

THE CHURCHMOUSE

Newsletter of The First Congregational Church, Canton Center, CT

July/August 2023

Deacon's Bench

Cora Mutch

As the newest deacons, Phil Doyle and I, are learning the way and remembering the old ways, too. We are learning to speak with the supply pastor for our Sundays that we are duty deacons, check the phone messages over the weekends, make sure the hymn numbers, candles and microphones are out and ready to go to name a few. One of the old items we are getting back to now that COVID protocols are done is to remember the high school graduates in a worship service.

On Sunday, June 18th we congratulated Josh Levine and Julia Baldwin as recent Canton High School graduates (and former Kindergarten students of mine!) Josh was able to be at our service but Julia was out of the state at a family wedding.

The deacons have the tradition of giving a bag of items as a remembrance of their time growing up in our Sunday School and church. The graduates receive a letter and a bag of items and the list and reason why each was in the bag. We presented Josh and did a show and tell (a K term!) of the items.

Here is the list and the explanation of the items:

The Bag: Remember your childhood and all who were a part of it. Note the **netting** - it's light and a bit frivolous. Inconsequential and yet strong: it can support many times its own weight. You can, too. You are stronger than you know.

Space: There's a saying that if you want something in your life, you have to make room for it. Find what energizes you and makes you come alive, whatever that is, and be sure there is space for it in your life: friendship, music, education, subjects for which you discover a deep passion, a vacation that calls your name. Think of this as God's voice stirring in you. That's what the space in your bag is for.

An envelope addressed to the church: Inside it is a **change-of-address card** you could use to let us know where you are, and a **prayer request card** that you can send to us whenever you want to, so we can lift up your joys or concerns. (Or you may email us this info, anytime.)

Pencil: Always work hard to keep your mind and body "sharp." You've been blessed with gifts and talents, some of which you haven't yet discovered. Now it the time to sharpen them and use them to make a positive impact not he world.

Eraser: You will mess up from time to time, like all of us, and that's okay, Just know that God will love you through all of life's snags. Use an eraser to make amends, learn from your mistakes, and move on.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Continued

Pipe cleaner: Play, be creative, be flexible! If you don't like the way your life is taking shape, remember that you can do something to change its shape.

Granola bar: Take care of yourself as you journey, feed your body and spirit well. Never forget that you are a child of God.

Touch-screen wipes: Just as with the eraser, if you're not getting the desired responses, if life sometimes seems blurred, try cleaning things up from your side.

Paper umbrella: Have fun, enjoy your travels and fellow travelers! Being a Christian isn't all serious stuff. Remember to live joyfully in the world God has created for you.

Hershey kisses: At your baptism, your church family promised to love you and raise you in Christian love. This is a reminder of that deep affection that will continue throughout your life.

Cherry Brook rock: Remember your spiritual home and the foundation of your Christian faith. Just as this rock (taken from the brook behind the church) was shaped, in part, by the water flowing over and around it, so the Living Water of baptism has helped to shape you. May you continue to be refreshed all along the way.

Candle: This candle was used in a Christmas Eve Candlelight service at our church. Know that God's light will guide your way, but you'll also need to reach out and respond to it. But it's always there, and some consciousness on your part can rekindle it, because God's love for you never, ever goes out!

Sand: This bit of sand is from the desert box of Godly Play, which may have been an important part of your church school learning. In the stories of the Bible, a desert is usually a place of wandering and testing, a place where the people of God learn to rely on God as they encounter challenges. On a beach, sand mixed with water can be molded into a thousand creative shapes. May you find all the creativity you will need along your way, trusting God, to meet the challenges that will come.

As the deacons of the church, we hope that the graduates will let God continue to show His love and guidance in seen and unseen ways and wish them the best for their future!

***Josh Levine** will be attending the University of Rhode Island, majoring in exercise science/kinesiology.*

***Julia Baldwin** will be attending the University of New England in Maine. She will study Medical Biology/Pre Physician's Assistant. She is also thrilled to have earned a spot on the women's lacrosse team and will be playing defense for them next year.*





Worship in JULY

Services at 10 a.m.

Joining us for the month of July will be the congregation of the Canton Community Baptist Church.

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|---------|--|
| July 2 | Fifth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Ali Hager</i> |
| July 9 | Sixth Sunday after Pentecost; Communion <i>Rev. Linda Huff</i> |
| July 16 | Seventh Sunday after Pentecost <i>Rev. David Figliuzzi</i> |
| July 23 | Eighth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Rev. Dr. Robert LaRochelle</i> |
| July 30 | Ninth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Rev. Dr. Robert LaRochelle</i> |

Worship in AUGUST

*Services at 10 a.m. at the Canton Community Baptist Church,
125 Dowd Ave., Canton.*

Those who wish to participate in the August services online rather than in person (via Zoom) may get the Zoom link from the church's website, www.CantonCommunityBaptist.com.

To get the bulletin online, go to the CCBC Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111441395567215>

Faith Formation News

Hollace Bristol, Director of Faith Formation

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

It is traditional for our church to publicly recognize members of our congregation as they graduate from high school. This past Sunday the deacons recognized Josh Levine with a moving ceremony that is described elsewhere in this edition of the *Churchmouse*. Within that ceremony elements of faith formation are identified and represented by small everyday objects presented to the graduate in a gift bag. Each element is foundational to the development of a worldview that supports and nurtures one's living in relationship to our Creator God. This worldview is the lens through which we see, experience, and understand our environment, the cosmos, and events around us, and is inherent in every choice, action, and relationship. One's worldview develops over time, continually being molded by our exposure to and experience in the world.

In the Canton Center Church, faith formation happens in every event, in every relationship, in every class experience, with every smile, every handshake, every hug, every prayer, every sermon. It happens across generations and within community gatherings. At the recent Strawberry Festival, church members of all ages, from 9 to 90+, worked together to create an event of love and celebration of community and the abundance we share. This was no small undertaking. It took dozens of volunteers to make it happen. This kind of event affirms our trust in one another and exemplifies what is possible when we combine our talents and our willingness. This is faith formation in action! This is the stuff that shapes our worldview and orients us toward the miraculous and the life-giving power of God. This is what *church* is about!

Happy Summer, everyone! We hope to see you on Gathering Sunday, September 10th, 2023.

A Note from the President...

Grant Hagendorn

We have completed 2 months since Reverend Brenda left.

The Church is doing well thanks to all the members of the Church making it work.

We had a very successful Strawberry Festival, thanks to Donna and a lot of volunteers who worked very hard.

We have supply pastors aligned for the next several months, thanks to the Diaconate.

Our interim search is continuing throughout the summer, we have had 3 candidates withdraw and have an interview with another candidate next week.

Kristen in the office is doing a fantastic job, with extra responsibilities and an empty office next to her. If you have a chance to talk with her, tell her thanks.

Please remember that if you need anything to reach out through the church office, Kristen will then send the email to the correct person. Office @CantonCenterChurch.org

Music Notes

Mary Lou Keefe, Director of Music

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Both the Senior and Handbell Choir members are officially on vacation from rehearsals until the fall. A Sincere thank you to each and every member as well as the guest singers and ringers and the instrumentalists. Starting on the last Sunday of June we start up the Summer Soloist Series which continues through July, with August an Ecumenical month with services at the Baptist Church.

Members of the Senior Choir as well as guest singers recently participated in the memorial service for Jan and Dick Anderson with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah as well as What a Wonderful World accompanied on piano with Scott Neumann on guitar and Rose Minichiello on Sax. These were special requests by the family.

I recently had a surprise email from Linda Ripley, a former member of the sr. choir who wanted me to accompany her on two songs that she would be singing for the Wilson memorial service. Linda now resides in Guilford and Florida with her husband Ken. It was great to work with her again.

The Senior choir has been asked to sing How Great Thou Art for Muriel LeGeyt's Memorial service in July.

The following is the schedule for the Summer Soloist Series:

- June 25** Jerry Alonzy will be singing The Holy City by Stephen Adams
- July 2** Judy Robinson and MLK will be singing the Pie Jesu duet from Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem
- July 9** Jim Todd will be singing Just Over in the Glory Land by Acuff/Dean
- July 16** Jerry Alonzy and Judy Robinson will be singing the duet The Prayer by Carole Sager and David Foster
- July 23** Cindy Webb will be playing the flute for Ave Verum by W. A. Mozart
- July 30** is open if anyone is interested in singing or playing an instrument

Senior Choir
rehearsals
will start up on
August 28th
at 5:00.



Handbell Choir
rehearsals
will start up on
Sept 14th
at 5:30

FELLOWSHIP/INREACH MINISTRY



STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL has come and gone, and the members of the church did an amazing job! The beautiful berries were native berries from Dzen Brothers, Inc. of South Windsor. Thank you to Curt Johnson who delivered the berries on Saturday afternoon. A big thank you goes out to our bakers whose generosity made it possible for the festival to take place. We had an amazing crew of members who were ready to hull the berries after church.

Thank you to Rebecca Glinsman, who went above and beyond for coffee hour which included sandwich fixings and a Father's Day cake. Many of the workers had a bite to eat before going downstairs to hull, wash and mash the berries. The workers at all stations were enthusiastic and enjoyed the fellowship of the event. Thank you to all who served in any capacity including purchasing tickets. Thank you to our four cooks who grilled outside on a hot day. Thanks to the many hands that assisted with setting up the hall through taking down and putting away the tables and chairs. Thank you to Kristen DiMattia for technical support.

Thanks to all for a very successful Strawberry Festival!

Donna and Charlie Hammond





Scrip Your Summer

Happy Summer!

The Scrip table will be open during coffee hour all through the month of July, as usual.

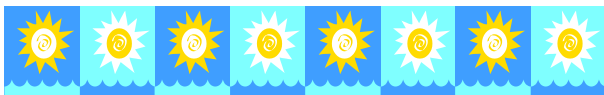
If you'd like to make a purchase in August, I'm just a phone call or an email away. Of course, you can always call or email me any time of year to place an order (860-693-0134 or c.levine@comcast.net). You can also order on www.raiseright.com or via the RaiseRight mobile app. You will need our church's unique enrollment code to place an order electronically, so just reach out to me for that. I'm happy to deliver cards to your home or you can come to me.

Scrip gift cards are perfect for Summer travel or staycations. We have offerings for gas stations, airlines, hotels and restaurants all over the country. If you're staying close, think about Target, Walmart or Amazon as good cards to have on hand for last minute needs. Of course, grocery stores remain our most popular cards. Stop and Shop and ShopRite are our local ones, but we also have Safeway, Publix, Giant Eagle and Albertson's... just to name a few that you might want if you are traveling out of state. Just about anywhere you might go around the country, we have Scrip cards you can use while you are there.

The ways you can use Scrip gift cards are only limited by your imagination! And don't forget that every card you purchase – big or small – earns money for our church.

Have a wonderful Summer and thanks for your support!

Casey



MISSIONS & OUTREACH



SCHOOL SUPPLY & BACKPACK COLLECTION


The July Missions Box collection will be **backpacks and school supplies for the children served by Wellmore.**

Some of the suggested items for donation are **pencils, pens, markers (non-permanent), colored pencils, crayons, binders, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, colorful folders & pocket folders, glue sticks, blunt scissors, tape, rulers...** Any supplies a child would need to have a good start and be successful in school.



Thank you to Nancy Alford for tending to the plantings and urns in front of our church and handling the scheduling of our Sunday flower donors.

JULY 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|-----------|---|--------|-------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 AA 11:00 p.m. |
| 2 Worship 10:00 am | 3 Al-Anon/ACA 7:00 pm | 4  AA 7:00 pm | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 AA 11:00 p.m. |
| 9 Worship & Communion 10:00 am | 10 Trustees 7 pm Al-Anon/ACA 7:00 pm | 11 AA 7:00 pm | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 AA 11:00 p.m. |
| 16 Worship 10:00 am | 17 Al-Anon/ACA 7:00 pm | 18 AA 7:00 pm | 19 | 20 Celebration of Life for <i>Muriel LeGeyt</i> 11:00 a.m. & Reception | 21 | 22 AA 11:00 p.m. |
| 23 Worship 10:00 am <i>Fourth Sunday Food Collection</i> | 24 Al-Anon/ACA 7:00 pm | 25 AA 7:00 pm | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 AA 11:00 p.m. |
| 30 Worship 10:00 am | 31 Al-Anon/ACA 7:00 pm | | | | | |

AUGUST 2023

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



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We are on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.cantoncenterchurch.org
