

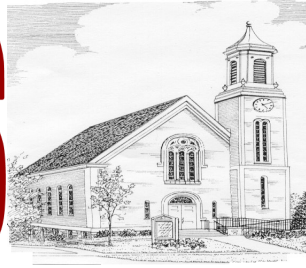
First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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Portland, CT 06480-1104
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March 2020
Belfry Chimes
First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Portland, Connecticut

The Belfry Chimes



March 2020
Newsletter

The First Congregational Church
554 Main Street
Portland, Connecticut 06480

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Office (860) 342-3244
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Office Email address first.church.pct@sbcglobal.net
Web site www.firstchurchportlandct.org
Please look us up on Facebook,
The First Congregational Church of Portland, CT

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Ann Labby (860) 614-4826 labbyannm@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND ORGANIST
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(860) 342-1111
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1stchurchnurseryschool@gmail.com

FELLOWSHIP HALL (860) 342-1111

Welcoming Statement

We, The First Congregational Church of Portland, Connecticut, are an Open and Affirming church.

With God's grace, we continue to be a congregation that includes persons of every race, ethnicity, age, family configuration, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic status, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. All are welcome to share in the life, sacraments, missions, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our community of faith.

THE BUILDING IS ACCESSIBLE.
Assistive Hearing Devices available.
LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AVAILABLE.

3/1 First Sunday in Lent
9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship, with Rev. Toni Smith, Communion, Church School, Pass-It-On Food Cart
Worship Assistant: Mike Enright
Communion Presenters: Karen, Rettich, Cari Klick, Nancy Johnson, Phyllis Clark, Megan Ettlinger
Deacon: Megan Ettlinger
Ushers: The Ettlingers
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: Marcie and Mary Clark

3/8 Second Sunday in Lent
9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship, Church School
Worship Assistant: George Law
Deacon: Mike Klick
Ushers: Cliff and Shirley Barrett
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: Karen Rettich

3/15 Celtic Sunday and Third Sunday in Lent
9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship, Church School
Worship Assistant: Mike Enright
Deacon: Sharon Kandro
Ushers:
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: Beau Doherty and the Board of Music

3/22 Fourth Sunday in Lent
9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship, Church School
Worship Assistant: George Law
Deacon: Karen Rettich
Ushers:
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour: The Ettlingers

3/29 Fifth Sunday in Lent
9:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship, Church School
Worship Assistant: Mike Enright
Deacon: Megan Ettlinger
Ushers:
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour:

**Let us worship together on
St. Patrick's Day!**

**Sunday, March 15, 2020
10:00 a.m.**



**"In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you."
*1 Thessalonians 5:18***

Let us give thanks and celebrate on this day when there is a holiday rooted in Christian history and in the work of St. Patrick, a missionary and evangelist. Everyone is invited to this unique family worship service on this very special Sunday. Music will be provided by the Wild Notes: Kasha Breau on piano and harp, Mickey Koth on fiddle and flute, and John Kalinowski on concertina and accordion. The choir's anthem will be "Lord of the Dance."

To properly celebrate St. Patrick's Day as a Christian holiday, it is important to understand St. Patrick himself and how the holiday came about. There is a rich faith story about this man who was devoted to God and spread the Gospel throughout Ireland. Therefore, the service will be a mixture of stories, music, prayers, and readings inspired by the ministry of St. Patrick. In honor of the day, we invite you to wear the color green.

Coffee Hour will be a festive event provided by you! We would love to engage the whole congregation in making this day memorable so we are asking individuals and/or family members to provide the food. Do you have a favorite item be it Irish, Celtic, or the color green? How creative can you be? Have fun deciding what to make and when you come on Sunday just place it on the decorated table in the fellowship hall.

This worship service is being planned by the following members of our Creative Worship Crew: Kasha Breau, Beau Doherty, Jane Hawken, Nancy Johnson, Ann Labby, and Kelle Young. Mark your calendars now and bring your family and friends!



**Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 8. Don't forget to
turn your clocks ahead.**



March Birthdays

- 1 Sue Kenny
- 1 Hunter Lyman
- 2 Christine Hunt
- 3 Pat Jones
- 5 Terry Kelsey
- 5 David Taylor
- 8 Alex Brown
- 8 Cheryl Lee
- 8 Adeline Russo
- 9 Juliette Piazza
- 10 George Law
- 10 David Jahnke
- 11 Emma Coiteux
- 12 Benjamin Foote
- 13 Piper Rettich
- 13 James Kenny
- 16 James Lemieux
- 16 Stanley Miller
- 17 Mia Cyr
- 18 Edwin Flynn
- 19 Robert Johnson
- 19 Maria Demarest
- 20 Abigail France
- 20 Nathan Weeks
- 20 Sean Mearman
- 21 Casey Dudzinski
- 21 David Winakor
- 21 Solveig Bonanno
- 24 Andrew Sobieski
- 24 Jaxon Medvecky
- 26 Jake Mazza
- 29 Sam Young
- 30 Laila Dietrichsen
- 30 Evelyn Larson
- 30 Cliff Barrett
- 31 Richard Kelsey



An Amazing Sweet Success

Let me begin by saying that God's Amazing Grace certainly showered upon us on February 1st during our 23rd annual Mid-Winter Chocolate Festival. It truly was an amazing day and we were blessed in so many ways.



Blessed with a good weather day that kept the impending storm out to sea!

Blessed with awesome music provided by Kasha and the Wild Notes and piano playing by Dave Soderberg.

Blessed with delicious desserts, a wonderful variety of baked items (the most we have ever seen), creative crafts, and of course chocolate lollipops along with a variety of other candy including caramels, fudge, and chocolate covered Oreos. I heard so many customers raving about the candy and finding it hard to believe it was made by church members.

Blessed with many customers from all over the state and beyond. Where did they come from? Of the cards we have them fill out: **126** – Portland and **223** – Out of Town representing **46** different towns or cities. We had **9** people travel from out of state representing Johnston and Scituate, RI, Attleboro, Millbury, Taunton, & Winchester, MA, Hyde Park, VT, and New York City.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to make this year's festival another success. Thank you to our Mousse Café and Baked Goods bakers, candy makers, basket donors and everyone who gave wonderful items to our donation box including beautiful jewelry. I am grateful for our waitresses, dish washers, booth sales people, kids room helpers, clean up people and car parkers. If I left anyone out, please know how much you are appreciated.

The Sunday after the fest I announced that we had taken in \$9,791.00, but as of this writing we are over \$10,000. We do have to subtract some expenses, but even after that is done, we can still say that this is our best year ever. It was an amazing day indeed, but this annual event is so much more than chocolate. It truly is a form of ministry which we give to the community and certainly a blessing to this church. In 1 Peter 4:10 we hear these words: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." How wonderful it is to see this church living out the scriptures while working together in fellowship. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

In Christian love,
Nancy Johnson

AMAZING GRACE FOR WOMEN

DATE: Saturday, March 21

PLACE: Guest House Retreat and Conference Center

TYPE: Women's Day Retreat



"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." **Ephesians 2:8**

The Bible explicitly says that grace is a gift from God. It is the unmerited, loving favor and graciousness of our Creator. And do we have a gift for you. We will celebrate the grace of friendship at a one-day retreat which you will not want to miss. Give yourself a Christmas gift this year by registering for this special day which will include a delicious luncheon buffet at a cost of \$30 per person. Details can be found in the Women's Fellowship booklet, but don't delay as space is somewhat limited. Contact Karen Rettich

(karen.rettich@yahoo.com) as soon as you know you would like to attend.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MARCH 8, 2020!
MONEY IS NOW DUE!**

S.O.S (seeking out SEW-ers)

The Board of Missions and Women's Fellowship are supporting two very important mission projects.

Capes of Courage are meant to provide children that are hospitalized or that are undergoing medical treatments with a colorful and uplifting superhero type cape to provide some fun and encouragement during a difficult time. In 2019, we delivered over 100 capes to the CT Children's Hospital.

Dress A Girl Around the World is a program started by Hope 4 Women International in 2009. It has distributed over 450,000 dresses to 82 countries. By giving a girl a new dress her destiny could be changed forever. A new dress gives a girl the appearance of being cared for and may discourage would be predators.

We are looking for people to help with sewing so that we can get these projects out to the communities that need them. Beginner sewing skills- the projects are not too complicated. Kits for both projects are available in the "Missions Board Corner" of Fellowship Hall. If you don't sew but would still like to help, we need people to help put together kits. Questions about the capes can be directed to Connie Wache or the dresses can be directed to Karen Faass. **THANK YOU!**

300th ANNIVERSARY NEWS!

The anniversary committee met on February 19th to continue our planning for the celebratory events that will happen in 2021. BUT the celebration will begin in November of this year. **Save this date: Saturday, November 7, 2020!** This is the day when we will sponsor an all-church fair so we will need your help. At the recent chocolate fest everyone who left received a flyer with information of our upcoming church fund-raisers and this is what we said about our church fair –

Come on over to our
Holiday Harvest Fair
November 7, 2020

Join us on this autumn day as we kick off the 300th Anniversary of our church's founding which we will celebrate in 2021.

What to expect:

Sale of Anniversary Items
Baked Goods, Candy and other sweets
Fall Produce
Vintage Sale
Creative Crafts
SERRV items- Handmade Fair-Trade Gifts
Delicious Luncheon with our famous Apple Crisp
Hope you can join us!

In order to be a success, we will need you to take part. One thing you can do now as spring cleaning approaches is to think of us with anything that could go in our Vintage Room. That would be anything from the 1920 to 1970 and might include the following: linens, jewelry, doilies, tea cups, fine china, cookware, hats, aprons, purses, etc. You will be hearing more of our details as time goes on so please begin thinking of how you can help.

We Remember in Our Prayers

During the past month we prayed for the following people:

Suzanne Roberts, Cheryl Wysocki, Bob Hale, Charlotte Jahnke, Steve Hodge, Anita Harris, Carol Carnemolla, Margaret Stewart, Rita Richter, Jim Langager, Eleanor Rodrigue, Harold Hall, Alexandra Watson-Pelepey, Michael Gemme, Martin Moon, Steven Winakor, Tracy Johnston, Laurie Peterson, Marge Tacey, Ralph Bonanno, Mark Vetrano, and the families and friends of Stephen Bennett and Richard Basso



PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Our next *New Member Sunday* will be on *May 3*. Two informational classes will be held on **Sunday, April 5 and April 19 at 11:30 a.m. for anyone interested in joining the church.**

Each class lasts about an hour. Childcare is available for the meetings. Please RSVP the church office if you are interested in becoming a member. Speak with Rev. Hawken if you would like more information about joining the church.

Flowers Needed for Sunday Services

Please consider dedicating flowers in honor of, in memory of, or in celebration of someone or something special at the Sunday worship services. You can make a dedication by contacting the Flower Committee representatives for each month. Their name and contact information is posted on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. You may also use the sign-up poster in Fellowship Hall or call the church office. You may take your flowers home following the service.



A Special Thank You Received

On the day after the Chocolate Fest I opened a note sent to the Prayer Shawl Ministry of our church which touched my heart. Some might recall that we have expanded our ministry by donating shawls to Hartford Hospital as often as we are able. In December the Chaplain of Hartford Hospital picked up four shawls and the beginning of February we received this thank you note from Joanne Shovak of Windsor Locks. The front of the card contained a gold cross with the words

“The family of Jeff Shovak acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expression of sympathy.” Inside were Joanne’s heartfelt words. “Dear Prayer Shawl Ministry, My son Jeff, age 53, died on January 15th at Hartford Hospital. The chaplain gave me a beautiful prayer shawl. My sincere thanks for your love and support and I will treasure this beautiful shawl. Sincerely, Joanne Shovak.”

How comforting to know that our ministry continues to touch people we will never know in such impactful ways. They are blessed by receiving as much as we are blessed by giving. Thanks be to God.

Nancy

March 2020 Gratitude Journal ~ A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- ~ **Nancy Johnson** for her leadership of the successful 23rd Mid-Winter Chocolate Festival and **Robin Richardson** for her able assistance.
- ~ **All who assisted** with, **contributed** baked goods or crafts, and **attended** the Chocolate Festival.
- ~ **The Board of Missions and all who contributed** to the Warming Breakfast at St. Vincent DePaul.
- ~ **Connie Wache** for her help in the church office during Margaret's absence.

Thank you Church Friends

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the love, prayers, food, cards, calls and visits that you bestowed upon me during the past several weeks of my recuperation. It is very touching and humbling to realize that I have such supportive friends here at the church. Each call, card, visit etc. served as a motivator and reminder that I will recover and get back to my job at the church. I have a way to go physically but just being back at my desk makes me aware of the progress I have made. Your show of concern reaffirms my belief that I have the best job in the world. You warmed my soul, thanks again, Margaret Stewart

Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, February 26

Lent begins on February 26.
That evening at 7:00 p.m.
there will be a brief service at
the church with the distribu-
tion of ashes. All are
welcome to attend.



SUPER SATURDAY!

8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Saturday, March 14, 2020
Minnechaug Regional High School
621 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA 01095

Super Saturday is a collaborative effort of the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ, with presenters and attendees from different states and denominations. A full day of workshops, forums, networking, worship and marketplace. More information at



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

<https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/12792138>

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

This year's theme is "Invest in Futures!" Through One Great Hour of Sharing, we have an opportunity to plant seeds into the lives of others. Be a co-worker with God. Building, planting, watering ... and trusting that God gives growth to all good gifts shared in faith. Thank you for your partnership. Thank you for your generosity.

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering, we are planting seeds of new life. Please make gifts payable to First Congregational Church with checks ear-marked OGHS.

**"For we are co-workers in God's service;
you are God's field, God's building."
1 Corinthians 3:9**



Board of Christian Education

It's almost Spring!! There is so much happening with our Christian Education Families.

The children's Sunday offering helps our church and those around us in need. Keep sending in those COINS and don't forget to use the children's envelopes.

Donations Needed

For our Easter Egg hunt we have a prize table for the children. We are running low on gifts. If you have anything small you would like to donate we would appreciate it. Suggestions: small stuffed animals, books, crayons, coloring books, small cars and trucks (hot wheel size), hair ornaments, key chains etc. They don't need to be new just in good shape. A box will be located in Fellowship Hall.

PRAYER CHAIN

The church school students are inviting everyone to participate in a Prayer Chain that will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 5th. This was started by church school students at The Student Worship. Please write a prayer concern on the strips of paper and staple to the chain. Everything is available in Fellowship Hall.

Youth Group Event

On Sunday, March 22 at 12:00 noon the youth group students of all ages will be going to "Fun In" Trampoline Park in Middletown. You don't have to be a member of our church to participate. You can bring friends to join you. This can even include toddlers. Please go to their website at <http://funintrampolinepark.com> to sign the waiver form online and get more information. Depending on the number of children we may qualify for a group discount. **You MUST RSVP by March 15 to labbyannm@gmail.com**

Who Loves Grilled Cheese Sandwiches?

On Sunday, April 5 following worship, the Board of Christian Education will be hosting a Gourmet Grilled Cheese Luncheon. We will be selling homemade American Cheese or a Gourmet Sandwich with Cheese, Tomato and Bacon. Also, homemade tomato soup will be sold. You can eat in or take out. Mark your calendar. Proceeds go towards a mission project.

HARTFORD YARD GOATS

Faith and Family Day

On Saturday, August 29 we will be going to Faith and Family Day with the Hartford Yard Goats. The baseball game starts at 6:05 p.m., gates open at 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00. Everyone is welcome. There are a lot of family activities. If your family and friends are interested please e-mail me and let me know how many will be going. labbyannm@gmail.com

2020 Ecumenical Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for June 25 & 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The planning is now beginning. If you have any questions please contact Ann Labby at labbyannm@gmail.com

Silver Lake Summer Camp Experience

Flyers for the 2020 Silver Lake Conference Center summer camp programs are available in Fellowship Hall. This is a fabulous summer camp for children 4th grade and above. Register your children early! More information is available at www.silverlakect.org. Financial assistance is available from our church and from Silver Lake. See Ann Labby for more information.

March and April Church School Events

April 5 – Grilled Cheese Sandwich Luncheon 11:15 a.m.

April 12 – Easter activities for the children.

For All Church Members Volunteers Needed

We are looking for church members who would like to volunteer to help with the Church School Program. We are asking all church members (moms, dads, and grandparents, high school students) to review their calendars for 2020-21. The time commitment would be one Sunday a month. Helpers are needed in the Infant/Toddler Room and as teacher assistants. This is a wonderful and rewarding experience to work with the youth of our church. Contact Ann Labby at 860-614-4826 labbyannm@gmail.com for more information. Sign up poster is in Fellowship Hall.

Bell Ringers/Candle Lighters

March 1: Ally Dudzinski
March 8: Hazel & Jude Ettlinger
March 15: Noah MacDonald
March 22: Laila Dietrichsen
March 29: Bianca & Nicholas Vibberts

If your child is in first grade or above and would like to be a bell ringer/candle lighter at Sunday worship service please contact Ann Labby at labbyannm@gmail.com. We will train them to do this special service.



Dear Friends,

Many thanks for recognizing the 14th anniversary of beginning of my ministry at the First Congregational Church of Portland. The orchid plant is beautiful and its blossoms are plentiful – reminding me of the bountiful blessings of serving as your pastor.

Another pastor known to many in the congregation will be leading our 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship service while I am in Florida from February 29 – March 7. The Rev. Toni Smith will preach and celebrate the sacrament of communion on March 1, the First Sunday in Lent.

Our Lenten observance officially begins on Ash Wednesday and we will have a service on February 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Each Lent, the Board of Deacons hosts the Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers and Programs. The supper begins at 6:30 p.m. and the program follows from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. You may attend just the 7:00 program if you so choose. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you would like to bring a pot of soup or a loaf of bread to share.

The overall topic for the series changes from year to year, and this Lent, we are pleased to offer a series titled **“Caring for God’s Creation.”** We are blessed to have John Hall, Gary Yohe, and John LeShane share their expertise on a range of environmental matters of local and global significance.

Feel free to bring a friend as we all look forward to this year’s program. Together may we deepen our fellowship while learning how we can protect and care for God’s creation!

Yours in faith,

Rev. Jane Hawken

“CARING FOR GOD’S CREATION”
Wednesday Evening Soup Suppers and Programs
during Lent
Supper ~ 6:30 p.m. Program ~ 7:00 p.m.

March 11 – The Rev. John Hall

***“If It’s God’s Creation, What’s the Problem? ~
 If there is a problem, what can humans do about it?”***

John grew up in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. He was the Senior Minister at First Church of Christ in Middletown from 1990 to 2011. Prior to that, he served churches in Hyannis, Massachusetts, and Lehigh, Pennsylvania. In 2004, John founded the Jonah Center for Earth and Art, a local environmental nonprofit. The Jonah Center works with the Town of Portland and the City of Middletown to make our community more bicycle and pedestrian friendly, as well as to encourage more sustainable living and protection of natural resources. John has preached several times at our church and on March 11, he will lead us in exploring our role and responsibility in protecting creation.

March 18 – Dr. Gary Yohe

“The Paris Accord, the U.S., and Our Grandchildren”

Gary is the Huffington Foundation Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies at Wesleyan University; he is now Emeritus. He has been involved since the early 1990’s with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). As a senior member of the IPCC, he received a share of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. Gary is the Co-editor-in-Chief of *Climatic Change*. He has written and lectured extensively on the issue of climate change and he has served on numerous panels and committees. Currently he is working with America’s Climate Choices that will focus attention on responding to financial risk, propagating emissions reduction technology across the economy, sustaining employment in a carbon free world, and accounting for issues of environmental justice.

March 25 – Mr. John LeShane

“The Middlesex Land Trust”

John LeShane lives in Portland and serves on the Board of Directors of the Middlesex Land Trust. The land trust is committed to conservation, and it owns and preserves over 1000 acres in Cromwell, Durham, East Hampton, Haddam Neck, Middlefield, Middletown, and Portland. John shares his passion for conservation in numerous ways. 22 years ago, he founded the Meshomasic Hiking Club. Each year he leads Portland’s third grade students on a nature walk. He has served on the Portland Conservation Commission and the Inland Wetlands Commission. He was the first chairperson of the town’s Recycling Committee, and he is a recipient of a Certificate of Honor from the Rockfall Foundation.



Dear Friends,

Here at the First Congregational Church in Portland, we began 2020 with another fun-filled Epiphany Dinner in early January, followed by the annual congregational meeting in late January. We elected officers, boards and committees, and received the 2019 reports chronicling the year just completed. Just a week later, hundreds of people flocked into the church for the festive Chocolate Fest, where the spirit of our community of faith was palpable in every corner!

February is the month when boards and committees welcome new members and “get on with their business”. We are blessed to be a vibrant, healthy congregation with an array of opportunities for worship, study, outreach, and fellowship. Please take time to read about the many activities that are scheduled in the weeks ahead. I encourage you to find something that interests you, and join in.

We have passed the “midwinter” point and are heading into March, which often comes with weather surprises ranging from blizzards to warm sunny days. With its 31 days, March often seems to me to be the longest month of the year as I anticipate the arrival of spring and its splendor. Many years, including 2020, the entirety of March falls within Lent. Lent (and March) are a time of reflection and preparation as we anticipate the celebration of Easter in April. There is no better way to prepare for the resurrection than by attending worship during Lent, leading up to the celebration of Easter.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many members who have agreed to serve on a board or committee in the coming year, as well as those who have faithfully served and completed their terms of office. The Nominating Committee did a fantastic job of finding “the right person for the right job” time and time again. The end result was a slate of officers, boards and committees that will keep us focused on fulfilling our mission in the year ahead. If you are interested in knowing how to become more involved in the life of our church, please call me. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you! 860-342-4093.

Jeannette Hodge
Church President

Dear FCC Friends,

This is a very belated thank you for the support, cards, notes, calls, visits and food so kindly shared with us over the past nine months. These months have included two serious falls resulting in a broken arm not once, but twice (yes, the same arm!), an ambulance ride, a heart monitor for a month, stress test, three hospitalizations, three Emergency Department visits, and one complicated surgery to put me back together with lots of hardware. I have had CT Scans, MRI's and more x-rays than I can count!

This unexpected journey has introduced us to many caring and competent caregivers. We are most appreciative of the expertise and compassion shown to us all along the way. At this point I am in Physical and Occupational Therapy five days a week, regaining the use of my arm and hand slowly but surely! Thanks again for the caring and I look forward to seeing everyone again soon.

Steve Hodge

Board of Missions “God’s Work ~ Our Hands”

Let’s grab those gloves, rakes, paint brushes and yard tools, along with the sewing machines and music folders (not to mention firing up the grill) and venture out into our neighborhoods to perform simple tasks and bring “God’s Work ~ Our Hands” to life for a second year.



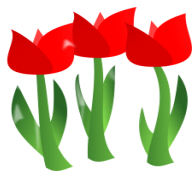
On Sunday, April 26, we will, again, come together and “**BE**” the church and “hands” of God. More information will follow as the board is organizing and planning this event. No matter what your abilities or age, we need you; let’s see that striking “sea of blue” in our Fellowship Hall that was bursting with enthusiasm, kindness and compassion, even on that cloudy, sprinkling day!

This was an event that united our congregation and gave us the opportunity to assist, support and make a difference on a very special Sunday.

Thank You,
The Board of Missions

2020 Annual Easter Plant Sale and Fundraiser

The Flower Committee is holding its Annual Easter Plant Sale & Fundraiser. This is a great opportunity for you to dedicate flowers to a loved one! Each plant purchased includes up to 2 dedications. Orders for daffodils, tulips and single stem Easter Lilies will be taken after service in Fellowship Hall on March 15, 22, and 29. Please fill out the form below and return it to the church no later than **Sunday, April 5** and make checks out to the First Congregational Church, with "Flower Committee" in the memo area. All plants are \$10 each.



PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME, PHONE # AND DEDICATIONS:

Your name: _____

Phone# _____

Purchase/Dedication# 1: 6" Daffodil 6" Tulip Easter Lily

Circle one of the following Dedications: In Memory of - In Honor of - In Celebration

Dedicated To: _____

Purchase/Dedication# 2: 6" Daffodil 6" Tulip Easter Lily

Circle one of the following Dedications: In Memory of - In Honor of - In Celebration

Dedicated To: _____

All plants will be used for an altar display during the Easter Sunday service on April 12 and will be available to take home after that service. *Any plants left in the church after Easter service will be left in the kitchen.*

Thank you for your support and your contribution to the beautiful floral display for the Easter service!

Number of Plants Ordered: _____ **Total Cost: \$** _____

Additional Donation: \$ _____

Grand Total: \$ _____