

THE CHURCHMOUSE

Newsletter of The First Congregational Church, Canton Center, CT

September 2023

Deacons' Bench

Bev Sealand, Deacon

Grow and Transform into the Future

Hello Everyone!

I hope you have all been enjoying a relaxing summer and are getting ready to transition into the fall, which is actually my favorite time of the year. I love it when there's a crispness in the air! Retiring to Florida is not something I would ever envision in my future!

The past four months have been a time of transformation for our congregation. We are now on the cusp of beginning a new chapter with our new interim minister, Rev. Kurt Satherlie. Kurt's first Sunday with us will also be Gathering Sunday, September 10th. As has been the case this spring/summer, we will celebrate Communion on the second Sunday in September, but will plan to return to our traditional first Sunday beginning in October. We have also had several requests to bring back one other part of our Sunday worship after a pandemic initiated hiatus – we will again be collecting the offering during the choir's offertory, starting on the 10th.

On the 10th we will celebrate the beginning of a new program year, and the start of our interim ministry with Rev. Kurt. He comes to us from a small church in Jamestown, Rhode Island. Rev. Kurt grew up in the Norfolk area and attended the Norfolk UCC church when Rev. Bruce Anderson was serving as their settled pastor, after Bruce left the Collinsville Congregational Church many years ago. Rev. Kurt and his family have recently relocated back to Colebrook, CT. One other connection Rev. Kurt has directly with our church is that he is the nephew of our dear Peggy Young and the late Earle Young. What a small world it is!!!



The Diaconate will be working closely with Rev. Kurt to help him acclimate to our worship services and our congregation. Part of the function of an interim minister is to help us discern who we are as a church, who do we want to be, and how do we grow and transform to prepare us for the future with a new settled pastor. We will be working with Rev. Kurt throughout his time with us to help with this process as much as we can. The Church Council will need to establish a Search Committee to work on finding a new settled pastor. Look for more communications on this process this fall.

Please plan to join us on Gathering Sunday to reconnect with old friends you haven't seen all summer (or maybe longer) and get to meet new friends, especially Rev. Kurt.

Blessing and Peace,
Bev

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Worship SCHEDULE

All Sunday services at 10:00 a.m., in person and live streamed.

To watch a service live, go to the church website and click on the icon on the homepage.

To view a service later, see under "Connect with Us" on our website (Sunday services usually posted there on Mondays), or go to YouTube.com and search "Canton Center Church" (Sunday a.m. service usually available there by Sunday afternoon).

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| Sept. 3 | Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost |
| Sept. 10 | GATHERING SUNDAY; Communion
<i>With our new interim pastor, opening of a new church year.
Intergenerational participation in worship, church school begins.
Pizza lunch following the service.</i> |
| Sept. 17 | Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost |
| Sept 24 | Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost |

Music Notes

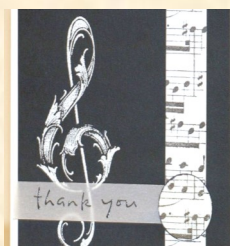
Mary Lou Keefe, Director of Music

Senior Choir

The Senior Choir
resumes on
August 28 at 5:00 p.m.

Bell Choir

The Bell Choir
resumes on
September 14 at 5:30 p.m.



*Special thanks to music committee members
Donna and Kathleen who have helped to catalog the
massive amounts of music we possess for insurance purposes.*

Christian Education News

Hollace Bristol, Director of Faith Formation

If you have been reading the weekly emails that Kristen has been sending out, you have probably noticed that Karen and I are busy planning for this upcoming program year for Church School. We will welcome our young participants back on **Gathering Sunday, September 10th**, and will celebrate the return of the program year with a pizza picnic lunch after the service.



We have chosen the theme of “kindness” for the Church School program this year and will introduce the theme with an intergenerational activity incorporated into the service. The School House will be open and there will be opportunities for those interested to pull the rope that rings the bell. We will be using the School House for Church School when the Sunday weather is warm enough.

Throughout the program year we will be planning after-church family-oriented hikes, special events for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter (including our Lenten pretzel making) and Earth Day, incorporating our theme of “kindness” throughout them all, fostering the understanding that kindness can be represented by simple acts, and by orienting our thinking throughout our daily activities and relationships.

We are excited to share our ever-evolving ideas with you! We hope you will join us.

If you are so inclined, we invite you to contribute to our Gathering Sunday luncheon with a salad, side dish or dessert.

Thank you for your kindness!!

“GATHERING SUNDAY” SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

We’ll celebrate our traditional Gathering Sunday with an intergenerational service, first Sunday of church school, and welcome back the choir with our new Interim, Pastor Kurt.

Join us for a pizza luncheon, activities for the children, and an open schoolhouse with opportunities for pulling the rope to ring the bell.

We invite you to bring a salad, side dish or dessert to add to our pizza luncheon.

A Note from the President...

Grant Hagedorn

It is hard to believe that summer is leaving us and we are transitioning to fall. Gathering Sunday is September 10 and I am looking forward to that.

We have hired a new Interim, Pastor Kurt Satherlie from Colebrook, his first day in the office is September 5th.

All of you should have received a letter from me introducing Pastor Kurt.

The Deacons Bench in this edition also has more information on the front page.

My thanks to the Interim Church Search Committee for all the hard work over the summer to help me make this happen:

Ann Ziemba
Phil LeGeyt
Hugh Anderson
Bev Sealand

As we move into the fall we will be forming a Settled Pastor Search Committee and we will need members to volunteer. Please give this some thought, it is an important time for the Church and will require time and effort by the committee.

"Our Church Gardens"

From Art Mauger

Some vegetables from our garden plots ready to send off to the Canton Food Bank!



Thank you to our gardeners this year:
Anne Ziemba and Jim Magennis.



Missions & Outreach

Martha Stansel

Moment for Missions:

Brian's Angels was founded by Pat Stebbins in memory of her son, Brian Pinz. Brian died on March 10, 1998, two weeks before his 25th birthday, after having a period of homelessness. Brian's Angels helps hundreds of homeless and under-served people in Bristol. All of their clients suffer from food insufficiency and to combat this, Brian's Angels provides lunch six days a week as well as snack bags with food items that have been graciously donated.

They work tirelessly all year round to provide food, clothing, and shelter opportunities as well as toiletry kits and a place to shower to those in need. Support from passionate volunteers and the City of Bristol and the wider community help keep them going.

Our congregation has supported Brian's Angels by making sandwiches and hot meals as well as various collections. Proceeds from our Cake Auction as well as the Buy a Meal Give a Meal lunch last year help to support these efforts to feed the homeless.

We hope to have a representative from Brian's Angels present a Moment for Missions in September. Watch the weekly reminder for updates.



Missions Box:

The **September Missions Box collection** will be food items to fill the snack bags for Brian's Angels. Possible items include tuna pouches, Chef Boyardee, pop-tarts, individually wrapped snack crackers, fruit cups, pudding cups, or any other individually wrapped and non-perishable foods.

Sandwich Making for Brian's Angels

We will gather at 11 on Friday, September 15th, to make sandwiches. A sign-up sheet will be located on the kitchen door.

Thank you

Thank you for your generous donations of backpacks and school supplies for the children served by Wellmore. Thanks to you, many children will have the supplies to have a good start and be successful in school.

Welcome Back to Fundraising While You Shop!

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Church and school are back in session and so is scrip! Beginning September 3rd, you'll find the scrip table open in the Parish Hall every Sunday during coffee hour. Stop by to see what gift cards we have available for immediate purchase, for ordering to pick up the following week, or to just find out more about our program.

If you don't know about scrip yet, I'm not doing my job very well! It's a fundraising program our church has been participating in for over 7 years! Church members can purchase gift cards for over 700 retailers. You pay face value, but the church buys them for less, thus the fundraising! Every time you buy a card through us, you're raising money for our church! You can order in person, online or through the RaiseRight app.

In order to continue and grow on our success, we need more shoppers! You don't have to make a purchase every week, or even every month. Give it a try if you haven't yet – every single purchase helps! While most people think of buying gift cards for presents, you can also just buy them for yourself to use in place of cash or credit at local grocery stores, restaurants and department stores. If you're spending the money anyway, why not help our church in the process? We'd also love to have more people to help run the table during coffee hour. Even if you can only commit to once a month or less it would help a lot. See Casey if you can lend a hand.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone soon! Keep scripping! *Casey Levine*

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 and Affirming Church



Our Deepest Sympathy

Our sympathies are extended to the families and friends of:

Muriel LeGeyt
who passed away on
April 18, 2023

Philip Worley
who passed away on
June 30, 2023

Bill Thomas
who passed away
July 7, 2023

Ruth Cannon
who passed away
July 8, 2023

and

Kenneth King
who passed away
August 17, 2023



We are reaching out for volunteers who would be interested in repairing the chipped paint in the sanctuary.

Please contact: Jim Magennis 860-841-0375



Please consider hosting Coffee Hour one Sunday!

The coffee is provided... you can make it a family activity... all you need to bring is a quart of milk. Snacks are optional.

We thank our committees, who fill in on a monthly rotation for any Sundays when we don't have individuals or families hosting coffee hours. Our goal is not to have to tap our committees regularly for our hospitality function. Sunday coffee hours matter to all of us! Please use the sign-up sheet to take a Sunday. Thank you!

God is still speaking !!!


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Visit our website at www.cantoncenterchurch.org

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

Follow us on 

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 AA 11:00 p.m.
3 Worship 10:00 am	4  ACA 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm	5 AA 7:00 pm	6 Diaconate 7:00 pm zoom	7	8 <i>Celebration of Life 4:00 p.m. (Bill Thomas)</i>	9 AA 11:00 p.m.
10 Worship & Communion 10:00 am "Gathering Sunday"	11 Choir 5:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm ACA 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm	12 Council 6:00 pm	13	14 Bell Choir 5:30 pm	15	16 AA 11:00 p.m.
17 Worship 10:00 am	18 Choir 5:00 pm ACA 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm	19 AA 7:00 pm	20	21 Bell Choir 5:30 pm	22	23 <i>Celebration of Life 11:00 a.m. (Ruth Cannon)</i>
24 Worship 10:00 am <i>Fourth Sunday Food Collection</i>	25 Choir 5:00 pm ACA 7:00 pm Al-Anon 7:00 pm	26 AA 7:00 pm	27	28 Bell Choir 5:30 pm	29	30 AA 11:00 p.m.



The First Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)
184 Cherry Brook Road
P O Box 133
Canton Center, CT 06020-0133



Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

The First Congregational Church
184 Cherry Brook Road, PO Box 133
Canton Center, CT 06020-0133
Cantoncenterchurch.org

Interim Pastor

860-693-4207

Pastor Kurt Satherlie

pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org

Office

(860)693-4581

Kristen DiMattia, Office Manager

office@cantoncenterchurch.org

Mon.- Fri. 8:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Organist/Director of Music:

(860)693-4216

Mary Lou Keefe

music@cantoncenterchurch.org

Director of Faith Formation:

Hollace Bristol

CE@cantoncenterchurch.org

Assistant Director of Faith Formation:

Karen Needham

CE@cantoncenterchurch.org

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.