



The Congregational Chatter

March

2016



Thots from Tom...

Spring is almost here! So is Easter! People ask me why the date of Easter moves around on the calendar every year and is not on the same date all the time. In 325CE the Council of Nicaea established that the observance of Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. So the day when we observe Easter is dependent on when the full moon occurs after the beginning of spring.

Easter this year is March 27. The day begins with a Sunrise Service at 7 am at Sears Park, hosted by a few clergy from East Hampton. Our Easter worship celebration will feature the cantata "The Song Everlasting", a sacred cantata based on early American songs. The service will conclude with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah".

Our Maundy Thursday service will begin in fellowship hall at 6:30 on Thursday, March 24 with a simple meal and communion, and will conclude with a service of Tenebrae in the sanctuary. Many of our parishioners have shared that this is the most meaningful service that they attend every year. I hope you can attend.

Finally, I want to share with you that Mary Douglas has tendered her resignation to be effective March 31. We have appreciated her ministry with us and wish her well with her future endeavors. She will be missed. The choir and music committee will be securing interim personnel to fill the vacancy as next steps are determined.

Have a blessed month!

Peace,
Tom

Holy Week Schedule



Maundy Thursday Service, Thursday, March 24th, 6:30pm

This service begins with a simple meal and Holy Communion in the fellowship hall and concludes with the Service of Tenebrae in the sanctuary. This service is both a time of fellowship and profound spiritual awakening.

Easter Morning, Sunday, March 27th

Sunrise Service at Sears Park, 7:00am

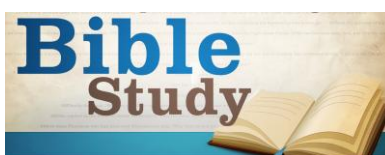
Please bring a lawn chair and dress warmly; it is often chilly down near the water.

Easter Worship Service

We will be observing our Easter celebration with one service, held at 10:00am. The service will feature a special cantata being performed by the Senior Choir titled, "The Song Everlasting", a sacred cantata based on early American songs by Joseph M. Martin. The service will conclude with the senior choir and volunteers from the congregation singing Handel's "Alleluia Chorus" from "The Messiah," which is always a very moving and inspirational experience for all.

Children's Easter Egg Hunt after worship

This is totally contingent upon the conditions of the church grounds. An announcement about whether it will occur or not will be made at our Easter morning worship service.



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!*

Moderator Musings



Happy March ! Will this year's March bring us Spring or Winter? I would be remiss if I did not, again, recognize our Yarner's Group for their wonderful service. I recently returned from Tela Honduras where I had the great honor to provide baby blankets and caps to mothers in

the NICU (Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit) built by Hands to Honduras – Tela.

I also want to thank those that attended this year's Annual Meeting. We had a great discussion with energy and enthusiasm. Next year we will provide Peter Aarestaad with a more comfortable chair.

Now is the time to look forward to some great events. February 27th is our Taste of East Hampton fundraiser for Seeds of Hope. The community response has been wonderful.

Betsy and David Gates are bringing Financial University to our church. Again, community response (Rivereast, Facebook, posters, word of mouth) has been excellent.

We have begun our supper club events with a number of families involved.

With Easter being March 27th we have a packed month end schedule. Our special Maundy Thursday service will be March 24th early in the evening.

Friday we are planning a "fifth Sunday" type excursion to Crossroads Community Cathedral in East Hartford for performance of "the Passion of the King". Tickets are \$10 each and it is a convenient distance to car-pool. I highly recommend this experience.

Sunday is Easter and will include our Lily sale and we will use the proceeds of our special Easter offering to close our budget gap and then for special programming for our church family. Please be as generous as you are able when you receive your special Easter Offering envelop and request.

We will provide reminders to these activities as we move through the Lenten season and information on even more activities besides. We look forward to your participation in as many of these activities as you are able, especially as the days grow longer and warmer.

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 has prepared a 5-week seminar for children, youth, and adults during Lent. We hope everyone can stay after worship for 30 minutes for four Sundays March 6th, 13th, and 20th. 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 March 20th, Palm Sunday, we will eat a special meal together immediately after worship.

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.*

SEEDS OF HOPE



Thanks to all that came to our
Taste of East Hampton event!

What food! What fun!

What a wonderful way to raise some money!

WE RAISED \$4,500!!!

FAMILY SUNDAY

March 6th

No church school classes. Children will share Communion with their church family and feel included and loved to be at God's table.

*"Let the
little children
come to me...."*

MENS NIGHT OUT

The Men's Night Out dinner will be held on **Tuesday, March 8, 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.



Women's Potluck

Monday, March 14th at 6:30pm

at the home of Jill Walker, 69 Collie Brook Road

In addition to dinner we will walk out back to *Rick's Sugar Shack* to see the sugar maker in action (if weather provides sap for boiling of course!)

Wear or bring boots (its mud season!)

Bring a dish to share and join us for a great meal, conversation and perhaps a sample of fresh maple syrup!

Never-beens always welcome!!

Special Lenten Program

**The
PASSION
Of The
KING**

Good Friday,

March 25th at 6:00 PM

**Crossroads
Community
Cathedral,
East Hartford, CT**

*We have reserved
10 tickets
(\$11 each)
and can carpool
from the
parking lot*

Pizza and conversation afterward back at church
Sign up in Fellowship Hall to secure your space!

"The Passion of the King is an epic and comprehensive musical about God's plan for Humankind. The scriptures come alive as you are taken on a journey through time to observe the beginning of the new kingdom. See how God prepared the world and the hearts of people for the coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ." Visit Crossroads Community Cathedral online for more info. **See Jill Walker with questions.**

Easter Offering



As donations decline during continued hard financial times and despite the gracious efforts of our committees and staff to further minimize expenses, it was again necessary for the Church to pass a deficit budget.

In order for our Church to continue to serve the congregation and the wider community, a special Easter Offering will again be held to help close the gap.

Please give as generously as you can to help us continue to be a beacon of our Faith and a positive example of 'neighbors helping neighbors'. Our Church and our outreach are needed more than ever.



Add your voice

**CHOIR REHEARSAL
on Thursdays**

Bell, 6pm ~ Adult, 7:10pm



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

(weather permitting!)

Sunday, March 27th
immediately after worship
 on the front lawn

Bring a basket to collect your goodies
 or use one of our bags.



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



CALLING ALL KNITTERS & CROCHETERS!

The East Hampton Yarners will meet on
 Thursdays March 3rd & 17th 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.



A special THANK YOU to the following for providing meals last month:

Kim Clouser	Winnie Carrillo
Lisa Aarrestad	Jill Walker
Lorraine Barlow	Marsha Hubbard
Karen Gallmon	Jackie Hooper-Hage

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

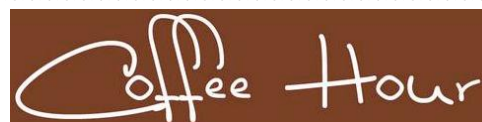
Email Jill Walker at
Jillering1@comcast.net or
 call 860-267-7180 to have
 a prayer concern listed for
 our "pray-ers".

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 COSA.

Please use the order form below to place your Easter Lily order. Cut out, fill in and return to the church office by March 20th.

Thank you!



Help decorate our sanctuary this Easter by ordering an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one, in honor of a special occasion, or to celebrate the season.

Any reason will do!

Please include \$9. per 6" plant with your order.

Checks should be made payable to "CCEH" with "Easter Lily" on the memo line.

You may place your order in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office. (P.O. Box 237)

Orders due Sunday, March 20th

Please let us know what you would like printed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin:

Given by: _____

Phone: _____

In Celebration of: _____

In Loving Memory of: _____

of Lilies ordered _____
Payment included \$ _____
Check # _____

Following the March 27th 10am Easter Service,

___ *I will take my lily home.*

___ *I will leave my lily for delivery to a church*



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.



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

9-week class

Wednesdays – March 30th thru May 25th 7pm – 8:30pm

Congregational Church of East Hampton

Cost: \$100

Questions?: Contact Betsy Gates 860-267-4015 betsy@ctgates.com



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

BY

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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!



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:	<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: _____ <i>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</i> Account Number: _____ <small>01234567890 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 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 _____ \$ _____ 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**



MARCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Boy Scouts 7pm	2 Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study , noon AA – 8pm	3 EH Yarners 10:30 & 7pm Choir: Bell, 6pm <u>Adult, 7:10pm</u>	4	5
6 4 th Sunday in Lent Family Sunday Worship/ Communion 10am Lenten Program, 11am AA – 8pm	7 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am Wolf Pack, 7pm	8 Men's Night Out, 5pm Bears, 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	9 Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study , noon Scout Parents & Leaders, 7-9pm AA – 8pm	10 Choir: Bell, 6pm <u>Adult, 7:10pm</u>	11	12
13 5 th Sunday in Lent Worship, 10am Lenten Program, 11am Deacons, 11:30am AA – 8pm <i>Daylight Savings Time begins</i>	14 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am Women's Potluck, 6:30pm Host: Jill Walker Tigers, 7pm	15 Boy Scouts 7pm	16 Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study , noon FPU Program 7pm AA – 8pm	17 EH Yarners 10:30 & 7pm Choir: Bell, 6pm <u>Adult, 7:10pm</u>	18	19
20 2 nd Sunday in Lent Palm Sunday Worship, 10am Lenten Program, 11am AA – 8pm	21 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am	22 Council, 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	23 Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study , noon AA – 8pm	24 Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30pm	25 Good Friday	26 Holy Saturday
27 Easter Sunrise Service, 7am Morning Worship, Easter Offering Collection, 10am AA – 8pm	28 Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am	29	30 Art Class 9:30-11:30am Bible Study , noon Financial Peace University, 7-8:30pm AA – 8pm	31 Choir: Bell, 6pm <u>Adult, 7:10pm</u>	<p>The DEADLINE for submissions to the April 2016 issue of The Congregational Chatter is <u>Tuesday, March 29th</u></p>	