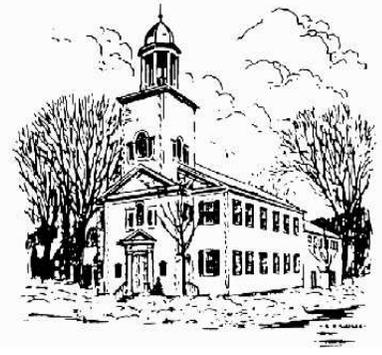


# The Meeting House Times



The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

**November 2010**

*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](http://www.salisburycongregational.org)

Pamela Wyeth, Editor

## Fall Festival

**SUCCESS, THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS**

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The Fall Festival weekend featured gorgeous weather, huge crowds, and lots of fun for everyone. Our church was festive with autumn decorations both inside and out. Greeters welcomed visitors from near and far. Hundreds of items from our Treasure Trove, Country Kitchen, and Global Crafts were purchased by fairgoers. Children of all ages enjoyed the fun hay rides and magic shows. Our volunteers were kept busy selling cider, popcorn, hotdogs, and soup, as well as painting faces and running games. Many thanks to the hard-working committee members and all the volunteers who donated their time, effort, tag sale items, baked goods, and money to help make the 2010 Fall Festival a success!



*Jeanette Weber, for the Fall Festival Committee*





## HAVING A THANKFUL HEART

A colleague recently gave me a book to read, entitled *The Paper Bag Princess* by R. Munsch and M. Martchenko. I found it both relevant and humorously metaphorical of the

lives of many people, including and especially clergy. The story goes like this:

A young prince and princess lived in a castle in a faraway kingdom. One day, the prince was kidnapped by a ferocious dragon, burning everything up in his wake, including the castle and all its surroundings. Among the collateral damage were all the princess's belongings, including her clothes and her stylish hairdo. All that was left for her to wear was a brown paper bag.

The princess decided to ignore her own hardships, however, and set out to rescue the prince. (How's that for a twist...) When she finally happened upon the dragon, she chose to use flattery instead of brute force as a strategy to defeat him. Succumbing to it as many will, he soon found himself completely powerless and exhausted, due to the princess's requests for him to show off his strength and stamina. Once he was completely spent to the point of unconsciousness, she rescued the prince – *but here's the kicker* – only to be forced to *defend* why she arrived smelling of burnt hair, completely disheveled and wearing a paper bag. Unpredictably, she is ultimately shunned by him for not presenting herself in a better state of affairs, and for rescuing him looking like she did.

Beyond a good chuckle, what struck me most about this tale was the clear, unabashed and sometimes too-close-to-home point it makes not only about people's exorbitant expectations, but their ultimate lack of appreciation. Speaking from a minister's perspective, there are few things that “stick in our craw,” as they

say, more than ingratitude. At first, we deal with it like anyone else, and like any other challenge in life. If it continues, especially on a general scale, we may unwittingly begin to build up subtle walls of protection, which both keep us from being hurt, but also keep others from being let into our lives beyond certain shallow depths. When it becomes clear that ungratefulness is an ongoing dynamic of the church itself, it can cause a pastor's ministry to shut down – or cause him/her simply to take off running. And certainly, this sequence of responses is not particular only to ministers.

Amidst Paul's historical reflections and warnings in the first chapter of Romans, he sums all of humankind's diversion away from God to one thing: *the forsaking of thankfulness*. This, he concludes, is the beginning of rebellion and ultimately of recalcitrance. There are few things that tear a good relationship down quicker than ingratitude; and few things that can repair a faltering one like its opposite. They say that it takes 17 positive expressions of affirmation to undo the effects of one negative put-down. I tend to suspect that the converse is true as well...that one sincere showing of appreciation toward someone we have had strained dealings with can begin to break down walls of distrust, bitterness, even alienation.

It was Shakespeare that said, “*How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.*” Fortunate for us, we can decide to be otherwise – thankful, grateful, admiring (and thus, admirable) people who are not threatened by showing their hand and expressing appreciation to those who not only *deserve* it, but who *need* it. And being grateful to a God who has done more to ensconce our lives with blessings, grace, and opportunities for joy.

As we approach this year's Thanksgiving and holiday season, let us be such a people...God's people...let us strive to be those with thankful hearts.

*Pastor Steve*

Email: [rev.steve@salisburycongregational.org](mailto:rev.steve@salisburycongregational.org)  
Blog: <http://salisburycongregational.wordpress.com>



*Save the Dates*

**SERRV**



## GLOBAL CRAFT BOUTIQUE

*Please visit our Global Craft Boutique at the  
Salisbury Congregational Church*

### BOUTIQUE HOURS

Saturday, December 4th 10 am – 4 pm  
Sunday, December 5th - 11:30 am – 3 pm

The boutique showcases unique gifts, accessories and home décor from the nonprofit fair trade organizations “Ten Thousand Villages” and “SERRV”. These organizations market handcrafted products made by artisans from more than 130 artisan groups in 38 countries. Artisan partners thrive with the opportunity to build on traditional skills and expand their artistic vision in the creation of new crafts.

Your fair trade purchase helps improve the lives of thousands of artisans in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. We have lots of wonderful new items and hope you will come and support this worthy cause and do some Christmas shopping!

*Peggy Heck for the Board of Christian Action*

## *Christian Action*



The Giving Tree will be decorated and ready **December 5th**. The tree is filled with paper ornaments describing various wish items for families in need.

After church on December 5th and 12th, plan on picking a few ornaments and sharing the holiday spirit and season with those in need. All gifts should be wrapped and returned to the church with the ornament attached by Sunday, December 19th.

*Susie Belcher for the Board of Christian Action*

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*Grace is like “grits” at a Southern breakfast. It’s there ... you don’t ask for it; it’s just given to you.*  
—Henry Barton

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## THE CROP WALK 2010

### Communities Responding to Poverty

On September 26th, a beautiful sunny day, fourteen walkers from our church participated in the 2010 Northwest Connecticut CROP Walk. About 75 people from our church and community sponsored them and raised a total of \$2,689.95.

To be congratulated are the people who took envelopes, asked other church members, family, friends, and neighbors to sponsor them, and then walked in the CROP Walk. This involved a commitment that took time and effort and we thank them. They are the following: Shirley Rogers, Jack Ritchie, Patricia Palmer, Malcolm Brown, Ann Cuddy, Sue Ritchie, Kit Kellogg, Rosie Bell, Steve Austin, Robert Hall, Jennifer Good, Deborah Mark, Orrin Rydingsword, and Chance O’Neil.

The total amount raised for the entire CROP Walk has not yet been posted, but I will let you all know as soon as I receive this information. Twenty-five percent of this total will be returned to our community to be used to alleviate hunger right here in the Salisbury-Lakeville area.

— Sue Ritchie



*CROP Walk Enthusiasts*



**RABBI JON HADDON  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH**

On **Sunday Nov. 14th**, we will be welcoming **Rabbi Jon Haddon** to our pulpit as our guest

speaker, in a reciprocal invitation to Pastor Steve's engagement with his Temple, Congregation Beth David of Amenia, NY, on Saturday, Nov. 6th.

A graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in music education, Jon Haddon was invested as a cantor in 1972 while serving Community Synagogue in Rye, NY. for six years. He then left the cantorate to pursue full-time rabbinical studies at Hebrew Union College, which included a year of Hebrew study in Jerusalem. Rabbi Haddon was the Spiritual Leader of Temple Shearith Israel of Ridgefield for 21 years, and now currently serves Congregation Beth David as its new rabbi. Having been involved with the Ridgefield Community since 1987, Jon is a member of the Ridgefield Clergy Association and has served as its President numerous times, in which he has worked tirelessly in fostering good relations between the Jewish and Christian communities.

The founder of the Ethnic Diversity Committee, Rabbi Haddon serves on the B'nai Brith World of Difference committee, the Association of Religious Communities, Friends of Healing Hearts, the Danbury Jewish Federation, and the Maimonides Day School. He has been honored by Israel Bonds, B'nai Brith and Jewish Federation as its *Man of the Year*. He is also a member of the Danbury Hospital Ethics Committee, Chaplain for the Ridgefield Police, and is chairman of the Danbury Hospital Pastoral Advisory Committee.

- Pastor Steve

**SEARCH COMMITTEE  
AT WORK**

The Search Committee continues to be busy, meeting twice a week to read profiles, listen to sermons, and meet candidates.

The first step in this process is not ours to take. Instead, an applicant needs to get in touch directly with the Connecticut Conference of the UCC. The candidate then completes a 24-page application that includes his or her Statement of Ministry, employment and education history, references, and completion of the same questionnaire everyone here completed in the development of the church Profile. Only then is the application sent to us, where our part of the process begins.

I can assure you this is not a *typical* employment quest but, then again, we're not looking for a *typical* settled pastor.

The 8-person Search Committee includes the following: Cynthia LaPier, co-chair, John Arnold, Malcolm Brown, Theresa Carroll, Mary Davidson, Carol Magowan, Alden Tyrol, and myself, the other co-chair.

We all treasure your patience and support.

- Sarah Zarbock, Co-chair, Search Committee



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**BACK ON CATV**

Our Sunday services are usually videoed, and the scripture and sermon portions are now back on a semi-regular schedule on our local cable channel 6. The weekly times are:



Tuesday - 7:00 pm  
Thursday - 7:00 pm  
Sunday - 6:00 am

The cable channel schedule changes daily and is available on the Tri-State Communications web site at: [www.catv6.com](http://www.catv6.com).

- Lee Collins

**A NOTE FROM THE CENTENNIAL GARDEN**

*Submitted anonymously: "A couple of days ago I noticed a small piece of paper tucked under my car's windshield wiper. It was smudged with green stains and dirt. Here, in a strange scrawl, is what it said, ..."*

Autumn 2010

Dear Friends. (or at least I thought you were),

You may have noticed that someone finally rescued me from suffocating. Those horrible weeds were about to snuff out what had all the makings of a beautiful life. Thank you, Oh thank you, whoever you are!!

In the spring I'd hoped that someone would give me love and care all summer long. Like many of us, I thrive with attention! But No! I waited and waited, dry and messy and nearly dead and overgrown. You gave up on me. No one came to sit on my bench - was it because I was surrounded by unwelcoming jungle? And then at the last minute - saved! So, again, thank you!

But please: think about my next growing season. Will it be my fate to languish again and nearly expire? Please come visit the garden and sit awhile, have a picnic ... and bring your buckets, spades, garden gloves, and a few good friends to help keep me as beautiful as I can be! Make it a \*garden\* party!

please don't let the New England version of kudzu choke me to death!  
please be nicer to me in the future.

please!

In hope,  
Your Centennial Garden

**EVERY MEMBER CANVASS 2011**

There are many reasons why we give to our church.

This year, more than ever, we need you to give because you care about the future of our venerable church. Economic times are hard for many of us. Our own budget for the coming year is an austere one with many cuts made across the board. But our blessings continue. Our Sunday school is blossoming with eager, engaging children, and, most importantly, with God's grace, we will be welcoming our new settled pastor some time in the coming year.

**Stewardship Sunday is on November 21st.** Please consider how you can help, how much you can give, what you can do to make a difference this year.

I thank all of you for all that you do.

Carol Magowan, EMC



Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence.

~Erma Bombeck

**WORLD COMMUNITY DAY**



Church Women United of the Northwest Corner will celebrate **World Community Day on Friday, November 5th, 2pm, at St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church, 52 New Street,**

Sharon. Any questions or need a ride,

call Heather Schaufele (435-0439) or Ruth Tyrol (824-1359).

**World Community Day**, celebrated annually in the first week of November, is an ecumenical service that brings women and men together to share their aspirations and

challenges. This year's program begins with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of a world in which people of many nations and traditions work together in a commitment to nonviolent means. Together we consider examples of economic injustice in the light of a goal; communities that promote the dignity, safety and economic opportunities for all - which Dr. King memorably called "The Beloved Community."

Heather Schaufele for CWU of the NW Corner



*The logo for World Community Day 2010 depicts hearts of all sizes and shapes radiating out of one enormous heart-center. Folk artist Florence Naquin, a member of TARC, Terrebonne Association for Retarded Citizens, designed it.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00am or 7:00pm Book Study <b>Mere Christianity</b> <i>All Saints' Day</i>	2 7:00 - 10:30 am Rotary Election Day Breakfast at SCC	3  7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6
7 10:00 - Worship & Communion & Church School 11:15 - Board of Trustees  <i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i>	8 9:00am or 7:00pm Book Study <b>Mere Christianity</b>	9	10  7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	11  <b>Veterans Day</b>	12  5:30 - Potluck Supper	13
14 10:00 - Worship with Rabbi Jon Haddon & Church School 11:15 - Christian Action	15	16	17  7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20
21 10:00 - Intergenerational Worship - No Church School classes - Crib/toddler care available 11:15 - Church Council  <b>Thanksgiving Sunday &amp; Stewardship Sunday</b>	22	23	24  7:00 pm - Interfaith Service Methodist Church Lakeville		26	27
28 10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:15 - Board of Deacons  <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	29	30	<b>NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK, NOVEMBER 21ST - 28TH</b>			

**DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER'S NEWSLETTER: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH**



**BLESSINGS  
on your  
NOVEMBER  
BIRTHDAY**

- 2nd Elizabeth Palmer
- 3rd Jonathan Habacker
- 4th Sarah Rydingsword
- 5th Sue Morrill
- 6th Terre Lefferts
- 8th Betty Leech  
Joslin Taber  
Janet Kaufman
- 9th Sara Wardell  
O'Jane Dwelley  
Ann Perse
- 10th Laurie Slotnick

- 11th Rosie Bell  
Allyson Good
- 12th Ethan Kinzinger
- 14th Shayna Blumert
- 15th Kathy Mera
- 16th Betty Scribner
- 17th Caleb Rand
- 18th John Arnold  
Mindy Fitting
- 19th Katherine Rich  
Elizabeth Rich
- 20th Mary Wadsworth  
Katya Giffenig
- 23rd Mason O'Niel
- 24th Jennifer Good
- 26th Ellen Blais  
Paul Tierney
- 29th Matthew Heck  
Damien Crain

**POTLUCK SUPPER**

There will be a **potluck supper on Friday, November 12th, at 5:30** for anyone and everyone who would like a casual evening out. Bring a large main dish or salad (either homemade or take-out) to share. Bread, dessert and beverage will be provided. Bring a friend. Bring a family. Cartoons for the kids!



There is no need to RSVP. Do you need a ride? Give one of us a call: Barbara Collins (860-435-0051) or Sarah Rydingsword (860-435-9479).



**SEND A NOTE OF THANKS**



William Stidger, a professor and author, once found himself thinking about people who had made a wonderful difference in his life.

He decided to let his appreciation be known to some of them. Soon after he had written to an aged teacher who had instilled in him a love for poetry, he received a note from her in which she addressed him as "Billy." (He felt that being called Billy was in itself a blessing now that he was long past childhood.) Her letter went on to say, "I have taught school for 50 years and yours is the first note of appreciation I've ever received. It came on a blue, cold morning and it cheered me as nothing has in years."

Bill Stidger had also written to a retired bishop who had encouraged him when he entered the ministry. The bishop replied: "You will never know how much your letter warmed my heart. I've been walking about in the glow of it all day."

Surely each of us has been grateful for those who have taught us, supported us, blessed us in many and various ways. Why not write a note or send an e-mail or telephone those people? Such thoughtfulness and expressions of gratitude will not only bring joy to them, it will do something for our own spirits as well.

*Dear Lord, we beg but one boon more:  
Peace in the hearts of all men living, peace  
in the whole world this Thanksgiving.  
—Joseph Auslander*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL MESSAGE**

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."



# Multiply your thanks

We have so many reasons to give thanks to God. When we take time to count our blessings, we realize they just keep multiplying and adding up.

**Use your multiplication or addition skills to answer each equation. Then use the word key below to write out Psalm 100:4 (NIV).**

**WORD KEY**  
 22= him    16= courts    4=gates    24=name    9=praise    8=and    2=to  
 12= his    18= give    6= with    10= Enter    20= thanks    15= thanksgiving

"

$5 \times 2$ or $5 + 5$	$12 \times 1$ or $7 + 5$	$2 \times 2$ or $3 + 1$
$6 \times 1$ or $5 + 1$	$3 \times 5$ or $5 + 5 + 5$	$4 \times 2$ or $6 + 2$
$6 \times 2$ or $6 + 6$	$8 \times 2$ or $8 + 8$	$3 \times 2$ or $3 + 3$
$3 \times 3$ or $3 + 3 + 3$	$9 \times 2$ or $9 + 9$	$10 \times 2$ or $10 + 10$
$1 \times 2$ or $1 + 1$	$11 \times 2$ or $16 + 6$	$8 \times 1$ or $3 + 5$
$9 \times 1$ or $5 + 4$	$3 \times 4$ or $4 + 4 + 4$	$8 \times 3$ or $8 + 8 + 8$

"

Answer: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name." (Psalm 100:4, NIV)

