



The Congregational Chatter



FEBRUARY



2018

THOTS FROM

TOM



Well, I have some news! On Friday, January 19, at 8:53 pm Lois and I became grandparents to Chase Kennedy Nichols who was born at Middlesex Hospital.

Everything went well and Chase and Mom are home. Lois and I are looking forward to this new adventure in our lives. Thank you to all of you for your prayers, well wishes, cards, books and blankets for Chase as he, Alicia and Andrew settle into their new life together.

Looking at our calendar, the month of February is full of activities to keep away any winter doldrums we may have. Some of these activities involve food!

On Sunday, February 11, the last Sunday before the season of Lent begins we will have a pancake breakfast or brunch in preparation for the season of Lent. An ancient Lenten tradition was for people to use up the butter and sugar in their house prior to Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent) by cooking pancakes prior to the fasting period of Lent. We won't be fasting during the season of Lent, (although some may be giving up sugar or butter!) but we can all enjoy pancakes. Please put this date on your calendar!

The Men's Night Out dinner will be held on Tuesday, February 13 at Loco Perro. We are looking for additional participants. This is a once a month gathering of the men in our church and their friends, neighbors, co-workers who enjoy getting together for "man talk" about household projects, stuff at work, their kids and grandkids, the state of the world, and anything else that comes to our minds. If interested please let me know so that I can make restaurant reservations.

On Saturday, February 24 our church will hold its third annual Taste of East Hampton. There is more information available on this exciting event elsewhere in this newsletter. Last year's event was a huge success and already we have nine restaurants or food providers signed up to be in our fellowship hall serving us their excellent menu selections that afternoon.

On Sunday, February 25 we will hold our monthly "Teens for Lunch" gathering in the lounge for teens in grades seven and up.

I am also looking to have new members join, perhaps in March. I already have one person who wants to join. If there are others, please speak to me. I will set up an informal New Member Forum to talk about the church and denomination, and schedule a Sunday when you will be able to join the church through the covenant of membership.

Have a blessed month!

Tom



C. Estelle Dickson **Scholarship**

The C. Estelle Dickson Scholarship was designed to assist any church member who is pursuing a two or four year degree.

Applications may be picked up at the church office and must be received by the committee by April 6th.

[You can download an application by clicking here.](#)

This year the committee decided that the scholarship will be awarded during the church service on Youth Sunday, May 20th so that our church family can share in the presentation.

Please contact Teri Schlosser, Billie Gerkey or Joyce Jasenski with any questions.



February 2018

The East Hampton Yarners

Thursdays, February 1st & 15th

Join us at 10am in the lounge!



For more information contact Judy F

860-365-0327 or jhoffhine@gmail.com



CHOIR REHEARSALS on Thursdays

Handbells ~ 6pm

Adult Choir ~ 7:10pm



Support Group for Caregivers Saturday, February 10th 9am-10:30am in the lounge

OPEN to the public.

All are welcome ~ Bring a friend!

Coffee, refreshments and
a shoulder to lean on provided.

PANCAKE • BREAKFAST •

hosted by Parish Life.

Sunday, February 11th
following church service.

All are welcome!

Breakfast will include:

Pancakes, Sausage,
Coffee, OJ, Milk
&

**Homemade Maple Syrup
donated by
Jim & Betty Sennett**



Seeds of Hope

CONNECTICUT
MISSION of MERCY
Free Dental Clinic



Caring for One Another

We have a opportunity to
volunteer to help with the
**Mission of Mercy
Dental Clinic**

being held in Torrington
from April 19th -22nd. The
actual clinic days are the
20th - 21st, the 19th and the
22nd are set-up and tear-
down days.

All volunteers must be at least 18 years of age to
volunteer in the treatment areas, 16-17 years of age
will only be allowed to volunteer in non-clinical
settings.

Job descriptions are: crowd control, data entry, food
service, parking attendant, patient escorts, patient
registration, set-up, tear-down, translators, volunteer
registration, waste management. There is a job for
everyone. We would like to get a team together to
perhaps volunteer for Saturday.

Please email me by February 11th if you are
interested. dmclellan60@comcast.net

If this date does not work for you, you could
volunteer on your own for another day. We do need
to register as soon as possible.

For further information log onto cfd.org

Thank you, Deb McLellan

SCRIP Gift Cards

Gift cards are available to order every Sunday from
hundreds of merchants. *Seeds of Hope* receives a
percentage of the face value of each card

***S&S cards are available every week
throughout the year.***

****Don't forget - we collect bottles and cans all year
long and used clothes in good condition can be left
in the shed. Please bag your items and be sure to tie
off the bag!****

***Thank you for your continued support that allows
Seeds of Hope to help others!***



February 2018

Coffee Hour

Our Deacons have decided that doughnut holes will no longer be provide during coffee due to a lack of donated funds to cover the cost.

Please sign up to provide a baked good to share during coffee hour. You may purchase an item or share a home-made treat such as cookies, bars, breads... whatever you like. Thank you for your participation in making coffee hour pleasant and inviting to all our members and friends!



Ladies Potluck

Monday, February 12th at 6:30

Hosted by Jennifer Berkenstock - 13 Viola Drive

Discussion of
“Help Thanks Wow: The Three Essential Prayers”
by Ann Lamott

We have copies if you'd like to read this short powerful book.

Please bring a dish to share and a book idea and join us for fellowship and conversation
FIRST-TIMERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Men's Night Out

This invitation goes out to all men in the church inviting you to get together for good food and talk in one of our local restaurants. We meet once a month. Need to get out of the house? Want to talk about the numerous spring projects awaiting you? Want to enlist some help with them? Want to share with others how great retirement is going, how things are at work, what's up with the stock market, what hobbies you need warm weather to dive into, where the skiing is good right now, what's going on with your children or grandkids? There is a place and a venue! A gathering for Men's Night Out is scheduled for **5:30 pm on Tuesday, February 13 at Loco Perro** to just visit, eat, and enjoy the talk, (and if you are so disposed, you don't even have to say a word!) If you plan to attend, please contact Tom so that he can make the appropriate reservations.

THE SUPPER CLUB

Come join the Supper Club for our next Pot Luck.

Saturday, February 17th at 6:00

All adults are welcome!

Bring a friend or two to enjoy good food,
good friends and good fellowship!

Bring a dish to share.

Drinks & Dessert will be provided.

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall just so we have a head count. Looking forward to seeing you there!



A big thank you to Lynda Tinney and JoAnn Magyarik for cleaning out and organizing the Music office.

Thank you JoAnn, Amanda and Rebecca Magyarik for organizing the Christian Ed storage closet, a job way past due.

A special thank you to Amanda Magyarik and Kristine Pekar for stepping up and filling in as piano player and choir director. We very much appreciate that the Sunday morning music is continuing with very little disruption and just as beautiful as ever.

Thank you to the B & G committee for all the little things you do to keep our church running.

A warm thank you to Kim Clouser for all your work finding our new snow removal company.

Thank you to Patti Burdick for redoing the two bulletin boards. One in Fellowship Hall and another outside office.

THANK-YOU! to all our ever-present church mice whose work continues to show up in unexpected places at just the right times!

You are Appreciated!



February 2018

TASTE of East Hampton

Angelico's
LAKE HOUSE
Restaurant



SEEDS OF HOPE FUNDRAISER

RAFFLE & LIVE AUCTION

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 24th**

2:00 - 4:00pm

Congregational Church

**Call for Tickets: 860-918-1170
or purchase at the door**

Adults: \$10/6 tastings

Children under 10: \$5/3 tastings

**Family (2 adults plus children):
\$25/multiple tastings**

Raffle/Auction Items Needed

If you, or someone you know, can donate a raffle or auction item for our *Taste of East Hampton* fundraiser, please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

If you know someone who owns a business, ask for a gift card or service. If you are friends with your oil deliverer or mechanic, ask for 100 gallons of free oil or an oil change. If you know someone who sews or knits, ask for a blanket, quilt or item of clothing. Most people are very generous if you ask!

**Contact Lisa with questions: 860-918-1170
or laarrestad@comcast.net**

Teens For Lunch

On **Sunday, February 25** *Teens for Lunch* will meet after worship in the church lounge. This is open to all youth in grades seven and up. In this casual gathering teens meet to enjoy pizza and talk about how life is going.



On **March 11**, our congregation will receive the **One Great Hour of Sharing** Offering. COSA is sponsoring this offering and we share this information:

"One Great Hour of Sharing" is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response."

Who participates in One Great Hour of Sharing?

Seven Christian denominations - *American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and Church World Service* work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings, and together raise over \$10 million annually.

How is the United Church of Christ's offering used?

Almost 60 percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for missionaries. Currently there are 4 OGHS supported missionaries and 2 Global Mission Interns working in disaster relief, health care, education, sustainable agricultural development, and refugee support. The offering also funds disaster preparedness and response, and disaster related volunteer initiatives in the U.S.

What percentage of OGHS donations are used directly for mission?

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 95 cents is used directly for mission programming, and the remaining 5 cents is used to create interpretation materials. Administrative costs are paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support.

Watch for bulletin inserts and envelopes so that you can be part of this global Christian humanitarian effort.



COSA Corner

February has been designated as "Heart Month" by Hallmark Cards and the American Heart Association. It is relevant to announce that COSA will sponsor our annual **Red Cross Blood Drive** on **Saturday, April 21** in Fellowship Hall. Details will follow. Please mark your calendar for donating blood that day. The Red Cross has a new initiative encouraging first time donors to give. It is called **POWER RED**. Blood types O+ (or O), A- and B- are always especially needed.

We would like to hear your ideas for COSA's direction. Please speak to any of our committee members (Alan Hurst, Julie Thomas, Martha Lynch, Lily Bartel, Jackie Hooper-Hage, Anita Guerin, Judy Hoffhine, Alka Arcari, Winnie Carillo) or email Judy at jhoffhine@gmail.com.

Go to <http://www.ucc.org/justice> to learn more about the outreach and justice programs of the United Church of Christ.



February 2018

Seeds of Hope
3rd Annual 10K / 5K / 2-mile Fun Walk
at the Airline Trail in East Hampton

SATURDAY, APRIL 28th at 9:00am

More information to follow...



OFFICE OF PHILANTHROPY

January 19, 2018

Congregational Church of East Hampton
Main Street
P. O. Box 237
East Hampton, CT 06424

Dear Friends,

Thank you for Congregational Church of East Hampton's recent gift in the amount of \$100.00 to support our Pastoral Services Program. I know that Dennis McCann joins me in thanking the congregation for their continued support of this program.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Sarah Moore
Director of Development

28 Crescent Street
Middletown, Connecticut 06457-3650
tel 860 358-6200
fax 860 358-6568
www.middlesexhospital.org



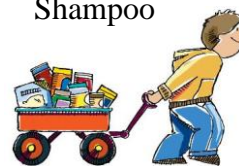
43 West High Street
(860) 365-5978
Mondays & Thursdays
9am - noon.

Greetings from the Food Bank. We are so fortunate to live in such a generous community. Your donations of food, time, money and many other resources are appreciated by so many.

Here is a list of some of our needs:

Canned Fruit	Jelly	Tuna
Laundry Soap	Dish Soap	Shampoo
Toilet Paper	Pet Food	

Thank you for your generosity :)
Deb, Food Bank volunteer



Let Lisa Aarrestad know if you or someone you know of from our church family is in need of some helping hands (860-918-1170).

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!



Medical Equipment

Available for Loan



**Knee- Scooter • Walker
Wheel Chair • Potty**



*Please call the office to arrange for pick-up
Tuesday thru Friday 8am-noon*

860-267-4959



**PRAYER CHAIN
MINISTRY**

Email Lisa Aarrestad at
laarrestad@comcast.net
or call 860-918-1170

to have a prayer concern listed for our "pray-ers".

Let Lisa 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.*

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 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: _____ Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3 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 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**



February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Ash Wednesday February 14th</p>				1 EH Yarners 10am-noon Choirs: Bell, 6pm/ Sr., 7:10pm	2 	3
4 Scout Sunday Communion Worship, 10am AA, 8pm	5	6 Boy Scouts, 7pm	7 Art Class, 9:30-11:30am AA, 8pm	8 Choirs: Bell, 6pm/ Sr., 7:10pm Wolves, 6:30pm Scout Parents & Leaders, 7-9pm	9	10 Caregiver Support Group 9am
11 Worship, 10am Diaconate, 11:30am PANCAKE BREAKFAST AA, 8pm	12 Ladies Pot Luck 6:30pm Bear Scouts, 6:30pm	13 Men's Night Out, 5:30pm Loco Perro Webelos / Boy Scouts, 7pm	14 Ash Wednesday  AA, 8pm	15 EH Yarners 10am-noon Choirs: Bell, 6pm/ Sr., 7:10pm	16	17 Supper Club 6-8pm
18 Lent 1 Worship, 10am AA, 8pm	19 Scout Pack Meeting, 7-8pm	20 Boy Scouts, 7pm	21 Art Class, 9:30-11:30am AA, 8pm	22 Choirs: Bell, 6pm/ Sr., 7:10pm	23	24 TASTE of EAST HAMPTON 2-4pm
25 Lent 2 Worship, 10am Teens for Lunch, 11:30am COSA, 11:30am Boy Scout Council, 7pm AA, 8pm	26	27 DEADLINE for March Newsletter Church Council, 7pm Boy Scouts, 7pm	28 Art Class, 9:30- 11:30am AA, 8pm	<p><u>The DEADLINE for submissions to the MARCH 2018 issue of The Congregational Chatter is Tuesday, February 27th</u></p> 		



First
Sunday
in Lent
February 18th

The Congregational Church East Hampton

59 Main Street, P.O. Box 237
East Hampton, Connecticut 06424
860-267-4959 / cceh@juno.com

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 8am-noon



Show your love by making someone this heartfelt snack on Valentine's Day.

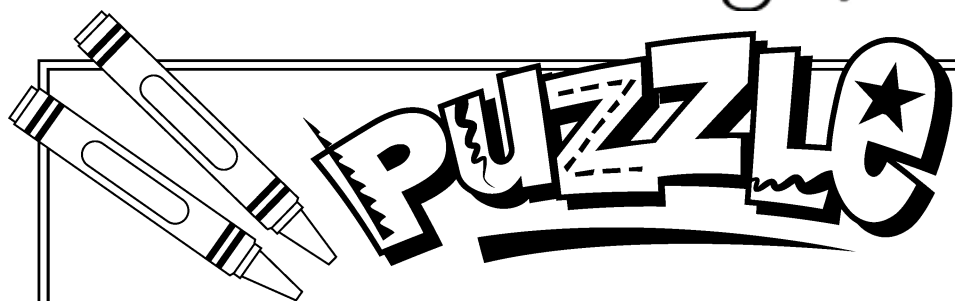
What you need:

- 2 slices of bread
- 2 heart-shaped cookie cutters (one large, one small)
- Lunchmeat and cheese (or peanut butter and jelly)



What you do:

1. Cut a large heart out of each slice of bread.
2. Cut a small heart from the middle of one big heart.
3. With the small cookie cutter, make several heart shapes out of the meat and cheese. Place between the bread slices.
4. If you're using peanut butter and jelly, spread both onto the large, solid heart. Then place the slice with the small heart cutout on top.



A NEW COMMANDMENT

In John 13:34, Jesus offers important instructions for his followers.

Directions: Figure out the pattern in each vertical line of letters. Then add the next letter in the sequence to the blank underneath, completing John 13:14, NIV.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZABCD...

F	L	S	Y	F	K	Y	X	E	I	Q	B	V	O	O	J	F
H	M	T	A	I	L	A	Y	H	K	R	D	Y	P	S	M	G
J	N	U	C	L	M	C	Z	K	M	S	F	B	Q	W	P	H
" _____ . _____ "																

E	X	M	B	C	L	M	B	U	V	F	R	P	L	V	F	R
F	Y	P	C	F	M	P	C	X	W	I	S	Q	M	W	I	S
G	Z	S	D	I	N	S	D	A	X	L	T	R	N	X	L	T
_____ , _____																

A	R	J	Q	C	C	S	B	F	K	Y	X	H	L	Q	B	Y	I
E	S	M	R	F	G	T	C	I	L	A	Y	J	M	R	D	A	L
I	T	P	S	I	K	U	D	L	M	C	Z	L	N	S	F	C	O
_____ .																	

JOHN 13:34, NIV

Answer: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:34, NIV