

The
WEATHERVANE

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

NO IDLE TALE

“...but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.” (Luke 24:11)

An idle tale. That is what the disciples thought of the women’s report of Jesus’ resurrection on that first Easter morning. They could not believe that Jesus was alive. But soon Jesus broke through their initial doubts. The risen Christ, himself, came knocking on the door of their lives. And they knew the living Christ first hand.

Today Christ continues to touch our lives just as he did the lives of those first disciples. And when he does, life can never be the same for us. Then we know the amazing wonder and power of Easter ourselves. Christ is active and at work in this world – even now.

In Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C., there is a famous statue by Gutzon Berglum. Mary Magdalene is portrayed looking into the empty tomb on Easter morning.. And though Berglum’s medium is bronze – cold, hard metal – he had made Mary’s face shine bright with warm hope. The Jesus she thought was within the tomb is not there. The sculptor has captured something of the happiness and hope of Easter.

Easter says that God has the last word. God’s love has broken the power of death, hate and fear. This is no idle tale. It is good news, tremendous good news. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Come and celebrate Easter with us on Sunday, April 1. Our services are at 8:00 (Bent in the River) and 10:00 at church.

In Christ,

Dave Buchan

Bridge Interim

LENT

We are in the season of Lent, a time of spiritual contemplation and nourishment as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. At this time we recognize our need for God and for one another. Our focus is on the cross of Christ and its meaning for our lives. We relive the life and teaching of Jesus.

This year in my sermons I will deal with some people and events in the last days of Jesus' life. The series is called "In His Steps."

IN HIS STEPS

Sun., Mar. 4 – Peter

Sun., Mar. 11 – Pontius Pilate

Sun., Mar. 18 – Simon of Cyrene

Sun., Mar. 25 – Triumphant Entry

Sun., Apr. 1 – Easter

Worship and Sunday School are held at 10:00 Sunday Mornings. There will be a special Maundy Thursday service on March 29 at 7:00 in the evening.

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
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 March

Thursday, March 1: Property Committee Meeting, 7 pm

Friday, March 2: Men's Group at the Curtis House in Woodbury, 6 pm

Sunday, March 4: Third Sunday in Lent; Board of Outreach, 9 am; Board of Faith Formation, 9 am; Sandwich Brigade following the service; Outreach program: "Here Comes Trouble" in the Gathering Room, 4 pm

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

Wednesday, March 7: First Wednesday Women's Group, 6 pm

Sunday, March 11: Fourth Sunday in Lent; Finance Committee, 9 am; Deacons, 11:30 am

Thursday, March 15: Trustees, 7 pm

Sunday, March 18: Fifth Sunday in Lent; Youth meet in SBCC kitchen, 9:45am

Wednesday, March 21: April newsletter deadline

Sunday, March 25: Palm/Passion Sunday (Palms will be distributed during the service)

Wednesday, March 28: Council, 7 pm

Thursday, March 29: Maundy Thursday Service SBCC, 7 pm (Communion held at this service)

Friday, March 30: Good Friday (Meetinghouse open 9 am to 4 pm for private prayer)

In April

Sunday, April 1: Easter Sunday – 8 am Early Service with Communion at Bent of the River; Easter Breakfast; 10 am service in the Meetinghouse (there will be no Communion at the 10 am service).

Tuesday, April 3: Staff Meeting; 3:30 pm

Thursday, April 5: Property Committee Meeting, 7 pm

Sunday, April 8: Worship with Communion; Finance Committee, 9 am; Faith Formation, 9 am; Board of Outreach, 9 am; Deacons, 11:30 am; Women’s Clothing and Accessories Swap, following coffee hour;

Wednesday, April 18: May newsletter deadline

Thursday, April 19: Trustees, 7 pm

Wednesday, April 25: Council, 7 pm

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.

MEN’S GROUP



The March Men’s Group Dinner will be held at The Curtis House in Woodbury, Friday, March 2. For more details contact Ken Bolin at ken.bolin@snet.net or 203-264-3996.

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

- **Sandwich Brigade:** March 4 we will be hosting the Sandwich Brigade following church. Please bring creamy peanut butter and jelly. Friends are welcome.
- **Youth will meet on March 18** in the SBCC kitchen at 9:45am. We will be putting together a meal. All are invited to come and bring a friend. Contact either Amy Smith (amybsmith1120@gmail.com – 203-509-5283) or Krista Judson (kljudson@charter.net – 203-264-3728) with any questions.
- **Easter Baskets:** We will start to collect candy, puzzles, books, small stuffed animals and gift cards for teens beginning Sunday, March 4. A collection basket will be located in the Gathering Room. Any questions see Krista Judson.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gladys Burdick
Bert DeForest
Ann Ferraro's sister Katy
Edward and Betsy Fleming
 John Fleming's parents and John
Patty Giesecke, Karen Erickson's sister
Declan Georgette, Laurie Hornbecker's
 grandson
Jerry Grant
John Grugle and family
Joyce Hornbecker
Lynne Kilbourn
Jonah Locke
Nancy Maher

Joan McAleer
Gordon Morehouse
Margie and Ray Nichols
 great granddaughter, Madison
Jim and Lissa Pine
Cathy Somer's sister-in-law Carole
 and family
Sue Wilson
Sharon Wolf
Eileen Yade (Eileen Major's mother)



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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Kathy Kerkes Tim Schaake	11	Charles DeWitt Chris James	22	Fred Palmer Maggie Blersch
2	Geoff Hayden	13	Katie McGrath	24	Anna Lowell
4	Justin Tito	15	Michaela Hartman	26	Anna Lowell
5	Hailey Platt	16	Curt Perry	27	Deb Hull Tom Lavoy
8	Rob Crowdis Betty Hulin Gail Paparazzo	19	Peter DeWitt Jennifer Miller	28	Rob Mitchell Brenda Beard Brian Lang
9	Garland Anderson	20	Mario Agnello Judy Pierpont	30	Jesse Shepherd
10	Gordon Morehouse		John Watson, Jr.	31	Tracy Watson

FROM PASTOR JERRY: Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

“Thank you” doesn’t even begin to express my gratitude to all of you, to SBCC. My gratitude for all you accomplished during this time. My gratitude for our time in ministry together—and the love, care, and support you gave me, especially in these last weeks as I dealt with the fact that I would have to retire without completing my commitment to you.

And my gratitude for that last Sunday. The meaningful music that Ann and Wayne chose for the service. The choir, great as usual—and up front and in their robes! The announcement by the Search Committee that they are receiving profiles. The awesome Circle of Gratitude (I’d never seen it before). The kind words and good wishes I received beforehand from those who knew they could not be there.

The pot-luck lunch, complete with deviled eggs and lemon bars, and the beautiful and delicious cake—and the people who organized and made it happen. The hand-made blanket from the Youth Group. The most generous check. The print of the church and the photo album. The kind words and good wishes.

It was a wonderful end for our time together, for this “coda” to my pastoral ministry.

SBCC is a great church, poised for a wonderful future. Always remember the one who is “the church’s one foundation.” My final message to you is—as you might guess—from scripture:

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (Romans 12:9-18)

Amen.



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

March	Church Council	August	Board of Deacons
April	Stewardship Committee	September	Board of Outreach
May	Board of Faith Formation	October	Property Committee
June	Finance Committee	November	Board of Trustees
July	Music 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!



BOARD OF OUTREACH

February “kicked off” with our annual Souper Bowl. We shattered last years canned soup collection by 27 cans for a total of 158 cans for the Southbury Food Bank!

We provided 212 sandwiches to GWIM in February. We donated \$150 from the Outreach budget to the CT Community Foundation for the purpose of helping 300 Puerto Rican families who relocated to Waterbury after Hurricane Maria.

For our March Outreach Offering, we will be supporting the UCC’s One Great Hour of Sharing campaign. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. More information can be found in the weekly bulletins during the month of March.

On Sunday, April 8, immediately following coffee hour, we’ll be having the first ever SBCC Women’s Stop and Swap. For only \$10, you can get a jump start on your new spring wardrobe! We will transform the Gathering Room into our own private boutique, complete with dressing rooms. Participants will bring 5-10 gently used clothing or accessory items and leave with the same amount of “new to you” items. We will be collecting the items in advance at coffee hours during the month of March, starting on March 11 and giving you a ticket for each item as well as

keeping a master list of participants. Please bring the items on disposable hangers if possible. All accessories leftover will be saved for the Apple Festival and all clothing will be donated to Safe Haven. We hope to see you there!



2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



Scholarship applications will be available beginning Sunday, March 25 and will be accessible in the Church Office, in the church narthex, on the piano in the Gathering Room and on the Church website. Printed application forms will be available in the Church Office and a fillable form will be available on the member section of the website. The fillable form will allow applicants to type their responses, save and print the application. All applications must arrive in the Church office no later than Sunday, April 22, 2018 and must include a photo.

The SBCC Scholarship Fund was established in 1979 by members of the South Britain Congregational Church in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversaries and service to the church

and the community of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mitchell and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Schielke. Since 2003, the Scholarship Committee has also administered the Francis J. Diesl Scholarship award. Two additional scholarship awards are also given. Memorial contributions have allowed us to grant a scholarship in memory of Sean Schielke, who died in the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center attack; and beginning in 2010, we have granted the Josephine V. Blersch Scholarship to honor her three decades of dedicated service to the Scholarship Fund.

Scholarship awards are made annually. Eligible recipients are persons actively affiliated with the church who will be attending college, technical school or are pursuing educational programs for career enhancement or for career change. The committee considers each applicant's involvement in the church and the community, along with his or her specific educational needs when awarding grants. Personal or family financial statements are not required.

The members of the Scholarship Committee are:

June Bennett
Judith Bookis

John Erickson
Deborah Hull

Beverly Stoddard
Marti Swift

Awards will be presented on May 20, 2018 during the church service.

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

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE

Envelopes for receiving contributions for Easter Flowers will be available in the pew racks on Sunday, March 11, 18 and 25. The deadline for contributions is Sunday, March 25.. If you would like to take your flowers home after the 10 am Easter service, let the office know. Otherwise they will be delivered to church members and friends who could use a little extra cheer this year.

Blessings to all,
Lynn Plourde, on behalf of the Flower Committee

LENTEN SERIES

“God and a Suffering World”

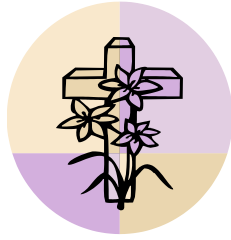
Conversations based upon the book: “When Bad Things Happen to Good People”
by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner

All are welcome to join the South Britain, Southbury, and Woodbury congregational churches for lunch and a discussion seminar from 12 noon to 1:30 pm.

Location: The United Church of Christ, Southbury
Dates: Wednesday, February 21, February 28, March 7 and March 14

Lunch (soup, salad, bread and dessert begins at Noon, with the discussions led by the Churches’ Pastors following. A freewill offering will be accepted. Books are available to purchase through the Church Office for \$9.00. All are welcome!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Sunday, March 25: Palm Sunday (palms will be distributed at the worship service)

Thursday, March 29: Maundy Thursday Service (with Communion) at SBCC, 7:00 pm

Friday, March 30: Good Friday: Church will be open from 9 am to 4 pm for anyone who would like to pray or meditate.

Sunday, April 1: Easter

- Our early Easter service this year will be held at Bent of the River (Audubon Center) at 8:00 am if the weather permits, or inside our sanctuary. This is a short service with Communion.
- Easter breakfast follows in the Parish House from 9:00-9:45 am
- At the 10:00 am Easter service in the Meetinghouse the Easter Choir will sing. There will not be Communion at this service.



The search committee continues to meet weekly and has recently performed a successful, supervised mock interview. To date, we have received nine (9) pastoral interviews. We ask for your continued prayers for our search and for that of our prospective Pastor.

Committee Members: Jennifer Naylor, Sue Wilson, Carl Dunn, Dave Ferraro, John Shepherd, Francesca Sergi, Ian Lowell, Krista Judson.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of South Britain Congregational Church, set for 11:30 am Sunday, May 20, 2018, in the Gathering Room of the Parish House. The order of business will include the re-election of officers, board and committee members from the June 11, 2017 Annual Meeting, with elections to fill any vacancies. The proposed budget for the July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 Fiscal Year will be presented for approval by members. Changes to the bylaws will be proposed and voted on (more details to follow). Annual reports of boards and committees will be presented. Members and friends are welcome to attend; only members may vote. A potluck luncheon will precede the meeting. Please bring a dish to share. The Board of Christian Education will provide dessert and coffee.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Hein, Clerk

PLEASE NOTE: 2017 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

All reports must be submitted to the church office by Sunday, April 8, 2018. We plan to have the reports available one week before the Annual meeting.

FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteer elves who helped with the Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Special thanks to our Youth Group who once again took such good care of our guests!