



The Congregational Chatter

April

2016



Thoughts From Tom

We are now basking in the glow of Easter and the resurrection. Hallelujah! He has risen! Easter is a strong reaffirmation of our faith as we experience the events of holy week and celebrate Christ's defeat of death. Our services this year were really wonderful. Many thanks to Mary Douglas, the choir, and the Deacons for their hard work in making our holy week and Easter experiences meaningful and memorable.

Speaking of Mary Douglas, April 3 is her last day with us. We wish Mary well in her next endeavor as a director of music. Mary and Bob have brought many blessings to us during the just over two years that they were with us, and we will miss them.

Looking ahead, Seeds of Hope will hold the first annual Mark Edwards Financial Services 5k Airline Trail run to benefit the Seeds of Hope trip to the Re-Member organization on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. I hope you can either run or sponsor someone who is running in this event.

The Men's Night Out dinner at Rossini's will be held on Tuesday, April 19, at 5 pm. If any men are curious about this event, please see me for a description of the good fellowship and food that we enjoy there once a month.

The Financial Peace University has begun at the church, under the able leadership of David Gates. I want to offer my thanks to David and Betsy Gates for their tireless efforts to launch this school. Nine couples or individuals have signed up from our church and the greater community to take advantage of this program.

Finally, we are holding a New Member Forum in the lounge on Tuesday, April 5 for those interested in joining the church on May 1. If interested, please speak to me.

Have a blessed month!

Peace, Tom

Moderator Musings

Happy April!



What a month March was and what promise April brings. No idea on the number yet, but thank you for being generous with your special Easter pledges. It enables us to move forward in our many program areas.

The Maundy Thursday and Easter services were spectacular. The Tenebrae service is always moving while the Cantata at Easter reminds us of the vocal gifts we have in our midst. Then there was the Easter egg hunt...what joy!!

For those present, you had the opportunity to view the new choir robes which look wonderful and will be dedicated at a future service.

During the next few weeks you will be seeing some different people playing the piano, directing the senior and bell choirs and providing the joyful music we are accustomed too. The Music Committee will be working towards selecting our next Music Director and will be taking the opportunity to have candidates work with our choirs and play on different Sundays. If you would like to help with the selection please contact Kim Clouser.

The programs on Hunger that were presented by COSA last month during the Lenten season gave all of us reasons to think about changes we might make to be less wasteful, more thoughtful and address an issue of our age. If you haven't yet filled out your index cards with ideas, please do so.

Betsy and David Gates are bringing Financial Peace University to our church and it began this week. We have attracted a number of family groups from inside and outside our church family and look forward to the positive reports.

Keep watching for (and suggesting) new activities as we roll into Spring.

Alan Hurst, Moderator



EDWARDS FINANCIAL SERVICES

Presents

Congregational Church of East Hampton

"Seeds Of Hope"

Airline Trail / 5K Road Race / 2 Mile Fun Walk

Saturday April 30th, 2016 @ 9:00 AM

Tee shirts for the first 75 to register

Pre-Registration \$25 / Race Day \$30

For registration and further details:

Firstmile-fitness.com or call (860) 267-4959

SPONSORED

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Oscar & Associates
Attorney Ken Barber
Belltown Motors
Spencer's Funeral Home
Ed Loveland Contractor



SPONSORED

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Center Package
Rick's Sugar Shack
Suburban Stationer's
TurnKey Solutions
Cibula Plumbing & Heating

Fundraising event to benefit our Mission Trip to
"Re-Member" an Outreach to The Oglala Lakota
People on the Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota

For further information visit:

Re-Member.org

"Philamayaye" Thank You!



COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES



The Christian Education Committee will be collecting goodies for College Care Packages on Sunday mornings April 3-17. Please bring something to add to the treasure boxes that will arrive in time for final exams! 5 boxes will be on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Thanks for letting our college kids know we are thinking of them!



Women's Potluck

Monday, April 4th at 6:30pm
(one week earlier this month!)
at the home of Lynda Tinney
9 Hayes Road 860-267-8329

Bring a dish to share and join us for conversation about flowers and gardens and anything Spring!
First-timers always welcome!

NEW MEMBER FORUM

A meeting for those who wish to join our church will be held in the Emma Prince Lounge on **Tuesday, April 5 from 7 to 8 pm**. If you are interested in attending, please speak to the pastor. New members will join on May 1 during morning worship.



MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

We need VOLUNTEERS ASAP!

Please see Kim Clouser
or call 765-714-1501 / clsrfrnk@aol.com

DINNER WITH DAVE(S?) (MEN'S FELLOWSHIP) PLANNED



All men of our church are invited to a *Men's Potluck Dinner* on **Monday April 11th at 6:30 PM**; hosted by the Gates' at 146 Bear Swamp Road. Bring a dish to share and great conversation. Please RSVP by Apr. 8th, so we know how many to plan for. Any questions, see David or Betsy Gates, 860-267-4015. See you there!
(There will be at least one Dave, but we may rename it if Dave Kelsey, Dave Selger or Dave Curylo attend.)



American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE
Saturday, April 16th

Give Blood • Give Life

Please visit www.redcross.org
to schedule an appointment

MENS NIGHT OUT

The next Men's Night Out dinner will be held on **Tuesday, April 19th, at 5 pm** at Rossini's. To make a reservation or to inquire about this fun program, please speak to the pastor.



Thank You!

Thanks to the church family for all the phone calls, concerns, and cards during my hip replacement. The surgery was a breeze but I am faced with a drop foot which hopefully will be corrected soon.

Jerry Gerkey



SEEDS OF HOPE



Thanks to all that have brought in recycling items, put clothing in the Collection Shed and purchased Scrip Cards. Invite friends and family to run in our 5K on April 30th. 14 of us are going to Pine Ridge but all of you are part of our journey as well! "Mitakuye Oyasin" – We are all one.



Do you have experience with website design or implementation?

In our effort to fill our pews, we need to showcase our church as the welcoming, inviting, active community that it is!

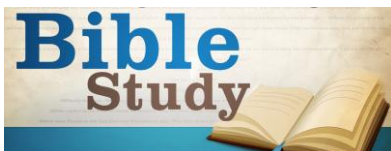
If you can help us update and manage our web page, please contact Betsy Gates 860-267-4015 or besty@ctgates.com

WE NEED A NEW CHURCH TREASURER!

Betsy Gates has been our treasurer for 4 years and has done a fantastic job and now it's time for someone else to lend a hand.

Betsy has a system already in place and will be available to train and help the next treasurer. We would greatly appreciate it if a volunteer would step forward soon and begin the transition process.

If you are interested in serving the church in this position or if you would like more information, please contact Betsy Gates at 267-4015 or betsy@ctgates.com



JOIN US WEDNESDAYS at noon

Participants need to bring a Bible. The sessions last an hour and promise to be full of lots of dialogue and discussion. *Newcomers are most welcome!*



Thanks to all the behind the scenes church mice who helped keep us chugging along!

And thanks to David Hitchcock for putting a clean sparkle on all our coffee pots and Karen Gallmon for the pansy boxes by the office door.

Meals were provided by Deb McLellan, Judy Hoffhine, and Jill Walker.

You Are Appreciated!



PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

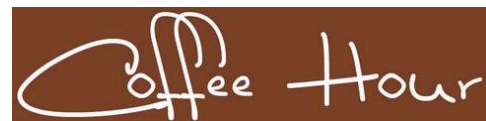
Email Jill Walker at Jillering1@comcast.net or call 860-267-7180 to have a prayer concern listed for our "pray-ers".

You can also let Jill know if you would like to be added to our group and a bi-monthly or as needed list of prayer concerns can be emailed to you. Prayer is a powerful way to connect with God during the good or difficult times in life.



Remember to let Jill Walker know if you or someone you know of from our church family is in need of some helping hands

(860-267-7180). Or call the office (860-267-4959) so we can arrange for meals, rides, help with simple household tasks or just come by and visit!



Join us in Fellowship Hall each Sunday following worship for a time of Fellowship & Refreshments!



This month coffee hour is hosted by the Christian Education Committee.



**CALLING ALL KNITTERS
& CROCHETERS!**

The East Hampton Yarners will meet on Thursdays April 7th & 21st at 10:30am and 7pm.
All are welcome to join us!

Contact Judy Hoffhine at 860-365-0327 or at jhoffhine@gmail.com for more information.

Nursery Care Sign-up



Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to provide Nursery Care for our little ones during Sunday morning service.
Thank you!

Latest Outreach Alert!



Please save your BOX TOP\$ for EDUCATION and bring them to church. We're going to donate them to the Elementary School PTO.

Let's show them that we're current, active and interested in our town's children.

No deadline, but let's see how many we can gather by the end of April. They are worth 10 cents each. For those unfamiliar they are on many products, see link:

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>

There is a collection box outside the church office, or you can simply put them in your offering envelope.
Thanks for your help.

Let's fill the pews.
Betsy



Located at 43 West High Street
(860) 365-5978

Here is a list of some of our current needs:

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Laundry Soap | Dish Soap | Toilet Paper |
| Tuna | Ketchup | Mustard |
| Canned Fruit | Canned Tomatoes | |
| Ravioli | Noodle Sides | |

Thanks for your continued support.
Deb, Food Bank volunteer

Used Clothing Drop-Off Shed



Sponsored by: Congregational Church of East Hampton

Items Accepted:

All clothing, shoes, sneakers, belts, purses, blankets, Sheets, pillowcases, drapes and stuffed toys.
(Your donations **will not** be cut up or shredded)

PLEASE – NO rags, fabric scraps, pillows, toys or household goods; **(These unwanted items are a hardship and expense to dispose of.)**

Benefits to donating:

- Sending clothing to people in need all over the US and the World.
- Help the environment by keeping your clothing out of the landfill.
- **Receive a tax deduction for your donation.**

Receipts are on the shed.

*** Help us keep your donation clean and dry ***
Please put your donation in tied or closed plastic bags.

Thank You!

PLEASE consider providing flowers for our altar.



They can be in celebration of an event, in memory of a loved one, or for any reason at all!

The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.



ITALIAN SUPPER

Saturday, April 2nd
5 – 7pm

Second Congregational Church
52 Middle Haddam Road, Middle Haddam

Menu:

- Meat or Vegetable Lasagna
- Gluten-Free Lasagna
(not prepared in a gluten free kitchen)
- Soup, Tossed Salad, Bread & Butter
- Desserts, Coffee, Tea, Punch

(take-out available)

Adults: \$12 / Children under 10: \$6



The Church is Handicap Accessible
Proceeds to benefit on-going church projects

To the Congregational Church
Congregation:



The smiles on the faces of our children on Christmas are there because of you. Your generosity is appreciated beyond words! Thank you from everyone at Middletown DCF.

Special thanks to Nancy for helping to make this all happen!

Please accept my apology for sending my thank you so late.

Judy

The 27th Annual Quilt Show

Saturday April 9th - 10 AM to 5 PM
and

Sunday April 10th - 11 AM to 5 PM
will be held at the

Haddam Neck Congregational Church
408 Quarry Hill Road
Haddam Neck, Connecticut 06424

A Scenic 19th Century Church,
overlooking
The Connecticut River

More than 100 Quilts

Tea Room, Quilting Supplies & Raffle

Donation: \$6.00 – Kids free

Proceeds benefit

The Church Restoration Fund

Directions

Route 66 East from Middletown
Proceed approximately 6 miles to Cobalt
Turn Right onto Route 151 South
or from Route 9 Exit 7
Follow Signs to Haddam Neck

Information:

860-267-2848 or 860-267-4513

During Show – 860-267-4255



April 2016



**Saturday June 18
9AM - 4PM**

**VILLAGE CENTER
Strawberry
Fields Festival**

&

ART SHOW

**Come on down to the
Village Center and enjoy
fresh local strawberries,
live music, and vendors.
This fun filled all day festival
begins at 9:00AM and ends at
4:00PM. Bring the whole family.**

A Simple, Generous Choice ~ *Electronic Giving*

Electronic Funds Transfer

(Direct debit from your checking or savings account)

Now available at the Congregational Church of East Hampton

Participate Today.

Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church.

Open your heart without opening your checkbook

Electronic Giving is the term used to describe automatic methods for making contributions on a regular basis without the need to write checks, carry cash or prepare envelopes.

Frequently Asked Questions About Direct Debit Giving

Q. What are the major advantages of electronic giving by direct debit?

A. Direct debit is all about convenience for you and consistency for the church. Electronic giving eliminates frequent check writing and helps members stay on track with pledges even when they are unable to attend services. The church in turn benefits from much-needed donation consistency and a reduction in the volume of check and cash contributions that must be handled and manually processed in the church office.

Q. How does Direct Debit Giving work?

A. Contributions are transferred automatically from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Q. How are my automatic contributions deducted and transferred?

A. First, you sign and return an authorization form to the church indicating the amount you wish to contribute on a regular basis. Contributions are then transferred through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network—the same network already used by families to make mortgage and utility payments or to receive payroll earnings and Social Security income. Direct debit goes by other names including Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), automatic payment, or simply, ACH.

Q. When will my contribution be debited from my account?

A. A debit to your account will occur each month on the date you specify on your authorization form.

Q. How will I keep track of contributions in my check register?

A. Since your contribution is made at a pre-established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date. Electronic contributions will appear on your bank statement.

Q. What can I use to prove I made a contribution?

A. Your bank statement will show an itemized list of electronic transactions that can be used as proof of your contributions.

Q. Is giving by direct debit risky?

A. It is certainly less risky than writing checks or carrying cash to church. To process electronic donations, the church uses Vanco Services, LLC—an established and highly-regarded company that moves funds directly from church members to the church on the same day without any delay. Vanco processes contributions for more than 10,000 churches and nonprofit organizations.

Q. How much does direct debit giving cost?

A. It costs you nothing and it costs the church very little. It is the lowest cost method of transferring funds.

Q. What if I try electronic giving by direct debit and don't like it?

A. You can cancel your authorization at any time by notifying the church.

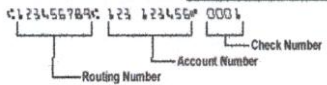
Q. How can I sign up for electronic giving by direct debit?

AUTHORIZATION FORM

Congregational Church of East Hampton


UCC080570

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
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Effective date of authorization: _____												
Type of Authorization Form: <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> New Authorization</td> <td style="width:50%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount</td> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			<input type="checkbox"/> New Authorization	<input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information	<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount	<input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation	<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date					
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<input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date												
Last Name	First Name											
Address												
City	State	Zip										
Email Address												
Please debit my donation from my: (check one) <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)</td> <td style="width:50%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)	Routing Number: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: _____ <div style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">  <p>Routing Number Account Number Check Number</p> </div>									
<input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)											
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: (check only one) <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1st and 15th</td> <td style="width:50%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1st</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15th</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 st and 15 th	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 st	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 th		FUNDS AND AMOUNTS: <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width:70%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> General Fund</td> <td style="width:30%; border: none;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</td> <td style="border: none;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right; padding-top: 10px;">Total \$ _____</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$ _____	Total \$ _____	
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<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	\$ _____											
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$ _____											
Total \$ _____												
AGREEMENT												
I authorize the above church to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.												
Authorized Signature: _____		Date: _____										

Please attach voided check here.

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>The <u>DEADLINE</u> for submissions to the <u>May 2016 issue of</u> <i>The Congregational Chatter</i> <u>is Wednesday, April 27th</u></p>					<p>1 EH Art Assoc. Workshop 9am-3pm</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 Worship/ Communion 10am AA – 8pm</p>	<p>4 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am Women's Potluck, 6:30pm Host: Lynda Tinney Wolf Pack, 7pm</p>	<p>5 New Member Forum, 7-8pm Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>6 <u>Bible Study</u>, noon Financial Peace University, 7-8:30pm Scout Parents & Leaders, 7-9pm AA – 8pm</p>	<p>7 EH Yarners 10:30 & 7pm <u>Choir: Bell, 6pm</u> <u>Adult, 7:10pm</u></p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Worship, 10am Deacons, 11:30am AA – 8pm</p>	<p>11 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am Dinner w/Dave, 6:30pm Tigers & Cubs, 7pm</p>	<p>12 Bears, 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>13 <u>Bible Study</u>, noon Financial Peace University, 7-8:30pm AA – 8pm</p>	<p>14 <u>Choir: Bell, 6pm</u> <u>Adult, 7:10pm</u></p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Red Cross BLOOD DRIVE 8am-1pm</p>
<p>17 Worship, 10am AA – 8pm</p>	<p>18 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am</p>	<p>19 Men's Dinner 5pm Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>20 <u>Bible Study</u>, noon Financial Peace University, 7-8:30pm AA – 8pm</p>	<p>21 EH Yarners 10:30 & 7pm <u>Choir: Bell, 6pm</u> <u>Adult, 7:10pm</u></p>	<p>22 Earth Day</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Worship, 10am Boy Scout Council, 7pm AA – 8pm</p>	<p>25 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am</p>	<p>26 Council, 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>27 <u>Bible Study</u>, noon Financial Peace University, 7-8:30pm AA – 8pm</p>	<p>28 <u>Choir: Bell, 6pm</u> <u>Adult, 7:10pm</u></p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Seeds of Hope 5K 9am</p>



SHAVING CREAM EARTH

God created this wonderful world and told us to care for it. Remember that by making a unique painting.



What you need:

- A cookie sheet
- White shaving cream
- A wooden craft stick
- Paint (blue and green)
- A straw
- A paper plate

What you do:

1. On the cookie sheet, spray shaving cream in a circle (the same size as the bottom of the paper plate). Smooth it out with the craft stick.
2. Squirt the blue and green paint on top of the shaving cream in loopy, squiggly patterns. Swirl the paint around with the straw.
3. Place the bottom of the paper plate on top of the paint. Press it down gently so the whole plate bottom is covered in paint.
4. Lift up the plate and gently remove excess shaving cream with the stick.
5. After the painting dries, hang it on your wall.



A SPECIAL GIFT

Give thanks to God for this amazing planet, which he filled with people, animals and plants.

Directions: Following the code below, fill in the blanks to complete the Bible verse. Then color the earth.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



The _____ is _____, _____, and _____, the _____, and _____ 24:1, NIV

5 1 18 20 8 20 8 5 12 15 18 4 19
5 22 5 18 25 20 8 9 14 7 9 14 9 20
23 15 18 12 4 1 12 12 23 8 15 12 9 22 5
9 14 9 20 16 19 1 12 13

Answer: The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1, NIV