



The Congregational Chatter

June

2016



Thoughts From Tom



Here it is! We are in the month of June. The month of the Summer Solstice. The Time of Summer (no winter). As most of you know about me by now, I live for this time of year!

However, I do have a confession. I realize that snow is important, because in those winter seasons when we have had a lot of snow the grass in my yard just seems to be a lot happier come spring. With little snow this past season to protect my lawn it took a hard freeze and a lot of the lawn ended up dead. So in God's great plan, there is a purpose for everything, including snow. Lesson learned.

As of press time we are anticipating a great Open Air Market on Memorial Day weekend, and planning for our summer fund raisers is well underway. Many thanks to Deb Robinson, John Tuttle, Alan Hurst, Tim Quackenbush, Jerry Gerkey and Jill Walker who were at a meeting planning for our annual golf tournament where the majority of the proceeds benefit the town's food and fuel bank. Plans are also underway for our annual Silent Auction and hot dog booth during Old Home Days. Many thanks for all the volunteers who make these events possible during our "fund raising season".

On May 22 we had a wonderful choir appreciation luncheon to celebrate the dedication of our choir. Many thanks to Patti Burdick and the Music Committee for hosting the lunch. We also dedicated the new choir robes that the choir has begun wearing. The robes are beautiful. During lunch a presentation was made by Alan Hurst and members of the finance committee on the "State of the Church." We celebrated the many successful programs and activities that we have had as a church so far in 2016; the church has been busy! We have also made a huge dent in our deficit for this year. We have a ways to go, but we are making wonderful progress.

Looking ahead, we will celebrate the confirming of faith of three of our young people in an Affirmation of Baptism service on June 5.

In this service we will be recognizing the spiritual journeys of London Brazal, Katie Nikolov and Evan Selger as they transition from Church School to being recognized as adults, responsible for their own faith journeys in our church. They will be invited to join our church as full members this fall.

We also will be sending off our Seeds of Hope participants on their mission trip to the Pine Ridge Lakota reservation, working with the Re-Member organization from June 19 until June 25. We will be commissioning them to their work on Sunday, June 12.

Finally, through the work of our music director search committee the search for a new music director is well underway. Two of our finalists will be holding rehearsals with the senior choir and then directing the choir during worship on the Sundays of June 5 and 12. We look forward to these opportunities. It is expected that we will have a new music director in place by September.

Have a good month!

TOM

Church School Thanks

The last week of Church School will be June 12th. We will have ice cream for all to celebrate the coming of summer!



Thanks to our teachers:

Lanette Zaborowski, Missy Burton, Allison Cowan, Pat Day and Jill Walker.

Special thanks to Alka Alcari for being our ready-and-willing substitute thru the year.

Team Teachers are needed for next year which begins September 11th.

Talk to Jill for more information.

Coffee Hour

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





Moderator Musings

I can't believe I am writing an article for the June Chatter already.

Some May thank yous:

Thank you to COSA for a wonderful community dinner that broke even and gives us encouragement to continue with other dinners.

Thank you to those that turned out for our clean up day at the church on May 21st. Many hands make light work.

Thank you for the donation and dedication of the new robes for our Senior and Bell choirs.

Thank you to the attendees and presenters at our May 22nd State of the Church meeting.

For those unable to attend the State of the Church meeting, some high points:

- In January we had a \$17,000 plus deficit budget:
- We have since had extra pledges of \$2000
- An Easter offering near \$6000
- Reduced expenses from the Music Director position of \$3000
- Seeds of Hope give back of \$1000

Net deficit at May 22 is about \$5,700; real progress but a ways to go still.

The Endowment has grown 2.69% through April 30, 2016. We still anticipate using 8% of the endowment by year end.

Aside from the Finances:

The Lenten Hunger series had new people in the church and resulted in a community dinner to help folks in our community. The Yarners group continues to do good works and energize the attendees twice a month.

Financial Peace University, a nine week program, has brought 12 families together, many from outside our church family. Taste of East Hampton brought over 250 community members into our church as a fundraiser for Seeds of Hope, with another 45 participating in our first annual 5K road race.

What we need now is full participation in our summer fundraisers, bringing neighbors, friends and families to help support our church. These include the Spring Sale, Old Home Days Silent Auction and hot dog booth, our August 16th Belltown Open golf outing and the Fall Festival.

PLUS...June 18th, fourteen of us will be headed to Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota for this year's Seeds of Hope outreach.

Alan Hurst, Moderator

CALLING ALL KNITTERS & CROCHETERS!

The East Hampton Yarners will meet **Thursdays June 2nd & 16th** 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.



June Women's Potluck "Marking Life's Journey"

When: Monday, June 6,
5:30 - Social time;

6:15 Dinner and Program

Where: Home of Judy Hoffhine, 10 Cobalt Rd., East Hampton

Who: All women of the church – young, old and in between

What: "Marking Life's Journey" Rev. Pam Peterson guides us through a thoughtful process as we close this year's potlucks. It will begin during dinner.

This is our BBQ potluck. Weather permitting, we will have a picnic. Beverages and grilled meats will be provided.

What to bring: a dish to share, a Bible, a flat stone around 6" in diameter. (Any shape is fine.)

If possible, please RSVP to Jill Walker or Judy Hoffhine (jhoffhine@gmail.com) for this program.

Everyone is welcome, even if last minute!!!



Thanks to all that helped with our Grounds Spring Clean Up. The gardens look spiffy indeed! Thank you all everyone that signed up to help at our annual Spring Market. GO TEAM!

You Are Appreciated!

The next Men's Fellowship



will be hosted by Pete & Rae Strickland on **Monday, June 20th, 6:30pm**
 Contact Information: 860-267-2930 / sunbeam@comcast.net



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!

SEEDS OF HOPE



Seeds of Hope is Almost Outa Here....!
 Our group of 14 are ever grateful for all the support our church family has given to our fundraisers thru the year to help our out of pocket costs be reduced! Please keep us on your prayers while we are gone June 18-24:

Deb McLellan, Jenna and Mary DeCoursey, Buck Sasug, Lisa Aarrestad, Corey Anderson, Jason Gee, John and Jackie Hooper-Hage, Lisa Clair Cowan, Alan Hurst, Bob Jones, Colleen Mellen and Jill Walker.



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



Nursery Care Sign-up



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

Thank you!



Save your BOX TOP\$ for EDUCATION and bring them to church.

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



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

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.



**The Joseph N. Goff House
18th Annual Gazebo Concert Series
begins Thursday, June 23rd**

6:30 to 8pm at the Center School Gazebo
featuring a performance by
"Seat of Our Pants", an acoustic, folk,
blues and bluegrass group from Marlborough.



Seat of Our Pants

June 30th ~ "The Larry Gareau Quartet";
familiar and original music in a lyrical jazz style



Old Home Day Events are Coming!



Silent Auction & Hot Dog Booth

**Old Home Days are July 7-9 this year
and its time to get our events organized!**

Everyone is needed to provide at least one item to be auctioned off. Silent Auction items need to be new or true antiques. Minimum value is \$20 but the sky is the limit! Donations can be re-gifted items, event tickets, goods & services, gift cards, time-shares, something newly purchased and antiques.

Items can be brought to the storage room on the first floor, next to the furnace room, until June 12th. Fill in a donor form for each item left (*forms will be in an envelope on the door*). After June 12th bring items to the purple room on the first floor and fill in a donor form.

Lots of help will be needed to staff our 2 event areas including setting up the auction and closing it out. PLEASE be generous with your time to make these events successful! Sign-up sheets will be in Fellowship Hall on 6/5.

**CHILI'S IS PROUD
TO SUPPORT**

**Cub Scouts Pack 57
East Hampton, CT**



more GIVING BACK happens here

Let Chili's do the cooking while we support Cub Scouts Pack 57 East Hampton, CT at the same time. With each flyer presented on Tuesday, Chili's will donate 10% of the event day sales back to this great organization.

**Cub Scouts Pack 57 East Hampton, CT Give Back Event is:
June 21st, 2016
From 5:00pm to 9:00pm**

only at: GLASTONBURY
2855 Main Street - Glastonbury, CT 06033 860-657-2333 - www.chilis.com

Give Back Event flyer required with each check to receive credit for the sale. Sale cannot be included in donation amount with flyer. Offer only valid on the date and location stated above. Donations will not be given on sales made prior to or past this date.

SAVE THE DATE!

11th Annual
Belltown Open
Golf Tournament
Tuesday, August 16th



Glastonbury Hills
COUNTRY CLUB

Registration: 8:30-10am

Tee-Time: 10am Shot-Gun

Format: Scramble to accommodate
all levels of Golfers!

18 Holes with Cart
Lunch & Dinner
included!

Single: \$135.

Foursome: \$500.

REGISTER BY
August 12th

Contact: John Tuttle 860-558-0890
tuttlekahn@gmail.com

*Your participation will benefit the
East Hampton Food & Fuel Bank.*



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?

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

AUTHORIZATION FORM

Congregational Church of East Hampton


UCC080570

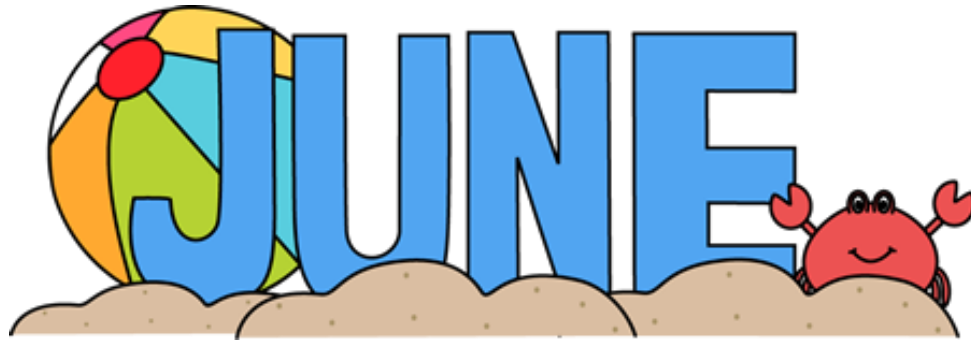
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	ENVELOPE/DONOR #	DATE
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Effective date of authorization: _____		
Type of Authorization Form: <input type="checkbox"/> New Authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date		
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: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 Account Number: _____ <small> C 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 0 0 0 1 Routing Number Account Number Check Number </small>	
DATE OF FIRST DONATION: ____/____/____	FREQUENCY OF DONATION: (check only one) <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: <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ \$ _____ <div style="text-align: right;">Total \$ _____</div>
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
<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>The DEADLINE for submissions to the July/August 2016 issue of <i>The Congregational Chatter</i> is Tuesday, June 28th</p> </div>			1 AA – 8pm	2 EH Yarners 10:30 & 7pm Choir: Bell, 6pm Adult, 7:10pm	3	4
5 Worship/ Communion, 10am AA – 8pm	6 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am Women's Potluck, 5:30pm Host: Judy Hoffhine Wolf Den, 7pm	7 Boy Scouts 7pm	8 Scout Parents & Leaders, 7-9pm AA – 8pm	9 Choir: Bell, 6pm Adult, 7:10pm	10	11
12 Worship, 10am Deacons, 11:30am AA – 8pm	13 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am Cubs & Tigers, 7pm	14 Bears & Boy Scouts 7pm	15 AA – 8pm	16 EH Yarners 10:30 & 7pm Choir: Bell, 6pm Adult, 7:10pm	17	18 Art Show & Strawberry Festival 9am-4pm
19 Worship, 10am AA – 8pm <i>Father's Day</i>	20 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am Men's Fellowship Dinner, 6:30pm Hosts: Pete & Rae Strickland	21 Boy Scouts 7pm	22 AA – 8pm	23 Choir: Bell, 6pm Adult, 7:10pm	24	25 Farmer's Market 9am-1pm
26 Worship, 10am Boy Scout Council, 7pm AA – 8pm	27 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am	28 Council, 6:30pm Boy Scouts 7pm	29 AA – 8pm	30		



In my
**FATHER'S
FOOTSTEPS**



Make this keepsake to express love for your dad or another special man this Father's Day.

What you need:

- White construction paper (11" x 13" sheet)
- Pencil
- Black permanent marker
- Crayons or paint

What you do:

1. In the center of the paper, trace your foot in pencil. Darken the outline with marker.
2. Color or paint the footprint. Let it dry.
3. Trace your father's foot (same one) on top of your footprint (with yours in the middle of his).
4. Color or paint his footprint. Let it dry.
5. Sign your names and the date at the bottom.

**FOLLOW OUR
FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS**

In the book of Proverbs, a father urges his son to listen to his wisdom, which he received from his heavenly Father.

Directions: Starting at 1, follow the footsteps and write the words in order on the blanks below.

1 Listen to 6
2 do not 3 and be wise
3 4 my instruction 5
4 2 disregard it

“ _____ ;
_____ .”

Answer: "Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it." Proverbs 8:33, NIV