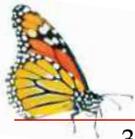


The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

March 2011



Services: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Worship & Communion, 1st Sunday of the month at 10:00 a.m

30 Main Street, P.O. Box 392, Salisbury, Connecticut 06068 ~ 860.435.2442 ~ www.salisburycongregational.org

Pamela Wyeth, Editor

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY, MARCH 4TH

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

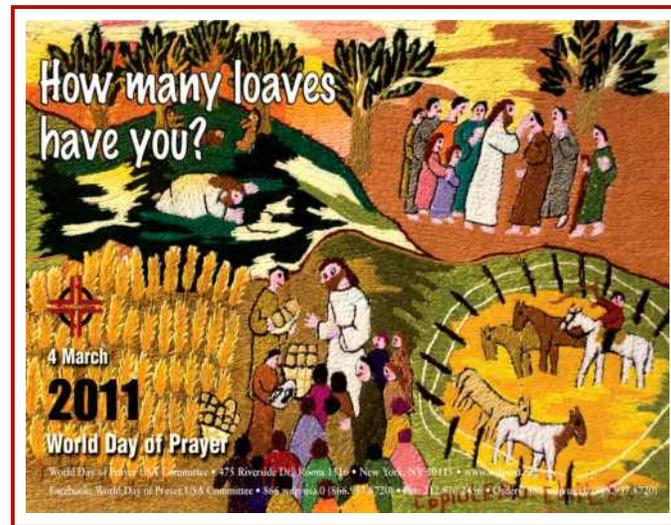
- It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration – the first Friday of March – to which all people are welcome.
- It is a movement which brings together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding, and action throughout the year.

Through World Day of Prayer, women around the world

- affirm their faith in Jesus Christ
- share their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows, their opportunities and needs

Through World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged

- to become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation;
- to be enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures;



- to take up the burdens of other people and pray with and for them;
- to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society.

Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world.

This year's service is at the Congregational Church of Sharon (see invitation on page 3).



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2011: CHILE

The 2011 offering grants will focus on these concerns expressed by the women of Chile:

Chilean women are struggling with the impact of globalization and social and environmental issues such as pollution of the environment and over-population in the urban areas.

The lack of prospects for young people and issues such as drug consumption and trafficking, prostitution, and dysfunctional families—problems directly affecting women and children.

Gender issues resulting in the gap in women's rights in theory and in practice, especially regarding equity and respect in the workplace, which oftentimes is in difficult work environments.

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"March is a tomboy with tousled hair, a mischievous smile, mud on her shoes and a laugh in her voice." - Hal Borland

Growing in Faith Together

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK MARCH 2011

Today the air is warm and the sun is shining brightly. I heard birds singing this morning and saw a glimpse of green under a pile of melting snow. Once again, God has provided us with proof of His eternal promise of renewal and transformation. March, the proverbial month that "comes in like a lion and out like a lamb" reminds us of our own Easter journey. It is in March this year that we will begin the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on March 9th. Lent is traditionally a season of self-reflection and sacrifice, a time when we prepare ourselves for the joy of Easter. I invite you to use this Lenten time to deepen your relationship with God. There will be several opportunities for this.

I invite you to join me in reading and discussing *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis.

From the publisher:

Written with the avowed intention of pointing the way by which all would be able to follow Christ's teachings and by so doing to imitate His life, the timeless message of the humble monk is as inspiring in our tempestuous era as the day it was written.

The book is divided into four sections. We will read one section for each session. We will meet in front of the fireplace on Thursday mornings from 10:00-11:30 on March 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st. If you cannot attend our discussion, I encourage you to read the book on your own and set up a time to talk to me about it.

In addition, we have been invited to join our neighbors at Trinity Church in Lime Rock on Tuesdays in Lent for a program called "Walking the Way." (see related article on page 3).

Noble Horizons will be hosting a five-part series on "What it Means to Be a Christian" based on a DVD presentation by theologian Marcus Borg. These sessions will be held on Wednesdays at 2:00 in the Community Room.

I encourage you to take some time this month to practice a new spiritual discipline. It might be daily prayer, meditation, reading spiritual works, bible study or volunteering your time. Whatever you choose, do so for the glory of God and stick to it for the 40 days of Lent. You will be rewarded on Easter Sunday when you feel closeness to the risen Christ who has promised to make all things new.

Blessings for peace on your journey,

Pastor Diane

Email: pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org

Blog: salisburycongregational.wordpress.com

You are invited
to stop by and visit
Pastor Diane
in her office
Monday – Thursday
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
You can also email or
call for an appointment
860-435-2442

PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES FOR LENT



The Imitation of Christ by Thomas à Kempis (available on Amazon.com ranging in price from .99 to \$17.95; also available in local bookstores).

Weekly discussion on Thursdays, March 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st from 10:00 - 11:30 in the Parish Hall. Contact Pastor Diane for more information.

Embracing An Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on what it means to be a Christian

A DVD presentation and discussion on five Wednesdays in Lent: March 9th, 23rd, 30th, April 6th, and 20th at 2:00 in the Community Room at Noble Horizons, facilitated by Alexis Dorf. For more information contact Alexis at 860-364-0816.

Walking the Walk: A Lenten Program of Films and Discussion including a light meal of Soup and Bread

On Tuesdays, March 15th at noon; March 22nd at 6:00 p.m.; March 29th at noon; April 5th at 6:00 p.m. Trinity Church, 484 Lime Rock Road, Lime Rock. For more information contact Rev. Heidi Truax at 860-435-2627.



HONOR TEACHERS

James Michener, the author of books such as *The Source* and *Hawaii*, was once invited by President Eisenhower to a dinner at the White House. He answered the president with these words:

"Dear Mr. President: I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers."

President Eisenhower answered Michener by saying, "In his lifetime a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents, but a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely."

Sunday school is now in full swing, so let us honor all of our teachers. They sacrifice their time to prepare lessons, decorate classrooms, teach with loving care, and most importantly, to be "there" for their students.

~ Author unknown

"Teaching is the profession that teaches all the other professions."

~Author Unknown

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

There were 103 cans of soup collected on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 6th. Wow!

At Coffee Hour everyone was given the opportunity to vote for their favorite team with pocket change. Thanks to a very generous group, the Pittsburgh Steelers received \$42.00 and the Green Bay Packers received \$42.24. Money from the Sunday School offering rounded our total to \$103 for OWL's Kitchen. And then a generous benefactor sent a check for an additional \$100! All in all, a souper day!

Many thanks, Barbara Collins



GIVING TREE THANKS

Notes of appreciation for those who gave so generously to our Christmas Giving Tree:

"Dear Members of the Salisbury Congregational Church,

Thank you so very much for all your kindness. There were many happy children and moms because of your warm hearts. Happiest of New Years to all.

The staff at Astor Early Childhood"

And from the Residential Coordinator of Grace Smith House:

" Thank you so much for the wonderful donations. They were very much appreciated."

Jane Capecelatro for the Board of Christian Action



Church Women United
invite You to Join Them
on
World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 4th at 2:00

at
First Congregational Church of Sharon
For a time of worship and ecumenical
fellowship.

All are Welcome!



MISSION SUNDAY

A new addition to the church's website is a page called *Staying in Touch*. There you'll find links to sermons that are once again being made available through the Robin Hood Radio website - <http://robinhoodradio.com>. As of this printing, you can listen "live" (no video yet) to sermons from January 16th, 23rd and 30th, and February 6th, or download them as podcasts to listen to them later on a portable device.

There are two ways to hear the sermons. You can click on the link that's provided on the *Staying in Touch* page, which will take you to an essentially blank web page. If you look closely at the top of that page, though, you'll see a little box with a right-facing arrow. If you click on that arrow, the sermon will begin.

If you'd prefer to download the sermon for a later time, you'll find a link on the *Staying in Touch* page that will take you to Robin Hood Radio. On the left side of the page is a list of their available shows. Scroll down until you find Salisbury Congregational Church, click on it, and then scroll back up to the top of the page and you'll see a list of sermons. Each has a listen now button (the arrow) and a "Download Show" link.

If you get stuck and need some help with this, please feel free to give me a call and I'll do my best to talk you through it - 860-824-9956.

Pamela Wyeth, computer geek

WHEN LOVE IS A VERB



As it happens, every Sunday when I attend worship, I enjoy a sense of peace. An inner validation that God loves me, and that I love God. In this weekly activity of going to church, I affirm my belief. Many times I have wondered why it takes going into church, sitting down and participating in the service to get that inner serenity.

The Sunday after Valentine's Day the light bulb went on. I knew why this act of worship was so meaningful to me. It is one of the few times that my love for Christ is a verb. I am actively participating. Even more enlightening was the understanding that my feelings of calmness and wholeness are the result of God's active love of me.

Understanding that love is something I can actively do, not just something I feel, it is a realization. Accepting that God's love for me is just as dynamic is a revelation. Acting on these principles is the reward.

*- Beth Dyer in "To Love or Be in Love,"
Desert Southwest Journal*

Sunday March 20th will be Mission Sunday and the service will be centered around the Christian Action Committee's global mission.

Following the earthquake in Chile, Christian Action sent monies to the Pentecostal Church in Chile, via the Massachusetts Conference of the U.C.C. These monies were used to build "blessing cabins" for the homeless in rural areas.

Our committee also financed the building of a fresh water well in Ghana, which is currently under construction. The U.C.C. Global Ministries is working through the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana. The well is located in the community of Twereboana in the Jasikan district of the Volta Region.

Lastly, Christian Action sent a large donation to the "Care One Bit Foundation" in Haiti. This was to be spent on food, home construction and job initiatives in Haiti.

The Mission Sunday Service will include videos and pictures to highlight and provide information on all three of these projects. Christian Action will also discuss our most recent new and exciting project. Prayer and scripture readings will enhance the spirit of outreach both globally and locally.

Peggy Heck for the Christian Action Committee

SILVER LAKE SUMMER CAMP REMINDER

Registration for summer conferences at Silver Lake Conference Center, the Connecticut Conference's outdoor ministry in Sharon, is now open. Forty offerings include themes around music, swimming, sports, clowning, creativity, service, and more!

It is a time and place where friendships sprout quickly, and blossom into life-long relationships of deep trust and support. More than anything else, young people find at Silver Lake a sense of the sacred, and bring home with them the experience of God's presence in one place in the world, prepared to seek God further in other places, too.

The church will offer families help with tuition costs, as it has in the past. For more information talk to Pastor Diane or visit <http://silverlake.ctucc.org/>.

(For the full article with camp offerings, please see the February 2011 Meeting House Times, also available on line.)

Pastor Diane



Be a Prayer Partner

Our Prayer Group will meet on **Wednesday March 9th**, and **Wednesday, March 23rd** at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Will you join us as a "praying partner"?

We know that you are not always able to join us in person on a weekday morning, but if you cannot come, you can still join us as a praying partner. If you receive e-mail, we can periodically send you a current list of people in need of prayer. In the privacy of your own home, at a time convenient for you, you can hold in prayer each person on the list. Contact Laura Flores by calling 860-435-9204, or by e-mail at laura_flores@comcast.net. We look forward to having you join us.

Laura Flores

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF SALISBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH?

"In the United Church of Christ, people unite with a local church by baptism and confirmation or by profession of faith and baptism. They also unite by reaffirmation or reprofession of faith or letter of transfer or certification from other Christian churches." (From UCC Book of Worship)

On Sunday, March 27th, at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs council room there will be a gathering for all people interested in entering into covenant as a member of our church. Our church welcomes any person who professes belief and faith in Jesus Christ and who is committed to participating in the life of our church. If you are seeking a church where you can nurture your faith in God and be pilgrims on a journey of faith with others, you are most welcome here.

The class on March 27th is open to anyone who would like information about joining the church. Those who decide to join will be welcomed into the church on Sunday, April 10th during the worship service. If you would like to join the church, please contact Pastor Diane at 860-435-2442 or email at pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org.

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church.

We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes

and labors of the church of Jesus Christ.

By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

FALL FESTIVAL 2010 WRAP-UP

Our treasurer has been busy crunching the numbers from the Fall Festival 2010. Total revenue was \$13,140 (which does not include the money raised by the Board of Christian Action from the Global Craft boutique). Our activity-related expenses were \$1,186; non-activity expenses were \$1,228; and shared expenses were \$1,541. Our church was reimbursed \$784 by three other churches for shared expenses, such as advertising and traffic control. Thus our total expenses were \$3,171. The bottom line: \$9,969 profit for Fall Festival 2010.

This year we had a huge hole to fill with the absence of the Silent Auction, which raised \$8,905 in 2009. So our committee went to work. In the end, we lowered our expenses by \$1,000 and dramatically increased our financial donations by \$3,569. We asked other organizations to contribute to printing and advertising costs. With the wonderful effort of our committee, hundreds of donations from members and friends, hours of volunteer time, and generous response from our visitors, we fell only \$3,000 short of last year's profits.

Thank you for your support!

Jeanette Weber,
Chair of Fall Festival 2010



THE PRODIGAL SON PARABLE IN "F"

Feeling footloose and frisky, a featherbrained fellow forced his fond father to fork over the farthings and flew far to foreign fields and frittered his fortune, feasting fabulously with faithless friends.

Fleeced by his fellows in folly and facing famine he found himself a feed flinger in a filthy farm. Fairly famishing, he fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from fodder fragments. "Fooley, my father's flunkies fare far finer!"

The frazzled fugitive forlornly fumbled, frankly facing facts. He fled forthwith to his family. Falling at his father's feet, he forlornly fumbled. "Father, I've flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family favor."

The farsighted father, forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged the flunkies to fetch a fatling from the flock and fix a feast.

The fugitive's faultfinding brother frowned on fickle forgiveness of the former folderol.

But the faithful father figured, "Filial fidelity is fine, but the fugitive is found! What forbids fervent festivity? Let flags be unfurled! Let fanfares flair!"

~ Author unknown

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Women's History Month		1 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	2 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	3	4 <i>World Day of Prayer</i>	5
6 10:00 - Worship & Communion No Church School <i>Crib & toddler care available</i> 11:15 - Board of Trustees	7	8 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	9 10:00 - Prayer Group 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	10 10:00 - Book Study	11	12
10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Board of Christian Action <i>First Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings Begins</i>	13	14 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	15 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00 - Book Study <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	17 6:00 - Pot Luck Supper	18 19
10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Church Council <i>Mission Sunday Second Sunday in Lent Vernal Equinox</i>	20	21 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	22 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00 - Prayer Group	24 10:00 - Book Study	25 26
10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Board of Deacons 1:00 - New Members Class <i>Upstairs Council Room Third Sunday in Lent</i>	27	28 5:15 - Bell Choir Rehearsal	29 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	30 10:00 - Book Study	31	

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER: SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH

1st Robert Weber
4th Desean Taber
6th Olivia May
10th Dave Heck
13th Carrie Babigian
13th Michelle Kinzinger
14th Debra Palmer
17th Leanne LaFosse
18th Hawk Blumert
18th Samantha Wilson
21st Rebecca Offensend
23rd Karin Noyes
31st Lauren Hanlon
31st Sarah Zarbock

March Birthdays



"The year's at the spring
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven -
All's right with the world!"
- Robert Browning

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS,

Prayer Shawls



We are looking for knitters and crocheters to make a supply of Prayer Shawls for Pastor Diane when she calls on house-bound church members, or those recovering from illnesses, accidents, grievous losses. For information and directions/instructions call Heather Schaufele at (860) 435-0439.

Pray without ceasing

"Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension, too."
-J.C. Ryle

Note from the editor: All Internet and email links you see in this newsletter are clickable (live) in the on line version. Just go to the *Newsletter* page of the church website.

Forgiveness BRACELET

Jesus died on the cross to forgive our sins, and he tells us to forgive other people, too. Make and wear this craft as a reminder that you are forgiven — and should be forgiving.

What you need:

- Clear plastic bottle (about 16 oz.)
- An adult to help
- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Permanent black marker
- Glue or clear tape
- Thin ribbon or yarn
- Small hole punch

What you do:

1. Remove any label from the bottle. Have an adult help you cut the bottle in half, width-wise. At the middle, cut out two identical half-inch-wide strips.
2. Cut out paper the same size as the plastic strips.
3. On the paper, write "Forgive, and you will be forgiven" (Luke 6:37, NIV).
4. Place the paper between the two plastic strips.
5. Cut and glue the ribbon or yarn to run along the top and bottom of the verse, framing the words.
6. Punch a hole at each end, through all three layers.
7. Tie the bracelet to your wrist with ribbon or yarn.

WHITE HAIR

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white."

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

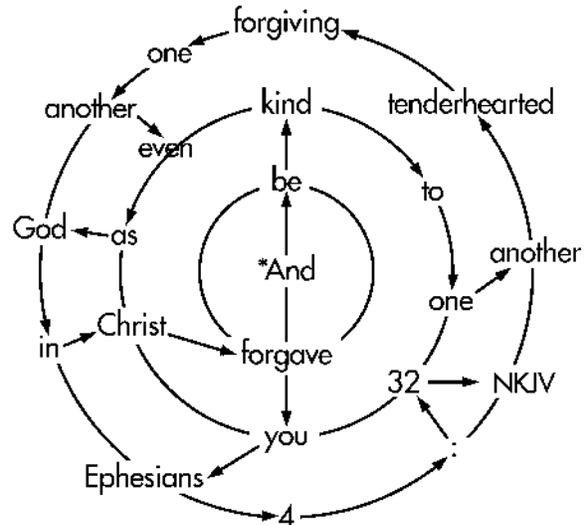


WHY FORGIVE?



This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others — and why.

Directions: Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.



"And _____ ,
 _____ , _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ ."

Answers: And be kind to one another, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NKJV

