

*North Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Woodbury, Connecticut*



*April 2014 Newsletter*

## KOENIG'S

## ORNER



Greetings and Salutations to the Saints at North Congregational Church!

Well, the day is finally upon us. April 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of a new ministry in Woodbury! Some have already commented upon the date; I've been called a fool many a time...a "Fool for Christ!" I don't mind embracing that! "For God's

foolishness is wiser than human wisdom..." [1Cor.1:25]

*I hope you are as excited as I am!* What a privilege to dream together, to envision what God has in store for us in Woodbury in the coming years, to work in a new harvest field as sojourners along our path of faith. I rejoice in the work that you have been doing as Christ's disciples, and I am thankful for past leadership that has brought you through so many changes and challenges to this time. We will be building on the work of so many that have faithfully gone before us. And I have no doubt that we will experience God's continued blessings. How exciting it is to consider how God might "make all things new" right before our eyes!

My first official Sunday among you will be Palm Sunday, followed by Holy Week and Easter. What a way to begin! Celebrating Christ's entry into Jerusalem, his suffering and death, and the glorious resurrection that is the central witness of our faith...how appropriate to begin our shared ministry with that affirmation of Christ's reign! Resurrection is about rebirth, restoration, and renewal...it is about being freed from the brokenness of the past to live into the promise of the future...it is about seeing in the now God's sustaining Grace and Love!

As a church we celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter, and each time we share Communion. In fact, every Sunday is a celebration of God's resurrection power. But best of all, resurrection happens...is happening...all around us, every day! May God open our eyes to see, and rejoice!

*"Every morning is Easter Morning from now on! Every day's Resurrection Day, the past is over and gone! Goodbye fear, goodbye guilt.*

*Good riddance! Hello morn', hello sun! I  
am one of the Easter people! My new life  
has begun!" [Avery and Marsh]*

Blessings to each of you this Eastertide. I look forward with tremendous excitement to the opportunity to meet each one of you as we shape our shared ministry in Woodbury. *I'm ready to get started! I hope you are too!*

Faithfully Yours,  
Pastor Koenig



## **The Diaconate**

**by Judi Lewis**

Are you ready to begin our new journey into the future of North Church? It all begins in April! The enthusiasm is contagious. It has been a long wait, but oh so worth it.

Pastor Sandy and his wife Susan began moving into the newly renovated parsonage around the end of March.

Palm Sunday, April 13, will mark Pastor Sandy's first official Sunday. You won't want to miss Maundy Thursday's most inspirational service. The celebration of Easter, on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., is an exciting time in the life of the Christian Church, as well as North Church.

I would like to remind everyone who orders Easter flowers for the altar that they are to be taken home after the service this year. The deacons will be providing special flowers for the homebound, to be delivered with communion the week following Easter. We look forward to worshipping with all of you as we journey forward. Easter blessings to you all.

## **Bonnie's Reception...**

It was a sea of purple at Bonnie's wonderful, meaningful good-bye service, with all Bonnie's favorites. Hope you all got to attend the elegant reception made by many busy hands with yummy delights to conquer anyone's craving sweet tooth...and that cake, as beautiful as it was delicious! I wish to thank each and every one of you who helped create this memorable event.

And, I wish to apologize to all of you who contributed so generously to Bonnie's gift. Unfortunately, due to me not following through with the details, no one ceremoniously gave Bonnie the \$1200.00 check she so well deserved. The following week, Bonnie and I had lunch at her favorite restaurant where I presented the check to her. Let me say, she was more than overwhelmed, and truly grateful. I am so sorry you all were not with me to share in her delight. She is such a gracious lady and will be truly missed!

- Judi Lewis



## **Parsonage Project**

**By Pete D'Amato**

The Parsonage Project has been completed! Thanks to the entire congregation for your financial, moral, and spiritual support, and special thanks to all those who were willing and able to give their time and talent to this great project. Rev. Koenig and Susan have begun moving and getting settled in. Meanwhile the work crew will take a few weeks off to recharge our batteries in preparation for tackling the to-do list that has been growing for the rest of the church property. Once again, thank you all and congratulations to us as a congregation for achieving the goal of creating a clean, safe, and comfortable home for our minister and family to enjoy for many years to come!



## Women's Fellowship

### April Luncheon

On Thursday, April 10, the Women's Fellowship luncheon will host Joe and Carol Ferry Antiques. Free appraisals will be offered, **one item per attendee**, at no charge during the program. Joe and Carol have 50 years' experience and offer a keen eye for old treasures. They specialize in music boxes, arcade machines, art, clocks, watches, coins, paper money, crocks and jugs, dolls, toys, trains, jewelry, military, guns, knives, swords, medals, pottery, fine china, sterling flatware and more.

The luncheon begins at Noon. Please bring your own sandwich. A \$1.00 donation for coffee, tea and dessert is requested. Since seating is limited, reservations are required. Please call Marge Hubbard at 203-263-5920 if you plan to attend. ***We hope to see you there!***

### April Ladies of The Evening

#### **Flea Prep and Pizza!**



The Ladies of the Evening will meet on the 4th Tuesday, April 22, at 5:00 p.m. at North Church. Ladies will assist in unpacking, sorting, and displaying of Flea Market items. All volunteers are welcome and any amount of time given is appreciated! Pizza will be served to the workers.



### **INDOOR FLEA MARKET**

The Women's Fellowship Annual Indoor Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Do a favor for your closets, drawers, and attic—donate for this worthy cause, one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. Items can be placed in the church office or outside the office in the hall.

For details, please call Marge Hubbard at 203-263-5920.

# North Church

- 4/6            **Celebration of Worship**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**
- 4/13           **Celebration of Worship**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**Sixth Sunday in Lent**
- 4/20           **Celebration of Worship**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**Sunrise Service**    7:00 a.m.  
**Church Service**   10:00 a.m.
- 4/27           **Celebration of Worship**



## Calendar Of Holy Services

- |                 |  |            |
|-----------------|--|------------|
| <b>April 13</b> | <b>Palm Sunday</b><br><i>North Church</i>                        | 10:00 a.m. |
| <b>April 17</b> | <b>Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service</b><br><i>North Church</i>   | 7:30 p.m.  |
| <b>April 18</b> | <b>Good Friday Service</b><br><i>St. Paul's Episcopal Church</i> | 7:00 p.m.  |
| <b>April 20</b> | <b>Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service</b><br><i>Hollow Park</i>   | 7:00 a.m.  |
|                 | <b>Easter Celebration Service</b><br><i>North Church</i>         | 10:00 a.m. |

## Committee Meetings

- Diaconate Meeting**            **Thurs., 4/3**    **7:00 p.m.**  
**Women's Fellowship**        **Thurs., 4/3**    **10:00 a.m.**

## Music Rehearsals

- Chancel Choir**                **8:30 a.m.**

# April Calendar

## Other Meetings

Monday 4/7, 14, 21\* & 28:

*Dr. Westerberg (not 4/21)	12:00 p.m.
Men's Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Wdbry/Bthlm Parents Connection	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts	7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 4/1, 8, 15 & 29:

NA	7:30 p.m.
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Tuesday 4/8 & 4/22:

Women's Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Kathrine Rutledge's Home 41 Owl Ridge, Woodbury	

Thursday 4/10:

Women's Fellowship Luncheon	12:00 p.m.
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Thursday 4/24:

Knitting	10:00 a.m.
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Friday 4/4, 11 & 18:

AA	8:00 p.m.
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Saturday 4/5, 12 & 19:

Young Peoples AA	7:30 p.m.
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# Outreach Committee

by Cathy Kleros

## Loaves and Fishes

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it's the only thing that ever has."* - Margaret Mead

I always think of this quote after an Outreach meeting. We are a small group, just recently up to six on the committee, but we are mighty. We do many different charitable acts throughout the year, often with the help of our wonderful congregation. We collect toiletries, winter coats, do a toy drive, adopt a family at Christmas. All amazing. I think, though, that *Loaves and Fishes* is my personal favorite. It is a community Soup Kitchen housed in the Social Services building on the green in New Milford, just a 20 minute ride from our lovely Woodbury. Outreach plans and cooks a meal, including dessert (my personal favorite) and gets to serve it to those in need. Our own Marge Hubbard makes bagged lunches for them to take home so they have a good lunch for the next day.

The clients are served cafeteria style over a counter so they can choose what they like. They are so appreciative, knowing we cooked this meal just for them. What we do does make a difference. Without this soup kitchen and the various groups who cook its meals, those who don't have the means for a good warm meal might otherwise go hungry. This includes children, who love to come to the window with their huge smiles and get their dinner. It's a place for them to eat, socialize and get out of the cold or heat for a few hours.

So, of course, now comes the plea for volunteers to help with this *feel good* volunteer opportunity. It only takes a few hours from your night – 3:00 till 6:00. If you are unable to make a dinner component, that's ok! The help on site is just as important. We usually finish early and often carpool so it's soooo easy! We volunteer the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Sign-up sheets are on the Outreach board outside the Parlor, so please think about



helping out. We would **love** to have more members join our mighty little group. Please consider joining Outreach. You can do as little or as much as you like and is so incredibly rewarding.

Feel free to ask any member of Outreach about this or any other volunteering opportunity or to join Outreach. We're happy to talk about what we do.

Outreach Committee:

Cathy McMullin  
Linda Liedel

Marge Hubbard  
Peg Tester

Cindi Hughes  
Cathy Kleros



**Lunches for our "OWNFRONT"**

**Think Spring!** Lunches to our "Ownfront" workers of North Church will be provided by your Outreach Committee throughout the spring months. This can only happen with the generous \$5.00 donations by you! Please help. Leave your donation in the OUTREACH MAILBOX or hand it to one of the committee members. Thank you.



**Music Notes**

**By John Wick**

The hosannas of Palm Sunday, the lamentation of Maundy Thursday, the hallelujahs of Easter. The emotional impact of these expressions are all the more powerful through music, and some of the most glorious sacred music has been written for this, the holiest time of the year for Christians. The hymns are more exalted with a full sanctuary, a full choir loft, and a trumpet.

Those who join us in worship during Holy Week WILL note the addition of two singers in the cancel choir. They bring a love and a knowledge of church music to our congregation that I'm confident will resonate in our music program for some years to come.



## Sunday School

by Lorna Eckman

### "WHERE THERE IS GREAT LOVE, THERE ARE ALWAYS MIRACLES."

We are coming into the season of the greatest miracle, when Jesus rose from the dead and told us of the great love God has for all of us. The workshop rotation group will study the meaning of Lent and its leading to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The lesson will include a craft, and a kitchen workshop to make Resurrection Cookies.

The K-2 class will learn about Zacchaeus and why he was up a tree. On the second Sunday in April, they will hear about a special dinner Jesus had with his disciples and then the story of "The Long Sermon" given by Paul, who became a teacher of God's word. All lessons will be followed by a craft.

Pre-K class will read the story "Planting Seeds" and will plant some flowers. They will learn about love in the story "Dear God, Thanks for Thinking Up Love." The last lesson in April will be "God Made You Special," and they will find out that each of them is special in their own way. All lessons will include a craft.

On Palm Sunday, all of the children will meet in Fellowship Hall for our annual pretzel making and coloring of eggs. This is always a fun time and we hope to see all of you there. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday. *Happy Easter and God Bless!*

**LaBonne's**  
MARKETS

### SAVE YOUR RECEIPTS!

Just a reminder to please save your La Bonne's receipts, as we receive 1/2 of 1% of all the subtotals on these receipts. We can receive as much as the receipts total and last year we made about \$300.

There is a basket on the table above the Food Bank donations at the Washington Rd. entrance to the church. Please leave your receipts there at any time.

## ***A Note From Bonnie...***

To Everyone at North Church,

Thank you for all that you did to make my final Sunday so memorable. It was a joyful surprise to walk into a church filled with purple, including one of you who bought a purple shirt and tie just for the occasion.

The abundance of food and flowers filled the parlor and in the center of it all was very likely the best chocolate cake on the planet! Your generous check and individual gift cards will provide some treats that we will truly enjoy and when the occasion calls for it, I will even have some bling. My prayers remain with you for exciting new adventures in faith.

With affection and blessings,  
*Bonnie*



Dear Friends,

I had a really good time with all of you at North Church and I especially loved seeing my portrait in the parlor at the reception. I have never before felt so distinguished. And of course I always love new jars of honey. Thank you.

Love,  
*Norton*

### **Parish Administrator: Kathie Logan**

Office Hours: Mon./Tues. 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Thurs./Fri. 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Phone: (203) 263-2410 Fax: (203) 263-2488

**Email: [nchurchct@snet.net](mailto:nchurchct@snet.net)**

**Website: [www.northchurchwoodbury.org](http://www.northchurchwoodbury.org)**

Newsletter submissions can be put in the Parish Administrator slot or emailed to the Church Office

**by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

North Congregational Church  
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Return Service Requested

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