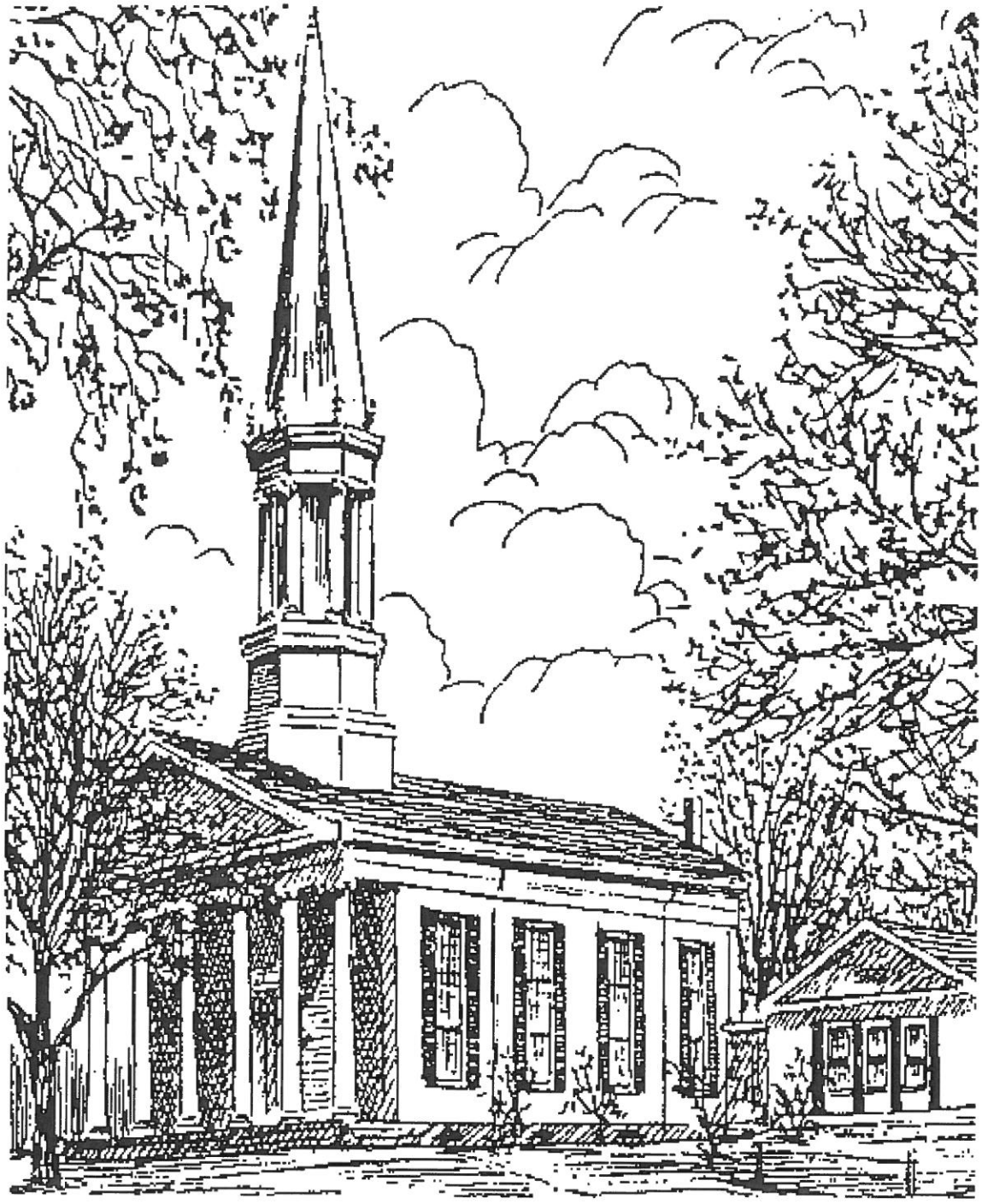
DRUMBEATS *May 2018*



Enfield Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
1295 Enfield Street - P.O. Box 3171
Enfield Connecticut 06083-3171
Phone: (860) 745-3646 Fax: (860) 741-2933
Email: echurch01@sbcglobal.net Website: www.enfielducc.org

From Your Pastor

Friends,

As we begin the month of May we do so with prayerful anticipation for Confirmation Sunday, May 13th! For the last 9 months, we as a congregation have had the privilege of nurturing the faith of ten young people in preparation for their taking the "leap of faith" of confirming their baptism as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Our journey has included: building an outdoor Sukkah-of praise and thanks to God; teaching the congregation, after church, how to make an "Advent Ellipse" with Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy "Reminder Stones" ; going on a weekend UCC Confirmation retreat in January to Silver Lake, and joyfully sharing what they had learned with the congregation the following Sunday; meeting regularly since the new year with their mentors and working through the UCC "My Confirmation" guide book; reading the Tenebrae and Easter Scriptures; at the Confirmation mini-retreat last Sunday, creating a class Creed based on the UCC Statement of Faith, along with individual "Statements of Faith" to be shared at the upcoming Confirmation Dinner. Also, six of the ten class members, along with a sibling, will travel to Appalachia this July to spend a week serving with the Appalachian Service Project.

We are so grateful to their mentors and to their parents for all their support and coaching of this class! It has been a great joy for Sara Moriarty and I to serve as their leaders! We look forward to the continued involvement of the class in church life after Confirmation Sunday in many different ways.

Please be in prayer for our class over the next two weeks-keeping in mind the words of our "Liturgy for Confirmation" and

the "Questions of the Candidates." Let this Sunday be a day of all of us renewing our "Faith Covenant" to serve Christ and his church with joy!
-Pastor Steve

ASP
Appalachia
SERVICE PROJECT SM

*Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip to Wise County Virginia 6/30-7/7. Many thanks to the Fundraising Committee, and to all who came to the Chinese Lunch last Sunday. Over $500 was raised toward the trip. Opportunities to purchase stock shares in support of the trip will be available on upcoming Sundays. The group is composed of 7 youth and 7 adults, Charles, MaryAlice, Autumn and Gracelyn Miranda, Shauna Flynn, Aiden Van Alstyne, Melanie Petersen, Joe Rancourt, Veronica Davidson, Joe Banning, Mary Hale, Matt Miranda, Doug Howell and Pastor Steve.

ASP is a Christian Ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repairs in Central Appalachia. Their motto is "Warmer - Safer - Drier"

Liturgy for Confirmation

We invite to come forward those who wish to affirm their baptism by being confirmed.

Friends in Christ, we all are received into the church through the sacrament of baptism. These people have found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. Through prayer and study they have been led by the Holy Spirit to affirm their baptism and to claim in our presence their covenantal relationship with Christ and with Christ's church. They are here for service to Jesus Christ, using the gifts which the Holy Spirit bestows.

Questions of the Candidates

Do you know yourself to be a child of God and do you seek to welcome all people as children of God? (I do)

Do you intend to be a disciple of Jesus, growing in knowledge of his way, seeking justice and truth, and engaging in acts of compassion? (I do)

Will you now join this congregation as a member of this body, joining us in our efforts to show forth God's love to this community and to the world? (I will)

Daily Lectionary Scripture References
May 2018 (Year B)

Tues., May 1
Psalm 80
Isaiah 32:9-20
James 3:17-18

Wed., May 2
Psalm 80
Isaiah 65:17-25
John 14:18-31

Thurs., May 3
Psalm 98
Isaiah 49:5-6
Acts 10:1-34

Fri., May 4
Psalm 98
Isaiah 42:5-9
Acts 10:34-43

Sat., May 5
Psalm 98
Deuteronomy 32:44-47
Mark 10:42-45

Sun., May 6
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Mon., May 7
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 7:1-11
1 Timothy 6:11-12

Tues., May 8
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 11:1-17
1 Timothy 6:13-16

Wed., May 9
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 11:18-21
Mark 16:19-20

Thurs., May 10
Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 *or* Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 11
Psalm 47
Exodus 24:15-18
Revelation 1:9-18

Sat., May 12
Psalm 47
Deuteronomy 34:1-7
John 16:4-11

Sun., May 13
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Mon., May 14
Psalm 115
Exodus 28:29-38
Philippians 1:3-11

Tues., May 15
Psalm 115
Numbers 8:5-22
Titus 1:1-9

Wed., May 16
Psalm 115
Ezra 9:5-15
John 16:16-24

Thurs., May 17
Psalm 33:12-22
Genesis 2:4b-7
1 Corinthians 15:42b-49

Fri., May 18
Psalm 33:12-22
Job 37:1-13
1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Sat., May 19
Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 15:6-11
John 7:37-39

Sun., May 20
Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 *or* Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 *or* Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Mon., May 21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Joel 2:18-29
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Tues., May 22
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Genesis 11:1-9
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Wed., May 23
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Ezekiel 37:1-14
John 20:19-23

Thurs., May 24
Psalm 29
Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20
Romans 8:1-8

Fri., May 25
Psalm 29
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 8:9-11

Sat., May 26
Psalm 29
Isaiah 5:15-24
John 15:18-20, 26-27

Sun., May 27
Trinity Sunday
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Mon., May 28
Psalm 20
Numbers 9:15-23
Revelation 4:1-8

Tues., May 29
Psalm 20
Exodus 25:1-22
1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Wed., May 30
Psalm 20
Numbers 6:22-27
Mark 4:21-25

Thurs., May 31
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Samuel 1:1-18
Acts 25:1-12

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1

Faith invites me to believe in the unseen and unknown. When flower bulbs are planted in the autumn, there is the belief that blossoms will brighten the garden in the springtime. I am placing faith that there is growth taking place below the surface, and the results will appear as green shoots breaking forth.

Church school is our garden for planting seeds of faith. Through crafts, Bible stories, songs, and discussions; the teachers and I have confidence that there are blossoms of faith growing.

We are lucky to have dedicated teachers for our children. Thank you to Marilyn Cowles, Mary Hale, Matthew Miranda, Rachel Gary and Joy Hosling for enriching our students.

The Maverick youth group has started to blossom. We thank Sue Chadbourne for her help developing our group. We thank Cindy Chapin-Howell, Doug Howell and Marilyn Cowles for helping with our four mission projects. These Mavericks are passionate and energetic.

Up coming Sunday school dates:

May 6 – Communion with larger church, last day of Heifer lessons (water)
May 13 – Confirmation Sunday, all students to attend church, **no formal classes**
May 20 – Last day: Games, snacks, and fun, as well as two students receiving their Bibles.

Enjoy the summer!

First day back will be……. TBD

Next year's church school is being reinvented and will include music, dance, science, art, Biblical drama and so much more. Stay tuned for forthcoming information.

Blessings for a wonderful summer,

Sara Moriarty
DCE

Council News

This past month our church has been the recipient of good news and some sadder news. Last week our investment committee received a partial distribution of the Smyth bequest, for which the church is eternally grateful to Dick Smyth and his family. This bequest will ensure that Enfield Congregational Church, UCC will be viable as a place of worship for generations to come, provided we are good stewards. The CAT survey is still being conducted so be sure to have your voice heard by completing the survey.

The fund/fundraising committee did a great job raising $530.00 to go towards the mission trip to Appalachia in July 2018. More info about supporting this trip will be coming in the next few weeks. The book, rummage, bake sale on June 9, 2018 will also help support this mission trip so be sure donate books for the sale. If anyone can donate a baked good to the bake sale it will be appreciated. Many hands make light work.

On May 6, 2018 the church will be sponsoring a Safety Awareness workshop. Due to the increased number of acts of aggression in "safe" places Council felt it was necessary to educate ourselves to be better protected. This workshop will help to make all of us more aware wherever we are, whether at home, at church or in the community. There is no cost and a light lunch will be provided.

After many communications with the DOT and the Town of Enfield town manager we are finally coming to resolution about the large sign on our front lawn near Route 5. Nothing has been in writing yet, but the town is planning on entering into a 10 year lease agreement with the DOT for the land that the Thomas Abbey statue is on and is also offering to pay the lease for our sign to remain where it is. The church's responsibility would be to maintain the lawn as we are currently doing. The church will have no responsibility for maintenance of the Abbey statue. A big thank you to Bud Cowles for being the contact person and negotiating this agreement.

I am sad to report that our Regional Minister the Rev. Tom Clough will be retiring on June 30, 2018. Rev. Clough was very helpful and supportive when our last pastor resigned. We wish him well in his next endeavors.

On a personal note and as the church Moderator I get to be the recipient of "fan" mail and observations from folks when I am out in the community. Normally I just go with the flow but it seems as though the negativity has been very pervasive lately. It is hard to remain positive and continue in a leadership role when you hear so much negativity. I would like to remind folks that Council is always open to suggestions for improvement but that we are all volunteers and human and trying to do our best for the whole church. #criticism is easy, leadership is hard.
(credit: Jeannie Smith)

Shalom, Cindy Chapin-Howell

Lord

Snow and cold winds have lost their luster.

Winter wonderland no longer excites us.

Robins, crocus blossoms, signs of Spring-now that is exciting!

We don't want our church to be UNEXCITING like winter.

With Spring approaching, we want signs to excite us.

Signs like the pastoral search committee really moving forward.

Like plans being made for the use and growth of the fantastic financial gifts we've received.

And signs of the congregation's increasing interest in the Church School, the confirmation class, and the mission trip.

These and so many more signs of Spring excite us.

Lord, You send these signs and You set our path.

Give this congregation the wisdom, the patience and the determination needed to follow Your path through Spring and beyond.

Lord EXCITE US!

Amen

A few words from Deacons....

Easter banners still hang in their places in the sanctuary reminding me that on Easter Sunday, one hundred fifty of us worshipped together. The blossoming cross that we joined together in filling before both Easter services with our flower offerings, a symbol of the resurrection, also became a symbol of our togetherness. Two groups of us blossoming one simple, wooden cross. By noon time on Easter Sunday, that cross was fully covered with color and became a symbol to our neighbors as it spent the next few days on the portico for all passersby to admire. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Easter preparations are now behind us and Deacons are busy looking ahead and are undertaking many tasks in addition to our regular ministries and the duties they entail. Right now, we are focusing our efforts on making the membership roll, mailing lists and email files as updated and accurate as possible. We are also working to keep our Care Ministry strong as it addresses the needs of our beloved members through prayers, visits and thoughtful gestures.

I extend a special thank you to all members of Deacons who weekly answer the call of service to our church and to our members. I am so grateful for all Deacons and church leaders who ensure that our sanctuary is ready for worship and that worship runs smoothly. All of us truly appreciate those of you who volunteer as ushers on Sunday mornings. Please continue to sign up on the usher board in the hall.

Look for Melissa Dopp's Drumbeats article about the significance of flowers and please consider having flower arrangements in church during worship.

Grace and peace, Jeannie Smith

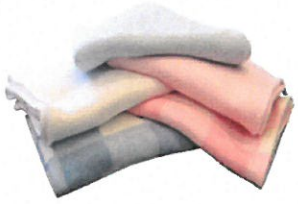
BOARD OF STEWARDS HIGHLIGHTS

The Board is happy to announce that we received our second payment from the Richard Smyth bequest. The amount received was $750,000. There will be one more payment coming sometime later this year. This very generous gift is greatly appreciated and will help our church in many ways.

The Board has also been busy getting bids for the paving of the church complex. At our last meeting, we voted to hire Ayotte Paving to do the project. The cost of the project will be $135,000. The money will come from the Smyth bequest. The congregation voted on April 29th and approved the use of this money. This was the only major project we were unable to complete during the last capital campaign. We hope you all agree that this is a worthwhile project. It would be a fitting tribute to the Smyth family. It is slated be completed during July/August.

CRAFT GROUP

May 2018



PROJECT LINUS

HATS WITH HUGS

On Sunday, May 20 Pastor Steve will dedicate Project Linus quilts, Hats with Hugs knitted hats, and the NICU items for UConn Health Center in Farmington. All of these items will be on display in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

If anyone is doing any sewing or knitting for these projects, please give them to one of the names below by Sunday, May 13.

If you have any questions please contact Ann Chase, 749-3828, Dot Wilber, 749-7156, or Morie Chipps, 745-4142.

BOOK, BAKE AND RUMMAGE SALE

Remember we will holding a book, bake and rummage sale on Saturday, June 9th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mark that date! Doors to the book sale will not be open before 9 a.m. sharp. This is a unique event that we have been preparing several months for featuring a large variety of nice gently used books, an assortment of homemade delicacies and several tables of smaller vintage and useful items. Books will be offered in sixteen different categories including a special group that features antique copies, classic titles, large print and several that have been signed by the author. Our Nearly New clothing shop next door will also be open with many spring and summer items marked for sale. If you need someone to pick up your books,
please contact Brad Chase at 860-749-3828 or Joanne Burgess at 860-749-3863.

Flowers and their role in our lives.
(and the reason to put flowers in church on Sunday)
Part 1 of 3

Like most children, I would give my Mother flowers out of our garden because I loved her and they were as pretty as I thought she was. My Father gave her flowers on their anniversary; a beautiful Easter lily graced our dining room table; and poinsettias would sit near the tree every Christmas. And then I remember the flowers given to us to help take the sting out of my Mother's death.

The significance of flowers in my life is not unlike many others. We all think of flowers when there is a special occasion to be celebrated or an event to be acknowledged. The tag line....."say it with flowers" best sums up how we express our emotions with natures' most beautiful and varied creation. When the words don't come, flowers can speak volumes.

Flowers have quietly become the evidence that we have a soul and that we need to express emotions. Far too often we are faced with wanting to offer comfort to a friend or show how sorry we are for something we did, or just join in the celebration and we can do that perfectly with flowers. A simple message on a card tucked away in a fragrant bouquet saying....."I care; I am sorry; I will miss you; I love you" is very humble but the message the flowers help to enhance is one of profound sincerity or contrition or love.

Flowers have been our 'words' for years and will continue to be for as long as we see their beauty. The very act of giving a beautiful bouquet or a single rose to someone helps to better convey the true thought behind the givers' intentions. This is why flowers are so important.

Stayed tuned for the next installment!

Melissa Dopp, Board of Deacons

May Birthdays

May 2 – Kim Ewing
May 3 – Dana Magnuson, Dakota Moreau
May 4 – Tiffany Lubanski
May 5 – Adele Carson, James Ross
May 6 – Payton Gowen
May 7 – Jaime Beebe, Madison Chartier, Ethan Denis
May 8 – Henry Newton
May 9 – Maureen Chipps
May 11 – Mary Patterson
May 12 – Avaree & Rylee Saunders, Steven Gann
May 13 – Shawna Flynn, Jas-Min Semmler
May 15 - Jasmine Farrell
May 17 – Austin Luke
May 19 – George Ellis
May 20 – Jim Wilber
May 21 – Dave Merrill
May 23 – Helen Gann
May 24 – Michael Joseph
May 26 – Kevin Donovan, Erica Magnuson
May 27 – Ellen Wright, James Peritz
May 30 – Carolyn Petersen, John O'Connell, Zachary Rawlinitis
May 31 – Marilyn Hart, Becky Bemis

May Anniversaries

May 13, 1989 – Carolyn & Mitch Petersen
May 17, 1951 – Adele & Barney Carson

HOCKANUM VALLEY RINGERS

Saturday June 2 at 6:30 pm
Enfield Congregational Church
1295 Enfield St
Enfield CT
You are invited to join us for an evening of wonderful music provided by this very
talented musical group
This is an event for all ages!
No ticket fee but a 'free will' offering is suggested
Light refreshments of cold drinks and cookies offered after the show
Please join us!

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 AM Craft Group, Room 5 6:15 PM Prayer Group 7:00 PM Deacons, Rm 5	2 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:00 PM Outreach, Rm, 5	3 Nearly New 9:30-2:30 Men's Breakfast 7:45 Al-Anon 9:30 Rm 5 Al-Anon 7:00 Rm 5 7:00 PM Bell Choir	4 6:30 PM Youth Group	5 Nearly New 10:00-1:00
6 10:0 AM Worship/Communion 11:30 Safety Awareness	7 OFFICE CLOSED	8 10:00 AM Crafters, Rm 5 1:00 PM Staff Meeting	9 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir	10 Nearly New 9:30-2:30 Men's Breakfast 7:45 Al-Anon 9:30 Rm 5 Al-Anon 7:00 Rm 5 7:00 PM Bell Choir	11 8:00 – 3:00 Foot Care Clinic	12 Nearly New 10:00-1:00 Confirmation Dinner
13 10:00 AM Worship Confirmation Sunday	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15 6:15 PM Prayer Group 7:00 PM Council Rm 5	16 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir	17 Nearly New 9:30-2:30 Men's Breakfast 7:45 Al-Anon 9:30 Rm 5 Al-Anon 7:00 Rm 5 7:00 PM Bell Choir	18	19 Nearly New 10:00-1:00 9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Group
20 10:00 AM Sunday Worship Quilt Sunday	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 10:00 AM Crafters, Rm 5	23 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir	24 Nearly New 9:30-2:30 Men's Breakfast 7:45 Al-Anon 9:30 Rm 5 Al-Anon 7:00 Rm 5 7:00 PM Bell Choir	25	26 Nearly New 10:00-1:00
27 10:00 AM Sunday Worship	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 10:00 AM Crafters, Rm 5	30 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir	31 Nearly New 9:30-2:30 Men's Breakfast 7:45 Al-Anon 9:30 Rm 5 Al-Anon 7:00 Rm 5 7:00 PM Bell Choir		