

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



*June 2014 Newsletter*

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I'm not quite sure what to make of this, but I just discovered that the word Abracadabra is actually thought to have its origin in the Aramaic language. The word's earliest known appearance is in a Roman medical text from the 2<sup>nd</sup> century; evidently many would try to ward off disease by inscribing abracadabra on amulets to wear. According to Wikipedia, the

Aramaic "ibra k'dibra" translates as "I have created through my speech," or "created as I say." I now see why magicians would use the word in their acts of illusion!

The power to "speak" something into being reminds me immediately of Genesis: God speaks and the universe is created. But in our 21<sup>st</sup> century world, I think we have forgotten just how powerful words can be. I'm not sure I believe anymore in the saying "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words can never hurt me." We are awash in words, especially the trivial, the mundane, the ordinary. But that makes us susceptible to overlooking the power that words can have over us. Particularly in the current political climate, I see all around us the words meant to manipulate or cause fear, the words that spin and twist, the narratives that seek ascendancy and power. I'd like to think I'm smart enough to see through agenda driven and biased argument, but I also know that we all sometimes fall prey to our fundamental biases and preconceptions. It's easier to hear what we wish to hear, to have our perspectives reinforced and confirmed by others instead of honestly engaging in the marketplace of ideas.

I have no solution to offer for this, other than to read, listen, learn, explore, question and evaluate what others would have us believe. But as Christians, I think it is crucial for us to remember and reclaim the power that words have...to know that we can "speak" hate, division, fear, but more importantly **LOVE** into being. Let's be intentional about *that!* Abracadabra!

Happy June!  
Pastor Koenig



# The Diaconate

by Judi Lewis & Pat Gage

Our Confirmation Class is to graduate on June 1, when they officially become members of North Church. Two other distinguished people will be joining the church along with them, Sandy and Susan Koenig! A reception in their honor will be held in the parlor directly after the service. All are encouraged to attend and welcome them into our family of faith.

At the last meeting of the Diaconate, we said "Good Bye" to Gordon Eckman as he finished his term as deacon. We will miss his humor, great smile, and his inability to say "no!". Gordon always made himself available to do whatever was needed to get the job done. We will not let him forget, however, that "Once a deacon, always a deacon!" We welcomed Mark Michener as our new deacon who is ready for the job at hand.

Just want to remind you all that we will again be sharing pulpits with First Congregational Church. During the month of July we will be worshiping at North Church, and for the month of August we will be worshiping at First Church. The schedule is as follows:

July 6	North Church	Guest/lay Preacher
July 13	North Church	Guest /lay Preacher
July 20	North Church	Rev. Koenig
July 27	North Church	Rev. Koenig
August 3	First Church	Rev. Koenig
August 10	First Church	Rev. Barrett
August 17	First Church	Rev. Barrett
August 24	First Church	Rev. Barrett
August 31	First Church	Rev. Barrett

We wish you all a wonderful summer and hope to see you worshiping with our sister church. Blessings to all for a safe and carefree summer.





# Moderator's Message

by Dave Sonnemann

## Some thoughts from your new Church Moderator

Easter has passed, spring has arrived (finally!), and there is a new "spring" in our step as we move forward in our tripartite missions of fellowship, outreach, and worship. Reverend Sandy has begun his ministry focusing on these missions. Fellowship is growing as more of us stay longer at coffee hour and Bible study expands; worship and associated music bring spiritual enthusiasm and expansion; and outreach grows as we support mission in our community and beyond. The ongoing support of the congregation matters as we seek to live out our calling as disciples with our time, talent and treasure.

Summer brings a more relaxed atmosphere to our lives, and sometimes the season brings opportunities for travel. Wherever you are, I hope you will make time for worship. But North Church needs you during the summer too, whether you are at home in Woodbury, or elsewhere! We hope you will plan your continued financial stewardship to help the church outreach programs and operations to continue. As vacation time approaches and summer plans include out-of-town travel, please consider maintaining, or pre-paying, your regular contributions so that North Church can remain active and strong throughout the summer, poised for an exciting fall!

The Season of Joyful Giving is all year long! So don't forget to include the church in your summer plans when you are here... AND when you are not!

*"... Give and [God gives] back to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:38*





## Women's Fellowship

### *Ladies of The Evening*

The Ladies of the Evening will be hosting a Bake Sale on Sunday, June 1, after worship. All proceeds will benefit the "Parlor Fund." Funds are needed to complete the cost of the window treatments.



Please stop by after worship to select a delicious, homemade goody. Thanks in advance for your support!



The Ladies of the Evening will be hosting "A Royal Baby Shower," to benefit Carolyn's Place Pregnancy Care Center located in Waterbury. Please join us at the home of Beverly Carlone, 618 Upper Grassy Hill Road, Woodbury on Tuesday, June 17, at 6:00 p.m. Please bring new baby items to the Royal Shower, wrapped or unwrapped. Listed below are ideas of the needs of Carolyn's Place.

A delightful array of tea sandwiches, salads, and delicious pastry desserts will be served. All North Church family members and friends are invited to attend to join in this mission project.

For those unable to attend, please place new, unused baby items in the basket located across from the Parlor. Thank you in advance for joining us in this mission project!

#### Carolyn's Place Wish List:

New Clothing up to size 2T • Receiving Blankets, Quilts & Afghans • Baby Wash, Shampoo & Lotion • Diaper Bags • Diapers (preemie to size 6) • Crib Sheets • Baby Food & Baby Formula • Rattles • Pacifiers • New Toys (infant to 2 years) • New Stuffed Animals • Maternity Clothes



# June Calendar

## Other Meetings

<b>Monday 6/2, 9, 16, 23 &amp; 30:</b>	
Men's Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Wdbry/Bthlm Parents Connection	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts	7:30 p.m.
<b>Monday 6/2:</b>	
Dr. Westerberg	12:00 p.m.
<b>Tuesday 6/3, 10, 17 &amp; 24:</b>	
NA	7:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday 6/10 &amp; 6/24:</b>	
Women's Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Kathrine Rutledge's Home	
41 Owl Ridge, Woodbury	
<b>Tuesday 6/24</b>	
Woodbury Hill Condo	7:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday 6/12 &amp; 6/26:</b>	
Knitting	10:00 a.m.
<b>Friday 6/6, 13, 20 &amp; 27:</b>	
AA	8:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday 6/7, 14, 21 &amp; 28:</b>	
Young Peoples AA	7:30 p.m.





# Outreach Committee

by Cindi Hughes

The **Woodbury Food Bank** is currently offering aid to about 130 families in our area. So as you can see, the need is great and always increasing. The following is but a small portion of priority items currently needed; however, any donation will be greatly appreciated. Furry, 4-legged family members are also in need.



pasta sauce • coffee & tea • canned tomatoes  
paper products • rice & pasta mixes • juice & juice  
boxes • toothpaste • boxed & canned potatoes  
ketchup & mayo • dish detergent • peanut butter  
cooking oil • laundry detergent • salad dressings  
canned chili • tuna • deodorant • canned chicken  
canned fruits • bar soaps • mini ravioli • soups  
brownie & cake mixes • olives • dog & cat food

As part of the Community Services Council's annual "Plant a Row" program, the Food Bank will begin receiving fresh produce donations June 26. So for those of you with green thumbs and gardens, please consider donating some of your wonderful fresh produce. You may drop your bounty at the Food Bank on Thursdays or Fridays between the hours of 9:00a.m. – 10:30a.m. Dry good donations may be left at the church in the Food Bank donation basket located by the Washington Road entrance.

If you need any assistance in getting your donations to the Food Bank, please call Cindi Hughes at 203-263-0055.

Thank you for your generosity in helping those in our community.





# North Congregational Church is turning 200!

## Join Us For Our First Bicentennial Planning Meeting

Please join us on Thursday, June 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room for our first planning meeting. If you are interested in the history of North Church and would like to actively help in the planning of the celebration and festivities of our 200th birthday in 2016, then we welcome you!

Cathy McMullin  
Suzanne Jenny

David Strong  
Allison Gabrielson

Hal Wylie  
Jamie Monckton



## ATTENTION SCHOLARS!

As we do each year, we are pleased to announce that Women's Fellowship will be accepting applications for our scholarship assistance program. Those eligible include North Church upper-class college students and newly graduated high school students. Upper-class students may apply each ensuing year and will be considered along with the new applicants.

We have budgeted \$1,000.00 for this cause. It may be distributed in total to one individual or shared among several. The applications are located in the scholarship mail slot across from the church office. The deadline for submission is July 31, and the recipient(s) will be selected at the September board meeting.

Members and friends of North Church are welcome to add to this amount- a very worthy cause when higher education costs are soaring.

*- Judy Sonnemann,  
President, Women's Fellowship*



## Sunday School

by Lorna Eckman

***"TODAY I PRAYED FOR ANGELS TO GUARD YOU NIGHT AND DAY; I PRAYED THAT THEY WOULD HOVER NEAR AND KEEP ALL HARM AWAY. SO WHEN YOUR DAY IS BLESSED OR EVEN WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH, BE ASSURED THAT HE HEARD MY PRAYER FOR YOU AND LOVES YOU VERY MUCH."***

I cannot believe that it is June already and that we will be saying goodbye for the summer. Time just seems to fly by. I hope that you all have a very happy and safe summer and that we will see you again in the fall.

Celebration Sunday will be on the 15th of June this year, and Pastor Sandy and I hope that you will be there to participate in the service. We will be talking with all of you and let you know what we would like you to do, so please come to class the next few Sundays to see what we have planned. There will be cake and ice cream in the parlor following the service. Hope to see everyone there. God Bless.

### Nursery care needed

We would like to have our adorable and very inviting nursery staffed on Sunday mornings by the good people of North Church. A brand new book for volunteer sign-up is located on the table just outside the sanctuary, along with the flower and hospitality sign-up books. So you won't feel like you are missing out on the service, did you know that there are speakers in the nursery for your listening pleasure? Most importantly, we'll be there for those who need us! Thank you!





## Lunches for our "OWNFRONT"

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 OUT-REACH MAILBOX or hand it to one of the committee members. Thank you.



## 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.

### **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.**