

# THE CHURCHMOUSE

Newsletter of The First Congregational Church, Canton Center, CT

July/August 2021

From the Pastor

Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka

## THE SPACES, TOO

I came across this poem a few years ago, and it fascinated me:

### **FIRE**

*What makes a fire burn  
is space between the logs,  
a breathing space.  
Too much of a good thing,  
too many logs  
packed in too tight  
can douse the flames  
almost as surely  
as a pail of water would.*

*So building fires  
requires attention  
to the spaces in between,  
as much as to the wood.*

*When we are able to build  
open spaces  
in the same way we have learned  
to pile on the logs,  
then we can come to see how  
it is fuel and the absence of fuel,  
together, that make fire possible.*

*We only need to lay a log  
lightly from time to time.  
A fire grows  
simply because the space is there,  
with openings  
in which the flame  
that knows just how it wants to burn  
can find its way.*

-Judy Brown, *Teaching with Fire*



May this summer season allow us the spaces we all need for flourishing.

Faithfully,

Rev. Brenda

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

### Services in July and August

**July - all services at Canton Center Church, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.**

*Services also live streamed and available later for viewing on YouTube. Please see website homepage for access info. for services & bulletins online.*

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| July 4  | Communion; Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching                               |
| July 11 | The Rev. Terry Schmitt, guest pastor   |
| July 18 | Ali Hager preaching  |
| July 25 | Rev. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka preaching;<br>Farewell reception for Sarah Pradhan |

**August -- all services at The Canton Community Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m.**

*Services also available online via Zoom. Please see Zoom link on the church's website, [CantonCommunityBaptistChurch.com](http://CantonCommunityBaptistChurch.com).*

### Staff Vacation

Rev. Brenda will be on vacation from July 5 through 18 , and August 1 through 15.

For urgent pastoral care needs during these periods, please contact the church office for assistance.

### Deacons' Bench

Vicki Rees

Happy summer, everyone!

As we embark on a summer that will seem a bit more “normal” this year, I hope that you will have opportunities for wonderful positive memory-making. For some, that is relaxation.....lying in a hammock with a good book or sitting on the front porch with a cool drink. For others, it might be travel....driving, flying or riding to new or different places, providing a shift in familiarity and routine and lots of learning opportunities. In some cases, summertime might be someone’s favorite time for reconnecting with friends, family members, and this year, other people in general!

I will admit I truly appreciated some of the “changes” that came with the COVID closure. While it was all VERY strange, and it was scary as the whole world assessed the unknown and tried to find solutions, I, personally, enjoyed some of the lifestyle during the past year and a half. It seems that we spend much of our lives saying “if I only had more time to.....”, and assuming we were healthy and feeling well, here we were with nothing but time! I enjoyed extensive amounts of time with my immediate family, and relished the days of endless time and opportunity to just do what I wanted to do. However, I did DEFINITELY miss the normalcy of daily life as we turned to corner at about 16 months. And, while I got lots of projects done around the house and yard, I am feeling relieved and refreshed by the lessening of restrictions these days.

One of the “routines” that has been most wonderful to me is the return to church. In checking in with members of our congregation over the years, I have been told that some people occasionally feel like the return to church after an absence FOR ANY REASON is shrouded with guilt, judgment, or notes somewhere saying exactly how long it has been. That is not true....All are welcome here!! As we have slowly and safely opened back up, and each week has seen a slight uptick in numbers of congregants (and many visitors coming as well), I find it rejuvenating to sit in that sanctuary on Sundays. Recent changes have allowed us to sing, sit wherever we are comfortable, and be mask-optional if vaccinated. Discussions around returning to traditional offering collection and Communion delivery will happen upon return to worship in the Fall.

Please consider this an invitation to join us, to come back to that happy place and that part of your “normal”, no matter how long it has been. We have just been so excited to be together again and enjoy those parts of church that brought us there in the first place! We are so blessed to have each other, and our wonderful Church, and it is a true pleasure to get back to it.

## Musical Notes

Mary Lou Keefe, Director of Music



## WORSHIP MINISTRY

As summer is upon us and the pandemic is pretty much under control and a thing of the past, I am moving on with our regular music schedule both now and in the fall, that being the Summer Soloist Series and full choir rehearsals in late summer and early fall. The following is the schedule for both and also some proposed events.

The Summer Soloist Series has already begun on June 20th with Jerry Alonzy singing "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother. The following is the remaining schedule.

June 27th Judy Robinson will be singing "The Lord's Prayer"  
 July 4th Patriotic music on both the chimes and organ.  
 July 11th Bill Thomas  
 July 18th Jim Todd will be singing "Where We'll Never Grow Old"  
 July 25th Cherry Brook Chimes Bell Choir "Hallelujah"

The following are the start up dates for the Senior, Bell and Cherub Choirs:

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Aug. 30: 5:00 p.m.     | Senior Choir ( Notice new time)                   |
| Sept. 9 or 16 tbd 7:00 | Handbell Choir                                    |
| Nov. 7 11:15           | Cherub Choir under the direction of Judy Robinson |

At this time the ministers and music directors of the various churches in Canton usually begin to make plans for the annual Ecumenical Service that has traditionally been scheduled for the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Of course, last year's service was cancelled due to the pandemic and I am hoping to revive it and have it at our church this fall. More details will follow.

As has been the custom in recent years, The Senior Choir has been augmented by guest singers for the special music at Christmas. This is an open invitation to interested singers to join us for rehearsals starting on October 19.

### *Thank You*

Special thanks to the following senior choir members who participated in a smaller choir from mid April through June 13th:

**Jerry, Betsy, Donna, Megan, Marilyn, Tim, Linda, Karen, Rina, Kathy P., Judy, and Jim.**

It was so great to have members of the choir back and singing again.

Special thanks to **Jerry Alonzy** for singing that great solo and for all the support and willingness to help out.

Special thanks to **Karen Needham** for her choice of hymns and playing such on the chimes.

Special thanks to all the soloists in advance, **Judy, Bill, Jim and members of the handbell choir.**

Special thanks to **Scott Neumann** for playing the guitar as accompaniment for the choir.

## Missions & Outreach

As we have in the past, Missions will be supporting an Organization/Charity each month.

### July

we'll be collecting **backpacks and school supplies** for Wellmore. Please put backpacks and school supplies in the Mission Box in the hall next to the kitchen door.

### August

fresh produce from our church garden to the Canton Food Bank

We also identified our outreach opportunities for October and November.

### October coat collection

### November

**Christmas gifts** for Wellmore, to help Canton families for Christmas.

It was brought to Missions attention that a family in the area needed some assistance. They have a two year old that is undergoing treatment out of state. Mom & Dad alternate spending a week with the two year old and a week at home with their other three children. This way all the children have access to one parent every week. The Mission Committee provided some homemade meals and other food that was delivered on June 6. We would like to continue providing support to this family.

As always your Mission Committee appreciates your caring and generosity.

Thank you!

Missions & Outreach  
Geri Bunnell

## You did it! *Congratulations*

We extend the congratulations and best wishes of the church to the following, who have recently graduated from high schools and colleges, and we note any information that families have given us about their graduates' future plans.

### From Canton High School:

#### **Connor Clement**

Will attend Coastal Carolina University

#### **TJ Connolly**

#### **Declan Emirzian**

Will attend the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, to study engineering

#### **Jordan Horvath**

Will attend Bentley University, to study business

#### **Katelynn Horvath**

Will attend the University of Connecticut, to study biomedical engineering

#### **Nathan Mankowski**

Will attend Northwestern CT Community College to study mechanical engineering

#### **Cooper Mather**

Will attend the University of Alabama

#### **Wells Tanner**

Following a gap year, will attend Western Washington University

#### **Renee Zeffiro**

And congratulations to **Elijah Totzke**, who graduated a year early, in 2020

### From Northwest Regional 7 High School:

#### **Emily Munson**

Will attend Penn State University, with an interest in early childhood education

#### **Natalie Munson**

Will attend Northeastern University, with an interest in finance

### From Tunxis Community College:

#### **Julia Poleyestewa,**

Dec., 2020, Certificate with Distinction in Early Childhood Ed. Continuing her education at the Univ. of Hartford, in Elementary Ed. and Special Ed

#### **Anna Poleyestewa**

Associate degree with Highest Honors, in Psychology. Continuing her education at the University of St. Joseph

Director of Faith Formation  
Sarah Pradhan

## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

June 15, 2021

Dear Canton Center families and congregation,

First Church Canton Center welcomed me and my family into the congregation almost four years ago. Ever since the first conversation I had with one of your members in 2017, I have felt supported, appreciated, and valued. It with a lot of emotion that I share with you all that I have taken another position and will not be returning to work with your kids and congregation this fall.

We all know that God works in mysterious ways, and an opportunity happened to cross my path a few weeks ago. (I was not actively seeking any change.) This is an opportunity to work in my home church in Granby. This is the church where I was confirmed, where my parents have been long time members, and where Avery and Owen were baptized. After a time of reflection, I felt that the call to change jobs was too great to ignore. I will be starting in South Congregational Church in Granby in August.

Between now and August 1, I promise to help the Council, Reverend Brenda, and the CE Committee in any way possible. I can appreciate that filling my role will be a challenge, but my hope for Canton Center is that another person will feel the call to come on board.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the children, youth, and families over these last several years. I am grateful to have gotten to know so many of you on a personal level and will miss each one of you.

Blessings and Peace,

Sarah Pradhan



**PLEASE JOIN US ON JULY 25th,**

**for our morning service and a reception following,**

**as our congregation says thank you and good-bye to Sarah and her family.**



# JULY 2021

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|  |  |         |           | 1        | 2      | 3        |
| 4<br> <b>Worship &amp; Communion</b><br>9:30 am    | 5<br><br>ACA 7:00 pm                                 | 6       | 7         | 8        | 9      | 10       |
| 11<br><br><b>Worship</b><br>9:30 am  | 12<br><br><b>Trustees 7:00 pm</b><br><br>ACA 7:00 pm | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17       |
| 18<br><br><b>Worship 9:30 am</b><br><b>Lay Lead Service</b><br><b>Mission Mtg. 7:00 pm</b>   | 19<br><br>ACA 7:00 pm                                | 20      | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24       |
| 25 <b>Worship 9:30 am</b><br>(Food Collection)<br><b>Farewell for Sarah</b><br><br><b>Music Committee/<br/>Bell Choir 11:15 am</b> | 26<br><br>ACA 7:00 pm                                | 27      | 28        | 29       | 30     | 31       |

# AUGUST 2021

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday | Wednesday                                    | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---------|--|----------|--------|----------|
| 1<br><b>Worship 10 am at<br/>Canton Community<br/>Baptist Church</b>  | 2<br><br>ACA 7:00 pm                                | 3       | 4  | 5        | 6      | 7        |
| 8<br><b>Worship 10 am at<br/>Canton Community<br/>Baptist Church</b>  | 9<br><br><b>Trustees 7:00 pm</b><br><br>ACA 7:00 pm | 10      | 11   | 12       | 13     | 14       |
| 15<br><b>Worship 10 am at<br/>Canton Community<br/>Baptist Church</b> | 16<br><br>ACA 7:00 pm                               | 17      | 18<br><br><b>Council Meeting<br/>7:00 pm</b> | 19       | 20     | 21       |
| 22<br><b>Worship 10 am at<br/>Canton Community<br/>Baptist Church</b> | 23<br><br>ACA 7:00 pm                               | 24      | 25   | 26       | 27     | 28       |
| 29<br><b>Worship 10 am at<br/>Canton Community<br/>Baptist Church</b> | 30<br><br><b>Choir 5:00 pm</b><br><br>ACA 7:00 pm   | 31      | 30   |          |        |          |



The Churchmouse  
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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[www.cantoncenterchurch.org](http://www.cantoncenterchurch.org)

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