



The Bridge

October 2018

United Church of Christ in Cornwall, Congregational

STAFF:

Minister Micki Nunn-Miller	Director of Music Olga Radovic	Dir. of Faith Formation Tracy Gray	Church Secretary Tracy Gray	Church Sexton Donna Bielefield
--------------------------------------	--	--	---------------------------------------	--

PASTOR'S WORD

At the end of September I had the opportunity to attend the 310th Annual Meeting of UCC (and previously Congregational) ministers in the state of CT. We talked about the need for innovation and entrepreneurial leadership for the church in these changing times. Change has come to our culture and to the church as an institution in our culture whether we were ready or not. How will the UCC (nationally) respond? More importantly, how will we as the UCC in Cornwall respond as we navigate these changes? Our meeting involved creative play, excellent worship and music, and a keynote address from the president of Auburn Seminary, a 200 year old institution that has had to use creative innovation to survive into the 21st century.

One of the exercises we all did consisted of photos (all different) given face-down to each person present. First we observed and reflected on our photos by ourselves. Then we grouped together to talk about how our particular photo effected each of us and also how we imagine the image intersected with innovation and change in the church. The majority of us felt “our” photo was chosen for us – though they were handed out randomly!

The game helped us to recognize within us and within our churches the barriers to responding to the changes around us. Moving into God’s future for us will undoubtedly require risk, experimentation, and innovation, but all based on a foundational understanding of who we are as a community of faith and who God is calling us to be.

These are challenging times for every “traditional” church, but our world still needs the Gospel. People still have deep hunger for meaning and a sense of belonging. God still requires justice and mercy. Where those two needs intersect is where our mission should be.

As always, I give thanks to God for all of you and the gifts you bring to our mission and ministries.

Blessings,

Micki

Worldwide Communion Sunday is **October 7**. We will celebrate Communion with Christians all over the world and share breads from the occupied world continents. **WE WILL ALSO RECEIVE THE NEIGHBORS-IN-NEED OFFERING** on this day, which goes to support work on justice issues in the US and to support Native American Ministries through the UCC. Our work to support those in need continues as we all gather and work *together as one* during worship to make hygiene kits for Church World Service that same Sunday.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER



The Faith Formation Committee (formerly CE) and the Church School are planning our 3rd Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Harvest Sunday (Nov. 18) after worship. The goal is to encourage attendance from community who have no one in the community with whom to celebrate on Thanksgiving Day. Church folk are also invited. We people to contribute their favorite dishes – mashed potatoes, casseroles, salads, veggies. The Faith Formation Committee and Church School will provide turkey, stuffing and gravy.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the Day Room in October. Or contact Tracy if you have questions or want to volunteer!

IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Congratulations to the following children and young people who celebrate a birthday in October:

October 6	Theo Webb	October 23	Charlie Folds & Carl Hurlburt Fossati
October 9	Sonja Kirschner	October 27	Jacob Hurlburt
October 19	Henry Berry		

GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS! GOOD NEWS!

- The end-of-summer church picnic was enjoyed by hearty folks who kept warm under blankets and around a fire in windy, cold weather. The food and company were wonderful. Thanks be to God!
- There was an exciting start to the Church School year, as we blessed children and teachers beginning their learning and their mission. On opening day the children voted 5 specific mission projects to work on this year. Thanks be to God!
- We held the 3rd Blood Drive of the year at the Parish House, thanks to the organization of the Blakeys and the gifts of food and hospitality and registration given by several more folks. Many pints of blood were donated. Our drives offer an opportunity for others to support mission. Thanks be to God!
- The 35th annual CROP Walk in NW CT was held at the end of September, raising over \$38,000 for hunger, water, and hygiene programs and for local hunger needs. We had 5 walkers and contributed money to the cause. Thanks be to God!

LET'S HEAR IT FOR ELBOW GREASE!

BRAVO!! for scrubbing, weeding, washing, painting, organizing, sorting, discarding, and sweeping !! The House Committee and Trustees extend great thanks to the eight stellar folks who took on a task (or five!) from the Summer Jobs List. Approximately 17 hours of work were accomplished, with more to come this fall in the yard and gardens. Those 17 work hours helped greatly in the effort (and we do mean effort!) to keep our church welcoming, safe, clean and attractive. Thank you, stalwart workers!

CHURCH COUNCIL ACTIVATED FUND

The Disaster Matching Fund was established following a gift given by the estate of Judy Gates. When activated by the Council, gifts given in response to a disaster someone in the world can be matched by this fund, doubling our offering of help. In the wake of hurricane That has devastated parts of North Carolina and more, the Council felt it was appropriate to activate the fund. Please give as you are able and your doubled gifts will go to the UCC Emergency Fund, where 100% of the money is used for the purpose given. Please make checks payable to the church and put "hurricane" in the memo. Thanks for your gifts!

NEIGBORS IN NEED SPECIAL OFFERING

NIN, a special mission offering of the national UCC supports justice and witness ministries in the US. Two-thirds of the offering is used to support various justice initiatives and some direct service projects. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council on American Indian Ministries (CAIM) – the voice of the American Indian people in the UCC. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis. The offering will be received on **Oct. 7**, Worldwide Communion Sunday. Please give as you are able in the following 2 weeks.

GIFTS AND GIFT BOXES NEEDED

The Christmas Fair is just around the corner and the *Children's Shopping Room* was almost depleted last year. We are in need of gift items for the children to purchase for family and friends. Especially needed are children's gifts and gifts for dads. Also needed are gift boxes of all sizes and shapes (for jewelry, tie, scarves, vases, etc.). Please bring you donations to the church office anytime! Many thanks!

NEW ART SHOW IN PARISH HOUSE:

“Mindful of Cornwall”

By Susan Hellmann



On Sunday, October 21st, an exhibit of Susan Hellmann’s paintings and fiber arts will open in the Parish House! All are invited to celebrate Susan’s work at the Opening on the 21st at 11:00, and to bring friends! The show will continue until November 25th.

The exhibit is a collection of Susan’s paintings and textile pieces which were inspired by her childhood memories of Cornwall’s woodlands, wild life, and architecture — and of Cream Hill Lake, where she visited her Aunt Mabel’s cottage in the summertimes. She says that her visits there were “treasured times in my childhood that settled deeply in my soul. Before I learned how to draw, I began etching the Cornwall landscape in my mind.... Our world has enough hardness, but Cornwall has a natural softness that is embracing and offers refuge and a place for spiritual mindfulness that draws folks here. I understand why my great grandfathers stayed and settled here in 1762.”

Susan’s interest in art, design, and fabrication began at a young age as she grew up in a home where there was “always some creative activity in the mix.” She earned a BS degree in Occupational Therapy at Boston University in 1997 after majoring in psychology at Cape Cod Community College. She has taken many courses and classes in design, painting, art, fashion design, pattern drafting, drawing and Computer Aided Design. For most of her career as an Occupational Therapist, she specialized in the field of mental health and practiced at Cape Cod Behavioral Healthcare in Hyannis, MA. She used art as a tool to teach clients ways to manage their symptoms and tolerate distress, to change mood and experience a sense of accomplishment.

Prior to obtaining her OT degree, Susan designed and built a tree house that was published in [Tree Houses You Can Build](#) by David and Jeanne Stiles. Other creative entrepreneur ventures include Cape Cod Cookies, a wholesale cookie business, and a tailor shop where she designed award-winning clothing and costumes.

Susan recently bought a house in West Cornwall. She is the mother of three adult children, five grandchildren, and Skye, her rescue dog.

The exhibit may be viewed Monday thru Friday 9 a.m - 1 p.m., Sundays 10 a.m. - noon, and by appointment with the artist (shellmannart@gmail.com).

—from the House Committee

From the Mail Bag (excerpts from...)

Dear Friends: The Cornwall Food and Fuel fund acknowledges your generous donation in the amount of \$220.

“Thanks you so much for your support of this necessary work.” *Sincerely, Gordon Ridgway, 1st Selectman*

Dear Barbara: You may not feel like it, but you are a hero to abused, abandoned and neglected dogs and cats and to the adoptive families whose households these animals will ultimately enrich. Your donation of \$220 will change lives. It will help us pay for routine and preventive medical care, put expensive medicines and surgeries within reach and will help us maintain our outstanding staff, who lavish our furry residents with the love and care they need to become for their new families. Thank you from all of us!

Sincerely, *John Guenther, President, Little Guild*, “UCC has been amazing to us. Thank you, everybody!”

Dear Rev. Nunn-Miller: Thank you very much for the gift of \$220 from SMOC at UCC. We really appreciate the gifts you have given to the Susan B. Anthony Project over the past two years. These gifts not only support direct crisis services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, they are also very important to the prevention of this violence through our community education and outreach programs in schools and throughout the professional community. Sincerely, *Jeanne S. Fusco, Executive Director*, “Sincere thanks to the congregation for their support of victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence, J.”

Dear Friends at the UCC in Cornwall: I want to thank you for your donation in the amount of \$220 to MCCA. Please be assured that your donation goes towards services that provide help and instill hope for individuals, families and organizations working to overcome and prevent addictions. We greatly appreciate your contributions. Sincerely, John D'Eramo, Pres., CEO, MCCA

Dear Rev. Nunn-Miller: With your \$220 donation, IRIS is welcoming families who have fled unspeakable horrors who are hoping to find a safe place. Your generosity sustains them – meeting their basic needs, providing English classes, employment assistance and access to health care. Thank you Rev. Micki! And thanks to the entire congregation! Is it time for me to make another visit? Chris George, Ex. Dir., IRIS

Special News and thanks from Anne Chamberlain:

Dear Friends,

I am quite settled in my lovely new home here in Jamaica Plain (known as “JP”!) When I saw this space in May 2017 I knew it was plenty of room for me and I also noticed, since our house is built into a hill, that there was not a lot of daylight - especially in the back room. Well! I was amazed and delighted when I saw it this time - as I moved in! - with the wonderful work that my daughter Bonnie and her husband John have done, it is a very beautiful space. Bonnie consulted with our good friend Gwen Demombynes who has had a lighting business in Seattle, WA for years. With her expert advice there is track lighting in both the piano room as well as in the back room. Gorgeous! - and economical with LED lights. My piano, as many of you know, was moved a couple of days before Bonnie and John helped me move other items - the piano looks beautiful and also sounds great! - in its new home. I had no way to know what the acoustics would be here compared to my Cornwall home. So I was very pleased!! :) John redid the floor which is a bamboo kind of material and in the back room a stunning stone slate! Even the bathroom (also slate floor) seems luxurious!! I am comfortable and happy here!

I do not have overnight guest facilities, but do hope when you are in Boston you will let me know ahead of time and stop in - for tea, maybe mint tea from the TALL mint that grows in front of my glass front door. Also right in front are TALL (5' plus!) tomato plants. And I've been eating the delicious collard greens that grow in abundance in this little corner plot. Peach and apple trees will be providing too.

I have a wonderful time in the morning - usually drinking my morning tea out the front door on the stone “patio” for a little while - and then coming indoors for piano/music study and joy!

I've had a very good time starting to explore Boston - magnificent museums, Arboretum (next Monday I think!) and finding farm markets (miss Gordon's!)

-and other good sources of groceries. I have a senior card for the T (transit system) which is very good! And have tickets for the HD Live from Met Opera performances starting in October. Bonnie and 9 other close relatives gave me - for my birthday in Feb - a large variety of “welcome to Boston” items - vouchers for membership to the MFA (Mass Fine Arts Museum) as well as for tickets to ballet and BSO (Boston Symphony) concerts which I'll use as soon as single tickets go on sale.

With all these projects I walk a lot! - which is something I love and have done in a number of foreign cities! It's very easy to do that in English!! When we walk we see much more—including when we get slightly lost, as I did yesterday in Cambridge after feasting on what was always called the Fogg Museum, but now is part of THREE museums called the Harvard Museums. They were closed for 2 years during renovation but opened in time for me to feast!

Of course I miss you all and will love staying in touch!

Love and warm wishes to each, *Anne*



Anne's new digs!

Reminder to committees – 2019 Budget requests are due by Oct. 3 to the Trustees.

Church Council Meeting Minutes September 16, 2018

Present: Micki Nunn-Miller; MaryAnn Poinelli; Mary Ann Packard; Tracy Gray; Karen Stevens; Diane Beebe; Barbara Gold; Paul DeAngelis

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by moderator MaryAnn Poinelli at 11:55 am.

Opening Prayer: Micki offered the opening prayer.

Action on Minutes of June 14, 2018: Accepted as written.

Pastor's Report: Micki reported that a number of memorial services were held over the summer and some are scheduled in the fall as well. Not all services were for people connected to the congregation demonstrating that the meeting house is used by the community as a gathering place for important events. Beyond noting this, Micki indicated she had been tending out on her usual ministerial duties.

Treasurer's Report: Barb reported that the next year's budget must be ready to be presented to the congregation by December 1st. The Trustees must approve it by November 1st. Therefore, we need all committees' budget requests by October 4th. She also reported:

- Currently we are in the black. While we are slightly behind in our pledges, we usually get extra money in November and December.
- All is working well with the renter in the parsonage.
- Bookkeeper Christine is doing an excellent job for the church and is a great support to the treasurer.

Director of Faith Formation: Tracy reported

- Church School started today with 10 children registered.
- She has spent time writing curricula for the year including field trips such as going to the river to discuss the baptism of Jesus and lining up a visit to a vineyard.
- The new space upstairs is evolving.
- There is no confirmation class this year because only two students are eligible. Next year, there will be 4.
- Plans for continuing education opportunities for fall and winter are being formulated.
- The youth held their own "congregational meeting" where they discussed heroes. They focused on the theme of "Love your Neighbor" and made plans in support of the theme. They also reviewed the last five years of projects where the youth were helping others which will be shared with the congregation.

The council gave thanks to Tracy for the passion, creativity and love she has brought to her 20 years of service as DFF (formerly known as DCE).

Committees

Trustees: Paul reported

- Some projects are being postponed until a new fiscal year as the budget for this year has been spent (specifically the parish house front entrance steps and roof and the carpet just inside the door).
- The tenant in the parsonage is working out well.
- Looking into the wetness in the Day Room and will check to see if the drain is clogged.

After discussion about the potholes in the church driveway, Paul indicated he would take our concerns to the next Trustees meeting.

Deacons: Mary Ann Packard reported that cards have been sent to shut-ins and those in need of support and encouragement.

Faith Formation: Diane reported

- The church picnic was a success; the cold weather allowed the group to gather around a bonfire.
- Some people have expressed interest in a church camping trip.

- The Christian Education committee has renamed itself Faith Formation, following the lead of the national church for a more inclusive title.
- The fundraising dinner traditionally held in the fall will be held March 30th instead. The theme will be “South of the Border”.

Music: Jane and Micki reported on our new Minister of Music, Olga Radovic

- She will begin her duties October 1st.
- She is from Serbia, studying Piano Performance at UCONN.
- She has minimal church experience so the congregation will be in the role of mentoring her to begin with.
- There will be press releases drafted.

Thanks was given to the committee for all of their work.

Fellowship: There is currently no chair but they are working well together

- Thanks to Peg Keskinen, who is not a committee member, for drafting and sending out the schedule
- Thanks to all who step up and do the fellowship hour.

Nominating: This committee is in need of two more members; Also, we still need another Council member-at-large. Email suggestions to moderator Mary Ann.

SMOC: Karen reported

- Planning for the Christmas Fair will get underway at their meeting next week.
- The upstairs of the Parish House will not be open to vendors, but all of the church building will be.
- The fair will be December 1st.
- With proceeds from last fair, SMOC was able to support several worthy organizations and provide two scholarships to Silver Lake.

Mary Ann emphasized that many are willing to help so keep us posted how we may be most helpful.

Old Business:

Faith Popcorn Trends. A list of 17 trends was previously distributed to council for discussion at future meetings. There was a discussion about how to free up enough time in our meetings to have meaningful discussion about the trends. It was decided that committee will submit summaries of their activities to the moderator who will distribute them. Time will be given to reports only if there are questions. Micki will email the trends again for discussion in November.

Medical Equipment Loan Program. Debbie Labbe is doing an excellent job as coordinator. We have funding for the coordinator through August. We will continue to pursue grants. With the program being separated out from the regular church budget, we need to ensure that any funds the program generates are credited to the program and not the church operating budget. There may be a need to do further fundraising in the future. The annual budget for the program is \$18,000.

Pine Ridge Report. 10 people went to Pine Ridge. All went well. A full presentation will be given after church sometime in November.

New Business:

None.

The next meeting will be Sunday, October 28th at 11:45 am

The meeting closed at 1:00 pm with the Church School Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,



D. Elizabeth Mauro, Clerk

October 2018

United Church of Christ in Cornwall, Congregational 860-672-6840 office@uccincornwall.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Food Pantry open, 5:15 -6:15</i> Mat Squad, 6:30 – 8:30, UR	2 Christian Ed. com. meets, 6:30, office <i>WSS Vigil, 6:00, Cornwall Town Green</i>	3 Tai chi 5:30-6:00 Qigong, 6:00 – 7:00 DR Stitch “n” Spin 7:15, UR	4 Trustees, 7:30, DR Woman’s Society, 9:00 – 12:00, PH <i>Food Pantry open, 9:00 – 10:00</i>	5	6 Cornwall Assoc., 9:00, DR B. Farnsworth Memorial Service, 11:00
7 10:00 Worship: Making Hygiene Kits in worship & Neighbors in Need Offering	8 Blood Pressure Clinic, noon, DR <i>Food Pantry open, 5:15 -6:15</i> Mat Squad, 6:30 – 8:30, UR	9 Senior luncheon, noon, PH	10 Tai chi 5:30-6:00 Qigong, 6:00 – 7:00 DR Stitch “n” Spin 7:15, UR	11 <i>Food Pantry open, 9:00 – 10:00</i>	12	13
14 10:00 Worship and Church School fieldtrip	15 <i>Food Pantry open, 5:15 -6:15</i> Mat Squad, 6:30 – 8:30, UR	16	17 Tai chi 5:30-6:00 Qigong, 6:00 – 7:00 DR Stitch “n” Spin 7:15, UR	18 <i>Food Pantry open, 9:00 – 10:00</i>	19	20
21 10:00 Worship and Church School 11:30 Art Opening, “Mindful of Cornwall” by Susan Hellmann	22 <i>Food Pantry open, 5:15 -6:15</i> Mat Squad, 6:30 – 8:30, UR	23 Senior Coffee Clutch, 9:00 – 11:00, PH	24 House Com., 10:00, UR Tai chi 5:30-6:00 Qigong, 6:00 – 7:00 DR Stitch “n” Spin 7:15, UR	25 <i>Food Pantry open, 9:00 – 10:00</i>	26	27 Anne Baren’s Memorial Service, 2:00
28 10:00 Worship and Church School 11:30 Church Council	29 <i>Food Pantry open, 5:15 -6:15</i> Mat Squad, 6:30 – 8:30, UR	30	31			

PH = Parish House

DR = Day Room

UR = Upper Room

Lib. = Church Library

**United Church of Christ in Cornwall,
Congregational**

8 Bolton Hill Road
PO Box 35
Cornwall, CT 06753

Phone: 860-672-6840

Email: office@uccincornwall.org

Web: www.uccincornwall.org

Morning Worship: 10:00

Church School: 10:00 (Sept. – June)

Office Hours: M – F, 9 – 1

God is Still Speaking!

We are an Open and Affirming Church.

All are welcome here!



October is Domestic Violence Awareness

*Join Women's Support Services
and take a stand against violence*

Annual Community Vi



Tuesday, October 2nd, 2018 at 6:00

Cornwall Town Green

16 Pine Street, West Cornwall, CT 06796