

THE CHURCHMOUSE

Newsletter of The First Congregational Church, Canton Center, CT

June 2025



Message from the pastor...

Getting to Know Our Pew Partners – Building a Stronger Body in Christ

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ~Ephesians 4:2-3

Dear Canton Center Church Family,

This June, as we enter into the summer months let us embrace the warmth and beauty as well as discovering the warmth and beauty of the people we share the pews on Sunday mornings. On June 1st, the Deacons and I are thrilled to host a special "Second Hour" dedicated to helping our congregation connect on a more profound level. Why do I feel this is so important? Each of our faith journeys may differ but rarely do we walk this spiritual path alone. Scripture alerts us to the importance of community. Romans 12 speaks of "Love in Action" as we hear: *Love must be sincere. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another.*

When we truly know one another, beyond small talk or a simple greeting on Sunday mornings, we strengthen the bonds of our congregation. We create a supportive network where everyone feels a sense of belonging, a place to be seen, heard, and genuinely cared for. This isn't just about making friends; it's about building a resilient, loving body of Christ, where mutual support flourishes and our collective faith is deepened through shared lives and experiences.

Here's what to expect as we discover the treasures of those around us:

Every person in our congregation is a unique and precious child of God who carry a story, wisdom, and experiences that can enrich us all. During this "Second Hour," we'll pair you up with someone you might not know well, giving you a wonderful opportunity to discover some of these treasures. We'll provide a list of conversation starters designed to engage conversation as you learn about one another in a relaxed setting. Don't worry, the questions are light and inviting, and you'll only share what you're comfortable with. If you choose, skip the questions and tell "your own story-your way." We will eventually share these conversations with the whole congregation, celebrating the diverse tapestry that makes up our church family.

Come and discover the incredible people who sit beside you each week. Let's build a stronger, more connected, and more vibrant church family, together!

(More information on next page)



SUNDAY WORSHIP

June 1	Seventh Sunday of Easter Communion
June 8	Pentecost Sunday
June 15	Trinity Sunday; Father's Day
June 22	Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 29	Third 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," (Sunday services are generally posted 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.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PEW PARTNERS A Second Hour with the Deacons and Pastor

On June 1st, the Deacons and I are excited to host a special "Second Hour" during fellowship, dedicated to helping our congregation connect on a deeper level. We believe that getting to know one another significantly strengthens our church community, fostering a deeper sense of belonging, increasing mutual support, and helping us all feel more connected to our faith through our relationships with others.

What to Expect:

We'll pair you up with someone you might not know well and provide a fun list of questions to spark conversation. Think of it as a chance to learn a little more about your fellow church members in a relaxed setting. Don't worry, the questions are light, and you only share what you're comfortable with! We'll eventually share some of what we learn with the whole congregation.

Here are a few examples of the questions:

- What's a place you've traveled to that really impacted you?
- What brought you to our church family?
- Is there a book, movie, or song that means a lot to you?
- What's a simple pleasure you really appreciate in life?
- What's a value that's important to you and why?
- What's something you've learned that you'd share with others?
- What's a challenge you've overcome that has shaped you? (Share if you're comfortable!)
- What are you grateful for right now?

Come discover more about the amazing people who sit beside you each week!

Director of Faith Formation
Jodi Swan

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY



It is June! It is the time of year when there is a shift in the universe as school, activities, afterschool lessons, sports come to a halt. While life can still be busy there is still a sigh of relief from parents and children alike as they shift gears to a lower pace of life for a few months. I encourage you (and your children) to embrace this season. Let go of the tight schedules and enjoy time together with family or friends. Enjoy time away or exploring unfamiliar places here in the Farmington Valley. I too will be doing some of these things, but behind the scenes I will also be planning for the next Church School year here at Canton Center Church. Thinking of ways, we as a faith community can come together and grow. Grow as individuals and as a community. I am looking forward to next Church School year, but for now I will enjoy the slower pace of summer!

Sandwich making for Brian's Angels



Earth Day - planting flowers for Church



Earth Day - creating collages with recycled materials



Making Wild Orange Essential Oil Sugar Scrub for Mother's Day



Musical Notes

Mary Lou Keefe, Director of Music

WORSHIP MINISTRY

With the Senior Choir winding down and the bell choir finished for the school year, I find my life less full with fewer decisions and less time spent filing. The Seniors have at most two more rehearsals with the last one short and food to finish the day. I am very grateful for all the members of both choirs. However lately I have been very vocal about loyalty and of course the family comes first but there are times when there is frivolous absenteeism or not letting me know and then I worry about accidents and such. I will admit that this past year was not my stellar year for attendance but there were several factors involved with both health and deaths in the family.

I will continue to stress perfection in that area and always look forward to the rehearsals and especially when new music is presented or when someone named Paul adds a joke or two.

As for the Senior choir starting time which is presently 4:30, we are considering a 5:30 start in the fall to see if we might interest more people. Presently we have 12 and with 16 or even more there would be pieces of music, some in the file cabinet that we could add to our repertoire.

We are also considering having a Junior Choir in the fall if there are more kids attending Sunday School and rehearsal could be after church. We have an entire drawer of a file cabinet filled to the brim with unison or two part music written especially for kids. If someone in the congregation or in the choir would like to step up and direct please let me know of your interest and ability in that area.

I have been blessed with several people graciously donating in memory of Peter B. and Jason and for that I am most grateful. I hope to purchase something meaningful to both of them to leave in their memory. Possibly cantata scores.

The bell choir has wound down for the year to start up again in September. We are definitely in need of a new members as we have lost Allison to East Hartford which was just too far for her to commute. You will be trained in accordance with the bells you will be ringing. If you consider yourself musical and have had experience playing in a band or some such ensemble, give it a try in the fall.

Special thanks to Kathleen for her three years on the music Committee. All three members this past year kept the music end of the church going during my extended absence.

Thank you to Jim and Jerry for stepping up to sing special solos this coming Sunday which is typically a day off for the Sr. Choir.

Special thanks to Janelle who will be playing her Bb clarinet as accompaniment along with piano to the Sr, Choir as they sing Steal Away which will be presented in church within the next few weeks.



Missions & Outreach

Martha Stansel, Committee Member

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY



MISSIONS COLLECTION

**The collection for June & July:
backpacks and school supplies for Wellmore.**

Suggested supplies are:

Backpacks, notebooks, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, dividers, pens, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, sharpeners, glue sticks, pocket folders, rulers etc.

We support Social Workers at Wellmore through our agreement with Covenant to Care. These Social Workers help many children and families throughout the year with a variety of physical, mental, and education needs. The backpacks and supplies help their clients have a successful start to the new school year. Although we will be at the Baptist church in July, supplies can still be left in the Missions Box through the end of the month. Supplies will be delivered to Wellmore at the beginning of August so the Social Workers have time to distribute them before school starts.

Update: The Missions Box: Holy Joe's Café collection was \$ 396. for Holy Joe's in April!

Thank you for your generosity to support our troops and their chaplains.



Matsiko Choir: Our August Missions Box Collection will be toiletries to be given to the Matsiko Choir when they come (Aug. 21-24). Items on their wish list include toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, chapstick, Vaseline, lotion, ponytail holders, female pads, and razors. These items can be left in the Missions Box or given to a member of the Missions Committee any time up until the choir leaves on August 24th.



Brian's Angels: The Faith Formation children did a wonderful job making sandwiches for Brian's Angels throughout the spring. In addition to supplies for the sandwiches, the Missions Committee added other items with each delivery such as cases of water, fruit cups, and snacks. Watch the Churchmouse for updates on our continuing support of Brian's Angels outreach efforts to the homeless in Bristol.



Knitting & Crocheting Ministry: is continuing under the leadership of Rebecca Glinsman. Please speak to Rebecca to volunteer or ask questions. A blessing of any completed shawls will take place during one of the June worship services.

The Missions and Outreach Committee always welcomes suggestions and feedback from the Congregation!
Feel free to speak to any one of our members.

*Martha Stansel, Geri Bunnell, Debbie Poleyestewa, Casey Levine,
Rebecca Glinsman, Carol Orlando, Darryl Habernern, and Linda Kessler*

Deacons' Bench

Dan LeGeyt

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Were you already saying your prayers at bedtime, perhaps you heard someone say "Thank God," was it a beautiful Church you passed while riding in the car with your parents, or some tragedy that made you look so deep inside of yourself?

Our parents taught us to pray before bedtime at a very young age, Note: I still remember it word for word over 70 years later. As the weekend approached, we knew Sunday morning was Church and you would be wearing your best clothes complete with a white shirt, bowtie and jacket. All the kids would be in Sunday school and it was fun, learning from the Bible, junior choir, it was a church. A new classroom and teacher every year and a pin for your lapel. Learning about God through Bible verses, pictures and hymns of course. Church was part of your upbringing and believing in God seemed as though it was always part of you. There was never a doubt thanks to your parents.

There are many ways in which people find God and each in their own time. The journey can be long and painful for some and if asked there simply are no words to describe it. Sharing can be the quiet of night, a raucous gathering or a conversation of no discernable wording between you and God. You will find thoughts begging for a sign that God knows it's you. Learning to trust in God can take time, praying is personal and we should find the strength if you are laded with questions as the realm is vast and open. We shouldn't relegate or assign a time limit as being so intent upon receiving an unspoken sign to feel you aren't being heard. "TRUST" is both simple and complex where God and Faith are concerned. Varying teachings of different religions may confuse you and become endless questions.

So, were you young and open, a little wild and full of questions, were you faced with life or loss, untrusting of those pretending to know what is best for you or hoping for a sign from God? The point is you may not know when you came to believe, and you may then realize it was always there.

Trust in God.

FELLOWSHIP/INREACH MINISTRY

**Please Note
New Date:
Saturday,
June 7th**

COMMUNITY TAG SALE

The Church will be hosting an outdoor community tag sale on
NEW DATE: Sat. June 7th 9-2 pm

We will invite members of our congregation and the local community to bring tag sale items they'd like to sell and will provide them with spaces on the lawn along Cherry Brook Rd.

The Church will have its own space to sell donated items and also a food tent.

Paul Stansel is coordinating this event through Bridge The Gap.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

SUNDAY ~ JUNE 15

3:00 ~ 7:00 p.m.

The First Congregational Church
184 Cherry Brook Road, Canton Center



**Come enjoy hot dogs/hamburgers and
fresh strawberry shortcakes
with real whipped cream!**

Eat in or take out.

Please see volunteer sign up sheets on the kitchen door.

For more information call 860-693-4581

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

Please look for sign up sheets soon on the kitchen door.

Pastor Kurt welcomes you to join in on this Webinar



Center for Transformational Leadership

Teaching & Learning, Training & Equipping, Resourcing & Referring,
Curating & Connecting Churches, Pastors & Leaders.

To register: Each person must register separately:

<https://sneucc-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/B6Nrpr0rQAKH1joyn4AmZQ#/registration>

Lunch & Learn: Church Buildings as Community Hubs

Date & Time Jun 5, 2025 12:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Description Many churches in New England are described as "Meetinghouses," a term which dates back to their original use as town gathering spaces. In this webinar, we will discuss how our current properties can once again fulfill their mission of serving their communities as well as the members of their congregation. We will discuss strategies for community engagement as well as some of the practical issues around sharing space.



Thank you to The Bristol Family who donated pansy plants on Mother's Day. This tradition was started by Ruth Bristol in the late 1940s in memory of her youngest son, 2nd Lieutenant Sterling W. Bristol, Jr., who died when the B-17 bomber that he piloted was shot down by the Germans in WWII.

Dan Bristol and his son Josh Bristol now do the annual donation and feel warmly about carrying on this tradition for the fourth generation in honor of Mother's Day.

Thank you to the Bristol family for their generosity in continuing this beautiful tradition.

Happy Wanderers hike and picnic on Sunday, June 1st after church.

We will walk the fields at Topsmead, a state park at the highest point in Litchfield.

The trails are quite flat. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch!

We will plan to meet at the parking lot at Topsmead at 1:15 p.m.



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

Fun Times & Fellowship at the Yard Goats Game on May 18th.



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

AGENDA

1. Call to order and opening prayer.
2. Reading of the call of the meeting
3. Approval of the Pastoral Search Committee's recommendations as approved by Church Council.
4. Any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Sealand, Clerk



Graduates & Families:

If you are or have a graduate that would like to share information about your high school, college, grad school, ... with us, for our summer newsletter, please email Kristen in the church office at: office@cantoncenterchurch.org.

God is still speaking !!! , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

Visit our website at

www.cantoncenterchurch.org

**Listen to recorded [Sermons and Music](#)
from worship services!**

Follow us on 

JUNE 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship & Communion 10:00 am Second Hour after worship Happy Wanderers Hike 1:15	2 Sr. Choir 4:30 pm Al-Anon 7 pm	3 AA 7:00 pm	4 Deacons Meeting 7:00 pm ACA 7 pm	5 U.C.C. Webinar Noon	6	7 Community Tag Sale 9-2 pm
8 Worship 10 am (Children's Sunday)	9 Sr. Choir 4:30 pm Trustees 7: pm Al-Anon 7 pm	10 AA 7:00 pm	11 Council Meeting 7:00 pm ACA 7 pm	12	13	14 AA 11:00 p.m.
15 Worship 10:00 am Congregation/ Special Meeting Strawberry Festival 3-7 pm 	16 Al-Anon 7 pm	17 AA 7:00 pm	18 ACA 7 pm	19	20	21 AA 11:00 p.m.
22 Worship 10:00 am <i>Fourth Sunday</i> <i>Food Collection</i>	23 Al-Anon 7 pm	24 AA 7:00 pm	25 ACA 7 pm	26	27	28 AA 11:00 p.m.
29 Worship 10:00 am	30 Al-Anon 7 pm	<p>(All Services will be at 10 am)</p> <p><u>July Services</u> Canton Community Baptist Church</p> <p><u>August Services</u> Canton Center Church</p>				



The Churchmouse

The First Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)
184 Cherry Brook Road, PO 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
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Cantoncenterchurch.org

Interim Pastor

860-693-4207

Pastor Kurt Satherlie

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Kristen DiMattia

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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

Director of Faith Formation:

860-693-4581

Jody Swan

CE@cantoncenterchurch.org

Worship every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.