

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

November 2012

Services: Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

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



Pamela Wyeth, Editor



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No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Fall Festival - 2012 -



More on the Fall Festival on page 3, and there's a link to more photos on our home page: www.salisburycongregational.org.



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Growing in Faith Together



GIVING THANKS

Gratitude, thanks, appreciation...these are the hallmarks of November. Throughout this month our thoughts are directed to recognizing all of the blessings in our lives. Thanksgiving is technically not a religious holiday; rather it is a civic commemoration of a day that our ancestors set aside to give thanks for

their survival. I am quite certain that when those individuals gathered for that first Thanksgiving feast, they likely gave thanks to God.

The early pilgrims were our Congregational ancestors, those who had fled England and tried settling in Holland to escape religious persecution. Seeking a better life, the Congregationalists negotiated with a London stock company to finance a pilgrimage to America. The journey to America was difficult, only to be followed by a severe winter. By the autumn of 1621 the Pilgrims had lost 46 of their original group of 102 people. With a bountiful harvest they gathered for a meal to thank their Native American neighbors who had helped them through the winter. Over two hundred years would pass before Thanksgiving was designated a national holiday by Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

Today we are blessed with abundant food, shelter and safety in our lives. We gather with friends and family on this special day and give thanks to God for these blessings.

We will gather to give thanks in an ecumenical service of worship and thanksgiving on November 20th at 7:00 at St. John's Episcopal Church.

As you pause this month to reflect on the things you are thankful for, I encourage you to remember our ancestors and their struggles, but also to remember the words that we sing every Sunday:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

May your November be filled with the warmth of family, friends, and community.

Abundant Blessings,

Pastor Diane

Thanksgiving

For each new morning with its light,

For rest and shelter of the night,

For health and food,

For love and friends,

For everything Thy goodness sends.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

On **Sundays, November 4th and November 11th** Pastor Diane will host a time of conversation after worship (11:30) for people who are interested in becoming members of the church. "Membership" is the term used to signify that a person has entered into covenant with the faith community.



Our covenant says:

We covenant with God and with one another to walk in God's holy ways. We unite for the worship of God and for continued striving to know and to do God's will and for the service of God and humanity. We acknowledge this Church to be part of all those in every age and nation who are united by the Holy Spirit of God in Christ, and we dedicate ourselves to serve this fellowship according to our strength, ability and opportunity.

New members will be received on the first Sunday of Advent, December 2nd. Please contact Pastor Diane if you would like to join the church.

THE OPPORTUNITY TABLE

Grow in Faith, Build Community, Spread God's Love

You are invited to visit our Opportunity Table, located in the Parish Hall corridor. You will find information on the many opportunities and activities taking place in our church. The Opportunity Table takes the place of lengthy announcements in worship. Opportunities, activities and events will be listed in the weekly bulletin and the monthly *Meeting House Times*. To add an event to the table, contact Pastor Diane.

OWL'S KITCHEN

Our church plays an important role in the success of OWL's Kitchen - our local food pantry. Through our donations of food and money, as well as some key volunteers, this community resource is able to provide food to dozens of families each month. Please remember to bring your non-perishable food donations to church on the first Sunday of each month. The Sunday School children collect the food and bless it, learning an important lesson about Christian mission in the world.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

We will join our neighbors and friends for an interfaith service of worship and thanksgiving at **St. John's Episcopal Church at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 20th.** Our Choir will join their voices with the choirs of the other churches in Salisbury, Lakeville and Falls Village. All are welcome!



LOOKING AHEAD – WHAT IS GOD CALLING THIS CHURCH TO DO?

On Saturday, September 22nd, twenty people gathered for a retreat at Silver Lake to explore the theme **Imagining Our Future!**

Our goals for the day were to: Celebrate the past; Imagine our future; Examine our structure; and Set goals for the year ahead.

Our discussion was prompted by our answers to the following questions:

- When have you felt most alive in our church?
- When were you most proud to be associated with this church?
- What do you see as the core value of our church?
- What would you miss if it were gone?
- If there were no limitations or barriers (finance, people, time), what would you dream for our church?
- What are your answers to these questions?

The following goals were set for 2013:

- It was determined that a **Task Force** was needed to continue the examination of the church's decision making process, bylaws, organizational structure, and job descriptions.



- The group thought that it was important that **Policies and Procedures** be developed for the organization, particularly as they relate to human resources.
- The need to **Establish Childcare** as part of our faith community's culture was emphasized.
- There was consensus that we ought to be working to **Create opportunities for outreach (mission)**, to fulfill our calling as Christians to care for our neighbors.
- It was important that we create a culture where people are supported in discerning an answer to the question, "**What is God calling me to do?**"
- Following on the support for discernment we named the need to **Nurture a culture for openness and eagerness for new ideas** utilizing an **Empowerment Model**.

The following people agreed to sit on a Task Force to continue the work: Ward Belcher, Cynthia LaPier, Kathy Mera, Sarah Zarbock, Tim Hughes, Sara Wardell.

If you have ideas that you would like to share with this committee, please contact any member or Pastor Diane. This is your church, and you will play a vital role in shaping its future.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN ACTION



Thanks to everyone who supported the Global Crafts sale at our Fall Festival this year. We raised over \$3000, and the sale of Amazon crafts came to just under \$1000. **The boutique will be open after church services every Sunday during November.** Plan also to visit the boutique during the **Hometown Holidays weekend, December 1st and 2nd**, to purchase items for people on your Christmas list. Not only do these sales support the artisans of 10,000 Villages, SERRV, and the Center for Amazon Community Ecology, they raise money to donate to local organizations and international projects.

Last month the BCA sent an additional \$350 to Holly Tierney who is working at a school for hearing-impaired children in Karnataka, India. In her thank-you message Holly reported that she used our most recent benevolence to buy hearing aids and art supplies for the children.

After a series of emails, Pastor Diane happily learned that we finally have two working wells in Ghana, both complete with pump heads. We hope to receive photos to share in the next newsletter.

- Jeanette Weber

Reminder

As happens each November, the **Every Member Canvass** will soon be underway. In light of the success of the Capital Campaign, the Stewardship Committee has asked everyone to pledge the same amount as last year.



The Fall Festival was a great success this year, due to the concerted efforts and cooperation of many church members and friends. (Yes, the excellent weather played a part, but we can't claim a direct line to Mother Nature.) Many thanks to all who helped in so many ways; the Fall Festival is truly an annual activity that unites the greatest number of our people.

While the figures are not yet complete, FF treasurer John Estabrook estimates that the overall proceeds will exceed last year's total by about 10%. Good news indeed! And we know that all of the money will be used for outreach to others, both locally and world-wide. Anyone who has outstanding FF bills or receipts should contact John without delay; we would like to close the books as soon as possible.

This is my last year as chair of the Festival, though I look forward to helping in some way in the future. Over the last 40 years it has evolved into a town-wide affair, and it will be exciting to see where it goes from here.

Best wishes, Lee Collins

A Family Prayer

Lord, behold our family here assembled.
We thank you for this place in which we dwell
for the love that unites us,
for the peace accorded us this day,
for the hope with which we expect the morrow,
for the work, the health, the food, and bright skies
that make our lives delightful
for our friends in all parts of the earth. Amen

—Robert Louis Stevenson

SPIRIT CORNER: NO SHORTCUTS

by Rev. Charles L. Wildman

It turns out that to live a life as God's person is hard work, full time, for a lifetime. Rewards of peace, joy, and fulfillment will come, but usually not before high-cost investing of our time, talent, and treasure.

Not everyone rushes to make such a commitment. It is in our nature to seek maximum returns for minimum investment. A friend in his late 30s still searches for a job that will give him great personal satisfaction, has a socially redeeming purpose, pays well enough to support a comfortable lifestyle, and requires no more than a forty-hour week; no weekends! Every job possibility he finds requires more than he wants to give, so, he lives in place: a low-paying, low challenge job without meaning; relationships without personal investment or longevity.

Nothing that is truly worthwhile comes without sacrifice, struggle, hard work, faith, and perseverance. There are no shortcuts to finding vocation, love, and meaning. The disciples learned this the hard way, as we all must.

At a church summer camp for middle schoolers, a favorite counselor wrote in the cover of my Bible this wisdom from Ghandi:

He who would seek for pearls must dive to the bottom of the sea, risking his very existence.

The Rev. Charles L. Wildman is Interim Conference Minister of the Connecticut Conference, UCC.

From the October (and first) issue of *CTUCC This Month*, "news from the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ." To read the whole issue visit our website - www.salisburycongregational.org - and select "UCC Links" in the menu bar. There you'll find a link to the new CTUCC newsletter in pdf format.

Save the Date!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The musical forces of the church will present a concert of Christmas music on **Sunday, December 2nd, at 2:30 p.m.**

Christmas Cantata by Charpentier will be the major work on this year's Christmas Concert. As usual the Bell Choir will perform seasonal music and the senior choir will sing a variety of carols. An instrumental group will accompany the Charpentier. Come and add your voices to carols.

Plan to attend and bring friends. A reception in the parish hall will follow the concert.



FROM THE DEACONS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

In Matthew 19:14 (and Mark 10:13-16), Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Every Sunday Pastor Diane follows those Biblical commands when she calls all of the children up for their special moment in the service. I love watching them practically tumble out of the pews and hop, skip, and run to the front of the church. Sometimes one child needs some coaxing and another child takes a hand to offer encouragement. Other times, a parent hovers nearby for reassurance.

The particular message or story that Pastor Diane tells is usually preceded by a question that results in raised hands – some flapping in the air to get her attention, others lifted tentatively by shy children, a few raised confidently by one of the "big kids." Sometimes a child's answer is relevant to the question; other times not. One of my favorite moments was when Reverend Taber spoke to the children about lepers – something surely far outside any of the children's experience. He asked: "Does anyone know what a leper is?" After a brief pause, one child said, "It's like a really big cat but it has spots on it." Not surprisingly, the congregation burst out laughing!

Of course the children's message is more than some cute moments that make the rest of us laugh. It is an opportunity for Pastor Diane to teach the children about the stories in the Bible and how they have meaning in our everyday lives – in particular, the story of Jesus and how He brings God's messages of love and grace to all of us. Praying is one way to celebrate this relationship – a time of being embraced by the congregation in the presence of God.

In Pastor Diane's children's moments she teaches them how to pray. She says, "Now hold hands, making sure there's room for everybody. Bow your heads and close your eyes." She offers a brief prayer and ends with some hand squeezes and "Amen." She then sends them off with a cheerful, "Have a great day at Sunday School."

The children's message not only offers information about the Bible and what it means for us today but it also highlights the importance of children in the life of the church. It adds to their understanding of Jesus and the love of God that is always with us – a relationship that begins when we are born and is with us forever.

- Sarah Zarbock

MONDAY BROWN BAG LUNCH SESSIONS

Join us on **Monday, November 26th** for our monthly brown bag lunch when the women of the church gather to discuss the previous month's sermons, readings and any other spiritual issues that might come up. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us by the fireplace from noon – 1:00.

Friends are welcome.



LEARNING THE BIBLE BY HEART

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah...I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. (Jeremiah 31:31)

Are there certain verses in the Bible that you can recite from memory? Most people know Psalm 23 or John 3:16. For many these words of comfort were part of their upbringing – it seems as if they always knew these verses. For others, learning the Bible is a brand new endeavor. In a recent publication from the United Church of Christ, Quinn Caldwell identifies fifteen passages worth learning by heart. He says, “They don’t cover everything important, but they come pretty close. ...The point is to know them so intimately that they’re written on your heart.”

The passages are:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 *Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your might.*

Psalm 23:6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Micah 6:8 *God has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Matthew 13:31-32 *The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone*

took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

Matthew 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

Mark 12:28-31 *(a scribe asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered,) The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.*

Luke 12:34 *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

John 1:1-4 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

John 14:1-2 *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in*

me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

Romans 8:38-39 *For I am convinced that neither death, no life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

1 Corinthians 13:12-13 *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.*

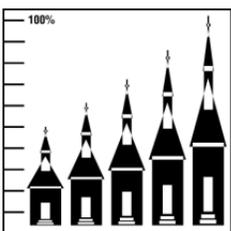
Galatians 3:28 *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

Revelation 21:3-4 *I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them as their God; they will be God’s peoples, and God will be with them; God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.*

Your favorite? Almost everybody who has spent time with the Bible has a favorite verse or passage. Can you recite yours by heart?

If you would like to learn more about the Bible and the United Church of Christ pick up a copy of “The Bible and the UCC” from Pastor Diane.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE! GREAT NEWS!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The total pledged to date is \$660,304 with \$211,971 already in the bank. Sixty-one individuals/families have contributed. We are now within reach of our goal of \$707,000, which includes the cost of repairing/refurbishing our organ. We can make it if we all pull together. Please send in your pledge or check today.

For information or pledge forms, contact Ted Sands.

DISCOVER THE IRON

If one should give me a dish of sand and tell me there were particles of iron in it, I might look for them with my eyes and search for them with my clumsy fingers and be unable to detect them. But let me take a magnet and sweep through it, the magnet would draw to itself the almost invisible particles by the mere power of attraction.

The unthankful heart, like my fingers in the sand, discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find in every hour, some heavenly blessings. ... The iron in God’s sand is gold!

—Henry Ward Beecher

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Clocks one hour back 2:00 a.m., November 4th	National Bible Week, November 18-25, 2012				1 7:00 - 8:30 Men's Inter-faith Bible Breakfast	3
4 10:00 - Worship & Communion No church school; Crib/ toddler care is available. OWL's Kitchen food collection. 11:30 - New Member Conversation* <i>Daylight Savings Ends</i>	5	6 7:00 - Rotary Breakfast <i>Vote!</i>	7 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	8	9 7:00 - 8:30 Men's Inter-faith Bible Breakfast	10
11 10:00 - Worship & church school 11:30 - New Member Conversation* <i>Veterans Day</i>	12 3:30 - 5:00 - Steering Committee at Silver Lake	13	14 6:30 - Music Committee 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	15	16 7:00 - 8:30 Men's Inter-faith Bible Breakfast	17
18 10:00 - Intergenerational Worship; no church school; crib/toddler care is available 11:30 - Church Council	19	20 7:00 - Interfaith Service at St. John's Episcopal*	21 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	 22 Thanksgiving Day	23 7:00 - 8:30 Men's Inter-faith Bible Breakfast	24
25 10:00 - Worship & church school	26 12:00 - Women's Brown Bag Lunch, Parish Hall*	27	28 7:30 - Choir Rehearsal	29 5:30- Board of Deacons	30 7:00 - 8:30 Men's Inter-faith Bible Breakfast 5:30 - Bell Choir concert at Salisbury School	

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

* Article in this MHT



November Birthday Celebrations!

2nd	Elizabeth Palmer	15th	Kathy Mera
3rd	Jonathan Habacker	16th	Betty Scribner
4th	Sarah Rydingsword	18th	John Arnold
5th	Sue Morrill	18th	Mindy Fitting
6th	Terre Lefferts	19th	Katherine Rich
7th	Diane Monti-Catania	19th	Elizabeth Rich
8th	Betty Leech	20th	Mary Wadsworth
8th	Joslin Taber	20th	Katya Giffenig
8th	Janet Kaufman	23rd	Mason O'Niel
9th	Sara Wardell	24th	Jennifer Good
9th	O'Jane Dwelley	26th	Paul Tierney
9th	Ann Perse	29th	Matthew Heck
10th	Laurie Slotnick	29th	Damien Crain
11th	Rosie Bell	29th	Carrie Smith
11th	Allyson Good	29th	Charlotte Clulow
14th	Shayna Blumert		

LISTEN UP!

Since 2008, the Friday after Thanksgiving has been dubbed the National Day of Listening. The nonprofit group StoryCorps encourages people to spend an hour recording an interview with a loved one, rather than battle mall crowds.

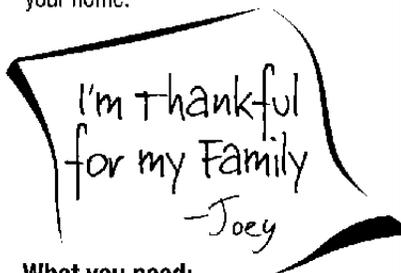
Dave Isay began StoryCorps in 2003 as an oral-history project, based on the simple idea that everyone has an authentic story worth hearing. "This is about nothing but the generosity of listening," Isay says. "When you're listening to the stories of everyday people — with their acts of kindness and courage that we don't take the time to honor — you're walking on holy ground."

As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, remember to keep your ears open!



Wall of THANKS

During this season of gratefulness, create a special wall of thanks in your home.



What you need:

- Sticky notes
- Pens or markers
- Poster board (optional)

What you do:

1. Every day in November, have each family member write or draw on a sticky note someone or something they're thankful for. (Try not to repeat ideas.)
2. Display your notes on a wall or on poster board.
3. Read your list every day to remind you about God's many blessings.



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

An exasperated mother whose son was always getting into mischief finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?"

The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Jimmy, come in or stay out!'"

None is more impoverished than the one who has no gratitude. Gratitude is a currency that we can mint for ourselves, and spend without fear of bankruptcy.

~Fred De Witt Van Amburgh



Be thankful for everything

When we're faithful, we see that God provides all we need.

Use the list of vowels below to complete the words of Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV.

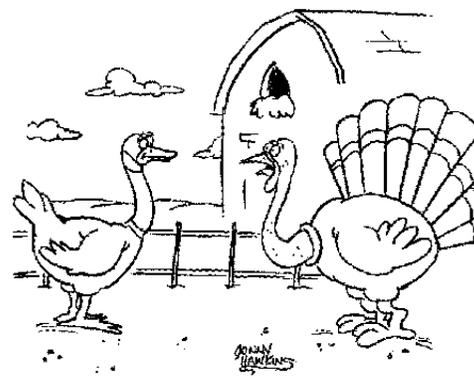
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a e o e e i i e a e o o u o e u i E e i a I

"S _ ng _ nd m _ k _ m _ s _ c _ n
y _ _ r h _ _ rt t _ th _ L _ rd,
_ lw _ ys g _ v _ ng th _ nks t _ G _ d
th _ F _ th _ r f _ r _ v _ ryth _ ng,
_ n th _ n _ m _ _ f _ _ r
L _ rd J _ s _ s Chr _ st."
_ ph _ s _ _ ns 5:19-20, N _ V

ANSWER:
Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:19-20, NIV)



Clocks one hour back
2:00 a.m., November 4th



"I'm praying they opt for fast food... or that they pray and fast."