

The Meeting House Times

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, United Church of Christ
February, 2008



Ash Wednesday - February 6th

Once again we will be taking part in a series of Ecumenical Lenten programs. The Wednesday evening format will be similar to last year, with the host church providing a delicious soup supper at 5:30 (6:00 at St. John's), followed by worship and a program or speaker at 6:30. The details of some of the services are not yet available, but here is the schedule of the host churches:

February 13th: ecumenical Stations of the Cross liturgy. Have you always wanted to know more about stations of the cross? Now is your chance to find out! Contact Dick Taber if you would like to participate as a leader

Host: Church of St. Mary, Lakeville

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February 20th: In The Organ Loft at Lent, with Christine Gevert - musical meditations on Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection in the music of Bach, Buxtehude and Boehm. Some program highlights :

J.S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in B-minor

Choral: 'O Mensch, bewein' (O man, bewail thy sinn)

Buxtehude's 'Ciaconna in D-minor'

Host: Congregational Church of Salisbury

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February 27th: 6:00 supper, then a presentation by Richard Grossman - "Withdrawal into Healing"

Host: Saint John's Episcopal Church, Salisbury

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March 5th: Sohیب Sultan, Muslim Chaplain

Host: Church of St. Mary, Lakeville

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March 12th: Rabbi Steve Fuchs

Host: Church of St. Mary, Lakeville

Associate Pastor Search Committee Begins Work

Moderator Rod Lankler called the Committee's first meeting on Thursday, January 17th, with the seven members and two alternates present. We met the Rev. Mike Ciba, our Regional Minister of the CT Conference of the UCC, and he led us through a review of the task that is before us. In the upcoming weeks we must:



- elect Committee members to fulfill necessary functions;
- prepare a profile of our church in order to provide pastoral candidates with a realistic picture of us;
- review resumes and backgrounds of candidates that have expressed an interest in the position we're offering. All those contacts will come through Mike's office, and he and the Conference staff will continue to provide our Committee with help and guidance. After reviewing the resumes we will begin actually meeting and interviewing candidates.

Mike was pleased to learn that we had already taken a preliminary congregational survey, and the questionnaires that were returned to the Deacons in December will be of great help to us in completing the church profile. Church members and friends will have further input to the search process, and we encourage anyone who has suggestions and concerns to make them known to any and all Committee members.

Mike stressed that the search would NOT be done "in secret," but that confidentiality in the interviews and Committee discussions will be very important. He also directed us to our goal of recommending a final candidate for the Associate Pastor that is our "unanimous and enthusiastic" decision. With the help of God and the support of the congregation, we feel confident that we can accomplish this.

For the Search Committee, Lee Collins

Assistant Pastoral Search Committee:
Betsy Beck, Lee Collins, Jane Elwood,

We may wish to avoid Lent and Holy Week because it isn't a happy and uplifting time. We want to hurry from the joy of Christmas to the celebration of the resurrection. But to be honest, most of life is not necessarily happy and uplifting. Sometimes we come to church all scrubbed up, dressed nicely, with smiles on our faces, and when people ask how we are, we reply that everything is fine, and we even boast how things are going well.

But sometimes we may not be telling the whole truth; life is not always wonderful. We may have come to feel, however, that "spiritual people" like us are not supposed to get down in the dumps. So we become play actors and perhaps actual hypocrites, telling ourselves that by telling half truths, we are having faith, and that if we cover up enough, the bad things will fade away, like a dream upon awakening. Or we may simply feel that by glossing over our sadness or anxiety or pain we keep others at a distance. They do not know who we really are.

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But Lent is the time to remember that Jesus is Emmanuel - "God with us," in the good times and in the bad times. Jesus' spirit did not depart from his body before the suffering of "Good" Friday; we know that God Himself suffers with us and for us.

We may keep friends at a distance, but God knows our thoughts and feelings. We can share our pain with Jesus as we enter into times of contemplation, not because we want to wallow in self-pity, but so we may celebrate the joy of resurrection with all our heart and soul and mind. Jesus has triumphed over violence and evil. Alleluia!

God be with you in this season of preparation.

Peace, Dick

Did you ever notice? When you put the 2 words "The" and "IRS" together it spells "Theirs."

Did you ever notice? The Roman numerals for 40 are XL.

Lent begins



On Ash Wednesday, February 6th, Lent begins. During this 40-day period, Christians re-evaluate their spiritual lives. It's a time for us to have a spiritual check-up and to strive to live the Christian life more faithfully and more intentionally.

One might go on a spiritual retreat, for example, spending time with a prayer warrior, Bible expert or theologian. During Lent, attending the various church services and study opportunities can help people grow spiritually and become more informed about the Christian faith. Our pilgrimage through Lent should inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives.

Why Ash Wednesday?

Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination. Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year. Ashes historically have had a dual significance.

First, they are Old Testament symbols of sadness and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap.

The second symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, but ends with Easter. And Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures and brings life out of death!

New Members will Join on February 17th

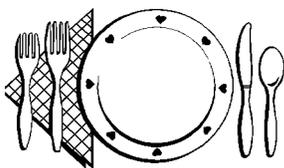
If you are interested in being a church member, contact Dick Taber at the church office - 435-2442.



Join us for Supper

There will be a Potluck supper on Friday, February 15th, at 5:30 for anyone and everyone who would like a casual evening out.

Bring a main dish or salad (either homemade or take-out) to share. Dessert and beverage will be provided.



You don't even have to RSVP but you can if you want to: Barbara Collins (435-0051) or Sarah Rydingsword (435-9479).

Bad weather? Check with them before you come. They might be at church - 435-2442.

Need a ride? Let us know.

As coordinator of the Every Member Canvass, I want to thank all those who have already donated and pledged to the 2008 annual appeal. This is a great way to start the church's fiscal year.

Some people have asked for reminders, so we will be sending those out about half-way through the year. In the meantime the generosity of this congregation is wonderful; keep it up! And thanks again,



IS YOUR PLEDGE UP TO DATE?

Sara Wardell

P. S. And speaking of reminders, John Arnold tells me that 43 people who pledged to last year's (2007) Every Member Canvass fell short on paying those pledges. The shortfalls range from \$10 to \$885. If you know that you are in this category, please consider adding your 2007 shortfall amount to your 2008 donation. And if you don't know whether or not you are a "shortfaller," ask John or me."

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to imagine getting a replacement for it and asking yourself, "Now where should I put this so I'll remember where it is!"

A note from the Grace Smith House in Millerton, where we send our Christmas Giving Tree gifts.

The holidays are always a difficult time for families who come to us for help. Your continued support and generosity help tremendously as they journey toward a new life. Thank you!

Sarita Green, Director

Hymns for the over-65 crowd

1. Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up
2. It Is Well with My Soul, But My Knees Hurt
3. Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing
4. Just a Slower Walk with Thee
5. Count Your Many Birthdays, Name Them One by One
6. Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up
7. Give Me the Old Timers' Religion
8. Blessed Insurance
9. Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah, I've Forgotten Where I Parked





in February

1st	Donald Brant
3rd	Adam Rashkoff
4th	Don Buckley, Eric Chin
8th	James Habacker, Bruce McEver
9th	Merrick Noyes, Hannah Ohlinger
12th	Daniel Rashkoff
13th	Ivy Currie, Jonathan Capecelatro
14th	Rod Lankler, Irene Light
15th	Laura Flores
16th	John Merwin
18th	Ashley Tedder
19th	Jack Anderson, Mary Arnold
20th	Jack Ritchie
21st	Isabella Decker
24th	William Blais, Jim Filkins, Hope Fitting
25th	Ginny Filkins
26th	Christina Rogers, Stephanie Tierney
28th	Cora Rydingsword

Special dates

- o African-American History Month
- o Boy Scout Sunday, February 3rd
- o Ash Wednesday, February 6th
- o First Sunday in Lent, February 10th
- o Valentine's Day -Thursday, February 14th
- o Presidents' Day - Monday, February 18th

In Memoriam

William Schaufele

December 7, 1923 - January 17, 2008



Yes, it's **LEAP YEAR**

Our February Calendar

Friday, the 1st: Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:15
Bible Study - 1:00

Sunday, the 3rd: Intergenerational Worship with
Communion 10:00
Board of Trustees - 11:15

Wednesday, the 6th: Ash Wednesday
Prayer Group - 10:15

Friday, the 8th: Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:15
Bible Study - 1:00

Sunday, the 10th: Worship and
Church School - 10:00
Board of Christian Action - 11:15
Confirmation class, including sponsors - 5:00

Wednesday, the 13th: Lenten supper
and program - St. Mary's - 5:30

Friday, the 15th: Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:15
Bible Study - 1:00
Potluck supper - 5:30

Sunday, the 17th:
Worship and Church School - 10:00
New members joining
Church Council - 11:15

Wednesday, the 20th: Prayer group - 10:15
Lenten supper and program - our church - 5:30

Friday, the 22nd: Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:15
Bible Study - 1:00
Confirmation class overnight
at the church begins - 5:30

Saturday, the 23rd: Confirmation class overnight
concludes at St. Mary's Church - 4:45

Sunday, the 24th:
Worship and Church School - 10:00

Monday, the 25th: Board of Deacons - 4:30

Wednesday, the 27th: Lenten supper
and program - St. John's - 6:00

Friday, the 29th: Men's Bible Breakfast - 7:15
Bible Study - 1:00

Give a heart



One way to show love is to do something nice for someone else. Luke 10:27 tells us to love our neighbors, but who are our neighbors? Everyone is!

Make these fun heart treats to share with some of your neighbors.

What you need:

- Saucepan
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 or 3 bags of miniature marshmallows
- 4 cups of crisp-rice cereal (regular or chocolate)
- 9 x 13 pan
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bag of chocolate chips (milk or white chocolate)
- Bowl
- Zipper sandwich baggie
- Scissors

What you do (with adult help):

1. Melt butter in saucepan and add marshmallows.
2. Stir until mixture becomes difficult to stir anymore. Mix in cereal and stir.
3. Butter the 9 x 13 pan and spread the mixture evenly in it. Allow to cool.
4. When cool, use cookie cutter to cut out heart-shaped treats.
5. Melt chocolate chips in a bowl in the microwave.
6. Spoon melted chocolate into a baggie. Cut off a corner and drizzle chocolate over the treats.
7. Enjoy giving a heart to your neighbor!

Just for KIDS

LOVE

In the Bible, Jesus says there are two greatest commandments. Below is a heart with continuous words around it. With your pencil, draw lines between the words. Then copy the words onto the lines below to complete Luke 10:27, NIV.

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods."

The little girl was wide-eyed, taking all this in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.