



The
WEATHERVANE

South Britain Congregational Church, South Britain, CT 06487
203.264.5890 United Church of Christ · “God is Still Speaking”
January 2018

Well, this is it. My last Weathervane article as your Pastor. In fact, since I am retiring, it's likely my last Pastor Newsletter article ever! I estimate that I've written some 220 of them, give or take. Sometimes they just spill out onto the page, and sometimes getting them written is like pushing a rope. I must give credit and thanks to Eileen and the other church secretaries, since I am almost always past the deadline—sometimes with a reasonable excuse, but often without.

My message to SBCC today is “Thank you.” It has been a joy to be with you in ministry, and to try to help you along the way, preparing for your next settled Pastor. Thank you for the trust you placed in me, for forgiving my errors and omissions, and for all your love and support along the way.

For now, let me list three things I hope we have learned together:

- 1) SBCC is a great church! Besides the ministries that you do, you have again shown that you can face difficult times and move through them. Yes, some of the disappointment and hurt linger—and not just from this latest conflict. As with any grieving, it never completely goes away. But you move on, with God's help, looking to a wonderful and faithful future.
- 2) You can deal with conflict early, in a way which will prevent it from becoming a crisis and disruption. The creation of the Personnel Committee and their work on a process for resolving issues is key. But as I said in a recent sermon, just having them in place does not solve the problem. They have to become part of the DNA of the church, the first thing that comes to mind when something seems to be awry.
- 3) Communicate! Communicate! Communicate! In a congregational church, each member is an integral part of the church, its support, its ministry, and its direction. Leaders are elected and formed into boards and committees to manage different aspects of the life of the church. It may sometimes seem as if those people have all the power. Not so! They work on your behalf, so hold them accountable. Make sure there is plenty of two-way communication. Know that there are some things that need to be held as confidential, and thus cannot be shared--but the reason they are confidential can be. When the opportunity arises, step up to leadership yourself.

When the new Pastor comes to complete this interim, and especially when the new settled Pastor arrives, treat them well. They, like me, will not be perfect. Be open and honest with them. Build on their strengths and find ways to supplement their shortcomings—and love them unconditionally. Pray for them, as they will be praying for you.

I love this church and you, its people. I am sad to end my interim pastorate prematurely, but it must be so. I will miss you and pray for you, and wish you God's richest blessings: *May God give you well-being, and care for you, and sustain you. May God be with you, and be generous to you. May God continue to reveal himself to you and give you love: protection, security, comfort, and wholeness. Amen.*

Grace and Peace,

WORSHIP THEMES FOR JANUARY

January 14 – On Being Called

January 21 – On Being There

January 28 – On Being Here

BULLETIN BOARD

Every Sunday: Choir, 9:00 am, Worship, 10 am
First Sunday: Communion during worship
Every Tuesday: Knit-Wits, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm (Meetings will resume on January 2)
Bible Study, 1:00 to 2:00 pm
Master Chorale, 6 to 10 pm
Every Friday: AA Meeting, 7 to 8:30 pm
First Wednesday: Women's Group, 6 pm

In January

Wednesday, January 3: First Wednesday Women's Group at "The Tavern" in the Heritage Hotel, 6 pm

Thursday, January 5: Property Committee, 7 pm

Sunday, January 7: Board of Faith Formation 9 am

Tuesday, January 9: Staff Meeting, 3:30 pm

Sunday, January 14: Finance Committee, 9 am; Board of Outreach, 9 am (note change of date); Deacons, 11:30 am; Sandwich Brigade following worship (note change of date)

Wednesday, January 17: February newsletter deadline

Thursday, January 18: Trustees, 7 pm

Sunday, January 21: Blanket Sunday

Sunday, January 28: Pastor Jerry's last day

Wednesday, January 31: Council, 7 pm

In February

Sunday, February 4: Board of Outreach, 9 am; Board of Faith Formation, 9 am

Tuesday, February 6: Staff Meeting, 3:30 pm

Sunday, February 11: Finance, 9 am; Deacons, 9 am

Tuesday, February 13: Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 4:30 – 7 pm

Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday Service, 7 pm (SBCC?)

Thursday, February 15: Trustees, 7 pm

Friday, February 16: Life Line Screening, 8:15 am – 5 pm

Wednesday, February 21: March newsletter deadline

Wednesday, February 28: Council, 7 pm



THE 2018 FLOWER CHART is posted in the Gathering Room. There are MANY openings. Sign up for the appropriate Sundays for remembering or honoring a loved one--or celebrating a birthday, anniversary, or other special day. Thank you!



BIBLE STUDY meets on Tuesdays at 1 pm in the Bassett room. Everyone is welcome—no experience needed! Bring your Bible (any version), your questions, and your insights.



FIRST WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S GROUP

Come for fellowship, laughter and good food each month on the first Wednesday. Unless otherwise specified, the dinner will be held at 'The Tavern' (located inside the Heritage Hotel) at 6 pm. The cost is \$20 and must be paid in advance. RSVP during coffee hour up until the week prior to the event. Hope to see you there! Watch the weekly email or the Sunday Bulletin for any updates or changes.

BOARD OF FAITH FORMATION

- Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at South Britain Congregational Church on 2/16/2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979**
- **Youth activities** will begin again soon. Watch for emails and notifications.
- **The hats and gloves** from the Mitten Tree have been delivered to Social Services in Southbury.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gladys Burdick	Nancy Maher
Bert DeForest	Joan McAleer
Ann Ferraro's sister Katy	Gordon Morehouse
Edward and Betsy Fleming,	The Naylor family
John Fleming's parents and John	Margie and Ray Nichols
Patty Giesecke, Karen Erickson's sister	great granddaughter, Madison
Declan Georgette, Laurie Hornbecker's	Jim and Lissa Pine
grandson	Cathy Somer's sister-in-law Carole
Arlene and John Grugle	and family
Joyce Hornbecker	The Warner family
Lynne Kilbourn	Joan Waterhouse
Jonah Locke	Eileen Yade (Eileen Major's mother)

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Faith Kuehn	18	David Schupack
3	Robert Stiles	19	Michelle Dahl
	Jeffrey Thomas		Jared Isbell
4	Calvin Peterson	20	Andrew Dahl
5	Ruth Warner		Kevin Sullivan
6	Jodi Mitchell	23	Derrek Guertin
	Fuller Walker		Teresa Nardecchia
7	Tyler Fritzing	25	Linda Long
	Lainie Jedlinsky	28	Melissa Agnello
12	Makayla Flick		Ellie Hanna
13	Joseph Naylor		Susan Mahoney
	John Potz, Jr.	29	Jillian Cody
16	Olivia Cody	31	Judith Cruz
	Phil Valenti		Myles Fritzing

IN MEMORIAM

Wilfred (Wil) V. Warner, who died on December 7, 2017
Carol Zagnoli, Ed Naylor's sister, who died on December 17, 2017

THANK YOU . . . to all who supported the 2017 Victorian Tea!

We are pleased to report that the winner of the hand-knit afghan was our own Joan Kubista. Congratulations!!!

We will be resuming knitting on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 from 10:30 to 12:30 in the Gathering Room. All are always welcome.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL
The Knit Wits

BOARD OF HOSPITALITY

All are invited to sign up to host coffee hour any week on the sheet in the Gathering Room. The designated committee or board can help you. They will also fill in if no one signs up, so your help will be greatly appreciated.

Coffee Hour Schedule - 2018

January 2018	Hospitality Committee	July	Music Committee
February	Scholarship Committee	August	Board of Deacons
March	Church Council	September	Board of Outreach
April	Stewardship Committee	October	Property Committee
May	Board of Faith Formation	November	Board of Trustees
June	Finance Committee	December	Memorial Garden Committee

All are invited to sign up for coffee hour any week. The designated committee or board can help and/or fill in if no one signs up. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who chose an angel from our Angel Tree. All 22 names were quickly chosen and all gifts were returned on time! Thanks to Bella for coordinating this effort.

Thanks to Ken Bolin for coming to our rescue at the last minute and delivering our 170 sandwiches to GWIM. Thanks also to all the people who helped us out when we were shorthanded at the Brigade. Please keep the peanut butter and jam coming so we can continue this SBCC tradition.

We received a lovely thank you from ECAD for our donation of \$500. They are always in need of volunteers; visit ECAD1.org if you'd like to help.

January's Outreach Offering will be for the Blanket Sunday event sponsored by Church World Service. 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blanket events, providing funds to help people in need around the world. CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs such as:

- Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- Wells for families living in drought-prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irrigate crops and gardens

We will have specially marked envelopes in the bulletin for this and you can also always use the "Thanks" envelopes in the pews. Please be sure to mark those envelopes with OUTREACH to be sure your donation goes where intended.

We will be collecting cans of creamed soups and chowders for our Annual Souper Bowl of Caring held this year on February 4th.

We still need a few people to share the job of delivering our collected cans to the Southbury Food Bank. The job entails collecting the creamed soups and chowders from the Narthex, checking under the coat rack in the Gathering Hall for stray cans, keeping a count of them, and driving them over to the SFB located at 88 Main St. The drop offs can be done monthly or more frequently if it's easier. The delivery drop off times are listed on their site southburyfoodbank.org. Please contact Jodi at jamsouth@aol.com if you can help.

SLIPPERY SLOPES

SLIP SLIDING AWAY is what we do NOT want you to do when coming to church! As the winter months are upon us, the Property Committee will make every effort to ensure that our parking lots, walkways and ramps are kept free and clear of ice and snow. But we would ask that you stay vigilant and use extra care when walking on the property for services or activities. Safety is our priority. If you see something you feel is unsafe, please let us know ASAP.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

In the event that worship or other scheduled church activities need to be cancelled due to weather, we will post notices in the following places:



- SBCC website: www.southbritainchurch.org
- Church voicemail: 203-264-5890
- Facebook: South Britain Congregational Church
- WSFB Channel 3: on TV and at www.wfsb.com
- News Channel 8: on TV after 9:00 a.m. and at www.wtnh.com
- NBC Connecticut Channel 30: on TV and at www.nbcconnecticut.com

A REQUEST FROM THE DEACONS

DO YOU KNOW?

The Deacons are reviewing the current membership list that exists in our Church Pages database. We have a short list of names of individuals that we are trying to identify so we can contact them (we have found some addresses using on-line searching). Some may be people who have married/divorced and have new last names, others may have moved out of the area or to other churches. If you know *any* of the individuals listed below, would you please reach out to either Sal Graziano or Cathy Somers with the information? Thanks very much.

Mimi Beach
Tara Beardsley
Richard Bennett
Christine Fenn (Loomis)

Kathleen Galer (McCann)
Jason Rich
Keri Rich (Taranovich)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Practice Makes Better (Nothing's Perfect)!

We've been talking a lot about how to resolve conflicts and differences within a church family. We aren't doing this because there is some big divisive issue lurking in the background of our church. In fact, things are going pretty well. We just know, that because we are all human and heaven has not yet come to our earthly home, differences of opinion will arise. There will always be points of friction. Disagreements can feel like a roadblock, but they can also be storehouses of potential energy for forward movement of the church. It's good to know what to do when those opportunities arise.

Remember the old Bible verse about not picking the speck out a neighbor's eye until you remove the board from your own? Well, I've been thinking of the ways I could and should use these conflict resolution strategies within the context of my extended family.

Much like a church family, my family is made of flawed and loving individuals. I have an amazing older sister. She is beautiful, smart, full of energy and a size "3." Every year at my birthday I can count on getting a lovely piece of clothing that is inevitably three sizes smaller than I am. My outward reaction is the obligatory thank you and exclamations of how cute it is. Inside, I feel like she's sending a not-so-subtle message that I really should lose some weight. At best, I feel like she doesn't really see me for who I am – middle-aged, slightly chunky Mom. None of it makes me feel good. More importantly, after some time thinking about it, I have no idea if any of those negative things are even remotely true. Yet I find my sense of resentment getting in the way of being better sisters and friends.

This year when we get together for Christmas, I have decided to talk to her and tell her how I've been feeling. I will let you know how it goes. As a committee, we are planning to hold some informal and informational sessions about this model for resolving conflicts in January or February. I will let folks know how things went with my sister over the holiday; more importantly, we can share our thoughts on the important role conflict and its resolution play in our church family. We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Sara Locke Carl Dunn Cathy Somers
SBCC Personnel Committee

KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE:

South Britain in the Late Twentieth Century, Part 1*

by Dianne Schoonmaker, Church Historian

In 1951, a social group known as "The In-Betweeners" was formed for middle-aged parishioners at South Britain Congregational Church. They became an active group that met regularly and sponsored many church events and fundraisers. Their most popular event was an annual smorgasbord that was "not-to-be-missed". People from the church and community would line up for admittance on the scheduled day. There are pictures of long lines coming out of the Parish House and wrapped around the yard, each person waiting for a chance to share in the feast.

In 1955, a funding campaign for the first Parish House addition was much-anticipated and talked about. Just prior to launching, the campaign suffered a set-back due to a surprise hurricane that caused extensive flooding in the area. The fund-raising was postponed and the money was raised over the next five years. A year later, in 1956, South Britain Congregational Church voted to become a member of the United Church of Christ and remains so today.

The Yuletide Fair was first sponsored by the 1761 Club in 1957 and the Fair remained as the church's major fund raiser until as late as 1992. The first addition to the Parish House was finally completed in 1960 and a dedication service was held. It included renovations to the original building as well as the addition of the "Gathering Room" (social hall) and four classrooms directly below.

In 1966, a 2.3 acre parcel of land was purchased, which is now the main parking lot. In 1970, extensive renovations were made to the parsonage. This was a period of growth and maintenance in the life of the beautiful little church. One of the most treasured expansions was due to the fund-raising efforts made in 1975 for a Schantz pipe organ that was purchased to replace the previous electronic Baldwin organ purchased in 1953. Renovations were made to the balcony to accommodate the new organ as well as to provide more space for the choir.

*250th Anniversary Celebration Booklet