

# LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES 2018

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, UCC

## WORSHIP

### Sunday February 11 Getting Ready for Lent

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Carr preaching *What is*

### *Lent? Learning about the 40+ days before Easter*

11:30 a.m. Program in Fellowship Hall: *40+ Ways to Grow Closer to God on the Journey toward Easter*. Includes a delicious and decadent lunch that begins with dessert! Please bring a dessert to share. Sandwiches and beverages provided by Women's Fellowship.



### Wed. February 14 Ash Wednesday

6:30 p.m. **Soup, Socks and Soul:** Ecumenical Lenten Series with soup, worship and imposition of ashes. A special offering of new socks will be taken for GWIM (Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries). Begin in Fellowship Hall with soup and bread supper; worship to follow in the Sanctuary.

### Sunday February 18 First Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary. Rev. Robertson preaching *What is Fasting?*

### Sunday February 25 Second Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Carr preaching *Offering Holy Welcome*

### Sunday March 4 Third Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion. Rev. Dr. Carr preaching *Generous Spirits*

### Sunday March 11 Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. All-Church Worship

Join us for a special story: *The Tale of the Three Trees*

No Church School today; teachers and children in worship with families. Childcare available for children age 5 and under.

### Sunday March 18 Fifth Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Carr preaching *Many Pathways of Prayer*

Join us as we welcome the TJ Thompson Jazz group for special music today!

### Sunday March 25 Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary. Rev. Robertson preaching

Join us as we begin Holy Week and the final part of the journey toward Easter. Palms will be distributed during worship.

### Thursday March 29 Maundy Thursday

7:30 p.m. Service of Word, Holy Communion and Office of Tenebrae

Join us as we remember Jesus's Last Supper with the disciples, his betrayal and desertion, and his last moments on earth before his crucifixion.



### Sunday April 1

### Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m.

Sunrise Service at Evergreen Cemetery on North Street

10:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary Rev. Dr. Carr preaching

## CHURCH WIDE OFFERING

### *FOOD COLLECTION FOR GWIM*

During the six weeks of Lent, we will collect various food items needed by GWIM, the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries, which serves those in need in the greater Waterbury area. Each week we will focus on specific food items that are needed and collect them during and after worship. A list will be posted and sent out with the weekly email notices. This "second offering" is a way to participate in almsgiving or sharing God's love with others during the season of Lent. When we do it together as a faith community, it will have a meaningful impact for those in need.

### *ANNUAL EASTER OFFERING*

Each year we make a special offering during our Easter morning service. Look for a special letter with an offering envelope to arrive in the mail so you can participate in making this special gift a message of hope at Easter.

## FAITH FORMATION AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

### **Friday March 2 Pretzels and Prayers** led by Rev. Carr

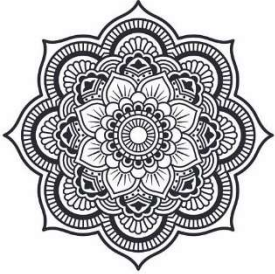
7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Join us for a family-friendly program to learn about how pretzels and prayers are both an important part of Lent. We will make our own pretzels and create our own prayers while having fun learning about our faith.

### **Friday March 23 Holy Week Trivia Night** led by Rev. Carr

6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Potluck supper followed by family-friendly games and activities.

Do you like to play games? Are you good at trivia? Join us as we put both together in this fun edition of Holy Week Trivia! We'll learn about the events of Holy Week in fun and exciting ways. There will be prizes and an opportunity to team up with church friends to learn more about Jesus and our faith. Please bring your favorite potluck dish to share.



### **Praying with Mandalas** Led by Rev. Carr

Sundays after worship, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Feb. 18, Feb. 25, Mar. 11, 18

*Open to ages middle school through adult* Meet in Trumbull House

“Mandala” is a Sanskrit word meaning circle. It can appear as a drawing, a mathematical formula, a dance or the center of a flower. Spiritually, it represents the One, the origin, the center of all visible nature. Together we will explore various mandalas and their meanings, and create some of our own. We will color mandalas, build mandalas, and discover what it means to move toward the Sacred Center on our journey through Lent toward Easter. Bring your own colored pencils. Other materials will be provided.

### **Fasting as a Spiritual Discipline** Led by Rev. Robertson

Meets Tuesday and Friday mornings, 8:00 a.m.; February 20 through March 30.

Fasting is a spiritual practice that is extolled throughout the Bible and in all the major religions of the world. It places us where God blesses and transforms us. We consume less in order to deepen our relationship with God. It can include, for example, cutting back on unhealthy calories, excessive use of electronic devices, unnecessary shopping, consumption of alcohol, etc. We'll learn this practice together, keeping in touch with the Holy Spirit and with each other, meeting for about 15 minutes twice each week.

### **Lenten Devotional Group** Led by Rev. Carr

Wednesday mornings, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.; Feb. 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21. Meet in Trumbull House

Using the Stillspeaking Writers' Group booklet *The Jesus Diaries, Who Is Jesus To Me?* we will gather each week to reflect on various author's devotions and their ideas of who Jesus is to them. We will also take time to consider who Jesus is to us, especially during the Lenten season.

## WIDER FAITH COMMUNITY

### **2018 Lenten Series hosted by the Watertown/Oakville Ecumenical Clergy**

#### ***Soup, Socks and Soul*** 6:30 p.m. supper, 7:30 p.m. worship

Feb. 14	First Congregational Church, Watertown Rev. David Mantz, leading devotion
Feb. 21	St. Mary Magdalen RC Church, Oakville Rev. Bob Cronk, leading devotion
Feb. 28	Union Congregational Church, Oakville Rev. Thomas Hickey, leading devotion
Mar. 7	St. John the Evangelist RC Church, Watertown Rev. Jackie Ramos, leading devotion
Mar. 14	Watertown United Methodist Church Rev. Joe Chabot, leading devotion
Mar. 21	All Saint's Episcopal Church, Oakville Rev. Cynthia Carr, leading devotion



All those gathering for supper and devotions are asked to bring an offering of new socks which will be collected at the offering and later distributed through GWIM, the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries, Inc.