

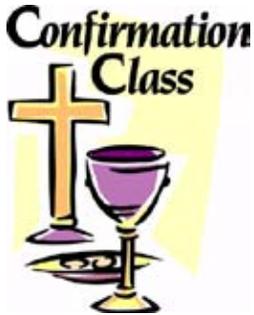
The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ

May, 2008

Confirmation Sunday May 4th

On that day some of our seventh and eighth grade young people will be confirmed and join the church - a real "rite of passage," in which they will confirm the promises made at the time of their baptism. Our Pastor will "lay hands" on them following an ancient tradition which is also practiced when clergy are ordained. The youth who choose to join the church will become adult members of our congregation.



The preparation process began last Fall when Joanne Taber led the class in a study of other religions. This winter and spring Dick Taber and Jen Kronholm were also involved in the class sessions and their final retreat weekend. The program has also included attending a Catholic Mass and visiting Temple Beth David in Amenia. Each of the young people has had an adult sponsor to help guide them.

Our young people are involved in many activities. We respect and appreciate the class members' willingness to commit their time and energy to the confirmation program. Be there to congratulate and welcome them.

Youth Room Plans

With help from Jan Randall and others the youth of the church are in the process of redecorating one of the church classrooms. It will be furnished with bean bag chairs, a couch, a tented ceiling and poster art. It will double as classroom and gathering place for our teens.



The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

Help for Seniors with Planning Ahead

The residents of our area are fortunate to have the services of Medical Ethicist Barbara Maltby - all free of charge. Barbara will help you think through end-of-life issues and your decisions about a living will and advanced directives, as well as appointing a health care proxy.

Many of us were present when she made a presentation after church a year or so ago. As well as being very knowledgeable, she is very easy to talk to. Her services are made available by the Sharon Hospital .

Contact her at (860) 364-4284 or barbara.maltby@sharon-hospital.com

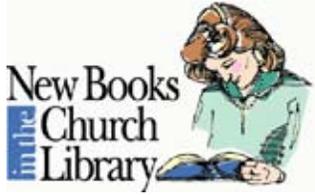
May Friendship Day - Friday, May 2nd Noon Luncheon in Our Parish Hall

May Friendship Day is an annual event that unites Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian Women in common worship experience building and strengthening friendly relationships within our community.

The 2008 May Friendship Day Celebration is organized around the theme "God's Wisdom Inspires Hospitality." The underlying scripture is found in the book of Matthew, Chapter 25, verses 35 and 40, in which Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me...Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Please join us in celebration, action and prayer as we explore "God's Wisdom Inspires Hospitality."

For more information, please call Heather Schaufele (435-0439) or Ruth Tyrol (824-1358).



Muslims, Christians, and the Challenges of Interfaith Dialogue Oxford 2007, by Jane Smith, (UCC) Professor of Islamic Studies at Hartford Seminary.

Local conversations and national consultations on law and civil rights, and work with American Muslims from cultures around the world, to counter negative media images of Islam. 186 pages.

A Third Serving of Chicken Soup for the Soul - 101 More Stories To Open the Heart and Rekindle the Spirit Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hanson, 1996; Stories by Maya Angelou, Michael Jordan and many others and a poem by Nelson Mandela. 352 pages

Bill Moyers' Genesis - a Living Conversation Doubleday 1996, 361 pages, with many illustrations and participation by Phyllis Tribble, Walter Brueggman, Robert Alter, Elaine Pagels and Seyyed Hossein Nasr.

Great Women of the Bible in Art and Literature by Dorothee Soelle and others, Mercer University Press, 1994

If you met a new friend or found an old one again in our library, let us know and spread the word in another Meeting House Times. Last month we gave you the address of an online catalog service listing everything in our church library. In case your dog ate the address, here it is again:

<http://www.librarything.com/catalog/SalisburyUCC>

Alvord Beardsley

The Bord Trio will perform on Friday, May 23rd, at 7:30 in our meeting house. Billed as "One Piano, Six Hands," the trio is a unique group of three pianists playing simultaneously on the same piano.



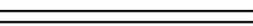
Founded in the late 1990s, the trio includes husband-and-wife team, Lenny and Marina Bord, and Marsha Tyshkov. These award-

winning pianists have performed solo concerts and as an ensemble in such venues as New York City's Carnegie Hall, Steinway Hall, Merkin Hall, The Museum of American Piano, and the National Gallery in Washington. Their concert programs include music of Bach, Rossini, Schubert, Bizet, Grieg, Gershwin, Prokofiev, Khachaturian and many others.

After studying at the renowned Mussorgsky Conservatory in Russia, the pianists now reside in the United States, and are on the piano faculty of the Academy of Music in Nyack, New York. You can preview this group on www.youtube.com

(Just type Bord Trio in the search box.)

This concert is part of the Al Sly Community Music series and is free and open to the public.



The 10-foot rule

Some churches follow the 10-foot rule: When anyone is within 10 feet of another person on church grounds, he or she offers a warm welcome and a cheerful greeting. This rule originated with Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton, who encouraged store employees to look customers in the eye, greet them and ask if they need help.

As an ambitious college student in Missouri, Walton discovered that "one of the secrets to campus leadership was the simplest thing of all: Speak to people coming down the sidewalk before they speak to you."

Walton used the person's name if he knew it. "But even if I didn't, I would still speak to them," he said. "Before long, I probably knew more students than anybody in the university, and they recognized me and considered me their friend."

No sincere welcome is unimportant, even if necessity requires brevity.



During a science lesson, a second-grade teacher demonstrated how a magnet can pick up metal objects such as nails and screws.

Afterward, she quizzed them. "My name begins with the letter 'm.' I pick up things with my power. What am I?"

A boy quickly answered, "You're a mother!"

Associate Pastor Search Committee

Over the past fourteen weeks we have been preparing an extensive profile of our church and our town. That document is now in its final stages of editing and printing. We will then send them to prospective candidates.

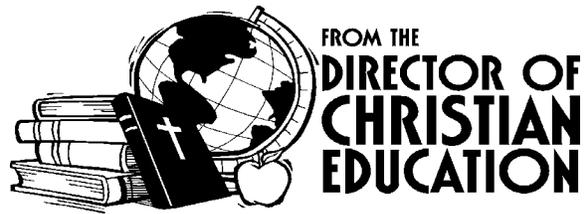


Our thanks again to all who helped us assemble it! We will do our best to keep church members and friends informed of our progress.

The Rev. Mike Ciba, our Conference minister, gave our Committee a 25-minute DVD prepared by the UCC for use by search committees. It is an inspiring and thought-provoking video documenting a small church's search and the pastor they called. Our Committee is unanimous in feeling that all of our congregation should see it. We will be showing it after church on some upcoming Sundays.

There are also multiple copies of the DVD available for borrowing. On the sideboard in the parish hall corridor is a box of the DVD's. You are encouraged to take one and watch it. You'll probably watch it twice. Then please return it so others may see it. No rush - they'll be there for quite a while. But do watch it!

Lee Collins, for the Search Committee,



The last day of Church School classes will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 11th. Sunday morning Crib/Toddler care is provided throughout the summer months. Church School will begin again on the first Sunday after Labor Day. Have a wonderful summer!

Barbara Collins

Our Mother's Day service on Sunday, May 11th, will feature our bell choir and adult choir.

Arrive early and enjoy the Bell Choir; they will begin their prelude to the service at 9:40. They are ending their 31st season - truly a meaningful ministry to our church and to the community!



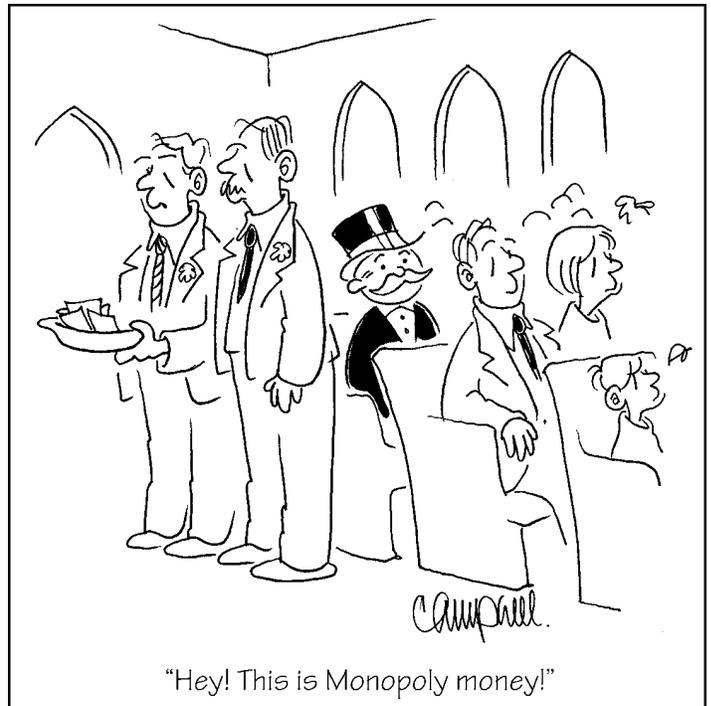
One Memorial Day, some children were asked what the holiday meant to them.

"That's the day the swimming pool opens!" answered one eager boy.

What he didn't realize or appreciate was that he can freely go to the pool because more than one million people have put their lives on the line to preserve America's democracy. Many of them have died so citizens of other countries might also enjoy the privileges of political, social and economic freedom.



Memorial Day is our opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices of many of America's best citizens. They made the supreme sacrifice on our behalf, so please remember to honor these heroes on May 26th.





in May

- 1st:** Susan Bohlmann
3rd: Tanya Tedder
4th: Tom Drew
7th: Steve Ohlinger, Robert Storm,
Landon Good
9th: Ella Rydingsword
10th: Mary S. Robertson
12th: Myles Crain
13th: Scott Bok, Kyle Good
18th: Roxanne Bok
19th: Nancy Bridge, Jane Capecelatro
22nd: Angus Palmer
24th: Mickee Ongley
25th: Georgia Blades, Wesley Filkins
27th: Leanne Percy
28th: Barbara Lankler
29th: Alden Tyrol
30th: Madison Blais
31st: Lillian Curry

Special dates

- o National Day of Prayer - Thursday, May 1st
- o Pentecost Sunday - May 11th
- o Mother's Day - Sunday, May 11th
- o Memorial Day - Monday, May 26th

No more packing peanuts or bubble wrap needed!
I'm retiring from business and won't be shipping any longer.

Thanks to all who have saved them for me in the past.

Editor Lee

Our May Calendar

Friday, the 2nd: Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:15
12:00 - May Friendship Day luncheon -
in our parish hall
NO 1:00 Bible Study

Sunday, the 4th: Confirmation Day
Worship with Communion
and Church School - 10:00
Board of Trustees - 11:15

Friday, the 9th:
Bible Study - 12:00

Sunday, the 11th: Mothers Day
Worship and Church School - 10:00
Board of Christian Action - 11:15

Wednesday, the 14th: Prayer Group - 10:15

Sunday, the 18th:
Worship - 10:00
Church Council - 11:15

Monday, the 19th: Board of Deacons - 5:30

Friday, the 23rd:
Al Sly Concert Series concert - The Bord Trio
in our meeting house - 7:30

Sunday, the 25th: Worship - 10:00

Wednesday, the 28th: Prayer Group - 10:15

In Memoriam

Dr. William H. Geer

October 17, 1941 - March 25, 2008

Lulia S. Curtis Berti

January 29, 1923 - April 18, 2008

A HEART FOR Mom

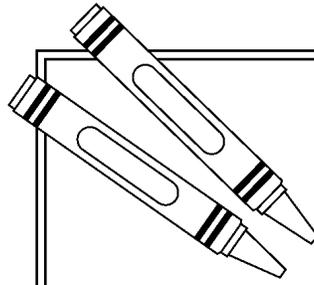
Show Mom how much you appreciate all she does for you with this "heartfelt" craft. Give it to her on Mother's Day.

What you need:

- Floral stem wire
- Dried cranberries (about 100, depending on the wire's length)
- Pliers
- Decorative ribbon (about 12 inches for each craft)
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Hole punch
- Crayons or markers

What you do:

1. With an adult's help, thread cranberries, one at a time with no space between them, onto the straight wire.
2. Bend the wire into a heart shape.
3. With pliers, twist the wire together at the top of the heart.
4. Tie ribbon to make a loop atop the heart (so your mom can hang it up).
5. Fold the paper into a card, and write a message of love and gratitude to your mom. You might want to add a verse from Proverbs 31 that best describes her.
6. Punch a hole in the card. Attach it to the ribbon that's tied to the heart.



Just for **KIDS**

A Mother of Noble Character

In Proverbs 31 (NIV), God provides the best example of a godly woman. Write the number of the sentence in the space next to the character quality it best describes.

- 1 "A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies" (v. 10).
- 2 "She brings [her husband] good, not harm, all the days of her life" (v. 12).
- 3 "She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands" (v. 13).
- 4 "She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks" (v. 17).
- 5 "She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy" (v. 20).
- 6 "When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet" (v. 21).
- 7 "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (v. 30).

Caring Godly Prepared
 Hardworking Hearty Priceless
 Kind

Answers: 1. priceless, 2. kind, 3. hardworking, 4. hearty, 5. hearty, 6. caring, 7. godly

One Sunday morning during the children's sermon a preacher sat on the chancel steps with children of the congregation gathered around him. "Believing that Jesus is your Savior is the way to get to heaven," the pastor told the kids. "Where would you like to go?"

"Heaven!" the children answered in unison.

"And what do you have to be in order to get to heaven?" he asked, expecting them to answer "A Christian."

One little boy quickly blurted, "Dead!"