

The TRUMPET

March 2019

A publication of the East Woodstock Congregational Church, 220 Woodstock Road, East Woodstock, CT 06244

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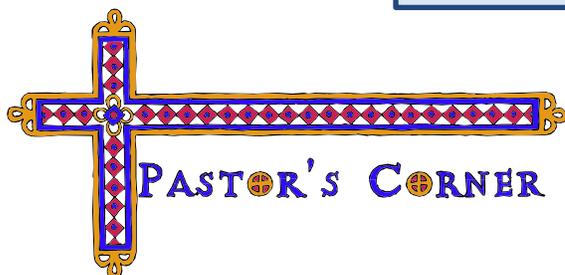
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The Trumpet deadline is the 20th of every month!



Welcome to Lent

No one anticipates the season of Lent the way we do, for example, the season of Advent. There are no cute calendars, we won't be lighting candles each week, and you won't see any signs in stores declaring "Only 10 shopping days until Lent begins!" Lent has an undeserved reputation of being a dismal time that must be endured until we can finally celebrate Easter.

Lent is a misunderstood and perhaps an under-appreciated season. Some people approach it with a feeling of dread as memories of guilt-laden sermons and little-understood practices of "giving up" something come to mind. And ashes on your forehead? Who thought that was a good idea?

Yet Lent is a beautiful season that invites us to focus on God's invitation to receive much-needed forgiveness and new life. It is an opportunity to say "yes" to God who invites us to

experience reconciliation and new life. We can reflect on the many ways that Jesus said "yes" to God's call to serve and endeavor to do the same. We can remember Jesus' willingness to share God's Gospel of love, healing, and inclusion and offer ourselves as messengers as well.

This year during Lent we will be listening – really listening – to the words of the Lord's Prayer. As we study each section of that familiar prayer, we will wonder together how those powerful words are compelling us to live a life of faithfulness. There will be opportunities to gather for conversation on two Wednesday evenings and an invitation to become a "prayer partner" with someone as we experience this sacred journey toward Holy Week once more.

Don't avoid Lent. Don't ignore this season that invites us into a deeper relationship with God. Let us immerse ourselves in God's welcoming and transforming Spirit so we can experience the new life and hope that God offers.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster

The following are the scriptures for the month of March:

You are invited to read them as part of your daily devotions and as preparation for worship.

March 3

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-43a

March 10

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13



March 17

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Hebrews 5:5-10
Luke 13:31-35

March 24

Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

March 31

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

WORSHIP NEWS

We hope that you can join every Sunday for worship and fellowship – and bring a friend!

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th. Join us each Sunday as we explore the Lord's Prayer and a variety of ways to pray.

March 3: Jazz Sunday

March 6: Ash Wednesday, EWCC at 7:00 p.m.

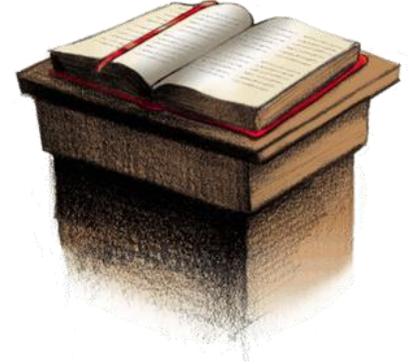
March 10: First Sunday of Lent

March 17: Bell Choir ringing

March 24: Special music – Visiting High School chorus

March 31: Welcoming New Members, Children's Choir singing

Study ^{the} Bible
with us



A mid-week opportunity for conversation, coffee, learning, and laughter.

Give yourself the gift of time...

**Wednesday morning study group
10:00 a.m.**

Everyone is welcome!

New Refugee Family

As you might know, EWCC is part of the 40 faith communities and 300 residents of the Quiet Corner who have, in the past 3 years, helped to resettle two different Syrian refugee families. Quite suddenly, we have the wonderful opportunity to host a third family...a family of four from Syria. They will arrive in early March. (see email excerpt* below for details).

A home must be prepared for the family, as well as a myriad of services. Volunteers are crucial in all areas as we support this new family's rapid transition to self-sufficiency. The email below includes a listing of ways that you can volunteer your services or goods to help the cause. For instance, if you have any gently used furnishings or clothing, they can be donated to WAIM in Willimantic.

EWCC's Missions Committee, with the support of our church community, will furnish the master bedroom of our family's new home. So, most immediately, we are seeking furnishings, bedding and other items appropriate to the master bedroom. [The bed-frame and mattress have been provided. We need a queen-size comforter set, sheets, pillows, blankets, art, rug, bedside tables/lamps and accessories, bureau/mirror, curtains/rods.]

And we are **seeking volunteers** to help set up the bedroom and house on **Saturday March 2nd**. Trucks and strong backs are needed to help with the move-in. We would drive goods from WAIM in Willimantic to the home, whose address is, at this time, undisclosed.

If you are interested in contributing in any way, please contact Karen Ryker. (karenryker@sbcglobal.net 860 928 3908).

Thanks so much for your continuing enthusiasm and support.

Karen Ryker and Cris Waldron
The Missions Committee

***Here are ways you can help:**

Send financial contributions to QCRR C/O WAIM; PO Box 221; Willimantic, CT 06226.

Donate household furnishings or clothing to WAIM on Riverside Drive, Willimantic; Tuesday - Saturday, 9am - noon.

Contact QCRR.411@gmail.com if you or someone you know has Arabic translation skills.

To indicate your interest in helping in one of the areas mentioned above, please send an email with that *area indicated in the subject line* to QCRR.411@gmail.com. QCRR has a core team of leaders who coordinate volunteers. Our need for volunteers varies considerably and is always in flux. We appreciate your interest and patience, even if we are not always quickly able to figure out how to help you help us. Volunteers who have direct contact with the family will undergo a background check and will be expected closely to follow confidentiality policies and abide by other IRIS/QCRR guidelines.

Thank you again for all the ways you have supported QCRR in the past. We look forward to keeping you informed through this exciting new phase of our work together. Our experienced volunteers remark on how fortunate they feel to work with these lovely, resilient families and on how rewarding it is to see their strength, appreciation and spirit of joy. Regardless of the nature of your involvement, we know the families we help appreciate the warm hospitality of the Quiet Corner community - thank you for all your efforts to strengthen our community!



Our Lenten Theme – Prayer

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th and continues on until Easter. This special season invites us to take time to deepen our relationship with God. This year we will focus on the topic of prayer. We will take the time to explore the Lord’s prayer and what it means.

Please join us for as many of our Lenten activities as possible.

- Wednesday, March 6th: Ash Wednesday. 7:00 p.m. Service at EWCC.
- Wednesday, March 27th: Lenten Evening. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Senexet House. Dinner and conversation.
- Wednesday, April 10th: Lenten Evening. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Senexet House. Dinner and conversation.
- Every Sunday, 10:00 a.m. Join us for worship as we explore what prayer is, how to pray, and the meaning behind the Lord’s prayer.
- Prayer Project (see below). This is an opportunity to pray with and for each other. Choose to be a prayer partner and notice how rich these Lenten days can be!

Prayer Project

The Season of Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter) is an opportunity for us to deepen our relationship with God. When we pray, we come into God’s presence to listen and to express what is in our heart and mind. During Lent this year, everyone in the congregation is invited to take part in our **Prayer Project**. During worship we often ask for prayers, either for ourselves or for someone we love. During the season of Lent, we will be inviting people to be “**prayer partners.**”

Here’s how it works:

If you would like to have and be a prayer partner, please write your name on a card. You can place the card in a box that will be available in Fellowship Hall. **On March 10th**, everyone is invited to stay after worship to celebrate our prayer project kickoff. The deacons will draw pairs of names, the prayer partners will have a chance to meet one another and we will have a series of short exercises to enjoy and get us started on our prayer adventure.

Once you know who your partner is, each partner will promise to hold each other in prayer throughout the season. The two of you can meet during coffee hour, during the week, talk on the phone or email with each other to get to know one another and share your joys and concerns.

If you are not able to get to church but would still like to have and be a prayer partner, just call the church office or email Pastor Sue and we’ll include you on the list.

In addition, we will ask everyone to be intentional about keeping our church family and the work of the church in your prayers.

One of the best ways to encounter God is through prayer. Jesus promises that those who seek will find, those who ask will hear God’s answer, those who knock on God’s door will find it opened to them. Let’s celebrate the gift of prayer this year with our prayer project.

Jazz Sunday!

Come to worship at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 3rd and enjoy foot-tapping, soul-lifting jazz! We will celebrate the last Sunday in Epiphany with great music and good fellowship as we lift up our voices to praise God. There will be a soup luncheon following worship. Bring a friend!

Each year on Jazz Sunday we designate a second offering for a current cause that needs to be addressed. Our tradition of "Jazz Sunday" began in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina; our offerings were sent to churches and non-profits that were damaged by that powerful storm.

This year our offering will stay local. We will be receiving an offering to help Stacy and Pete Vogt. Stacy is Calvin Neely's daughter and grew up in our church. Pastor Sue officiated at her wedding last June. Now Pete has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Donations will help their family as Pete undergoes treatment.

Join us on March 3rd to celebrate Jazz Sunday and to help support Stacy and Pete!



Men's Fellowship News

The men of the congregation have been enjoying gathering for breakfast at the church for good food and fellowship. Our next gathering will be on **Sunday, March 17th at 8:00 a.m.** All men are invited – and please invite a friend along!



THANK YOU!!!

The "church" is not the building. The "church" is all of us, offering our time and talents to share the Good News of God's love and hope. This month we especially would like to thank...

Laurie Edwards, Valerie Law, Jarod Law, Suzette LeFevre, Quinn LeFevre, Maura Robie, Karen Ryker, Sarah Jo Burke, Christine Lessig and Glen Lessig for representing our congregation by volunteering at the Windham Association Interfaith Ministry in Willimantic. Our church participates in this ministry which provides food, clothing, furniture, and other services to those in need. Thank you for shining God's light of compassion and caring!

Andy Tomkins for envisioning our first-ever Pops Concert and making it happen! We appreciate your enthusiasm and good idea. And many thanks to all the talented musicians who participated!



Jamboree News



Yes, it is time once again to begin the planning for the 4th of July Jamboree! This year marks our 63rd annual Jamboree!! As always, our success depends on the efforts of many dedicated volunteers. We will need chairpersons for the many booths and events as well as crafters, bakers, set-up and clean-up crews, etc., etc.

EWCC needs YOU!

Our first meeting will be held on Tuesdays, March 12 & 26 at 7:00 pm. Please plan to attend and bring your ideas! Everyone is welcome and suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Let's make this the best year yet!!



I would like to order flowers for Easter.

Given by: _____

Phone: _____

To Honor: _____

In Memory of: _____

Flower Choices:

Tulips or Daffodils: \$11.00 ea Lilies: \$13.50 ea

Tulips _____ @ \$11.00 ea

Daffodils _____ @ \$11.00 ea

Lilies _____ @ \$13.50 ea

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Fill in the necessary information using back of this form if needed. Enclose a check for the cost of the pot(s) wanted, made out to EWCC. Mail to: EWCC, PO Box 156, East Woodstock, CT 06244 or drop it off at the church office.

Deadline: March 31.

Missions Committee News

Welcome to three new members: Pam Brown, Diane Billings, and Linda Felt
Prayer Shawls Blessing was held on February 24.

Jazz Sunday – March 3 – Donations from the special offering on Jazz Sunday will be given to the Vogt family as Pete (husband of Stacy Neely Vogt) battles pancreatic cancer.

Domestic Violence Shelter: Eggs from Carolyn Looby and food from Community Kitchen continue to be delivered to the shelter by Cris Waldron.

Caring Families: The group of volunteers from EWCC helped to package bags for local Woodstock Families on February 14. We continue to request cans of tuna to be left on the Missions table.



QCRR – Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement: We are welcoming a new refugee family to Northeastern CT – see separate article

First Quarter of the year: Donations and disbursements:

- Community Kitchens (EWCC 2 months)
- Misc. Postage & Cards
- Prayer Shawls & Cards
- WAIM (Windham Area Interfaith Ministry)
- TEEG (Woodstock Fuel Assistance)
- Back Bay Mission (UCC Ministry in Mississippian)
- True Colors (Youth LGBT UCONN - March)
- Ossen Foundation-Windham/Tolland 4-H Camp matching Scholarship
- Daily Bread



Senior High School Scholarship



A scholarship is awarded each year to a student who is associated with EWCC and is pursuing their education in the field of ministry or in a field related to human services/social services such as teaching, nursing, social work, etc.

Applications are available for download on the church web site (www.eastwoodstockchurch.org) or in the church office and are due back by May 1.

One Great Hour of Sharing Collections

A gift to *One Great Hour of Sharing* enables our church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world:

- Helping to empower the poor and oppressed
- Provide water
- Supply food to the hungry
- Give relief from disasters



Collections Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday

Fill an Easter Basket Covenant to Care for Children



Help us spread the Easter Message of Love and Hope to young children in Northeastern CT!

Please pick up an empty bucket on Sunday, March 31 or April 7.

Fill it with fun activities and small toys appropriate for the age of the child on the back and return it by **Sunday, April 14.**

Covenant to Care for Children channels the generosity of caring and faithful people to advocate for and provide direct assistance to Connecticut's children who are neglected, abused and/or impoverished.

Very Special Music!

Join us on **Sunday, March 24th** as Peter Lakes brings his high school choir to perform during worship. Many of you will remember that Peter grew up in our congregation and often delighted our congregation with his extensive musical talents. He also sang in the choir and directed our children’s choir. Now he is a high school music teacher; his chorus will be participating in a musical competition in Boston and will be coming to East Woodstock as they begin their journey home. This promises to be a high-energy and exciting morning of music. Please join us!



LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

LBS NEWS AND HISTORY

Our February meeting date was at first changed from the 20th to the 13th due to a conflict with Pastor Sue’s schedule. Then the weather caused a cancellation of the meeting. We will reschedule Pastor Sue’s presentation later this year. She will then have her Puerto Rico mission trip to tell us about as well as her European trip in 2018.

There will be a meeting on March 20 at 1:30 p.m. with a presentation by Matthew Laflamme, Branch Manager, BankHometown in Putnam, with a power point presentation on Identity Theft, followed by refreshments provided by Donna Baldyga & Pat Ziemba. Because all of our officers will be in Florida during March, there will be no business meeting in March.

Let’s journey back to the late 1880’s where the minutes state: “With the Hall in good repair it was voted to have carpet, cushions, furniture, and chandelier and lamps and library table bought for the sanctuary, with a sum toward the little church organ. All this with the freight came to \$567.58. To celebrate, a concert was held in the church. To defray these expenses, strawberry and basket festivals, and more sales were put on. All this was completed by 1889.”

Respectfully, Kerstin Forrester, President LBS

St. Patrick’s Day Blessing

by Maren Tirabassi

May the road climb so precipitously
that you must slow down
to trudge up the hill of your challenges
but you will know what they are
and avoid the sneaky detours.

May the wind tornado
behind your back, all the way to Oz
where you will make alliances
with those you thought
were mindless, heartless or gutless,
because they are on your journey.

May your face shine on those around you,
showing your honest feelings,
even all the awkward ones.
and may your tears fall easy as rain,
and shamelessly open,

so that griefs, fears and frustrations
water your life
rather than turning to corrosive salt
on the inside of you.

And may you know now and always —
when we are close
and when we are distant,
whether we meet again,
or take very different roads,
God is already and always holding you
in the great and gentle palm of love.



A Women's Retreat

For all the women of the East Woodstock Congregational Church

Friday, March 29 and Saturday, March 30
at Camp Wightman, North Stonington, CT

(40 minutes from our church)

Words to Live By

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14

What words do we hear in our minds and hearts? What words do we say? Do we recognize the power of words and the messages that we receive and give? During our retreat, we will reflect on the messages that we receive from society as well as the words that we share with others. How can we feed our spirits with positive messages? How can we disregard the negativity that too often weighs us down? And how can we encourage one another with words of respect and kindness?

Join us in the beautiful, relaxing setting at Camp Wightman as we learn about words to live by.

This retreat will include time for renewal and fellowship. The retreat will start at 3:00 pm on Friday and conclude at 4:00 pm on Saturday. You are welcome to come just for the day on Saturday if you are not interested in spending the night. There will be free time for knitting, scrapbooking, reading, quilting, or even just relaxing. Come overnight or join us on Saturday. Please fill out the registration form and return it to Heidi Tucker as soon as possible.

The cost for both Friday and Saturday is \$95. This price includes dinner on Friday evening, lodging for Friday night, breakfast and lunch on Saturday. The cost for just Saturday will be \$40. This price includes breakfast and/or lunch on Saturday plus all activities. The start time on Saturday is 9:30 am and concludes at 4:00 pm. Breakfast is served at 8:00 am. Visit our website www.eastwoodstockchurch.org for more info!

Registration Form Paid: Check #

Name Phone Number

Email Address

In case of emergency, please contact:

Name Phone number

I will be staying overnight on Friday, March 29. Cost is \$95. Dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday are included. Please check one:

I will be there for dinner. I will not be there for dinner.

I will be coming just for the day on Saturday, March 30. Cost is \$40.

I will arrive by 8:00 am for breakfast & lunch. I will arrive by 9:30 and stay for lunch.

Please return this registration form and your check to us by Sunday, March 10. Please make your check payable to EWCC, with the word retreat on the memo line. The form is also available online. Financial assistance is available.

I need financial assistance; please call me with more information.

If your plans change, please let us know before March 10. We cannot do refunds after that date. Thank you.

Crafting Group: The Fiber that Binds Us

Do you love knitting, crocheting, quilting, and fellowship? Our craft group is open to anyone who might be interested in creating items to donate to people and groups in need. We can work on any project that we want individually or as a group. Only like to quilt or cut out patterns? Then come and help us do that. We welcome all your talents! We meet every Friday, 10:00 a.m. – noon in Fellowship Hall. Come when you can and stay as long as you are able. For more information, please contact Mona Lee at 860-428-3640 or leemonact@gmail.com.



Irish Retreat: Celebrating Celtic Christianity

Join Pastor Sue for a retreat in Ireland in June 2019!

When: June 7-13, 2019

Where: Beautiful Achill Island, County Mayo, on the west coast of Ireland

Schedule (draft)

June 6 (evening): Depart Boston Logan Airport

Friday, June 7 (morning): Arrive Shannon Airport. Bus to Westport? Rest day in Achill Island

Saturday, June 8: Rest day. Evening: Dinner with all participants

Sunday, June 9: Worship at Church of Ireland

Monday, June 10: Labyrinth. Where are we on our journey? Achill Secret Garden with tea overlooking the ocean. <http://www.achillsecretgarden.com/>

Tuesday, June 11: Camino Day. Visiting Irish churches, experiencing Celtic blessings.

Wednesday, June 12: Group activities and conversations

Thursday, June 13: Final breakfast gathering. Departing ritual

Activities will include opportunities for conversation, fellowship, and exploring the beautiful area. Please contact Pastor Sue with any questions!



East Woodstock Congregational Church 7th Annual Clothing Sale



1000's of new and gently
used items

for men, women, and children

***Friday, May 10th 3:00 – 7:00 pm**

***Saturday, May 11th 9:00 – 2:00 pm**
(Saturday only: fill a bag for \$5)



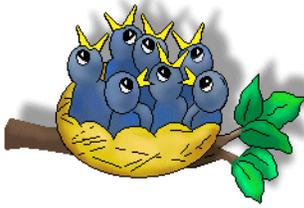
Loads of brand-named items

Exceptional prices – Amazing bargains

220 Woodstock Road
Woodstock, CT

*Please contact Dorrie Scranton
at (860) 974-3096
for question or donations.*





Youth Group Newsletter March 2019

March 3

Jazz Sunday

Come to church this Sunday and help with worship! We need youth to greet, collect offering, and read scripture. Stay after worship to enjoy a soup luncheon. Let Anne know how you can help!

March 10

Breakfast Club/Soup Making & Delivery

Come to Breakfast Club after the Children's Story. Meet in the library. We will talk about upcoming events. Light snacks will be served. Bring a friend!

Stay after worship to help us make and deliver soup to members of our congregation. We'll start cooking at 12:30.

March 31

Interfaith Exploration at Hartford Seminary

We will have lunch at the church, then drive to Hartford to meet with youth from all over the state. We will be learning about Jewish, Christian, and Muslim spiritual practices. The program is from 1:30 – 3:30, so we will be back to church by 4:30 p.m. Let Anne know if you are interested in attending.

Are you interested in completing a Youth Internship at our church this spring but don't know where to start. Make an appointment with Anne to talk about your ideas. She is willing to meet you after school or on a Sunday. There is still time to start an internship this spring.

Questions about youth group?

Contact Anne Sorensen at

(860) 428-2198 or email youthgroup.woodstock@gmail.com

Join our "Youth Group 18-19" on FACEBOOK for updates and invites.



Follow us on username: woodstockSYG
Instagram

Sunday School News

I was sitting at Victoria Station earlier today and looked across the street. One of the antique stores had a bunch of shamrocks hanging in their window. To be honest, St. Patrick's Day was the farthest thing from my mind...but I started to think about the man we call St. Patrick...and how we celebrate the day.

First, I learned that in fact St. Patrick was not even Irish! He was actually British. At 16 he was captured and made a slave in Ireland. But he was a man of God with a strong faith who listened when God spoke to him. As a slave Patrick taught the scriptures and converted over 135,000 to Christianity throughout his life. In a dream Patrick heard God speak to him and tell him "your ship is ready". Patrick escaped Ireland by ship. Soon after Patrick had a second dream where God spoke to him a second time. This time Patrick heard the voices of the Irish people begging him to return...and he did.

So, I mention these things not to give any kind of a history lesson, but rather to have us think about how we will spend our day. What message is God speaking to us? Do we listen? But more as a parent...do we regularly encourage our children to take the time to listen for God's voice? I know for myself I need this reminder to encourage them, with all they have to do every day, to also take time for God. So, this year along with the corned beef and Irish soda bread, I'm going to encourage them to use the symbol of the shamrock that Patrick used to teach the Holy Trinity...the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to listen for God's voice and do 3 acts of kindness. I can't wait to hear what they say.

I will be bringing this up to them all in Sunday School. I can't wait to hear what they choose to do. Please share with me anything else you may do to mark the day. As always please feel free to be in touch with me anytime.

Louise
cedirectorewcc@gmail.com



Children's Page



God Hears and Answers Prayer

MARCH 2019

Daily Bread Donations for this month: Juice & Crackers

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10 am Craft Group 5 pm 4-H	2
3 Jazz Sunday Soup Luncheon 11:45 am YMT	4 9 am Community Kitchen Prep 9:30 am Music Class	5 10:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Deacons 7 pm Sanctuary Singers	6 Ash Wednesday 7 pm Service 10 am Study Group 7:30 pm Al-anon	7 10:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Bells	8 9:30 am MOMs Group 10 am Craft Group	9
10 Breakfast Club Prayer Project Kickoff SYG –Soup Making 6:30 pm EWCB	11 9:30 am Music Class 7:00 pm Council 7:00 pm Society	12 10:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Jamboree 7 pm Sanctuary Singers	13 10 am Study Group 7pm Missions (Sue’s) 7:30 pm Al-anon	14 10:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Bells	15 10 am Craft Group	16
17 8:00 am Men’s Breakfast 3:00 pm New Members Tea	18 9:30 am Music Class	19 10:00 am Tai Chi 7 pm Sanctuary Singers	20 TRUMPET DEADLINE! 10 am Study Group 1:30 pm LBS 7:30 pm Al-anon	21 10:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Bells	22 10 am Craft Group	23
24 Guest Choir	25 9:30 am Music Class	26 10:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Jamboree 7 pm Sanctuary Singers	27 10 am Study Group 6 pm Lenten Evening (Senexet House) 7:30 pm Al-anon	28 10:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Bells	29 10 am Craft Group Women’s Retreat →	30 Democrat Town Committee
31 Receive New Members SYG-Hartford Sem. 6:30 pm EWCB						

Looking Ahead:

- April 10: Lenten Evening at Senexet House
- April 14: Palm Sunday
- April 18: Maundy Thursday
- April 19: Good Friday
- April 21: Easter Sunday

COFFEE HOUR

The coffee hour in February will be served courtesy of: **CE/Teachers**

The coffee hour in March will be served courtesy of: **Society**



March Birthdays:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Greyson Magnan | March 5 |
| Emmitt Plona | March 10 |
| Kaylyn Converse | March 17 |
| Lillie Mae Rosen | March 18 |
| Millie Anne Rosen | March 18 |
| Mitchell Child | March 25 |
| Gavin Bottone | March 30 |
| Gavin Washburn | March 30 |

PRAYER PAGE

Today and every day let us be open to God, who promises always to be with us.

Lenten prayer 1

Loving God,
you call us back to you with all of our hearts.
I feel your call for me deep in my heart
and I know you want me back
as much as I want to return.
Please, Lord,
give me the wisdom to know how to return.
Make my journey back to you this Lent
one of grace, forgiveness and gentle love.

Lord, open unto me

by The Rev. Howard Thurman

Lord, open unto me
(pause for a centering moment)
Open unto me - light for my darkness.
Open unto me - courage for my fear.
Open unto me - hope for my despair.
Open unto me - peace for my turmoil.
Open unto me - joy for my sorrow.
Open unto me - strength for my weakness.
Open unto me - wisdom for my confession.
Open unto me - forgiveness for my sins.
Open unto me - love for my hates.
Open unto me - thy Self for myself.
Lord, Lord, open unto me!
Amen.

Lenten prayer 2

Father of my soul,
Mother of my heart,
I know your love for me is limitless
beyond imagining.
You care for me as a loving parent.
Through my smallest Lenten sacrifices,
help me to become less selfish
and more aware of your ways.
Fan the flame of my desire
to draw ever closer to you.
Guide me to seek your love.

Spring Canticle

Sun and cloud, bless the Lord.
Dew and rain, bless the Lord.
Flower and weed, bless the Lord.
Breeze and bird, bless the Lord.
Mist and meadow, bless the Lord.
Sunrise and sunset, bless the Lord.
Light and darkness, bless the Lord.

