
The Parish Press

April May 2016

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF EAST WINDSOR
124 Scantic Road
East Windsor, CT 06088**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM
The Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Calderone, Pastor**



SCANTIC MEETING HOUSE – BUILT 1802

“for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink,... I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me” (Mt. 25: 35a, 35b, 36a, 36b; RSV), “When you did it to these My brothers you were doing it to Me!” (Mt. 25: 40b; The Living Bible).

PARISH PRESS APRIL/MAY 2016

“And they were bringing children to Him that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it He was indignant, and said to them, “Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them; for to such belong the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it. And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands upon them” (Mk. 10: 13 - 16; RSV).

As we enter the text Jesus is on His way to Jerusalem to die a most horrific death upon the cross. Though Scripture does not record why the children are being brought to Jesus, there are two possible explanations. First, it was the custom of the time for mother's to bring their children to a distinguished Rabbi that he might bless them on their first birthday. Second, it might be that Jesus reputation as a miracle worker preceded Him. Consequently, it could be argued that children were being brought to Jesus so that He might touch them as a way to protect them against the ravages infant mortality, which ran as high as 30 percent of those who survived to the age of six and 60 percent by the age of sixteen. However, I do not believe either of these reasons is in tension with the other. Rather, the common belief expressed by both is the same, namely, that faith in Jesus will bless and/or protect the children brought before Him who are most vulnerable to the trauma and tumult of disease, famine, war as well as the threat of evil ever present at the time.

Whatever the reason we notice the disciples acting as if they were bodyguards, hustling the children out of Jesus' way. They are in fact enforcing the standard social mores of the time in which children should not disturb teachers or students. Yet, when Jesus saw this rather than congratulate them, “He became angry” (Mk. 10: 14a; GNT) with the disciples. Notice that, in a rather nuanced statement, Jesus does **NOT** say, “Bring the children to Me,” but “Let the children come to Me,” (Mk. 10: 14a; RSV), by which He simultaneously illustrates God's kindness and the disciples lack of understanding the point of Jesus ministry.

We need remember that at no time in Scripture does Jesus turn away from anyone, the example of which is no better reflected then in this passage. Contrary to what the disciples appear to believe, Jesus' ministry is not exclusive, but inclusive. Put another way, God loves each of us individually and Jesus illustrates this with His focus on the children, who in a very real sense are prototypical of the weak, defenseless and the exposed. Understood within this framework, Jesus' declarations that the reign of God belongs to children and

“whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it” (Mk. 10: 14 – 15; RSV), are revolutionary. For, in the culture of the time, children are not considered as persons. As such, they have neither status nor power. Contrary to this accepted belief, Jesus insists that God’s rule extends to the lowly, the dispossessed and the marginalized.

I believe He does this not only because of God’s love for His creation, but because within each child is housed great promise and potential; traits which can be used to bring into the church fresh perspectives and new ideas. For when we of an older age and generation are no longer able to perform the tasks and responsibilities associated with faith and religious leadership, governance and administration, it is the children who will be our heirs, our successors who will preserve the church and proclaim the Good News. They are, as has often been said, the future of the church; not to be relegated to the margins, but brought to the forefront.

It is for this reason that I consider it so vitally important to expose our children to our Christian heritage and to our reformed tradition. Once again, I have been blessed with a superior group of students which include Rachel Gendreau, Elizabeth Kita, Logan Muska and Juan O’Brien. I thank them for their attentiveness, for the many times of laughter, the camaraderie we have shared and how they have always respected one another and cared for one another. Similarly, I would like to thank my co-instructor Anne Stucklen, a woman of great faith and intelligence who always brings her love of God and of the students into the classroom.

During our time together they have read and studied the Old Testament books of Genesis and Exodus as well as the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke in the New Testament. Additionally, they have seen a film on the Gospel of John and did a comprehensive study on the book of Acts. In like manner, we have gone on field trips to St. John’s Episcopal Church; St. Philips Roman Catholic Church; Calvary Lutheran Church; Broad Brook Congregational Church; Wesley Methodist Church; St. Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Church; and most recently, Temple Beth Israel. As we end our formal time together the class is preparing for their oral exam in front of the congregation on April 17th; their faith paper on April 24th; and their final field trip, this time to attend a worship service at the Jonathan Edwards Church in Northampton, Massachusetts, also on Sunday, April 24th.

Upon graduation, which will take place on Sunday, May 22nd, the Confirmation Class promises to be faithful members of the Church of Jesus Christ and to bring forth Christ's presence in the world. Most recently we have witnessed a dramatic example of this covenant of faith put into action from one of our former confirmands, Renee Leighton. Following in the footsteps of her sister, Sabrina, Renee works as a waitress at Shady Glen Restaurant in Manchester. It is common knowledge the hourly wage of a waitress or waiter is offset by the tips they garner during a given shift. Consequently, as the Bible so aptly reminds us, there are times of plenty and times of want. Still, Renee, like Sabrina before her, gathered her earnings and with no assistance contributed the \$100.00 needed to heat the sanctuary and the Parish Hall for our Sunday service. I know your earnings do not come easily. So I am all the more impressed with your generosity and the example of faith you have provided. Thank you. I am so very proud of both of you.

As I conclude this article I do so with a heavy heart, for it is my sad duty to announce the passing of Jackie Lowry (Saturday, June 4, 1927 – Friday, April 8, 2016). I will always remember Jackie as a kind, caring, and loving soul. She loved to laugh, which we both did often when we were together, and when she did her face would brighten and her eyes would twinkle. She possessed what I can only describe as a certain dignity. I remember going over her house for lunch with members of the Food Pantry and how she took great care in making sure everything was perfect. Perhaps it was a product of the many parties in which she was involved over the years or perhaps it was just part of a proper sense of decorum that we have lost in this age; regardless, she was the consummate hostess.

Yet, for all her adventures, for all the traveling she had done over the years, for the gifts she possessed in her art and in her upholstering, which in many others causes them to act superior or conceited, I never, ever found her to be aloof, quite the opposite, I found her to be quite humble. The First Letter of Peter records, "Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares about you" (I Peter 5: 5 - 6; RSV).

Jackie possessed this grace, the grace to be humble, the grace given from God. She was a very faithful woman who sincerely loved and trusted in the Lord—and she did cast her anxieties on Him, knowing He would shoulder the burden. Now she has made her final journey to that Kingdom which has no end—and she will be missed.

In addition to her family I would also ask that you keep her good friend Jean Blanchard in your prayers. Jackie would often tell me that Jean was her angel who, no matter how bad things got, could always make her laugh. “All’s we do is laugh,” she would say. “With this darn cancer sometimes I just don’t feel like doing things but Jean won’t let me feel sorry for myself, she can be like a drill sergeant because she tells me ‘Now Jackie, you’re going to have rest or you’re going to have to have something to eat’. She keeps me on the straight and narrow and tells me to pick myself up buy my own bootstraps—and she’s right. I don’t know what I’d do without Jean.”

While Jean is too humble to take credit, I would thank her for the example of faith and unselfish love she has provided. For in taking care of Jackie as she did, she followed the words of Christ most perfectly as when He said, “for I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink,...I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me” (Mt. 25: 35a, 35b, 36a, 36b; RSV), “When you did it to these My brothers you were doing it to Me!” (Mt. 25: 40b; The Living Bible).

Whether it is early in our walk of faith or in our much later years we, as Christians, are directed by Christ Himself who says, “I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love each other as I have loved you. All people will know that you are My followers if you love each other” (John 13: 34 – 35; NCV).

Lord give us the strength to follow Your command. This we pray in Jesus Name. AMEN.

God Bless You All,

Pastor Tom.

NEWS FROM THE DIACONATE

Winter seemed to be playing Peek-A-Boo the first part of April this year. The snow and ice brought a mix of reactions to us. Groans could be heard all over; as people scraped their car windows, attempted to shovel their icy driveways, and skidded along the roads. At the same time; laughter could be heard from our children; as the school delays were announced; and they all looked out at the falling snow with joy, seeing what they had seen so little of this past Winter. After this quick glimpse of Winter, it is now just a memory; and we can look forward to a mixture of warmer, sunny and rainy Spring days.

Life is like the changing weather; as we look back at our past, and see the good things that have happened to us; and also the times we have struggled through difficulties. It feels good to experience the memory of a joy felt; it is difficult to look back to times we felt only sorrow. We must all move on, carrying the joys we have felt, to get us through the hardships yet to come; and letting go of the sorrows of the past that will only hold us down.

Another Easter Season has come and gone; yet Christ Has Risen forever. All seven of the special Lenten services, which include Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, were well done; and I think they sent the messages and inspiration to all who attended. If you wish to feel a fuller experience of the season next year, the other services were held as follows: Ash Wednesday, Early Palm Sunday Service, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Sunrise on Easter Sunday. Thanks to Dianna & Michael Riley for cooking the two breakfasts.

The Deacons have purchased new banners for the Sanctuary; and we are planning to purchase more of them. Look for them.

The Prayer Chain has been activated a few times this year, and we have heard prayer requests from the congregation and the pulpit.

Please keep sending your prayers to God; He hears them.

I would like to thank all of the Deacons for their hard work and dedication these past two months; and for all the months to come.

God Bless Us All,
Anne Stucklen
Chair of the Diaconate

FIVE CORNER CUPBOARD NEWS

Still as busy as ever at the pantry—31 new families in the first quarter of the year, lost 3 for a net gain of 28 new families. Distributed 12,000 + lbs of groceries in the quarter.

A big shout out to recent supporters, including, but not limited to: The EW Chamber of Commerce, EW Lions Club, EW Girl Scouts and the EW Hunger Action Team.

Coming Volunteer Opportunities:

April 16th 9 am: Pantry Spring Cleaning Event—we'll be cleaning inside and out. Good opportunity for Community Service for school, church or scouts. Bring tools to clean up the yard and plant a few pansies... Cleaning supplies are provided for inside, but feel free to bring your own gloves and/or favorite cleaning products. We'll be washing windows, shelving, clearing out cobwebs and dust, straightening cupboards and drawers—upstairs and down. Please let me know if you can help or if you have any questions.

May 1st: Foodshare's Walk Against Hunger. The EW Hunger Action Team is sponsoring a team this year. Go to www.foodshare.org to register to walk—you can designate the Five Corner Cupboard to get the funds you raise. Team t-shirts provided. If you have a company who would like to sponsor the team--\$50 gets your logo on the back of the shirt! See me for details.

May 14th: Letter Carriers' Food Drive "Stamp Out Hunger"- help will be needed in the mornings, beginning May 16th to sort and store the donations.

June 2nd Save this date! The 5CC is participating with other hunger fighting agencies in our area in a wonderful fundraiser. I can't give you all the details yet, but it will involve a buffet dinner, fashion show (Scott Haney & Nicole Nalepa are two of the models), Raffles —big ticket items—I mean BIG) and a Silent Auction. I will have tickets to sell soon. There will also be sponsor opportunities for businesses and individuals.

You can show your support of the pantry by helping in any way with any of these activities. All volunteer help is much appreciated.

Current pantry needs:

Food:

Sugar Substitutes
Pancake mix/Syrup
Jams/Jelly/Preserves
Canned Pineapple & Pears
Canned Peaches
Canned Meats
Salad Dressing
Oil/Vinegar
Ketchup/Mustard
Crackers

Gravy/Broths/Stock
Coffee & Tea

Personal Care:

Deodorant
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes/Floss
Denture cleaner
Denture grip
Bar soap
Hair conditioner

Razors/Shaving cream
Feminine Supplies

Other:

Dish detergent
Cleaners (*Lysol, bleach, floor cleaner, etc.*)
Paper towels
Kleenex
Pet food (especially cat)
Cat litter

And of course monetary donations are always welcome and acknowledged.

124 Scantic Rd, East Windsor CT 06088

Thank you all for your most generous support of the Five Corner Cupboard

Marie

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The primary and upper elementary Sunday School classes are currently in the middle of a unit titled Teachings from Jesus. This unit consists of four lessons addressing the topics of humility, honesty, forgiveness and mercy. This unit will provide the foundation for our Children's Sunday presentations this year.

For our older students, it is now time to begin thinking about participating in the Silver Lake Summer Conference 2016! Silver Lake Conference Center, located in Sharon, Connecticut, is a year-round outdoor ministry of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. The summer offerings, 34 in total, are each individually themed and designed for young people in 4th through 12th grades. Brochures, with complete listings of the conference offerings and registration information, are available from Megan Ellsworth, or you can visit their website at www.silverlakeect.org. Silver Lake has a scholarship fund for families who may require financial help to participate (applications are available online).

In addition, our Executive Board will sponsor a portion of the trip for our church participants. If you are interested in learning more about Silver Lake opportunities, please speak with me or Pastor Tom.

Megan Ellsworth, Christian Education Director

PUBLIC RELATIONS

If your committee is hosting an event and would like to advertise, Public Relations is more than happy to put the ad into the local papers.

Thanks,
Carrie and Dianna

WAYS AND MEANS

EVENTS FOR 2016

APRIL-LASAGNA TAKE OUT
MAY-VENDOR FAIR MAY 7TH
JUNE-TAG SALE-JUNE 4TH
JUNE- STRAWBERRY SUPPER JUNE-18TH
AUGUST- NO WORK SUMMER PARTY
SEPTEMBER-NOV. RAFFLE SALES
NOVEMBER-VENDOR FAIR.NOV.12TH
JAN-DEC- WINTER HEAT

FLOWER COMMITTEE

A heartfelt thank you to Sue Nai for the beautiful spring wreaths that grace the front doors; to Paul Nai for the new hangers and thank you to whomever hung them.

The Easter Sunday Sanctuary was beautiful and alive. He is risen. Thank you to everyone who donated Easter Lilies to the Glory of God.

If you want to put flowers in church in honor or memory of a loved one, please note it on the calendar in the hall. In order to place flowers on the Communion Table, the arrangement needs to be lower than the cross beam of the cross.

Donations with Love:

Making a donation is a thoughtful way to celebrate your birthday, anniversary, or remember a special loved one or friend who has passed away. **Birthday/Anniversary challenge: Donate the amount of your current age or number of years married:**

(Age 101=\$101.00 donation). Your generous gift can be earmarked for any one of our church departments. Please fill in the form below and tell us where you would like your donation to go.

Building Maintenance	\$ _____
Kitchen & Cleaning supplies	\$ _____
Music Committee	\$ _____
Christian Education	\$ _____
Missions	\$ _____
Heat/Electricity/Utilities	\$ _____
Coffee Hour Supplies	\$ _____
Office Supplies	\$ _____
Deaconate Supplies	\$ _____
Other	_____

Donation In Memory of: _____

Donation in Celebration of: _____

Total Amount of Donation: \$ _____

(Please make check payable to: **First Congregational Church of East Windsor**)

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

**Send your request to: Assistant Treasurer
First Congregational Church East Windsor
124 Scantic Road
East Windsor, CT 06088**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

April

4/3 Jason Ellsworth
4/4 Brett Thibodeau
4/11 Suzie Gabelmann
4/14 Bill Groves
4/18 Irene Clifton
4/19 Paul Mattera
4/19 Mike Kasevich
4/25 Ashley Desilet
4/26 Betty Wheelock
4/28 Eileen Mattera

May

5/1 Brett Shepard Cormier
5/7 Ethan Denis
5/8 Jackson Stiles
5/21 Sue Nai
5/21 Roy Gendreau
5/23 Donna Gendreau
5/25 Patrick Riley

April

4/5 Fred & Anne Stucklen
4/20 Jim & Mimi Spencer
4/27 Bruce & Angela Lincoln

May

5/16 Mike & Linda Kasevich
5/19 Ed & Joan Stramel
5/22 Jim & Noreen Leighton
5/23 Bill & Marie Groves

It's simple... Just call or email the church with all the info to be added to the database!!

Hmmm... I don't see our Anniversary, either,

Hey... where's MY Birthday?



2016 COFFEE HOUR ASSIGNMENTS

February – Christian Education

March – Trustees

April – Missions

May – Deacons

June – Ways and Means

July – Music and Pastoral Relations

August – Memorial and Finance

September – Generosity

October – Nominating

November – Flower and Conference Delegates

December – Public Relations

January 2017 – Officers (Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk,
Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant
Treasurer)

The First Congregational Church of East Windsor

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Thomas V. Calderone

Church Office: - 654-0590

Pastor's Office: - 627-5943

Email Address: scanticsecy@fceew.necoxmail.com

Web Site: fceeastwindsor.com

Facebook: First Congregational Church East Windsor.

(Managed by church members, this is the only endorsed Facebook page)

Every Sunday: Worship 10:00 am

Sunday School 10:00 am

MONTHLY

Women's Fellowship	3 rd Monday of Month	6:30 pm
Finance Committee	1 st Tuesday of Month	7:00 pm
Deacons	2 nd Tuesday of Month	7:00pm
Executive Committee	2 nd Monday of the Month	7:00 pm
Trustees	3 rd Sunday of the Month	8:30am
Food Pantry Open	Tuesday & Thursday mornings and 3 rd Tuesday of each Month	9:00am to 11:00am 6:00pm to 7:00pm
Bible Study	Wednesdays	10:30 am & 7:00 pm
Choir	Thursdays	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Christian Education	3 rd Sunday of the Month	11:30
Missions	4 th Sunday of the Month	11:30

The "**Parish Press**" is published by the First Congregational Church of East Windsor. Articles and items of interest should be sent to the church via e-mail to scanticsecy@fceew.necoxmail.com or by placing the item in the Public Relations mail box.

If you would like an article included in the April/May 2016 issue of the Parish Press, please submit your article(s) by March 25th, 2016.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

April/May

April 5th Finance 7:00 pm

April 11th Executive 7:00 pm

April 12th Deacons 7:00 pm

April 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th Bible Study 10:30 am & 7:00 pm

April 17th Trustees 8:30 am

April 17th Christian Ed 11:30 am

April 18th Women's Fellowship 6:30 pm

April 24th Missions 11:30 am

May 3rd Finance 7:00 pm

May 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, Bible Study 10:30 am & 7:00 pm

May 9th Executive 7:00 pm

May 10th Deacons 7:00 pm

May 15th Trustees 8:30 am

May 15th Christian Ed 11:30 am

May 16th Women's Fellowship 6:30 pm

May 22nd Missions 11:30 am

