor has been changed by this congregation? I hope you'll be there on October 4th and 18th as we continue to discern how God is calling us to live together in mission.

*Susan*

I hope you'll join us for worship on **Sunday, October 4th for World Communion Sunday**. Little Zion and Tabernacle of the Holy Spirit will join us in worship and in fellowship. The coffee hour after worship is going to be a world café of delicious delicacies!

**World Communion Sunday**  
**October 4**



**World Communion Sunday is a celebration that promotes Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation. The Deacons are planning to continue the celebration by hosting a hospitality time after worship featuring foods from different countries.**

~

**THRIFT SHOP NEWS**



*We are happy to report opening day was a huge success!* It was great to see so many returning customers and to greet new ones. A highlight of this month was the opening of our new children's room. This could not have been accomplished without the work of our behind the scenes team. We give a huge thank you to John Downing, Bob Meyer and Joe Bryan for once again stepping in and lending us a big hand.



*Don't forget Halloween is just a few weeks away. Before you shop at the stores be sure to check the Thrift Shop to see the beautiful fall and Halloween decorations we have for the home as well as a variety of costumes for children and adults!*

Come and visit us on Thursdays – 10:00 – 3:00 or on the third Saturday of the month – 10:00-2:00.



The Thrift Shop Committee

*Candice Bryan, Helga Downing, Jan Fuechsel, Kathie Laug, Elfriede Mallin, Jean Meyer, Pam Riley*

~

**DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR IDEAS FOR FCC?**

The Prudential Council is a group of church members that meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. to make important decisions about our church. The next meeting is September.

All members are welcome to join us to learn about what's happening at FCC and let us know your questions/thoughts/ideas for FCC.

If you have feedback, but can't make the meeting, please feel free to get in touch with anyone who is on Prudential: **Wendy Avirgan, Steve Ayres, Lisa Bauerle, Peter Birch, Anne Firmender, Susan Gibson, Bob Godzeno, Rob Godzeno, Jean Meyer, Linda Peters, Pam Shadford, David Vintinner.**

**OCTOBER**

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Lori & Stuart Constantine, anniversary
- 3 Jen & Rob Godzeno, anniversary
- 4 Ralph Murray
- 5 Cindy & Eddy Richardson, anniversary
- 6 Adrienne and Don Perry, anniversary
- 10 Helga Downing
- 11 Christopher Carlson, Maureen Matthews, Don Piper
- 13 Stuart Constantine, Jose Padilla
- 16 Stuart Sawabini
- Althea & Bill Tenca, anniversary
- 17 Nancy Piper
- 20 Lucy Schall
- 24 Khoi Ngo
- 27 Lynne Koellner
- 29 Kevin Ngo

## COUNCIL



## CORNER

On October 4th, there will be a workshop after church on creating our covenant for how we communicate with each other and make big decisions, followed by a presentation from Jason Schlesinger of Copperline on the building proposal.

On October 18th we will have a visioning workshop to envision our future in our building with or without the proposed development.

November 1, 2015 will be our fall budget meeting and we will also vote on the development proposal.

FCC is updating our website. Please email Rob Godzeno at [rmgodzeno@gmail.com](mailto:rmgodzeno@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions.

The Sunday morning docent program is working out well.

Greeters have been added to Sunday services as a way to welcome newcomers to Worship.

October 14, 2015 is the next Prudential Meeting at 7:00 p.m. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Respectfully Submitted, *Anne Firmender, Clerk*

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*Neighbors in Need (NIN)* are a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

On October 11 there will be a Moment for Missions and look for the donation envelopes in the bulletins on October 11, 18 and 22.

## SECOND SUNDAY WALK

On October 11, Karen Davis will lead the walk at Devil's Den Nature Preserve in Weston.



This 1,756-acre property features a variety of habitats and trails for wildlife viewing and hiking.

All walks meet in the church parking lot at noon. Dress for the weather and bring water. See Kathie Laug if you have questions. *See Kathie Laug if you have any questions.*

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



On October 26, we will discuss *One Summer: America, 1927*. In this book, Bill Bryson, one of our greatest and most beloved nonfiction writers, transports readers on a journey back to an amazing season in American life when people like Charles Lindbergh, Babe Ruth, Al Capone, and Al Jolson were in the news.

The next meeting will be on December 7 when we will discuss 2 books by Harper Lee. The books are the classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1960 and *Go Set a Watchman* which was written in the 1950's but not released for publication until this year. The same characters are in both books which take place 20 years apart.

We meet in the church parlor at 7:00 p.m. All books are available in the church library. *See Kathie Laug if you have any questions.*

~

## ONE WORLD, ONE VOICE, UNITED IN LOVE



On October 1, 2015, the New World Chorus (NWC) will begin rehearsing in the Parlor on Thursday evenings from 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m..

*The New World Chorus (NWC) is a Stamford, CT based community multi-faith choir combining voices from diverse faiths, backgrounds and traditions. ALL people from every faith, race, culture and sexual orientation are welcome.*

*Our music is spiritual and diverse and carries a message that hopes to transcend theological differences, bring healing and declare this moment a new day for the world.*

taken from website: [newworldchorus.com](http://newworldchorus.com)

If anyone is interested in joining, you would be warmly welcomed. I have been a member of NWC since 2011 and it has been a great source of spiritual support in a fun community of men and women.

*Maureen Matthews*



*“Each activity of daily life in which we stretch ourselves on behalf of others is a prayer of action.”  
Richard J. Foster*

The Mission Board (aka Salt & Light Ministry) met on August 30, 2015 to review what Richard Foster calls our “prayer of action.” Recent outreach of FCC included:

**Iftar 2015 on July 11th.** This was FCC’s 5th year to host the breakfast of Ramadan with our Muslim sisters and brothers. We had so many people come for prayer and dinner that the Interfaith Council thinks we have outgrown our space and will have to look for a new host next year.

**Downtown EATS** is also growing, now serving around 75 meals each month.

**Thrift Shop** reopened on September 10th with the addition of a toy and children’s room. The Thrift Shop will also be open on the third Saturday of the month.

**Mission Trip 2015** is a memory and Mission Trip 2016 is already in the planning for August 2016. There will be an Informational Meeting after church on October 25 for those interested in hearing about or going on the 2016 trip to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation.

**Blood Drive** at FCC on July 28th provided an opportunity for 18 people to donate. The next Blood Drive will be on February 15, 2016.

**School Supply Donations** were received and delivered to Inspirica so that their children could begin the new year with notebooks, pens, pencils, etc. FCC was one of several contributors to this event. And, on a side note, a Stamford barber volunteered to give all the kids haircuts for their first day of school.

**Northfield Cemetery** stone restoration continues and new signs have been posted, giving a brief history of the cemetery.

Most of the outreach at FCC is ongoing, but we have some opportunities that occur annually. Neighbors In Need is one of them. This is a “special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.” The focus for 2015 is support of Native Americans. Given FCC’s recent time with the Lakota tribe, we feel a closer connection to this offering.

Please take some time to read the insert from your Sunday Bulletin about the NIN request for donations. Learn about the “Doctrine of Discovery” which was supported by churches in the mid-1400s that justified the oppression of the Native Americans. Money cannot correct this evil but it can support the work of restitution.

Remember that the Mission Board is only as effective as the people we represent...YOU. Please let us know the concerns of your heart to make the world a reflection of God’s love. Come to our next meeting on October 13th which will be held at the Stamford Boys and Girls Club.

*Anne Mochulsky, Tephilla Ponnuthurai,  
Katie McAllister, Anne Firmender, Warren Richardson,  
Maureen Matthews, Rev. Susan Gibson, and Jean Meyer*

**CALLING ALL CHEFS!**



Many thanks to Helga Downing, Peggy Watson and Jill Winger who prepared a wonderful meal for New Covenant House in September.

*This is a much appreciated service!*

Are **you** are interested in helping to prepare and serve a meal? We are always looking for members of our church who would be willing to volunteer in either the capacity of chef or helper.

*If you are one of those people, please come and see me, Helga Downing, or call me at 203-359-0494.*



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**INTRODUCING THE YEAH GROUP!**

Because of continued growth and success of the Rainbow Cafe, a break-off group for those 18 years and older has started. It is called YEAH Group (Yes Everyone’s Accepted Here)! YEAH is a group for LGBTQ adults (18 and over) and their allies. Their mission is to foster community, empower others, and celebrate pride through mentorship, education, support and involvement for people of all genders and orientations. Meetings are being held most Thursday evenings in room 309 from 7:00 to 9:00pm. For more information contact yeahgroup15@gmail.com.

## TRUSTEES' CORNER

### Discerning about our building

These upcoming events are designed to help all to approach November in prayerful contemplation of our calling. **Please join as you are able, and contribute to our shared vision.**

**October 4**, after the World Communion Feast in the dining room, we will have a “**Covenant Workshop**” where we discuss how to make difficult decisions together, and we create a covenant that will shape our discussions to be affirming and safe for all who feel called to participate. This workshop will be followed by presentation of the proposed building at Walton Place by Jason Schlesinger of Copperline Partners, and a brief Q&A.

**October 18**, after fellowship in the parlor, we will have a “**Scenario Workshop**” where we pull together all our contemplations since this process began in May and flesh out what we might best do both after a Yes and after a No decision is made about the Copperline Proposal. Knowing what happens next in either case will help us preserve what is most important to our various missions.

**November 1**, we hold our Annual Congregational Meeting to vote on this development plan, the 2016 budget and other business.

### Discerning about our roles in the building

As we no longer have a full time Sexton, there are many new ways you can volunteer to help support our tradition of hospitality. **Sunday morning docents** work alongside the ushers to get the building ready for community worship, and to secure it afterwards so it is ready for our weekday events. Please reach out to David Vintinner if you are interested in training for this role. We have also identified **rental coordinators** in among our former Trustees (Bill Hensley and Tom Jenkins) who will help facilitate the use of the building to community groups outside regular operating hours. And, finally, since we only have part time cleaning service, everyone can pitch in by helping to tidy up after church events. Yes, even to the point of taking out the trash when it is full. And if you notice something broken, let someone else know. Every time you pitch in, you help to make our welcome that much more convincing to those who visit our congregation in search of the selfless, courageous Christ. **Thank you!**

**Yours in Service,  
David Vintinner and Stuart Constantine**

The First Congregational Church  
Stamford, Connecticut

*Invites you to a:*

**Dedicatory Concert**  
Of The New Allen Digital Organ

Dedicated to the memory of  
Lois W. Clark and George A. Clark

Sunday, November 15, 2015

4:00 pm

Timothy Wallace, organist



**"Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand  
with His gracious presence." ... Johann Sebastian Bach**

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Stamford, CT 06901

*Crossroads* is published monthly by  
**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT**  
Member of the United Church of Christ  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
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#### LECTIONARY READINGS

**October 4:** Job 1:1; 2:1-10; Ps 26 or  
Gen 2:18-24; Ps 8; Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12;  
Mark 10:2-16

**October 11:** Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Ps 22:1-15 or  
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-16;  
Mark 10:17-31

**October 18:** Job 38:1-7, (34-41) Ps 104:1-9, 24,  
35c or Isa 53:4-12; Ps 91:9-16; Heb 5:1-10

**October 25:** Job 42:1-6, 10-17;  
Ps 34:1-8, (19-22) or Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126;  
Heb 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

**Keep us informed!**

**If you are ill or hospitalized or have any  
concerns, please call the church office or  
let any of the Deacons know:**

**([fccstamforddeacons@gmail.com](mailto:fccstamforddeacons@gmail.com)).**

**We would like to include you in our prayers  
and visit you!**