



## SUNDAY WORSHIP

### WORSHIP IN MARCH

**Sunday services at 10:00 a.m., in person & live streamed**

*Masks optional at this time, and are available at church.*

*To watch a service live online, go to “Connect with Us” on our website homepage, then to “Livestream.” To watch a recorded service later, see archive of recorded services under “Connect with Us,” or go to YouTube.com and search “Canton Center Church. Sunday services are generally posted on our website on Mondays, and usually are available for viewing on YouTube by Sunday afternoons.*

- March 5    Second Sunday in Lent; Communion  
*Annual meeting follows the service*
- March 12    Third Sunday in Lent
- March 19    Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Reception of new members
- March 26    Fifth Sunday in Lent;  
Moment for Missions: Kendall Rees

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

### UPCOMING PROCESS FOR RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS IN MARCH

We look forward to receiving new members in our church on Sunday, March 19, with a preparatory/informational session to be held right after the service the prior week, March 12, with the pastor and Deacon representatives.

If you would like to join in March and have not already let the pastor know, please do so.

If you would like to attend the March 12 meeting to learn more, without obligation, you are most welcome.

### Shop Scrip and Help Families in Need!

As many of you know, the Scrip Program is an easy way to raise money for our church through the purchase of gift cards. Our 3 most popular cards for the last few years have been for Stop & Shop, ShopRite and Dunkin. Why not buy a gift card to pay for things you need anyway instead of using cash at the store?



For the month of March, the Missions committee will be collecting Target and Walmart gift cards for Wellmore. If you purchase the cards through Scrip, you can help our church while also helping these families in need. It's a win-win! The most requested denominations are \$25's and \$10's, so they can be dispersed among their clients. I'll be selling / collecting the cards throughout the whole month during coffee hour and will deliver to the Missions committee at the end of the month, so they can be delivered all together in time for Easter. If you are not in church, but still want to help out, just email or call me to place your order ([c.levine@comcast.net](mailto:c.levine@comcast.net) or (860)693-0134).

Thanks for your support!

Casey

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

*A Bible Study for Lent at Canton Center Church***PARABLE SUBVERTS WORLD:  
How the Parables of Jesus Aim to Upend our Thinking****Tues., Mar. 7, 1:00 p.m. OR Wed., Mar. 8, 7:00 p.m.**

New Testament scholar John Dominic Crossan says that within Biblical literature, there are the broad types of *myth* and *parable*, and that “Myth establishes world, parable subverts world.” While Biblical texts that take the form of myth aim to tell us what the world is like, those that take the form of parable aim to turn upside down how we typically see that same world, in the service of some essential spiritual wisdom. Since Jesus teaches so largely in parables, what can we learn by encountering them as challenges to our ordinary way of seeing things? We’ll look at a few of them together, in conversation.

**Please sign up by letting Rev. Brenda know of your interest:  
[pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org), or 860-693-4581.**

*A Faith Conversation for Lent at Canton Center Church***WHEN GOD FALLS OFF THE CEILING****Wed., Mar. 22, 7 p.m. OR Thurs., Mar. 23, 10:30 a.m.**

In a 2020 book called *Saving God from Religion*, UCC pastor, teacher and writer Robin Meyers tells about a dream he had where Michelangelo’s famous painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the one where God’s and Adam’s outstretched hands reach toward each other but don’t quite touch, falls to the floor and shatters. He uses this as a metaphor for thinking about how traditional images and understandings of God have likewise come crashing down for so much of the modern world, giving organized religion “a God crisis” and leaving us in need of new ways of relating to the sacred and each other. We’ll read one chapter of the book (will be made available as a handout) as a prompt for our conversation together about our own thinking/re-thinking of traditional concepts of God.

**Please sign up by letting Rev. Brenda know of your interest, and to receive the handout: [pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org), or 860-693-4581.**

**LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION AT NORTH CHURCH, NEW HARTFORD: March 8, afternoon**

Our congregation has been invited to join a book discussion at North Congregational Church, New Hartford. The book is *Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*, by Max Lucado.

If you’re interested in participating, please contact their church office at [northchurchucc@hotmail.com](mailto:northchurchucc@hotmail.com) for more information and/or to RSVP.

## Deacons' Bench

Kristin Oswald

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

**What does LENT mean to me?**

I didn't think too much about the Lenten period of the Easter season until Reverend Rushan Sinnaduray was our preacher and introduced different ways of reflection during this most important part of the church calendar year. It was Reverend Rushan's interpretation of the Lenten season with his introduction of music he called Lenten Vespers with each Sunday full of beautiful biblical verse intertwined with worldwide music created by many instruments and talented musicians. Those who attended the 4 pm service each of the four Sundays was in for a treat of scripture, meditation, reflective fellowship and soothing, beautiful music from all instrumental genres from jembe drums, flute, guitar, piano and gorgeous human vocals. This experience transformed my practice of Lent from non-existent to a more spiritual, introspective experience.

This is a month or more that we have an opportunity to think about our own deserts and how to navigate the dry land through drought with all of its challenges so that we can come out the other side as Jesus did.

Lent is a time to create intentional quiet moments to contemplate our inner challenges and set the path for solutions and success. Jesus was challenged and tempted and yet persevered for all of us so that we can thrive.

What a most important time of the church year to reflect on hardships and calculate how to move on. Try to make time to make time and space for this valuable Lenten experience.

**Parish Care Team – Volunteers Needed**

The Diaconate is reinvigorating the Parish Care Ministry to offer help to our pastor with church member assistance. We want to offer help to church members who are in need of help. This need may be for companionship, transportation for medical treatment or appointments or for hospital/nursing/rehabilitation visits. There is a sub-committee already on-hand for food delivery assistance led by Linda McAllister, and we welcome other volunteers as we build our support team for our church family. Please contact Kristin Oswald at 860-690-7129 if you would like to help with this faith-based care effort. Thank you.

**MISSIONS & OUTREACH**

The Missions and Outreach Committee is working with the Canton Social Services Department to benefit the Canton Food Bank in a

**Clean Sweep Cleaning Supplies Drive**

*Dish detergent, dishwasher detergent, laundry detergent, all purpose cleaners and sponges*

will be collected now through March 23rd in the Missions Collection Box.

Thank you!

*Craig & Linda preparing for our successful Italian Buffet on February 29th*



## From the President

Marianne Burbank

In light of the knowledge that Reverend Brenda is getting ready to follow a new path in her journey at the end of April of this year, I have no doubt that you are wondering about our church's next steps. Thus, I would like to touch base with all of you, regarding the UCC's Search and Call Journey and where we are in that process. It is very early but having said that, we have certainly gotten it off the ground, and that includes quick work by the Diaconate to line up Supply (substitute) Ministers for May, June and July. They have done so because it is quite probable that we will not have an Interim Minister in place at that time. We would, in fact, be very lucky to have one by then. It appears, though, that there will be some consistency during those months, which is a real blessing!

We are now beginning Phase I: Ending Ministry Well. This includes planning a Good Goodbye for Rev. Brenda. There will be a Service of Release and a Celebration on Sunday, April 30th. Our Southern New England Area Conference Minister, the Reverend Isaac Lawson will be attending and taking part in this service. The Celebration will be planned and organized by the Diaconate, Faith Formation, and Wider Church. Put the date on your calendars if you have not already!

Another important part of Phase I is for the Interim Search Committee to have an Exit Interview with Rev. Brenda to share our learnings, blessings, and challenges together. This helps provide closure and can help us in creating our profile and in our search. Phase I also includes the creation by the Council of said Interim Search Committee. This has been done. This committee includes our first vice president/president to be, Grant Hagedorn, our second vice president/first vice president to be, Anne Ziemba, our chair of Trustees, Phil LeGeyt, one of our senior deacons to be, Bev Sealand, and myself, the outgoing president. We have had an initial constructive and informative meeting with Rev. Isaac, laying the groundwork for our work. We are now beginning the process of creating our Church Profile and considering compensation for an Interim Minister, with the help of the UCC Search and Call guidelines as well as the overall needs of our church.

When our Church Profile is complete, the Committee will submit it to Rev. Isaac for approval. When approved it will be sent by him to the Search and Call Program Associate, Jill Ford, who will then post it to the National UCC Opportunities Listing page. Candidates then interested in having their profiles sent to our church will contact Jill who will forward them to us. Then the interviewing process begins. Based upon the information we have been given, we anticipate it will be at least September before we might have an Interim in place and it could be considerably longer. At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 5th, we will have more information for you about the different types of Interims that exist. We will seek congregational input around that, at that time and in the following couple of weeks. We hope to see you then!

Blessings,  
Marianne Burbank

***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 5, 2023** 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. Presentation, discussion and vote on bylaws amendment #15 - Article VII, entitled Church Council, Section A, after the phrase "one representative from each of the following boards and committees:", the following shall be inserted: "the Nominating Committee".
6. Any other business proper to come before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bev Sealand, Clerk



**Our Deepest Sympathy**

*Our sympathies are extended to the family and friends of:*

Margaret Colavecchio,  
*who passed away on*  
*January 17, 2023*



**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 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  <b>Deacons</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	2  Cub Scouts 6:30 - 8 pm Handbell Choir 5:30 pm	3	4  AA 11:00 p.m.
5  <b>Worship &amp; Communion</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> <b>10:45 am</b>	6  Sr. Choir 5 pm ACA 7:00 pm	7  <b>Bible Study</b> <b>1:00 pm</b>  AA 7:00 pm	8  <b>Bible Study</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	9  Handbell Choir 5:30 pm	10	11  AA 11:00 p.m.
12  <b>Worship</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  <b>New Member Meeting</b> <b>11:15 am</b>	13  Sr. Choir 5 pm  <b>Trustees</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>  ACA 7:00 pm	14  AA 7:00 pm	15  <b>Council</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	16  Handbell Choir 5:30 pm	17	18  AA 11:00 p.m.
19  <b>Worship</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  <b>Reception of New Members</b>	20  Sr. Choir 5 pm  ACA 7:00 pm	21  AA 7:00 pm	22  <b>Faith Conversation</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	23  <b>Faith Conversation</b> <b>10:30 am</b>  Handbell Choir 5:30 pm	24	25  AA 11:00 p.m.
26  <b>Worship</b> <b>10:00 am</b>  <i>Fourth Sunday</i> <i>Food Collection</i>	27  Sr. Choir 5 pm  ACA 7:00 pm	28  AA 7:00 pm	29	30  Cub Scouts 6:30 - 8 pm Handbell Choir 5:30 pm	31	



The Churchmouse  
The First Congregational Church  
(United Church of Christ)  
184 Cherry Brook Road  
P O Box 133  
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**Pastor**

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Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka  
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**Organist/Director of Music:**

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Mary Lou Keefe  
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*We're on the Web!*

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