





*As of this writing, services are both in-person and live streamed, with coffee hours following Sunday services. Masks optional for the fully vaccinated, masks encouraged for the unvaccinated.*

- March 2**      **Ash Wednesday ~ Beginning of Lent**  
**4:00 p.m.**      Simple service in the sanctuary, in person & live streamed; ashes offered.
- March 6**      **First Sunday in Lent; Communion**
- March 13**      **Second Sunday in Lent**  
 Reflections on vocation: Kate St. Amand  
*Daylight Saving Time begins*
- March 20**      **Third Sunday in Lent**
- March 27**      **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

*Holy Week begins April 10 ~ Easter is April 17*

## Deacons' Bench

*Hugh Anderson*

Another week in the life of the church, and with it another "notice" of our annual meeting. Rules of order aside, perhaps "invitation" would be a better term, an invitation for what to me is a once a year celebration of all that we are as a church body and a community of faith. A reminder of the greatness that is brought to bear by our wonderful staff and our ever changing slate of committee members who together never fail to create a vibrant and spiritually fulfilling congregational life for us all. Time, talent and treasure indeed.

Whether you can make the meeting or not, I encourage you to take the time to read through the annual report. It's chock full of facts and figures but more importantly it's equally full of stories, testaments really, to all the great work we do for each other and for the overwhelming needs of our community and world.

I love our services and the opportunity to worship as one on Sunday mornings. And I love the connections that we make as we volunteer in ways small and big throughout the year. One cannot thrive without the other. For me it's the synergy between it all that truly defines the meaning of a congregation. It's a great feeling for one to get back more than is given.

As the bulletin says each week, every member is a minister. So a hearty thank you for all your ministries. My fellow deacons and I wish everyone a blessed Lenten season.

## CONVERSATIONS FOR LENT

**"I LOVE THE CHURCH, I HATE THE CHURCH"****Tues. March 22, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom****with the Rev. Dr. Robert LaRochelle**

Pastor Bob (who was guest preacher at our church last fall) will give a presentation from his new book by that title, and lead a conversation. The book is his reflection from many years of participation and ministry in more than one denomination (Roman Catholic, UCC, Lutheran) on both his love for the church and its mission and his frustration with what he sees as getting in the way of the church truly living out its purpose. It is not necessary to have read the book before this discussion, but if you wish to do so, it is available for purchase.

If you would like to participate, please sign up by contacting Rev. Brenda ([pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org)).

**Versions of the Last Supper:  
The Differing Stories in Scripture  
and What They Tell Us****Wed., March 30, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon*****Conversation facilitated by Rev. Brenda,  
in person, assuming conditions permit***

We'll look at the four Last Supper stories in the gospels, the origin of our Sacrament of Communion, and reflect on what they tell us about the earliest understandings of discipleship, table fellowship, and the developing Christian tradition.

Please sign up by contacting Rev. Brenda ([pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org)).

***If you are interested but cannot make the date, please let her know,  
especially if you would prefer an evening meeting time.***



## Musical Notes

Mary Lou Keefe, Director of Music

Once again this year I am looking for interested guest singers who are willing to make a short term commitment to sing on Palm Sunday and maybe even Easter. The Senior choir members are most welcoming and always make everyone feel at ease and at home. We are especially in need of sopranos but altos, tenors and basses are always welcome, too. The senior choir regularly rehearses on Monday evenings starting at 5:00. The special rehearsal for guest singers and choir members will start up on Feb. 28th at 5:45 and run until 6:30.

Special Thanks to the following;

Karen Needham who has played the chimes almost every Sunday for many months now and also has attended the zoom meetings of the Church Council every month as the 3rd year member and chair of the Music committee. She is also a member of the Sr. and handbell choirs and works with the youth on Sundays. She is one busy lady.

Thankfully, Kathleen Lundgren has agreed to be a member of the Music Committee in May and will serve a three year term.

My husband who transported the almost five octaves of handbells to the Malmark bell factory in Plumstedville, PA for refurbishing. They have since been picked up and are looking especially good and have been tuned, polished and refurbished, in other words The Works. I am looking forward to breaking them out at our first bell rehearsal. Our next venture will be to buy custom tablecloths and we have all agreed that cranberry is the best color.

All of the choir members especially for their loyalty through these strange times.



### CHURCH SCHOOL IS "ON" WHENEVER WE'RE IN-PERSON

When our in-person Sunday services resumed Feb. 13, so did church school!

Hollace Bristol & Karen Needham continue to plan creative, interactive learning experiences, related to the themes of our worship, for any children present.

Safety protocols are followed.



## MISSIONS & OUTREACH

### **BUY A MEAL—GIVE A MEAL, a joint activity of The Missions & Outreach Committee and Wider Church Fellowship**

Put the weekend of March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> on your calendar! It's your opportunity to have one of Craig McAllister's famous meals and to give that same meal to one of the clients of **Brian's Angels Homeless Outreach** Center in Bristol.

Six days a week, Brian's Angels clients are served a hot lunch provided by the community. They are also given sandwiches to take and eat later in the day. **Our congregation will be providing the meal and the sandwiches on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**You'll have the opportunity to purchase then pick up the same lunch after church on March 27<sup>th</sup>.** The cost will be \$10 per meal. Remember, that \$10 covers a meal for you and a meal for someone at Brian's Angels. **We're requesting that people sign up to buy a meal or meals by Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.** This will help us know how much food to make on Sunday. If there are extras, we will also sell those after church.

Menu: Chicken parmigiana, meatballs, spaghetti with sauce, and Craig's homemade Italian bread

Craig and the Missions Committee will need help to make, package, serve, and sell all this food. There will be opportunities on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to help cook and package the meals, make and package sandwiches, donate cookies or brownies, and serve the food at Brian's Angels, as well as making, packaging, and selling the meals on Sunday. What a great opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal, work together with other members of your church family, and provide a meal for someone in need. Signup sheets with specific tasks/times will be posted on the kitchen door. (All cooking will be done at the church.)

### **REQUESTING GIFT CARDS FOR WELLMORE THRU END OF MARCH**

In lieu of the Easter baskets we have provided in the past, we will be **collecting cards thru the end of March.** You can purchase them from Casey and she will get them to the Mission committee. This purchase also benefits our church. Walmart and Stop and Shop cards are a good choice. Wellmore provides social services to many families in Western Connecticut.



### **COLLECTING MONEY FOR HOLY JOE'S CAFÉ**

In 2006, members of The First Congregational Church in Wallingford started Holy Joe's Café to support chaplains in Iraq and Afghanistan by providing coffee to serve the troops. As stated on their website, "Holy Joe's Café has become a dynamic part of military Chaplains 24/7/365 service to the troops... In 70 countries throughout the world." In 2020, Coinstar estimated that the average household has \$113 in change around the house. Maybe you've turned in your change due to the coin shortage, but think about how much you spend on coffee at Dunkin or Starbucks. Maybe you can donate some of that money. Any amount helps support the chaplains and our troops.

**The Missions committee will have cups available for collecting loose change for Holy Joe's Café** to support chaplains in all parts of the world by providing coffee to serve the troops. We will have a large container in the church hall where the change can be emptied each week.



### **Do you know you can help support our church if you shop on Amazon?**

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to the charities selected by customers. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-6049075> on your web browser and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials and sign up to support our church with your purchases.

And remember to set smile.amazon.com as your bookmark.

*Thanks for supporting these important missions.*

***OUR MISSION STATEMENT***

*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.*

An Open & Affirming Congregation

**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING**

of the First Congregational Church, Canton Center, Connecticut, on Sunday, **March 6, 2022** at 10:45 a.m.  
OR on subsequent Sundays at 10:45 a.m. until a quorum is obtained.

AGENDA:

1. Call to order and opening prayer.
2. Reading of the call to the meeting.
3. Presentation of the Minutes from the previous meeting(s).
4. Receiving and accepting of the reports of the church officers, committee chairpersons, and staff.
5. Review Adjustments to 2022 Budget.
6. Any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, *Bev Sealand, Clerk*

**Super Saturday**

***"A Future With Hope: Relevant, Prophetic and Transformative"***

***An annual day of workshops for the congregations of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC***

Due to the increase in Covid cases, Super Saturday is now Virtual.

**Saturday, March 19, 2022 ~ 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM**  
**Registration Deadline: March 13, 2022**

Agenda: <https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/15280214/agenda>

**Registration** <https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/SSMarch2022>  
Please contact Andrea Bellarosa - [bellarosaa@sneucc.org](mailto:bellarosaa@sneucc.org) with any questions.

**God is still speaking !!!**

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Visit our website at [www.cantoncenterchurch.org](http://www.cantoncenterchurch.org)

Listen to recorded **Sermons and Music** from worship services!

Follow us on 

**IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER:**



Please tune to **WFSB Channel 3** or **NBC CT**  
or check the church web site at: [www.cantoncenterchurch.org](http://www.cantoncenterchurch.org).

# MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  AA 7:00 pm	2  + <b>ASH WEDNESDAY Service/Ashes 4:00 pm</b>	3  Handbell Choir 7pm	4	5  AA 11:00 p.m.
6  Worship & Communion 10:00 am  ANNUAL MEETING 10:45 a.m.	7  Sr. Choir 5 pm  ACA 7:00 pm	8  AA 7:00 pm	9  Deacons Zoom 7:00 pm	10  Handbell Choir 7pm	11	12  AA 11:00 p.m.
13  Missions Meeting 9:00 am  Worship 10:00 am	14  Sr. Choir 5 pm  Trustees 7:00 pm  ACA 7:00 pm	15  AA 7:00 pm	16  Council Zoom 7:00 pm	17  Handbell Choir 7pm	18	19  SNEUCC SUPER SATURDAY 9-3:30 pm  AA 11:00 p.m.
20  Worship 10:00 am	21  Sr. Choir 5 pm  ACA 7:00 pm	22  LENT CONVERSATIONS Zoom 7:00 pm	23	24  Handbell Choir 7pm	25	26  Serving Meals for Brian's Angels  AA 11:00 p.m.
27  Worship 10:00 am	28  Sr. Choir 5 pm  ACA 7:00 pm	29  AA 7:00 pm	30  LENT CONVERSATIONS 10:30-noon	31  Handbell Choir 7pm		



The Churchmouse  
The First Congregational Church  
(United Church of Christ)  
184 Cherry Brook Road  
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pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org

**Organist/Director of Music:**

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Mary Lou Keefe  
music@cantoncenterchurch.org

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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

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