

KIT



(KeEping In Touch)

A Newsletter of the

The First Church of Christ, Congregational, United Church of Christ

55 Church Road • Clinton, Connecticut 06413-2050

Phone (860) 669-5735 • Fax (860) 669-9602 • Website: www.firstchurchclinton.org



FEBRUARY 2012



Dear Friends in Christ:

February is a strange month. It is the shortest month of the year (usually with 28 days) but every four years, such as 2012, it takes a leap to 29. It has great holidays (Washington's and Lincoln's Birthdays and Valentine's Day) and a very silly one (Groundhog Day). It is Black History Month when we recognize the accomplishments of African-Americans. And it is often a very cold, wintry one that flirts with record temperatures and snowfalls.



I see February as a catch up month, the time to catch up on people I have not seen, projects I have put off, and reading I have let go. I like

to start some new books and to revisit some old ones. One treasured work is a gift I received years ago entitled, *The Minister's Little Instruction Book: Timeless Wisdom and Practical Advice for Ministers and Lay Leaders*. The author is a clergyman, Dr. Stan Toler, who collected insightful and humorous proverbs that pastors and lay leaders can use as guidelines for ministry. I share some of them with you:

A good life is the best sermon.

Feed your faith and doubt will starve to death.

Be like a postage stamp – stick to one thing until you get there.

If you can laugh at it, then you can live with it.

God will not look you over for medals, degrees, or diplomas – but for scars.

Few sinners are saved after the first twenty minutes of a sermon. (Mark Twain)

Faults are the easiest things to find.

God will either lighten our loads or strengthen our backs.

Real leaders are ordinary people with extraordinary determination.

One of the best ways to get on your feet is to first get on your knees.

Work for the Lord. The pay isn't much but the Lord's retirement plan is out of this world.

The person who rows the boat generally doesn't have time to rock it.

A true friend walks in when the rest of the world walks out.

These instructions are quite meaningful. They remind me of the wisest teachings of all in *The Book of Proverbs* that came from King Solomon and the scribes in his royal court.

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. (16:3)

Those who are attentive to a matter will prosper, and happy are those who trust in the Lord. (16:20)

One who forgives an affront fosters friendship, but one who dwells on disputes will alienate a friend. (17:9)

A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones. (17:22)

I have recommended that you read and reflect on the Scriptures like *Proverbs* each day to receive God's comfort and strength, teaching and wisdom. Proverbs are small lessons that sustain us and bring us to a great new world where we find God's purpose. May God bless you this year in your reading and reflection.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Chris



BEAT THE FEBRUARY BLAHS!

The **Sunday Women** will meet on February 19 at 8:15 in the sun-filled East Kitchen to continue our study of **"Facing the Issues."** Using the Serendipity Bible (available to

borrow) as our study guide, we will be discussing the topic of **"Success."** The readings this month are **Luke 12:13-21** and **1 Corinthians 4:8-13**. We share a light breakfast and our own stories as we seek to find spiritual guidance and wisdom for our daily lives. Please join us.

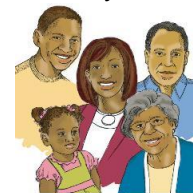
from the choir loft.....



The choir has been singing some pieces a cappella. That term means there is no instrumental accompaniment. Without the organ/piano accompani-

ment there is much more responsibility on each choir member to listen carefully and try to blend voices. Each person has to listen to the other parts to match his/her note accurately. While there is greater room for error, there is also a wonderful sense of accomplishment when an a cappella piece really comes together. It can also be used as a choral technique to improve the listening ability of the choir, working towards a more cohesive sound.

During February we will be singing lots of wonderful spirituals and gospel music to celebrate *Black History Month*. This rich heritage provides us with hauntingly beautiful melodies and poignant texts. Much of it has been handed down through the generations and there is no composer attached to the tune. Fortunately there are many arrangers who have enjoyed putting their own special harmonies and rhythms to these beloved melodies. This music is often just pure fun to sing. I think I can say that the Senior Choir is especially fond of this music and learning it is more fun than real work. ~ Joyce Baxter



February – the Month of Love

submitted by Stewardship Committee



God is love. If He ever ceases to love us, then He would cease to be God. His very nature is love. Everything we do for God and with God must be motivated by our love for Him and for others. Jesus said that in addition to loving Him, we must also love our neighbor. Stewardship is love in action.

God loves us, so He gave His son to die in our place. If we love God and our neighbor, we would return God's portion to Him, which He uses to bless our neighbor; when our neighbor, who loves God and us, returns His portion, He uses it to bless us. This completes the circle of love.

~ *Understanding the Spirituality of True Stewardship*
by Christopher N. Sealey

Lectionary Readings
from the United Church of Christ Calendar

February 5th

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isa 40:21-31 • Ps 147:1-11, 2-c
 1 Cor 9:16-23
 Mark 1:29-39

Sustaining Ministry

February 12th

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

2 Kings 5:1-14, 8-11 • Ps 30
 1 Cor 9:24-27
 Mark 1:40-45

Healing Presence

February 19th

Transfiguration

2 Kings 2:1-12 • Ps 50:1-6
 2 Cor 4:3-6
 Mark 9:2-9

Thin Places

February 26th

First Sunday in Lent

Gen 9:8-17 • Ps25:1-10
 1 Peter 3:18-22
 Mark 1:9-15

God's Loving Paths



The Food

Christian Education is busy preparing for the upcoming *Lenten Supper Series*. Our program this year will be

Congregational history on the Connecticut shoreline and will take place on Wednesday evenings beginning February 29th and ending on March 28th. Supper will be at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The definition of Lent is a period of forty week-days lasting from Ash Wednesday to Easter in the Christian Church which is devoted to fasting, abstinence, and penitence in commemoration of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. With this in mind and the responses we received on last year's *Lenten Supper Series* survey, we are going to simplify our traditional pot luck dinner to soup, salad, and bread. The host committees will provide the salad, bread, and beverages, and the congregation is asked to bring a soup, stew, or chili to share. Peanut butter and jelly will be available for our youngest attendees, as well as babysitting service in the Nursery during the program.

Committee chairs can expect to find detailed hosting instructions in their mailboxes soon. The host committee schedule is as follows:

- February 29: Diaconate
- March 7: Mission and Music
- March 14: Building & Grounds, Endowment, and Finance
- March 21: Nominating and Personnel
- March 28: Christian Education and Stewardship

We hope that you will find time to relax and share fellowship and education with your church family. If you have never attended a Lenten supper before, make it a resolution this year to join us. You won't be disappointed!

Suggested Food Bank Items

February

- Hearty Soup • Stew
- Bath Soap • Dish Detergent



Items are suggested but not limited to, and all are distributed through The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries.

Valentine Cake Auction



Our second annual **Valentine Cake Auction** will be held February 12th after worship. We need 10 bakers to donate a cake to be auctioned off for Valentine's Day and vol-

unteers to make smaller items – fudge, chocolates, etc. – to be sold as well. Last year we raised \$413 for the *Capital Campaign*. Let's top that this year.



Soup Kitchen Cook-off: Saturday, February 4th, 9 a.m. – noon. Come to prepare soup kitchen meals in advance. Sign-up posted in fellowship hall, or just show up!

The Topic

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY ON THE CONNECTICUT SHORELINE

Supper at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
Program at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 29

An Historical Overview of

Congregationalism in Connecticut

The Rev. John C. Van Epps, pastor
North Guilford Congregational Church and
archivist of the Connecticut Conference, UCC

Wednesday, March 7

Abraham Pierson, the Saybrook Platform, and the Founding of Yale University

Dr. Richard Buel, retired professor of history
Wesleyan University



Wednesday, March 14,

Jared Eliot and His Fifty-Six Year Ministry and Legacy

Rebecca Elliott Keating, staff member at the
Jared Eliot Middle School and a seventh
generation direct descendant

Wednesday, March 21

Architectural History of New England Meetinghouses

Dr. Paul Wainwright, photographer, historian, and
award-winning author of *A Space for Faith: The
Colonial Meetinghouses of New England*

Wednesday, March 28

The Traditional Jeopardy Game: How Well Do You Know Your Congregational Church History?

Pastor Chris



**WANTED! Information for all
2012 church events**, even if they
are months away – some websites
and publications have early
deadlines! Please provide the
following: (1) Name of group; (2)
All 2012 meeting dates/times; (3)

Contact person(s) and telephone number(s); (4)
Location of event; (5) Details. Email [publicityfcc
@yahoo.com](mailto:publicityfcc@yahoo.com), or leave information in the *Publicity*
mailbox in the church office.

ON DUTY ...

FEBRUARY

Acolytes Grade 9

Lectors

February 5	Pastor Chris
February 12	Filled
February 19	NEEDED
February 26	Filled

Fellowship Hour Hosts

February 5	Boy Scouts
February 12	NEEDED
February 19	Filled
February 26	Filled

Flowers

February 5	Filled
February 12	OPEN
February 19	OPEN
February 26	OPEN

Soup Kitchen

February 8	Lots of Indians/NO chief(s)
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Greeting Cards Filled

Communion Bread Filled

February is "Bag It" month!



Since supermarkets are no longer able to supply brown paper bags, those donating are asked to provide their own paper or reusable bags for this year's collection of nonperishable food or toiletry items. Donations may

be left in the designated area of the Fellowship Hall during the month of February. At the end of the month the bags will be delivered to The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries in Clinton.

**MARCH KIT
DEADLINE**

Noon • Thursday, February 16th,
at the Church Office or emailed to
janeatc@firstchurchclinton.org

Sofa Social – Communicating with Young People

Monday, February 6, 2012

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Malone's Coffee House

Desserts and Coffee/Tea available

Come to share ideas and thoughts about communicating with young people. We will review information shared during the Messages in the Music presentation- including music lyrics, slang terms, and ideas for conversing with our children about difficult topics.

Please come and share your ideas with other parents in Clinton!

TASK FORCE SOFA SOCIALS
are THE BEST!



THE FIRST SELECTMAN'S
task force
on substance abuse
CLINTON CT

Sofa Social is sponsored by the First Selectman's Task Force on Substance Abuse. For questions or more information, call 860-664-1142.

2012



FEBRUARY

2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY 29 8:30 Confirmation 10:00 Worship 10:00 Church School 11:15 ANNUAL MEETING	JANUARY 30 10:00 Mom's Morning Out 7:30 Al-Anon	JANUARY 31	1 9:30 Morning Circle 10:00 Cancer Survivors 6:00 GSA 62221	2  7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 BSA Troop 7 [FH]	3 10:00 Al-Anon	4 9 a.m.-Noon Soup Kitchen Cook-off
5 HOLY COMMUNION BOY SCOUT SUNDAY 8:30 Confirmation 10:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Church School 11:15 Fellowship Hour 11:30 Communion for CS Staff and Meeting 4:00 GSA 60504/62809/61111	6 10:00 Mom's Morning Out 7:00 Al-Anon Dst [FH] 7:30 Al-Anon	7 7:00 Pack 7 [FH] 7:00 GSA Leaders	8 9:30 Morning Circle 5:00 Soup Kitchen/UMC 7:00 Pack 7 Cmte	9 6:00 GSA #60505 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 BSA Troop 7 [FH]	10 10:00 Al-Anon 4:00 Pack 7 [FH]	11
12 8:00 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Confirmation 10:00 Worship 10:00 Church School 11:15 Fellowship Hour 11:30 C.E.; Diaconate; Missions; Music	13 3:00 GSA #62081 7:00 Troop 7 Cmte 7:30 Al-Anon	14  6:15 Pack 7 Tigers 7:00 Pack 7 Dens	15 9:30 Morning Circle 6:00 GSA 62221 7:00 Church Board	16 12 Nn MARCH KIT DEADLINE 7:00 Senior Choir	17 10:00 Al-Anon	18
19 8:15 Sunday Women 8:30 Confirmation 10:00 Worship 11:15 Fellowship Hour 4:00 GSA 60504	20  7:30 Al-Anon	21	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30 Morning Circle 7:30 Ash Wednesday Worship	23 7:00 Senior Choir	24 10:00 Al-Anon	25
26 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT FOURTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION 8:00 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Confirmation 10:00 Worship 10:00 Church School 11:15 Fellowship Hour	27 10:00 Mom's Morning Out 3:00 GSA #62081 7:30 Al-Anon	28 6:15 Pack 7 Tigers 7:00 Pack 7 Dens 6-9:00 FH in use	29 9:30 Morning Circle 6:00 GSA 62221	MARCH 1 7:00 Senior Choir 7:00 BSA Troop 7 [FH]	MARCH 2 10:00 Al-Anon BSA Troop 7 Pasta Dinner Set-up	MARCH 3 3-9:00 FH in use: Troop 7 Pasta Dinner

Church Staff

The Reverend Dr. Christopher C. Horvath, Pastor
Joyce Baxter, Director of Music
Jane (Jane-a-t-c) Woodmansee, Church Secretary
Dan Flaucher, Sexton

WORSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

8:00 a.m. Worship resumes June 17th-September 2nd, 2012
10:00 a.m. Worship Service every Sunday
childcare available during worship for infants to age two

We are



Sacrament of Holy Communion
Celebrated the first Sunday of each month

10:00 a.m. Church School
September 11, 2011 – June 10, 2012
3-year-olds through Grade 9

Accessible

11:15 a.m. Fellowship and Refreshment Hour

The church and fellowship hall are handicapped accessible.

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February 2012



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Church Office:

Phone: (860) 669-5735

Fax: (860) 669-9602

Office Hours:

Monday–Friday: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m.–12:00 noon

For security reasons, the parish house is locked during lunch hour – usually 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Office errands are usually done before or after lunchtime. If you need access to the building or Jane-a-t-c at mid-day, please call ahead.

www.firstchurchclinton.org

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Newsletter:

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