

# THE CHURCHMOUSE

Newsletter of The First Congregational Church, Canton Center, CT

June 2024



*Message from the pastor...*

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

*~Matthew 11:28-29*

Dear Canton Church Family,

June officially ushers in our season of summer (June 20th). June unofficially is considered by many to be the start of slowing down, getting outside into the warm (sometimes too warm for some of us 😊) and triggers for many people to initiate the three R's: Rest, Relaxation and Recreation. Matthew's Gospel reminds us that true rest comes from finding solace in our faith. As we seek rejuvenation this summer, let us consider how the church community can be a source of peace and renewal.

Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us, *and let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **not giving up meeting together** 😊, as some are in the habit of doing 😊, but encouraging one another.* Beyond Sundays, how can we create more opportunities for church members to build genuine relationships with each other? Could we explore ways for members to connect based on shared interests, like starting small groups for hobbies or book discussions? We are building connections outside the church and summer may allow us to have more time in fostering a stronger sense of community. We have the annual Strawberry festival on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Have you signed up to help? On that day a few parishioners will set up on the front lawn a couple cornhole games, a nice added attraction and fun time. On June 26, FOCUS Center for Autism will hold a panel discussion in our church Parish Hall as we invite our neighbors to join us. This is the start of reaching out to those in our community and neighboring towns who work with people with intellectual disabilities. Please support our church in attending and welcoming our neighbors.

A few other thoughts...how about connecting experienced members with newcomers in our church for guidance and support or working on service projects in our community that can build camaraderie and shared purpose. We have been asked during the month of June to volunteer a few hours to paint the Canton Senior Center. I have four members signed up and five with me joining them. These are the connections that help create relationships. These can be ways to let residents know Canton Center Church is alive, welcoming, and paying forward the gifts we have been given by God.

I pray we all can share many Sunday mornings during summer in worship and fellowship as a church family and bring a friend, a neighbor, or family guests who may be visiting.

Enjoy a peace-filled and restful summer.

*Pastor Kurt*

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

- June 2      Second Sunday Pentecost  
Confirmation & Children/Young Adult Sunday
- June 9      Third Sunday after Pentecost; Communion
- June 16     Fourth Sunday after Pentecost; Father's Day
- June 23     Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
- June 30     Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

### All Services are In Person & Live Streamed

*To watch a service live, 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)*

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

### Summer Worship

### SUMMER SERVICES WITH CANTON COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

We will be sharing services in July & August with the Canton Community Baptist Church.

**They will host in July,**

**we will host in August.**

*All services are at 10 a.m.*

## Deacons' Bench

Tim Lundgren

*A lot of the credit for the following deacons' bench article goes to Kristin and pastor Kurt who gave me suggestions and ideas when I was at a loss for them.*

As deacons we assist the pastor and help make the church services run smoothly, taking up the collections, placing the hymn numbers onto the hymn board, putting charged batteries into the microphones, leading the congregation in the responsive readings and doing the scripture readings, filling the water glasses for the pastor, preparing the communion elements and serving them, and very many other small details too numerous to list.

One of our other roles as deacons is to be welcoming and friendly to visitors. We greet people as they enter the sanctuary and warmly introduce ourselves if we see them sitting alone. They must never feel like strangers when in our midst. It's also important to say hello if we see them for the first time during coffee hour. As my fellow deacon Kristin explained, we invite them to our church events "*while encouraging them to come back and join other activities such as the book club, Neighbors helping Neighbors, game night, etc.*"

We let them know that they are truly welcome and part of our church family. Not only do we spread the gospel but we also keep First Church going as a vital and energetic church community far into the future by bringing new people into our church family. As Kristin also mentioned "*The deacons should surely agree with and want to assist Kurt and his Grow The Church committee to get our name (and faces) out into the community and let people know we are 'open for business'. After all, we are a welcoming and affirming congregation that wants all types of people to worship and to build bonds with us.*"

Ultimately *we must all participate* in welcoming new people into our midst. That's how we grow as a family and grow as a church and by so doing keep the doors open and the lights on for future generations yet to come.

Director of Faith Formation  
Hollace Bristol

## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

Our Church School program year is winding down. Despite disappointment on the part of the kids, June 2nd is the last Sunday. The youth will play a major part in that service, participating as greeters, ushers, taking the offering, leading pieces of the service. Confirmands will read their statements of faith; young folks will receive certificates for their participation in Church School; age-eligible young ones will receive their Bibles; and graduating seniors will be honored with a special ceremony.



### Bible Recipients:

Charlotte Penney  
Ariella Rothe  
Harvey Rothe  
Natalie Staszak  
Madeleine Toney

### Certificate Awards:

Ali Alcantara	Elizabeth Neumann
Amy Alcantara	Jack Neumann
Tyler Baldwin	Jillian Orlando
Austin Collins	Charlotte Penney
Sean Collins	Hannah Penney
Maria Emirzian	Ariella Rothe
Ashlynn Glinsman	Harvey Rothe
Ella Goodwin	Audrey Staszak
Lana Goodwin	Natalie Staszak
Jack Goodwin	Madeleine Toney
Josephine Hager	Oliver Toney
Silvie Hager	Matthew Ziemba
Noah Herbek	

Haystack Mountain was calling the Happy Wanderers for our hike on May 19th. (*Pictures on pg. 8*) We had eleven adults and children participate. The view from the top of the historic stone tower did not disappoint. Hiking together is a great way to learn more about each other and build relationships. We hope to organize a few hikes throughout the summer as the kids want to keep the great energy going.

We are entering a church float in the Memorial Day Parade. Walter LeGeyt has generously offered his truck and trailer and some hay for the event. We are super excited about this!

Karen and I are extremely grateful for Pastor Kurt's leadership this year. His energy, enthusiasm, dedication, and welcoming spirit have enhanced our sense of teamwork, inclusion, and compassion. Thank you, Pastor Kurt!

Blessings and Happy Summer!



### June 2nd - Come Celebrate our Youth and Confirmands

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> most of the service will be led by our youth and young adults.

It is the last official Church School session of the program year.

Come with family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate our young Church School members.

Join us in rejoicing and welcoming our graduating Confirmands as they become official new members of the First Congregational Church, Canton, Center.

## WORSHIP MINISTRY

**Musical Notes**

Mary Lou Keefe, Director of Music

As I write this report, there are many thoughts racing through my mind. How many days, what to tackle today, who to contact and so forth.

I have been extremely pleased with the performances of the bell choir this year. I think it was a combination of talented and seasoned ringers, compliments bestowed by our new minister and thus a boost in confidence in them and their director. You all were great and I certainly hope all of you will return in the fall. I had a goal for the bell choir this year and we fulfilled it, that is playing every month and actually twice in December and March. Gina was the director while I was out and I am very grateful to her.

I don't know about many other choir directors but I consider myself lucky in that we have many good music readers which means that we can learn a piece quite quickly which is a benefit since we sing every Sunday throughout the school year. We are always looking for new members and guest singers so don't be afraid to step up to the plate. We are a friendly bunch and not harsh.

By the time you read this you will be introduced to three competent subs in my absence. Asher Scarlato will be playing the organ on June 2, 16, and 23rd, Susan Clark, whom you will remember subbed for me in the Spring and will be returning on June 9th, and Kari Miller Magg whom many of you know, will be playing the organ on the 30th.

In August we will have our soloists on Sundays perform their best and most favorite pieces, namely, Jerry, Judy, Paul and Jim.

I will miss all of you and really appreciate prayer.



## Missions &amp; Outreach

Martha Stansel, Committee Member

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

## MISSIONS COLLECTION



The Missions Box collection will be for the children served by Wellmore.

**Backpacks & School Supplies**

Some of the suggested items for donation are:

***pencils, pens, markers (non-permanent), colored pencils, crayons, binders, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, colorful folders including pocket folders, glue sticks, blunt scissors, tape, rulers, etc...***

any supplies a child would need to have a good start and be successful in school.

**Moment for Missions:**

Marlyn Vasquez and Allison Dellaquilla from Wellmore presented a very informative Moment on May 5<sup>th</sup> and expressed appreciation for all of our support. After church, several of us had further conversations with them and learned more about their broad range of services and the supports they provide their clients. They emphasized that any donation they give to clients comes with a plan. For example, when we give gift cards for the families to use for Christmas presents, a case worker goes shopping with them to help manage the money. The agency's goal is to help families become independent.

Paul Stansel also presented a Moment for Missions on May 19<sup>th</sup> to update the congregation on the resettlement of the Afghan family. They are settling in well and the three older children are excited to have started school.



Martha Stansel is encouraging folks to sign up directly with Brian's Angels if they would like to make sandwiches for them during June, July, and August. You can sign up online at [briansangels.org](http://briansangels.org) click on How You Can Help then Meal Train.

They will really appreciate it since it is more difficult to get volunteers during the summer. If you would like more information on how to volunteer or make the sandwiches, feel free to contact Martha at [mwstsl@gmail.com](mailto:mwstsl@gmail.com) or 860-747-5344.

## SUPPORT TO OUR MINISTRIES

### Historian's Corner

Tim LeGeyt, Church Historian

I was looking through some of the older Annual Reports (the late 1950's) and marveling at the significant aspects of our Church work at that time. In 1958, our minister, Rev. Russell Angell, resigned to take another position up in eastern Massachusetts. A Pastoral Supply Committee was approved by the Congregation, consisting of seven members, and their work commenced. The members of this committee were Mr. Walter Baker, Mrs. Clarence Snow, Mrs. Edwin Knapp, Miss Sara Lee Elliott, Mr. Earl Badger, Mr. James L. Loomis and Mr. John B. Wright.

At the same time, there was a Building Committee established with ten members, their first meeting on May 6th of 1958, to begin the process of adding on to the Church building to create the present Parish Hall (absent the 1986 addition) and to discontinue and take down the Conference House, which existed across the road in the spot where we now have a parking lot next to the 1848 House (or South Central District Schoolhouse). The members of the Building Committee were Mrs. Samuel Richardson, John Selden, Irving Wagner, Hugo Swanson, William Delaney, Arthur Sweeton, Ernest Inglis, Jr., Elmer Blackman, William Scoville and Ray Giguere.

Two major projects occurring at the same time, and much to do to make the initiatives happen! Certainly, these two projects involved many members of the congregation and also, there was a Building Fund Raising Committee tasked with soliciting funds to pay for the new Parish Hall as it was being built. A busy time for our Church.

By the time the Annual Report was completed for 1959, we had a new minister, The Rev. Evans F. Sealand, Jr. and the new Parish Hall was completed (with 85% of the cost promised by the Congregation). Rev. Sealand began his ministry in Canton Center with quite a stir in congregational activity and managed to guide us successfully through that and on through the next 35 years, including two other Capital Funding Projects, one in 1968 and the other in 1986.

Quite an active period in our Church's history, and a significant milestone in our Church's growth!!



### Shop Scrip for all your Special Occasions!

So much going on this time of year! Graduations, Weddings, Showers, Anniversaries, as well as birthdays that happen year-round. All of these are excellent occasions to purchase and give gift cards. And what better place to get them than right here at church?! Scrip is a very convenient way to shop for gifts and raise money for the church at the same time. And don't forget those teacher and bus driver "end of the year" gifts!

Scrip gift cards are also 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.

Thanks for your continued support!  
Casey

## FELLOWSHIP/INREACH MINISTRY

The Strawberry Festival will be held on Sunday, June 23, instead of Father's Day.  
Please note the change of date as we will need volunteers to have a successful event.

Last year was very successful and with your help, we can do it again.

Please look for sign up sheets on the kitchen door.

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024**  
**3 PM - 7 PM**

**SAVE THE DATE**



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**CANTON CENTER**  
**184 Cherry Brook Road**  
**Route 179**  
**Canton Center, CT**  
**06020**

**SHORTCAKE WITH REAL WHIPPED CREAM**  
**Hamburgs, Hot Dogs & Beverages**  
**Eat In or Take Out Available**

*Pictures from our  
Happy Wanderer's Hike at  
Haystack Mountain on Sunday, May 19th.*

*Thank you to all of those who helped  
spruce up Canton Center Church on our  
Clean-up Day, April 27th.*







Thank you to Dan & Josh Bristol  
for once again providing  
beautiful pansy plants  
for our congregation  
on Mother's Day,  
a tradition begun by

***Ruth Bristol in the 1940s,  
in memory of her son,  
Sterling W. Bristol, Jr.,  
who was killed in WWII.***

**Pictures of our Candle Lighters & Choir during our Service on May 19th.**





# JUNE 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  AA 11:00 p.m.
2 <b>Worship 10 am</b> Children, Young Adult & Confirmation Sunday <b>Search Committee</b> (following service)	3  Al-Anon/ACA 7 pm	4  AA 7:00 pm	5  <b>Deacons Meeting</b> 7:00 pm	6	7	8  Winifred Bristol Memorial 2:00 p.m.  AA 11:00 p.m.
9 <b>Worship &amp; Communion</b> 10:00 am <b>Case for Christ Book Club</b> (after Coffee Hour)	10  <b>Trustees</b> 7:00 pm  Al-Anon/ACA 7 pm	11  AA 7:00 pm	12  <b>Council Meeting</b> 7:00 pm	13	14	15  AA 11:00 p.m.
16 <b>Worship 10:00 am</b> <b>Yard Goats 1 pm</b>  <i>Happy Father's Day</i>	17  Al-Anon/ACA 7 pm	18  AA 7:00 pm	19	20	21	22  AA 11:00 p.m.
23 <b>Worship 10:00 am</b> <i>Food Collection</i> <b>Book Club</b> (after Coffee Hour) <b>Strawberry Festival 3-7 pm</b>	24  Al-Anon/ACA 7 pm	25  AA 7:00 pm	26  <b>FOCUS Center for Autism Panel Discussion</b> 6:00 pm	27	28	29  AA 11:00 p.m.
30  <b>Worship 10:00 am</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>July Services</b> Canton Community Baptist Church 10:00 a.m.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>August Services</b> Canton Center Church 10:00 a.m.</p> </div> </div>					



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



**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](http://Cantoncenterchurch.org)

**Interim Pastor**

860-693-4207

Pastor Kurt Satherlie

[pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:pastor@cantoncenterchurch.org)

**Office**

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Kristen DiMattia

Office Manager

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

**Organist/Director of Music:**

(860)693-4216

Mary Lou Keefe

[music@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:music@cantoncenterchurch.org)

**Director of Faith Formation:**

Hollace Bristol

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**Asst. Director of Faith Formation:**

Karen Needham

[CE@cantoncenterchurch.org](mailto:CE@cantoncenterchurch.org)

**Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**