



# The Congregational Chatter

## February 2016



Thots from  
Tom...

Welcome to February and the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. We are having an Ash Wednesday

service at 6 pm. This service is a potluck supper. During the service we will have holy communion, and look ahead to the forty days of Lent. The service will end no later than 7 pm.

We are having a Second Hour hunger theme throughout Lent. Beginning on February 21 COSA (Committee on Social Outreach and Social Action) will hold a series of programs on hunger. We often say, "I'm hungry; what's to eat?" We are blessed to be able to even *choose* what we want to eat, and how many meals or snacks a day we want to have. Many people, including those living in our community do not have that option. The first session will be on The Causes of Hunger; February 28 will be on The Costs of Hunger; March 6 will look at Hunger in Connecticut; March 13 will examine Hunger in East Hampton, and on March 20 ( Palm Sunday) we will have a dinner after worship that will focus on first, second and third world meals. I will be incorporating hunger themes in worship during this period. I hope that you can attend these informative programs and dig into the pervading issue of hunger I. Our world, nation, state and community.

Speaking of food, we will beginning our Supper Club gatherings this month and on Saturday, February 27, Seeds of Hope, our immersion mission program will be holding a "Taste of East Hampton" in our fellowship hall from 2-5 pm. Funds raised from this event will be used for the trip to the Re-Member organization at the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. Ten restaurants or food vendors will be available for patrons to sample. Costs are \$10.00 each for adults and \$5.00 for children and \$25.00 for a family. I hope you can join us!

Have a blessed month! Tom

Come to Pray and Stay for  
*Seeds of Hope*

**Souper Bowl**



**Lunch**

**Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup>  
following our Annual Meeting**

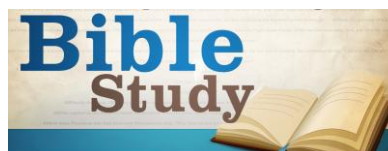
Homemade soups, bread and dessert  
*You'll be home in plenty of time for  
"Kickoff!"*

### 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.

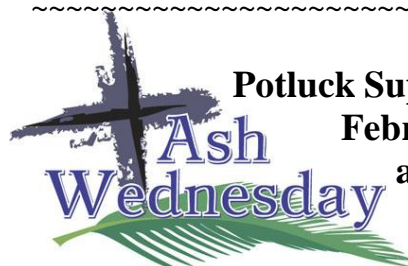
Betsy has a system already in place and will be available to train and help the next treasurer. We would greatly appreciate it if a volunteer would step forward soon and begin the transition process.

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](mailto: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!*



**Potluck Supper & Worship  
February 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 6pm**



## Moderator Musings



I did not submit to the Chatter last month and have some catching up to do.

Happy New Year!

Sunday January 31, 2016 we will have our Budget meeting to discuss our planned finances for 2016. Be sure to attend.

February 7, 2016 we will have our annual meeting and receive reports from our diverse committees and hear about our 2015 accomplishments. Be sure to attend. The annual meeting is followed by our SOUP-er bowl Sunday lunch [presented by the Seeds of Hope team.

February 10<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent. What happened to the winter, not that I'm complaining.

As part of my catch up I have to give a big shout out to Judy Hoffhine and her "Yarners". I spent two weeks in Cofradia du Suchitlan Mexico in December and my highlight was giving out baby blankets that were handmade by the Yarners. They did the work and I got the smiles and the gracias'.



Last weekend I went to a volunteer meeting for my mid-February trip to Honduras and passed along 70 baby hats for new borns and another group of baby blankets. What a wonderful way to share talents and compassion with those less fortunate. Thank you Yarners!!

*Alan Hurst*, Moderator

## "Is There Enough Food? Hunger Near and Far"

The question of food availability and hunger came to COSA (Committee on Outreach and Social Action) members as we learned more about the global refugee crisis. Photos, articles, TV news and Jesus' commandments to care for one another in his name led us to consider hunger globally and locally. We felt the need for more education and ideas for outreach and social action as we realized that hunger and food availability and distribution has become a growing problem, literally and figuratively.

COSA with Pastor Kennedy is preparing a 5-week seminar for children, youth, and adults during Lent. We hope everyone can stay after worship for 30 minutes for four Sundays beginning February 21. After getting refreshments at Fellowship Hour, adults and youth will meet in Fellowship Hall. We will have time for education, discussion, stories of our experience and some hand-outs to take home. The children will go to one of the classrooms for games and activities related to the topic with Lily Bartel and Alka Arcari. On Palm Sunday, we will eat a special meal together immediately after worship.

February 21: **The Causes of Hunger**, including global climate change

February 28: **The Costs of Hunger** physically, emotionally, developmentally, financially

March 6: **Hunger in Connecticut**: A speaker for the Connecticut Food Bank will talk about Hunger in Connecticut and their mission.

March 13: **Hunger in East Hampton**: Sandy Fries, director of the East Hampton Food and Fuel Bank will speak about the local situation and their mission

March 20, Palm Sunday, we will **Build-our-Meal** for lunch. Please stay after worship where you have the choice to eat a little, some, or a lot of food, unlike millions of food insecure people. Reservations will be most helpful for this event.

Save these dates and times and observe Lent in a new way.



### Women's Potluck & Book Chat

Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

at the home of Betsy Gates

146 Bear Swamp Road

860-267-4015

Bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship and conversation about the book *"Breakfast With Buddha"* by Roland Merullo

*Never-beens always welcome!!*

## MENS NIGHT OUT

The Men's Night Out dinner will be held on **Tuesday, February 9, at 5 pm** at Rossini's. This is open to any men of the church interested in getting together for a monthly dinner, with particular emphasis on those who have experienced the death of a loved one.



For more information, or to make a reservation, please contact the pastor.



### CALLING ALL KNITTERS & CROCHETERS!

The East Hampton Yarners will meet on Thursdays February 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am and 7pm. *All are welcome to join us!*

Contact Judy Hoffhine at 860-365-0327 or at [jhoffhine@gmail.com](mailto:jhoffhine@gmail.com) for more information.



### CHOIR REHEARSAL on Thursdays 7:10pm



Join us in Fellowship Hall each Sunday following worship for a time of Fellowship & Refreshments! This month coffee hour is hosted by our Buildings & Grounds Committee.



**Thanks to all the church mice** who quietly, and often without notice, did a task or chore to keep our church family and building humming along!

*You Are Appreciated!*



### PRAYER CHAIN MINISTRY

Email Jill Walker at [Jillering1@comcast.net](mailto: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.

## HELPING HANDS

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!



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



PIZZERIA DAVINCI • PO'S RICE & SPICE • TAVERN ON 66

ANGELICO'S LAKEHOUSE

SEEDS OF HOPE FUNDRAISER  
PINE RIDGE RESERVATION - MISSION

# TASTE of East Hampton

Sample Local Food & Fun Unique Auction

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

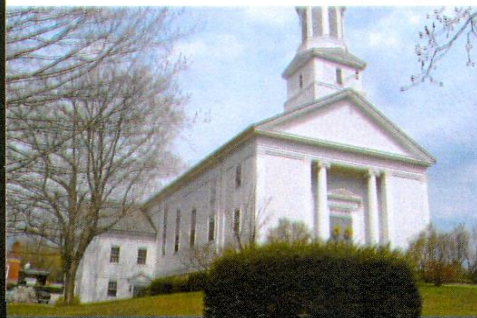
**FEBRUARY 27, 2016**

2:00 - 5:00 PM

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF EAST HAMPTON

59 MAIN ST, EAST HAMPTON, CT

**Call For Tickets: 860 918-1170**



Call for tickets  
or purchase at  
door til sold out

**Adult \$10**

6 tastings

**Children \$5**

3 tastings

**Family \$25**

multiple tastings

CHATHAM CATERING

DUBLIN • FROTH • K.LAMAY • LOCO PERRO • LUCKY GOAT

# 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

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**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?**

A. Complete, sign and return the authorization form on the following page to the church office.

# 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:	<input type="checkbox"/> New Authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date	<input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation
Last Name		First Name
Address		
City	State	Zip
Email Address		
Please debit my donation from my: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below) <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)		Routing Number: _____ <b>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</b>  Account Number: _____ <small>C 1234567890 123 1234567 0001 Routing Number Account Number Check Number</small>
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: (check only one) <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 <sup>th</sup>	FUNDS AND AMOUNTS: <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ \$ _____  Total \$ _____
<b>AGREEMENT</b> 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



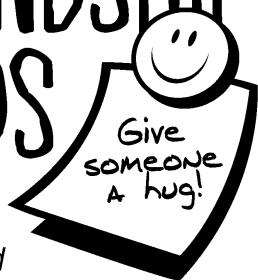


# February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Wolf Den, 7pm	<b>2</b> Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>3</b> Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon AA – 8pm	<b>4</b> EH Yarners 10:30 & 7pm  <u>Choir, 7:10pm</u>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Transfiguration  <b>Worship/ Communion 10am ANNUAL MEETING Souper Bowl Lunch AA – 8pm</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Women's Potluck, 6:30pm</b> Host: Betsy Gates	<b>9</b> <b>Men's Night Out, 5pm</b>  Bears, 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>10</b> Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon  ASH WEDNESDAY Service, 6pm  AA – 8pm	<b>11</b>  <u>Choir, 7:10pm</u>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship, 10am</b>  Deacons, 11:30am  AA – 8pm	<b>15</b> Tigers, 7pm	<b>16</b> Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>17</b> Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon  Scout Parents & Leaders, 7pm  AA – 8pm	<b>18</b> EH Yarners 10:30 & 7pm  <u>Choir, 7:10pm</u>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship, 10am</b>  AA – 8pm	<b>22</b> Cubs, 7pm	<b>23</b> <b>Council, 7pm</b>  Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>24</b> Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study, noon  AA – 8pm	<b>25</b>  <u>Choir, 7:10pm</u>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  <b>Taste of East Hampton 2-5pm</b>
<b>28</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent Worship, 10am</b>  AA – 8pm  BS Council, 7pm	<b>29</b> Webelos, 7pm	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>The DEADLINE for submissions to the March 2016 issue of  <i>The Congregational Chatter</i> is <b>Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup></b></p> </div>				

# FRIENDSHIP CARDS



This month, don't just *send* valentines; *be* a valentine! Create these Friendship Cards to express love through kind acts for your loved ones — all month long.



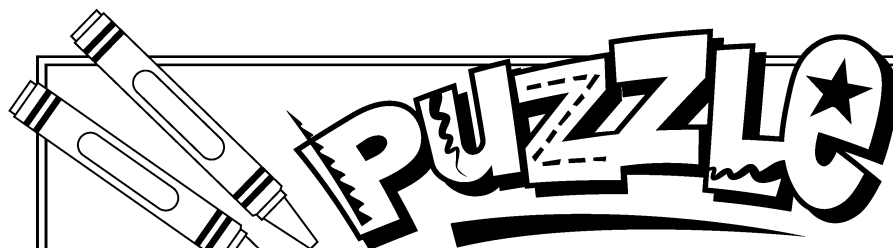
## What you need:

- 29 index cards
- A small box or container
- Colored pens or glitter pens
- Stickers

## What you do:

1. On each card, write something nice you can do for other people. Ideas include "Give someone a hug," "Clean someone's room," "Read to someone" and so on. You can use colored pens to draw a picture.
2. Decorate the box or container. Place the cards inside.
3. Each day in February, select a card and do that nice thing for someone!

# Kids Page



## True Friendship

What makes someone a good friend?  
The Bible offers lots of advice about true friendship.

*Directions: Starting at the \*, connect the dots clockwise and complete the words using the word bank. Then fill in Proverbs 27:9, NIV.*

### WORD BANK:

heart prings ir verbs vice ness end

27:9, NIV

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 27:9, NIV

Answer: The pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.  
Proverbs 27:9, NIV