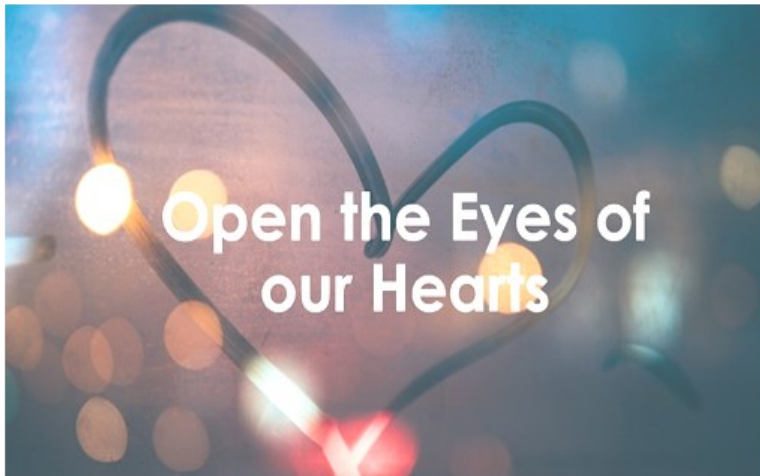




THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CANTON CENTER, CT

October 24, 2021 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost



THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133, Canton Center CT 06020-0133

Church Office 860-693-4581

E-mail: office@cantoncenterchurch.org

www.cantoncenterchurch.org

An Open and Affirming Church

*GATHERING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of love, we give thanks that you call us into community,
to share life in its blessing and challenge,
to share faith in its guidance and gifts,
to be the church together.

May the eyes of our hearts be awake today
to perceive the wisdom of Christ, who bids us come and follow.
In his name and spirit we pray, as we also say together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*SUNG RESPONSE

Bless God, O My Soul

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a sung response. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line, and the lyrics are written below it. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The lyrics are: "Bless God, O my soul! All with - in me bless God's name! Bless God, who was, and is, and shall ev - er be the same!"

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into membership this morning: Bruce Grigg, Tim and Kathleen Lundgren,
Carol Orlando, John Raye, and Kate St. Amand.

Words of Introduction

Remembering Our Mission

We gather as a welcoming community
in worship, learning, service and fellowship,
to embody Christ's message of love, compassion and justice.
Joining faith with action, both within and beyond our church,
we strive to build a community that serves all.

Questions of Commitment

Do you desire to affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Response: I do.

Do you promise to be, as far as you are able, a disciple of Christ, following in the way of the gospel, witnessing to it by a life of love and justice, resisting oppression and evil, embracing all God gives you for a faithful life in the world?

Response: I do.

Do you promise, with God's help, to seek to grow in your Christian faith, to take your place in the Church universal and in this particular congregation, participating in the life and mission, the joys and labors, of the Body of Christ?

Response: I do.

*Welcome

**We welcome you with joy into this community of faith,
as together we share the hopes and labors
of the church of Jesus Christ.**

**In the power of God's spirit,
may we support, encourage and strengthen each other,
building community, following Jesus, serving all.**

Grace, peace and welcome!

Prayer

Sung response *(seated) Blessed Be the Tie that Binds (adapted)*

*Blessed be the tie that binds / our hearts in Christian love;
the sharing of a common life / is like to that above.*

*Praise God for our fellowship here / praise God for the faith that we share,
praise God for all spirits that turn to the world / with love and peace and care.*

READING FROM SCRIPTURE Mark 10:46-52

SERMON *We Once Were Blind*

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Joys & Concerns, Pastoral Prayer

***HYMN** *Amazing Grace* Chalice (blue), 546

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Amen*

***POSTLUDE** *The Majesty and Glory of Your Name* Tom Fettke

We are pleased to welcome Christine Brodzik as our guest organist this morning. Christine teaches piano in her Barkhamsted studio, enjoys accompanying vocalists & instrumentalists, and playing/coaching chamber music. She has an M.M. degree from the New England Conservatory in Boston, and was formerly on the staff of the Nutmeg Conservatory.

WELCOME

We're glad you've joined us for worship today.
Please know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
Questions? Please feel free to ask the pastor, or call the church office during the week.

*The flowers this morning are given by the Missions & Outreach Committee
in loving memory of Carole Fisher.*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We extend our warmest welcome to those joining our church this morning:

Bruce Grigg, who lives in Canton, and is joining a church for the first time. His work is carpentry. Other interest include carving, guitar and reading.

Kathleen and Tim Lundgren, who live in Torrington. Kathleen is a special ed. paraeducator in Canton, and her interests include exercise, dance, cooking, music, theater, the arts, and travel. Tim is retired as an art teacher at Oliver Wolcott Tech. H.S. in Torrington, and his interests include oil painting, hiking, sailing, traveling, and walking his dog.

Carol Orlando, who lives in Canton with her husband Anthony (transitioning back to the area from Maryland). She has an accounting background, and retired a few years ago from the National Science Foundation, where she was an auditor and a cost analyst.

John Lester Raye, who lives in Canton with his wife Frances Trzcinski. He is a retired photographer, and also has an interest in history.

Kate St. Amand, who lives in Barkhamsted with her children, Hunter (11) and Declan (8). In addition to being a busy Mom, she is a dance choreographer.

COME HIKE WITH US! - Sunday, November 7th after church. We invite you on a family hike on the Mary Conklin trail up on Indian Hill, just a few minutes from the church. The trail does not have a lot of elevation and we will walk about two miles, noticing the beauty of the woods this time of year. Wear sturdy shoes, dress in layers and bring a hat and water. We will meet after church and carpool to the parking area off Indian Hill Road. Call Hollace Bristol with questions (928) 853-0311 or email hbristol@msn.com. Depending on the participation we may make hiking a regular church activity. Rain date: Sunday, November 14th.

THE ROAMING SCRIP LADY!

Scrip gift cards are still available for immediate purchase or order every week. Since we are not having a traditional coffee hour for the time being, there will not be a table set up on Sundays. Just look for Casey in church or reach out via phone (860-693-0134) or email (c.levine@comcast.net) to place an order. Thanks for your support!

MISSIONS COLLECTIONS

For October: coats, jackets, hats, mittens, gloves, etc. to donate to Gifts of Love. Please have clothes clean and in good condition. Also we will continue collections of **toiletries** for our Wellmore mission. Donations can be left in the Missions Box next to the kitchen door.

For November: non-perishable food items will be collected by the Missions and Outreach Committee and the CE Committee for the Canton Food Bank. **Brown bags and a list of food suggestions will be handed out on Sunday, 10/31 and on Sunday, 11/7.** Food items may be returned to the area under the stairs by the church office anytime before or on Sunday, 11/21. If you wish to deliver during the week call the church before coming as office hours are intermittent. Please check the dates on what you donate to make sure items are not expired. Thank you for taking the time to share with others who are not as fortunate.

For November: Grocery store gift cards to Stop & Shop, Shop Rite or Aldi are requested in order to purchase the necessary items for boxes that The Canton Social Services Department is putting for some Canton families, similar to what they did last year. **If you wish to purchase gift cards through our Scrip program please contact Casey Levine** at 860-371-1016 or c.levine@comcast.net. Aldi is not available through Scrip. Please indicate that the gift card/s are for the Thanksgiving boxes and have them in to the church office by Thursday, November 11th.

Donations are also being accepted in support of recently arrived refugees from Afghanistan.

They are being brought to the New Haven and Hartford areas by IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services) and placed in apartments in the area to start a new life here. To see a complete list of needs please go to irisct.org. To arrange for a furniture pick up of dressers, dining tables and chairs, side tables, small sofas and carpets please send photos to mariesmovers@yahoo.com or contact Gina Magennis at g.magennis76@gmail.com to arrange next group pickup in our area. First pickup is scheduled for November 2. Thank you!

Sunday 24	Monday 25	Tuesday 26	Wednesday 27	Thursday 28	Friday 29	Saturday 30
Worship 10 am New Members Join Food Collection	ACA 7:00 pm	Fall Book Discussion 7-8:30 pm AA 7:00 pm				AA 11:00 pm

