



May

# The Congregational Chatter

2016



## *Thoughts From Tom*



Welcome to the month of May! I love saying those words. May is a time of the year when flowers and trees are blooming and blossoming, the grass is really green, the snow and threat of winter is gone, and temperatures are not oppressively hot. Baby birds are hatching, the bluets are blooming all over my front yard, and the spring peepers are singing. Everything is new in nature.

We have much going on in the church to keep us busy this month and to keep us occupied in this spring season. New is a chicken barbecue that is coming on Saturday, May 14. There will be free-will offering baskets available for this dinner which is open to the community.

The Men's Night Out event at Rossini's will be held on Tuesday, May 24 at 5 pm. We are always looking for more men to participate in this fun night out. If you would like to attend, please speak to me. You are most welcome to attend. We have a good time.

Our annual open air market and tag sale will be held on May 28. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board in fellowship hall to set up tents, and staff the flower tent, tag sale and food booth area. It will be a great day and we are hoping for good weather. It will go on rain or shine.

The Financial Peace University program continues with a full house on Wednesday nights in the lounge. It is wonderful to see so many people gathered in our church, many of them non-members, seeking financial peace and prosperity under workshop leader David Gates, the technical assistance of Betsy Gates, and the inspirational leadership of Dave Ramsey, which is made available through a well-done media presentation.

The Wednesday noon Bible study will continue through much of May as the group continues exploring 2 Samuel. If you have the time available and would like to see what goes on in these gatherings, please join us. Bible exploration is

an energizing and spiritually uplifting way to spend an hour on Wednesdays!

Our music director search committee continues its work of securing our next music director. There have been several interviews already and enthusiasm is high in the committee. Meanwhile the choir is doing an excellent job continuing our music program. Many thanks to all the willing hands and gifts of those in our music program, which does so much to inspire our Sunday morning worship experiences. We will be dedicating our new choir robes during worship on May 22.

Enjoy this special month, and I hope to see you in church!

Peace,

Tom

Thank you for all the kind wishes for success in my new adventure at Concordia Lutheran, and for the going away party and gifts. The dish garden, supervised by the miniature garden gnome, is enjoying a sunny window sill watching and awaiting the time to use the gift certificate at Paul and Sandy's. The beautiful wind chimes given by the bell choir are installed and providing lovely tones.

Special thanks to Val and Linda for the handcrafted scarves and hat- I needed them not only in Chicago, but here in Connecticut when winter made an unwelcome return.

Mary Douglas

## **"State of the Church" Update Meeting May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

A decision was made at the annual meeting that the church have a mid-year update on the state of the church and the status of our budget given the size of the deficit that was passed at the annual meeting. There will be a meeting to discuss this after worship in fellowship hall during coffee hour on May 22.



# Moderator Musings



**April showers bring May flowers and a boatload of church activities!!**

May is bringing us more activities which continue to show how energized our membership is:

May 14<sup>th</sup> is a Community Dinner being sponsored by COSA with a free will offering. It gives us a chance to put some of the learning we received in our Lenten Hunger series into action and help to feed our community. It will be a BBQ Chicken dinner.

May 21<sup>st</sup> is our annual church clean-up day which this year will include not only the grounds weeding and mulch spreading we are used to but some interior work in the kitchen.

May 28<sup>th</sup> will be our Spring Market with some set-up the day before.

June 10-11, 2016 will be the CTUCC annual conference and promises to be different this year as discussions continue on the merger of the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences. We are looking for two members of our church to represent us at these meetings.

In addition to these activities, May 15<sup>th</sup> is our youth Sunday and May 22<sup>nd</sup> will include a dedication of the new robes our Senior Choir and Bell Choir have been wearing since Easter.

Also on May 22<sup>nd</sup> we will have an update on the status of our church finances and church community based on your request at the Annual Meeting. Your Church Council has decided to provide more than just the numbers, talking about many of the new initiatives that have begun since the Annual Meeting.

Finally, our Easter Offering has generated an additional \$6000 to help us close a portion of our budget gap. I am told more is coming once tax refunds arrive.

**Alan Hurst**, Moderator



## Women's Potluck

**Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm**

at the home of Lynda Tinney

9 Hayes Road 860-267-8329

Bring a dish to share and join us for Great food and conversation!

*Never-benns always welcome!*



## CALLING ALL KNITTERS & CROCHETERS!

The East Hampton Yarners will meet on **Thursdays May 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<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.

Come to our



## Chicken Barbecue

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**

59 Main Street, East Hampton ~ 860-267-4959

*Bring your family & friends!*  
Free-will offering

## Youth Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>

Our church school will lead worship this morning and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will receive Bibles as part of the service. All those wanting to participate should be at church at 8:45 for a run-thru and final planning time.

## Church Council meeting May 17<sup>th</sup>

Church Council will be meeting on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. This will replace the regular meeting which occurs normally on the fourth Tuesday.



**Church Grounds Clean-Up Day!**  
**Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 9 – noon**  
Water & a light snack provided!  
*Please sign up in Fellowship Hall*

Bring work gloves, hedge clippers,  
and a rake if able.

*Great for student community service hours requirements.*

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> we will celebrate the music ministry of our choirs, dedicate their beautiful new robes, honor our 50+ year members, and celebrate the volunteer energies we all put in to making our church family succeed!

*Join us for this special service  
and stay for lunch after worship !*



**MUSIC DIRECTOR  
SEARCH COMMITTEE**  
We need **VOLUNTEERS ASAP!**

Please see Kim Clouser  
or call 765-714-1501 / [clsfrnk@aol.com](mailto:clsfrnk@aol.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!*



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

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

## MENS NIGHT OUT

The next Men's Night Out dinner will be  
held at Rossini's restaurant on **Tuesday,**  
**May 24<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.** If you would like to  
attend please speak to the pastor.  
*First-time participants are always welcome!*



## SPRING Market

**Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> ~ 9am – 2pm**

Flowers, Crafters, and Giant Tag Sale  
**Breakfast & Lunch**

Bring Tag Sale items to the stage  
Toys, household items, nic nacs, collectibles,  
holiday items, outdoor items

**Please No:** books, stuffed animals,  
media equipment or clothes

**Sign up in Fellowship Hall to volunteer** for a 2  
hour shift at the event or for setting up the Tag Sale.

## Food Bank

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

## Coffee Hour

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



This month coffee hour is hosted by  
the Church Council.



**SEEDS OF HOPE**



Thanks to all that have brought in recycling items, put clothing in the Collection Shed and purchased Scrip Cards. Thanks to all who ran in our 5K on April 30<sup>th</sup>. 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!

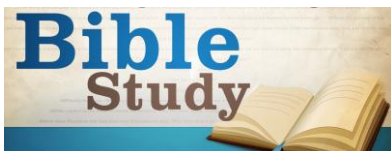
If you can help us update and manage our web page, please contact Betsy Gates 860-267-4015 or [besty@ctgates.com](mailto:besty@ctgates.com)

**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](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!*



Thanks to the church mice that wander through our building each week and do a little something here and there to keep us chugging along! Thanks to Building and Grounds for removing the overgrown shrub in the front lawn. Thanks to everyone that provided snacks for our College Care Boxes.

*You Are Appreciated!*



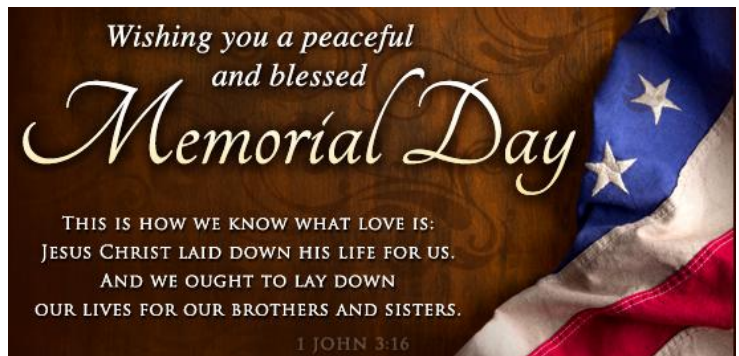
Email Jill Walker at [Jillering1@comcast.net](mailto:Jillering1@comcast.net) or call 860-267-7180 to have a prayer concern listed for our “pray-ers”.

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.



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!





May 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?**

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
---------------------	------------------	------

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					
<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) <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: _____ <b>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</b>									
<input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account (attach a voided check below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)											
	Account Number: _____ <table style="width:100%; border: none; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td style="width:33%; text-align: center;">C 1234567890</td> <td style="width:33%; text-align: center;">123 1234567</td> <td style="width:33%; text-align: center;">0001</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Routing Number</td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Account Number</td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Check Number</td> </tr> </table>		C 1234567890	123 1234567	0001	Routing Number	Account Number	Check Number				
C 1234567890	123 1234567	0001										
Routing Number	Account Number	Check Number										
<b>DATE OF FIRST DONATION:</b> ____/____/____	<b>FREQUENCY OF DONATION:</b> (check only one) <table style="width:100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup></td> <td style="width:50%; border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;"><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15<sup>th</sup></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<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>		<b>FUNDS AND AMOUNTS:</b> <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;"><b>Total \$ _____</b></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$ _____	<b>Total \$ _____</b>	
<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>												
<input type="checkbox"/> General Fund	\$ _____											
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	\$ _____											
<b>Total \$ _____</b>												
<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



The DEADLINE for submissions  
to the  
June 2016 issue of  
*The Congregational Chatter*  
is Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>



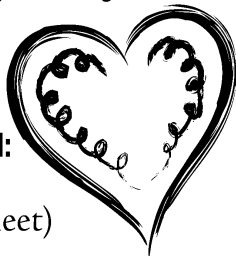
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Worship/ Communion</b> <b>10am</b> AA – 8pm	<b>2</b> Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am <b>Women's Potluck, 6:30pm</b> Wolf Pack, 7pm	<b>3</b> Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>4</b> Bible Study, noon <b>Financial Peace University, 7-8:30pm</b> AA – 8pm	<b>5</b> EH Yarners 10:30 & 7pm Choir: Bell, 6pm Adult, 7:10pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Worship, 10am</b> Deacons, 11:30am AA – 8pm	<b>9</b> Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am Tigers, 7pm	<b>10</b> B & G, 7pm Finance, 7pm Bears, 7pm Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>11</b> Bible Study, noon <b>FPU, 7-8:30pm</b> AA – 8pm	<b>12</b> Choir: Bell, 6pm Adult, 7:10pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Chicken BBQ Dinner 6pm</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Youth Sunday Worship, 10am</b> AA – 8pm	<b>16</b> Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am	<b>17</b> <b>Council, 6:30pm</b> Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>18</b> Bible Study, noon <b>FPU, 7-8:30pm</b> Scout Parents & Leaders, 7-9pm AA – 8pm	<b>19</b> EH Yarners 10:30 & 7pm Choir: Bell, 6pm Adult, 7:10pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>SPRING CLEAN-UP 9am-noon</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Celebration Sunday Worship, 10am</b> <b>Budget Review</b> AA – 8pm	<b>23</b> Mindful Parenting 8:30-10:30am Cubs, 7pm	<b>24</b> <b>Men's Night Out, 5pm</b> Boy Scouts 7pm	<b>25</b> Bible Study, noon <b>FPU, 7-8:30pm</b> AA – 8pm	<b>26</b> Choir: Bell, 6pm Adult, 7:10pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Spring Market &amp; Tag Sale 9am-2pm</b>
<b>29</b> <b>Worship, 10am</b> Boy Scout Council, 7pm AA – 8pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				





# A heartfelt felt heart

On Mother's Day, express your love for your mom or another special woman by giving her this gift from the heart.



## What you need:

- Red felt (8" x 11" sheet)
- Dark pen
- Fabric scissors
- Pillow stuffing
- Straight pins
- Embroidery thread (pink, red or black)
- Needle
- An adult to help

## What you do:

1. Fold the felt in half and draw a heart on it. Cut out the heart so you have two of the same size.
2. Place the hearts on top of each other, add stuffing and pin the hearts together.
3. Thread the needle with a long piece of thread. Knot the end.
4. Sew the hearts together. Knot the thread and trim the ends. Remove pins.
5. Give the gift — and a hug!

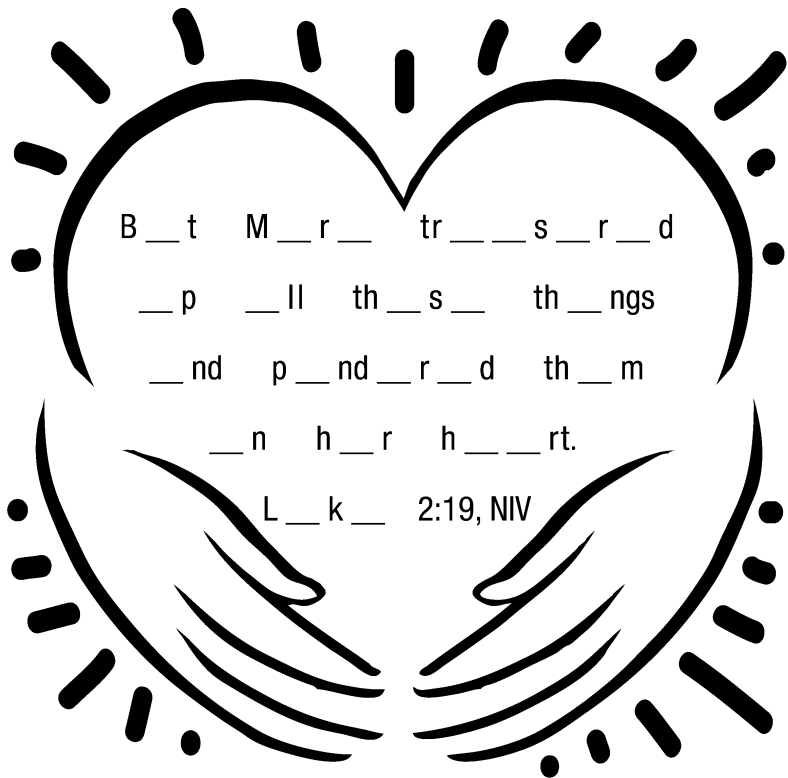


## A mother's love

At age 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. His parents later found him in the temple, discussing Scripture. What did Mary, Jesus' mother, think about this?

*Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible verse.*

A E I O U Y



Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV