

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ
November 2011



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 2011



This year's Festival was a success in many ways. We were blessed with great weather, good help from members and friends, and visitors who liked what we were doing and selling. Perhaps, though, there weren't as many visitors as there have been in the past; total revenue to this point is \$9,315 vs. \$13,501 in 2010 - down 31%. And when we subtract the necessary expenses, the net proceeds will be somewhat lower.

Those who have expenses connected with supplies for the Fall Festival should get the record of them to Treasurer John Estabrook without delay. We would like to finalize the finances as soon as possible.

One area of income that was significantly lower this year was the amount donated by those people in our church community who weren't able to take a more active part in the Festival. As most of you know, 100% of our Fall Festival profits go to the Board of Christian Action to be used to help people in need locally, nationally,



and throughout the world. Anyone who would like to donate is welcome to send their check made out to the Fall Festival and mailed to the Salisbury Congregational Church, PO Box 392, Salisbury, CT 06068.

Our heartfelt thanks to the many people who made the Fall Festival happen! It could not have taken place without your help - before, during and after. This is one activity that brings our church family together in very constructive and active ways, and the Fall Festival Committee joins me in expressing our appreciation to you all.

Lee Collins, Chair

Please check the Events page on the church website for links to many more photographs of the weekend.

Save the Date!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The musical forces of the church will present a concert of Christmas music on **Sunday, December 4th, at 2:30 p.m.**

The Bell Choir and Senior Choir will offer seasonal pieces, and the choir will be joined by instrumentalists for J. S. Bach's Cantata 140, "Sleepers, Wake!" Plan to attend and bring friends. A reception in the parish hall will follow the concert.



What's Inside....

Pastor's Letter.....	2
Thanksgiving Service	2
Giv ² Event	2
Mission Trip 2012	3
Every Member Canvass	3
World Community Day	3
CROP Walk.....	3
Potluck Supper.....	3
Calendar & Birthdays	4
Sunday Support Schedule	4
Silver Lake Magazine	5
Request from a Friend.....	5
Photo Directory.....	5
Kid's Korner.....	7



Growing in Faith Together

ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH THANKSGIVING, AND GOD'S COURTS WITH PRAISE.
GIVE THANKS TO GOD, BLESS GOD'S NAME



November ushers in a month in which we set aside a day to give thanks to God for the blessings in our lives. Although Thanksgiving is technically a “non-religious” holiday, celebrated by people of all faiths (and no faith), it is a time when we turn to God and offer thanks, originally for a harvest, and later for peace in our country. Thanksgiving is

truly a celebration of abundance. Our festivities often include more people than we can fit at our table and more food than we could possibly consume in one sitting. It also signifies the start of the busy “holiday season” when we try to do more than humanly possible.

Rather than cramming everything into one day, this year, I invite you to designate November as a month of Thanksgiving. Make a commitment to start and end each day with a prayer of thanksgiving. A simple “thank you God for all that is good in my life” uttered each day will bring you to a place of gratitude. A longer period of reflection on the blessings you experience each day will move you toward a peaceful heart.

COMMUNITY-WIDE THANKSGIVING SERVICE



On **Wednesday, November 23rd, at 7:00 p.m.** we will host the annual community-wide Thanksgiving Service. Representatives from all of the area faith communities have been invited to share in a time of worship. We will join our voices in prayer and song as we gather to give thanks for the blessings in our lives.

Please plan to attend, offering a warm welcome to our neighbors. If you would like to participate in the service as a lay reader, greeter or usher, please speak with Pastor Diane.

GIV² EVENT PLANNED FOR AREA YOUTH

On **Saturday, November 6th** youth from UCC churches in the area are coming together in a program called Giv² to paint the Open Door Soup Kitchen in Winsted. Giv² gathers youth every other month to take on a service project to help the community. The painting event is hosted by the United Congregational Church in Torrington. Participants are expected from 9 UCC churches in the area. If you (or a youth in your life) would be interested in participating, please contact Pastor Diane.

“We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.”
~Thornton Wilder

Joyce Rupp offers this Thanksgiving poem called

“Gratitude for the Little Moments”

gratitude, yes
for all the big things
that stand tall, thick with abundance,
joy, fruitfulness.
I cannot help but applaud
their presence.

but deep thankfulness
for the bite-sized
pieces of my life?
I had not thought of them,
those little snippets of time
so easily consumed
in the hurry and blur of pretentious days.

The little moments,
assumed and presumed,
slip quickly through
the fingers of my busy life.

November gestures
with a wrinkled brown hand,
beckons me wisely
to consider
those fleeting moments of grace,
in things quickly passing:
a walk on a musky-wooded path,
a cup of coffee silently savored,
a birdsong in the squeaky hours of dawn,
the gentle touch of a liver-spotted hand,
a loving letter from a grateful stranger,
a fading crescent moon in a royal blue sky.

I turn to gather
finely layered remnants like these
in the come and go of my days,
and discover, with surprise,
how quickly my inner room
is a harvest place of gold.

May your November be filled with moments of grace, abundant blessings and sincere thanksgiving for the One who created it all.

Pastor Diane

Email: pastor.diane@salisburycongregational.org

Reminder!

The Global Crafts Boutique is open throughout the month of November on Sundays from 11:00 to 12:00. The last sale day will be December 4th.

“Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way.”
Native American saying

THE EVERY MEMBER CANVASS BEGINS SOON



It is my privilege, once again, to head up the Every Member Canvass for our beloved church. I am honored to be the person who reminds us of the many reasons why we love our church enough to continually invest in its mission and in the ways it touches our lives. I am grateful that so many believe in what we

are doing under Diane's nurturing and inspiring leadership, and trust that we will continue to open our doors to those seeking a spiritual home.

Something happens here that doesn't happen anywhere else. I am reminded of that again and again when I look around at all of the faces I have come to know and love each week as I lend my voice to song up in the choir loft. I feel blessed to be part of a congregation that is as generous, caring and supportive as this one. When I write to ask for your contribution to the Every Member Canvass, I know that most of you give because you believe in what we are doing. You step up to the plate to help achieve our financial goal because this is YOUR spiritual home and you want to invest in its future and wellbeing.

When the EMC letter comes out in November, I ask for your continued generosity and support of all that we are doing here and all we hope to do in the future. I am delighted that Janet Offensend, Mary Robertson and Bob Keiter are joining me in helping with this important appeal. Many hands make for light work, and I am certain that with their help and your wonderful spirit of giving, we will make our goal.

My deepest thanks to each and every one of you.

Carol Magowan

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United of the Northwest Corner will hold the annual World Community Day on **Friday, November 4th**, at St. Bridget's Roman Catholic Church at 2:00 pm. St. Bridget's is at 3 River Road, Cornwall Bridge, at the concrete bridge (NOT the covered bridge), within sight of where Rtes. 7 and 4 meet.

Heather Schaufele



"Living Our Faith, Unlocking Action" November 4, 2011

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.

Throughout the 70 years of Church Women United's history, ecumenical action has been the means for work for peace and justice. This year's WCD relates the goals from Micah of justice and mercy to Jesus' demand that we re-examine our own hypocrisy. Only then can action be unlocked. The logo depicts an explosion of actions bursting forth from an unlocked trunk. Past actions will inspire the women of today towards future action. Micah 6:1-8 and Matthew 23:23-28 were the texts for the Bible Study written by Rev Myrna Bethke. Writers Joan Brown and Cathy Smith invite us to examine our approach to "unlocking action" in our communities.

MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO JULY 21-28, 2012

Would you be interested in spending a week next summer feeding hungry people? Can you see yourself interacting with impoverished children in the mountains of Mexico, offering a warm smile and a helping hand? Have you ever thought of building a school with your own hands for children who don't have a school?



If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you are invited to join our 2012 Mission Trip to Oaxaca, Mexico. The trip is open to any able-bodied person over the age of 14. Last month we heard from Reverend Pete Allen about the work of *Simply Smiles*. This month we will gather on **Sunday, November 27th at 4:30** for an information session on the mission trip. Please plan to attend if you think you might like to participate next summer.

CROP WALKERS SUCCESSFUL!



On the very warm, sunny Sunday, September 25th, twelve walkers from our church joined many others in our Northwest Connecticut corner to participate in the annual CROP Walk, the route of which goes along the river road in Falls Village. Some of us walked the official 5 miles and others did less, but all took the responsibility of asking friends, neighbors and church members to sponsor them. The sponsors responded most generously and this year our church raised \$4,550.00, which is almost twice what was raised last year. In a time of national economic downturn I think we did pretty well.

The money raised is sent to the Church World Service headquarters in Indianapolis, 75% of which is used to fight poverty overseas, and 25% is returned to our local area to help our neighbors in need. Just think, maybe our donations will be used to provide funding to build a well in some African community whose residents, just to satisfy their drinking, cooking and cleaning needs, now have to walk miles with jugs of water balanced on their heads.

Sue Ritchie, Christian Action

Photos will be available on the website on the Events page

POTLUCK SUPPER



There will be a **potluck supper on Friday, November 11th, at 6:00** 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.

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).

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Native American Heritage Month		4:30 - Comfort & Conversation - Wardell Community Room at the Scoville Library All Saints Day	7:30- Choir Rehearsal		7:00 - Men's Inter-faith Bible Study 2:00 - World Community Day, - St. Bridget's Church, Cornwall Bridge*	
10:00 - Worship with Dick Taber preaching & Communion. No church school; crib & toddler care available Time tba - Giv ² Youth* Daylight Savings Ends - Fall Back		4:30 - Comfort & Conversation - Wardell Community Room at the Scoville Library	10:00 - Prayer Group 7:30- Choir Rehearsal		7:00 - Men's Inter-faith Bible Study 6:00 - Potluck Supper Veterans Day	
10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:30 - Bd. of Christian Action World Kindness Day		4:30 - Comfort & Conversation - Wardell Community Room at the Scoville Library	7:30- Choir Rehearsal		7:00 - Men's Inter-faith Bible Study	
10:00 - Worship & Church School 11:30 - Church Council Christ the King Sunday		4:30 - Comfort & Conversation - Wardell Community Room at the Scoville Library	10:00 - Prayer Group 7:00 pm - Interfaith Service in The Meeting House	 Thanksgiving		7:00 - Men's Inter-faith Bible Study
10:00 - Worship & Church School 4:30 - Simply Smiles Mission information Session* First Sunday of Advent		4:30 - Comfort & Conversation - Wardell Community Room at the Scoville Library 5:30 - 7:00 - Board of Deacons	7:30- Choir Rehearsal	National Bible Week, November 20th - 27th		

* Article in this MHT

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SUPPORT SCHEDULE

Date	Lead Deacon	Lay Reader	Fellowship Hour	Flowers	Ushers
November 6 Communion	Betsy Beck Theresa Carroll Dave Heck Larry Blades	Betsy Beck	Ann Perse		Sal & Janet Accardo
November 13	Betsy Beck	Theresa Carroll	Malcolm Brown	Ann Perse	Sal & Janet Accardo
November 20	Betsy Beck	Tony Good	Good Family	Mary Davidson	Sal & Janet Accardo
November 23 Thanksgiving Service					
November 27	Betsy Beck	Larry Blades			Sal & Janet Accardo



2nd Elizabeth Palmer
3rd Jonathan Habacker
4th Sarah Rydingsword
5th Sue Morrill
6th Terre Lefferts
7th Diane Monti-Catania

8th Betty Leech
8th Joslin Taber
8th Janet Kaufman
9th Sara Wardell
9th O'Jane Dwelley
9th Ann Perse

10th Laurie Slotnick
11th Rosie Bell
11th Allyson Good
14th Shayna Blumert
15th Kathy Mera
16th Betty Scribner
18th John Arnold
18th Mindy Fitting
19th Katherine Rich

19th Elizabeth Rich
20th Mary Wadsworth
20th Katya Giffenig
23rd Mason O'Niel
24th Jennifer Good
26th Paul Tierney
29th Matthew Heck
29th Damien Crain

