



*The*  
**MEETING HOUSE**  
*First Congregational Church*  
*Watertown, Connecticut*

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February 2017

Vol. 48 No. 1

**IMPORTANT  
NEWS FROM OUR PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Have you heard the good news? The Search Committee has selected a candidate to present to the congregation. We are excited to share that the group is unanimous in our belief that this is who God intends for us. We are confident she can walk with us down the path to a prosperous and faith filled future.

But we need your help. We need you to mark your calendars for Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – our tentative date for Candidating Sunday.

Come to church with an open mind and an open heart. Hear God's message in our candidate's sermon that morning. And after service prayerfully vote on the call of our 29th minister.

When the date is confirmed, it will be shared on Sunday mornings, on the church's website and on our Facebook page. You can also call the church office to confirm the date.

Come be a part of making church history. Be part of moving our church into our next chapter.

Faithfully,

Your Search Committee

(Jamie Terry, Jim Kosloski, John Mader, JoAnn Robertson, Lynda Romano, Steve Aucello and Sue Giordano)

***The First Congregational Church of Watertown will be a strong, growing, united, welcoming family of faith-centered Christians who support each other in worship and fellowship; who teach, challenge, develop and inspire; who work together through programs for the purpose of doing God's work in our community and the world.***

## DIACONATE

Thanks to Jim Robertson our Church will be participating in the Monday Lenten Services coordinated by the Watertown Ecumenical Council. Dates, locations and topics of the services are:

March 6 at 7:30pm	St. John's Church	<i>Mary, Mother of our Lord</i>
March 13 at 7:30pm	All Saints Church	<i>The Criminal headed to paradise?</i>
March 20 at 7:30pm	Union Congregational	<i>Nameless Centurion</i>
March 27 at 7:30pm	First Congregational	<i>Pilate (from a distance)</i>
April 3 at 7:30pm	United Methodist	<i>Nicodemus and Joseph</i>

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Thanks to Betsy Maxwell we now have "Visitor Bags". The bags contain a peace candle, history of the church, guidebook for the church, a prayer square and business card with contact information and our programs listed. If you notice a newcomer/visitor please introduce them to one of the Deacons so they can receive some important information on our church.

Jeff Lord and Beverly Nichols will be serving another year as Senior Deacons.  
Blessings,  
The Diaconate

## GENEROSITY



Our theme for 2017 is HOPE. We think it's a natural progression from KINDNESS. As we look to hire a new settled pastor, continue to move our church forward and do God's work it seems natural that our year will be filled with HOPE. Please note our new logo (thanks to the help of Nancy Harrell). You will see it in the weekly bulletins along with a quote about HOPE, in the newsletter and during our Season of Giving. As we generously give of our time, talent and treasures, and are kind, we bring HOPE to those in need around the world.

## MUSIC FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is "Black History Month." Each of the Sunday services during February will feature one or more pieces representing Africa or the African American musical and spiritual tradition.

*Music speaks louder than words. ~African Proverb*

## CALLING ALL MEN...

All men are invited to join us for good fellowship, study and conversation. These sessions are held the first and third Saturdays at 7:30AM in Trumbull House. The dates are February 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.



## **SOCIAL HOUR**

The time we spend together after worship is an important part of our Sunday morning. Not only can we share some refreshments but it gives us time to connect with other members and friends. However, we need volunteers to make this possible. Please consider finding a friend or working as a committee to host on a Sunday. Coffee, tea, supplies and instructions are provided. Food is optional. If you have any questions, please see one of our Deacons.

## **CONNECTICUT MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**

CT Mobile Food Pantry truck will be in our back parking lot on Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

**Carol Palmer**

December 24, 2016

**Peggy Eppheimer**

December 28, 2016

### **OUR SYMPATHY TO**

Patricia Sugden on the death of her mother, Jane Lewis

**The deadline for articles for the MARCH Newsletter is Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>**

## **Pizza and BINGO**

### **Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **6 PM in Fellowship Hall**

Pizza, dessert and beverages will be served. Everyone is invited to this exciting event. There is no cost, but we need to know how many people are attending when ordering the pizza. Prizes will be given out to BINGO winners.

**COST:** None perishable goods for the Watertown Food Bank.

We hope to see you there!

## ALL CHURCH POTLUCK LUNCHEON

Women's Fellowship will be hosting a Potluck Luncheon directly after the church service on February 19<sup>th</sup>. There is no cost, just bring your favorite dish that serves 6 to 8 people. Please call Nancy in the church office to let her know how many members of your family will be attending.

## JULY MISSION TRIP

There is a mission trip to Guatemala planned for this July in conjunction with a Springfield Evangelical Church and the Watertown Ecumenical Council. 4 spots are available for our church. Please talk directly with Jim Robertson if you are interested or need more information.

Dear Friends and Members of First Church,

Several years ago, my brother-in-law, a long-time diaconate member and musician his church, asked me what makes First Church, Watertown able to attract incredible Music Directors of the caliber that we have. My answer was simple: our church's *commitment* to a long-standing tradition of meaningful music programs. We place great importance and *appreciation* for the music that enhances our worship every week, and beyond. That has attracted exceptional people.

Think about that. How fortunate we have been at FCCW! Dick Silberies now *continues the legacy* of the exceptional Music Directors who preceded him. He doesn't just play and direct. He strives to immerse the choir and congregation in complete understanding of scripture with extraordinary passion and talent; sometimes in diverse ways. Isn't this desire to understand why we come to church?

Sue Wilber also follows an impressive line of Bell Choir Directors, and like them, is a soloist and composer of bell choir music. Not too many churches around us have English Hand Bells and a choir to ring. It's an investment in dollars, time, talent and teaching. Again, how fortunate we are!

Cathy Arrango will tell you that music has been proven to enrich the minds of children in many ways! She also continues the tradition of talented Youth Choir Directors before her. An extraordinary school music and band teacher, Cathy teaches our youngest about the Lord through song, and how to sing, too!

Let's not forget how fortunate we are, also, for a musical treasure since 1981, Holtkamp's tracker organ. The envy of many, not just for its grand presence in our historic meetinghouse and beauty of sound, but it is also a joy to play (so I have been told).

So, please, take a moment to count the many music blessings that we enjoy here at FCCW and how they enhance your worship. I invite you to take advantage of them!! Join the Senior choir and learn to sing (or sing better). You will find it very rewarding, and we have "some" spots open! Or, take up bell ringing. Sue comes early to every Monday night rehearsal to help any newcomers begin to learn! If you have children, let them S-I-N-G! What a wonderful ministry, and rehearses after church service.

Blessings,

Pam Sorensen, Music Committee Chairperson

