

# THE TIE that binds

March 2019



## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

## Pastor's Page



### Bread and Broth Series Returns for Lent

We gather on Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm throughout the season of Lent to share a simple supper of soup and bread, and informal conversation around the tables. The series runs for five weeks, March 13<sup>th</sup> through April 10<sup>th</sup>. This year will include a DVD series, “Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple.” See sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Lounge if you plan to attend. We are looking for soup makers and bread providers each week. All are welcome!

### Receiving New Members

We welcome our newest members...

***Bob and Jane Startz***

***Drew and Londa Wesche***

This month we extend the Right Hand of Fellowship and joyfully celebrate their presence among us!

### Pastor's Vacation

Pastor Claudine will be away

Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> through Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

If there is an emergency or pastoral need during this time, please call Barbara Brant in the church office, or Moderator Catherine Hiller, 860-464-7497.

The Rev. Tim Chesser will be our guest preacher on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Books We Have Recently Shared

*“When God Made You” by Matthew Paul Turner*

*“Children of God: Storybook Bible”  
by Archbishop Desmond Tutu*

## *Youth Fusion News*

Changing it up!

To better serve you we are going to try out a new structure to give our age groups so more comfortability with their peers. Our monthly youth meeting will now be separated into high school and middle school groups, giving everyone a chance to be with their respective peer groups. Hope it will encourage you to come and join us more often!

### Youth Meetings NEW SCHEDULE

#### High School Meetings

March 17th - Union Baptist Church

April 7th - Noank Baptist Church

May 12th - Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

#### Middle School Meetings

March 31st - Union Baptist Church

April 28th - Noank Baptist Church

May 26th - Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

### **Mystic Irish Parade**

Sunday, March 24, 2019 12 noon—3 pm



We will be marching in the Mystic Irish Parade again with UBC. Join us for an afternoon spreading holiday cheer and letting the community know about our group! Meet at UBC at noon to carpool over to the parking lot.

### **Super Charged Trampoline Park**

Friday, April 5th—4-6 pm Cost TBD

Let's bounce around!

We will spend an hour at the trampoline park at Super Charged.

GoKart racing optional for those old enough.

More details to be announced.





## **MARCH MINISTERS**

**Communion:** Prepare: Dave and Carol Rowley

Serve : Peg Straub & Carol Rowley  
Barbara Brant  
Candy Zeppieri

Assist Pastor: Rick Tourjee

**Lay Leader:**

03 – Patti Tootell  
10– Marilyn Rodearmel  
17 - Catherine Hiller  
24 - Holly Boyle  
31 - Cathy Greenfield

## **APRIL MINISTERS**

**Communion:** Prepare: Bob & Carolyn Land

Serve: Bob & Carolyn Land  
Jonathan Liu  
Li Ling Liu

Assist Pastor: Jon Hiller

**Lay Leader**

07– Dave Rowley  
14 - Pete Wong  
21 - Becky Freeman  
28 - Rick Tourjee





## **MARCH**

02 – Burt Crooks  
07 – Josh Chomicz  
10 - Mela Magno  
11 – Claudine Crooks  
13 – Jennifer Kent  
13 – Carla Berry  
15 – Daniel Morton  
15 – Peg Ackley  
15 – Meghan Berry  
15 – Gianni Pezzolesi  
18 – Matthew Johnson  
18 – Cassie Johnson  
18 – Robert Johnson  
21 – Cheryl Piscitello  
25 – Heidi Butler  
26 – Janice Watrous  
29 – Portia Freeman  
29 – Carol Case  
31 – Aida Amuan

## **APRIL**

01 - Irving Hiller  
05- Jonathan Liu  
08 – Anita Nelson  
10- Mark Mundell  
10 – Reese Friedman  
16 – Liz Rousseau  
17 – Stephen Morton  
21 – Nancy Spalluto  
21 – Wilfred Vars  
26 – Becky Freeman



## PBBC Council Minutes

March 5, 2019

Our moderator, Catherine Hiller, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Our first order of business was to welcome our new council members! Catherine also expressed her thanks to all who are remaining on the council but changing positions. Dianne lead us in devotions.

Catherine requested that Heidi not read the minutes of the January meeting, because we had the Annual Meeting and a brief hiatus since the last meeting.

Catherine wanted to repeat her thanks for the annual report and all those who worked hard on submitting their sections. She also expressed a request for next year's report: traditionally, we have included in the clerk's report synopsis the names of deceased members of that year, new members, and the total membership of the church.

### **Communications:** Nothing to report

Auditor's Recommendation (skipping because Mei Ling had to leave)

The auditor recommended that there be an earlier deadline for council members to submit their yearly reports so that the audit can be done in the proper amount of time, that the Annual Meeting be moved later, or that there be a separate audit report after the Annual Meeting.. The concern of the council was that doing so might move the meeting too close to the beginning of Lent. It was noted that there is no particular reason why the audit report can't go to the council after the annual meeting.

Brian made a motion that the annual Auditor's Report be made to the Council after the Annual Meeting. Sue and Pat seconded. A vote was held and the motion was passed.

### **Pastor's Report**

- Claudine began with a word of celebration for our new members and our congregation as we are continuing to welcome Bob, Jane, Drew, and Londa. They are already becoming very involved and are getting to know everyone, and the congregation has done a great job making them welcome. Claudine extended her thanks to the Worship and Membership Committee and the Hospitality Committee for their work in the Right Hand of Fellowship and the New Members Reception.
- Reminder: our Ash Wednesday service is tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m., and this officially marks the season of Lent, with this Sunday being the first Sunday of Lent. Devotional books and key tags are available.
- The beginning of Lent means Bread and Broth will be starting as well, beginning next Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up sheets are in the lounge, both for attending and for bringing soup and bread. This year's Bread and Broth will feature a DVD curriculum that features Adam Hamilton (who led the Advent Story of Joseph curriculum) on a visit to the Holy Land telling the story of Simon Peter.
- Claudine will be taking her first vacation week of the year next week, from March 11<sup>th</sup> to March 18<sup>th</sup>. She would not normally plan for a vacation at this time, but she had set aside this week after being invited to an ABCUSA Women's Colloquium event, and then unfortunately had to decline the invitation when they moved the event to another time she can't attend. Portia and Barbara will lead the first Bread and Broth, and Rev. Tim Chesser will preach on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Catherine will be lay leader and will handle that Sunday's prayer list.
- We will host a Maundy Thursday service this year with Ledyard Gales Ferry Baptist Church as invited guests. As we generally rotate through the churches, we had asked Ledyard Gales Ferry if they wanted to host this year, but they will be unable to do so.

- MAEC made a request for more prayer shawls to partner with Community Speaks Out, the group providing help to those suffering from the opioid crisis, and we passed some more on. We will also be looking for someone to be our new Prayer Shawl coordinator soon, including duties caring for the prayer shawl storage room.
- Community news: the Rev. Krista Swenson will be installed this month as the senior minister at Mystic Congregational Church. This installation service will take place on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The MAEC Choir Festival will be held on Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> at Union Baptist, and a number of our folks are taking part (Li Ling, Jonathan, Joe, Charley). This will be particularly special because Robin Crandall will be retiring, and this will be a celebration of her ministry. It is also a reminder that organists and choir directors are a major need in many churches right now.

### **Deacon and Committee Reports:**

Catherine emphasized that all deacons (except PRC) should be creating their committees right now! Get folks to help you with your jobs!

Education and Discipleship: Dianne Dellarco and Li Ling Liu

- There will be an Easter egg hunt for the younger children on Easter Sunday, with the older children helping to create and set it up.

Worship and Membership: Barbara Brant and Portia Freeman

- Everything in the sanctuary is ready for Lent: the paraments have been changed from green to purple; the cross is up thanks to Richard, Ron, Jeff, and Rick; and the banner is up awaiting its weekly symbols (special thanks to Brian Berry for his help as a tall person!).
- Richard has prepared the ashes for the Ash Wednesday service. The committee is working with the Hospitality Committee to prepare for the Bread and Broth season that will begin next week
- A note from Old Business: the committee did interview Ellen Effman Gilbert as a potential candidate for Music Director, but she has decided to accept a position at Central Baptist Church in Norwich.

Buildings and Grounds: Brian and Alex

- Alex looked into the issues with the parking lot light, and the issue has been settled
- They still have the rental property garage on the to-do list, as it needs to be taken down. There are plastic sheds available online, and Brian will bring a recommendation to a future meeting but some things need to be checked out permit-wise.
- Dianne had a question about snow plowing, because on Saturday she drove by at 4pm and it hadn't been plowed yet. Claudine said that it did come shortly after that. It was also noted that contractually, the plow only comes if there are two inches or more of snow.
- Richard called Catherine this afternoon with concerns about the sidewalk not being shoveled. This brought up a recurring issue with the rental property tenants upholding their contractual obligation to shovel in the winter and to mow the lawn in the summer. The issue of how to deal with this is a difficult one, and the council was asked to think on it and return to it at a future meeting.

Mission and Outreach: nothing to report

Minutes cont.

Hospitality: Cathy Greenfield and Sarah Adams

- Cathy noted that there had been a recent bulletin announcement that the church was looking for a donated refrigerator. After thinking more deeply about it, the committee has decided that we don't need one. Cathy has moved some things around in the kitchen to save more space and has discussed timing of tasks with communion preparers.
- The money for the coffee at coffee hour has steadily increased, and the committee is very happy and grateful for that!
- The committee would like to see more people volunteer for lounge refreshments other than the same people who are always donating food. It's expensive for one person, so if you can get two people to go together it's much easier and less expensive, and maybe more people might do it if they realize that they don't have to make/do as much.
- ◇ The council discussed the fact that people can donate money if they don't have the time to bake or buy items.
- ◇ The committee will come up with some ideas to increase participation.

Standing Committees:

PRC: No Report

Special Committee:

Safe Church: No Report

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- John Rodearmel has installed a device on the third floor to assist those moving heavy items, and would like to know if the council is happy with it. Cathy recommended that we approve John's invention (jib crane/davit) as installed. Barbara seconded. A vote was held and the motion passed.
- The Worship and Membership Committee made a motion that we hire Heidi Butler as our interim choir director. She will select music and rehearse the choir on Wednesday nights. She is not able to be here on Sundays due to another commitment. The salary will be shared with Betty remaining as our organist and accompanist for choir. Betty will receive \$8,000 for the year and the choir director will receive \$4,000. This will not change the budget in any way. Heidi will do this for 3 months and then Jonathan Liu and Li Ling Liu will take over and find music for the summer months, earning that choir director salary for that time. If Heidi then returns to school we will research a bit further and cross that bridge when we come to it. If she stays with us, it will remain as is, with her resuming the position of choir director. So the motion was to seek approval to hire Heidi Butler as our choir director for 3 months for a salary of \$4,000 per year. A vote was held, and the motion passed.

The Lamb family has expressed interest in having access to video recording of our services via the website access, and has offered to purchase a camera for this purpose. Claudine discussed the issue, expressing her desire for our members who are in other locations to remain connected with our services, while also expressing concerns about this possibility for a number of reasons, including intellectual property and copyright issues with sermon resources and music, confidentiality and the personal nature of shared prayer concerns, and the difference of preaching to a world audience instead of this specific congregation she knows. We discussed some various possibilities to reconcile the issue and keep up with the modern world while still being cognizant of these concerns.



## Minutes cont.

Catherine suggested that Sue, Brian, and Dianne meet with Claudine to come up with discussion points and recommendations for the council to discuss further, and suggested that Marvin Wong, Ron Land, and Heidi also be included in these discussions. Claudine will also speak directly with Vance and Shirley Lamb to see what their specific needs are at this moment.

- Pat has received an offer of a freezer donation from Nancy Spalluto, which she believes would be helpful for the Apple Festival and the Bazaar. Pat and Barbara will think on it and decide if we have a place to put it.
- The plaque for the Last Supper stained glass window is in production; the committee got the write-up ready, Charley Freeman looked at it for a historical check, and John Rodearmel is working on it now.
- Catherine shared that Belle has expressed concern about having enough help in preparing for the tag sale, as it has grown so much in the past few years and it has become somewhat overwhelming for Belle to handle it alone as she has in previous years. She needs help in particular having people on the days of the tag sale, and would like the council to help her in finding these people, and perhaps establish some sort of a ways and means committee to put together the teams she needs. Pat and Dianne will meet with Belle to see what it is she's looking for, and will include Cathy in that loop, and they will report back!
- In the past season of searching for new council members, the question of changing the meeting time came up as many were reluctant to agree to serve if it meant they would have to drive at night during the winter. A suggestion was made to do it after the service on Sundays. This time does not work well for Claudine, Heidi, or Dianne. Heidi suggested that we could have carpools or members (including herself) who would volunteer to drive others. She also mentioned the possibility of including people via video chat. The issue will be brought up again in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Heidi Butler, clerk



**MYSTIC AREA ECUMENICAL COUNCIL  
38th ANNUAL GOOD FRIDAY WALK  
April 19, 2019  
Registration 7:00-9:00 a.m. at**

**Mystic Congregational Church UCC  
43 East Main Street (860-536-4259)**

**To benefit the poor and hungry  
locally and in the rural South.**

**Jesus walked on Good Friday. Will you?  
Be a Walker. Be a Sponsor.  
*(For more information, please see Carol Gatlin  
or Bob Land)***

An annual opportunity to join neighbors and friends  
in a scenic walk along the Mystic River  
to remember the events of Good Friday  
while supporting those in need

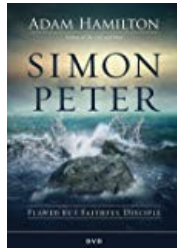
## *Bread & Broth*



Each Wednesday night we will gather at 5:30 pm throughout the season of Lent to share a simple supper of soup and bread, and conversation around the tables.

The series runs for five weeks, March 13th—April 10th

This year will include a DVD series,  
“Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple.”



Sign up sheets are in the Lounge if you plan to attend.

We are also looking for soup makers  
and bread providers each week

All are welcome!

# Camp Wightman Spring Work Weekend

Saturday & Sunday,

April 26-27, 2019

Fun, Work, Food,  
and Fellowship

We will take on some necessary projects and light  
the first campfire of the 2019 camping season.  
Arrive Saturday morning by 9am - finish up Sunday  
by 3pm

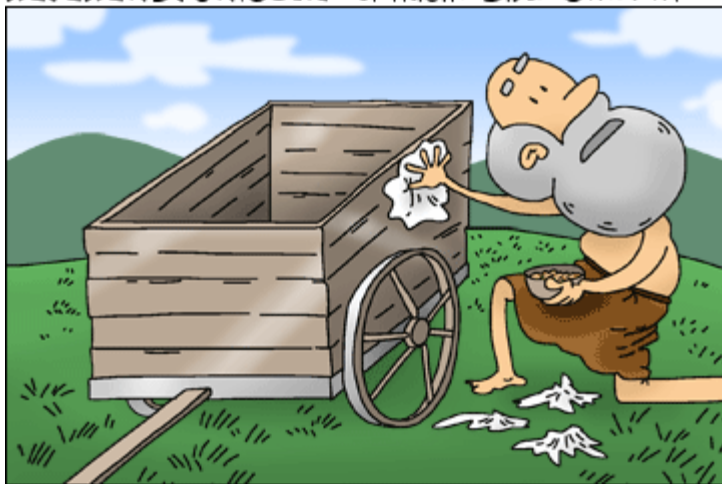
Call or email your interest.  
860-376-2179  
[campwightman@abcconn.org](mailto:campwightman@abcconn.org)



## A Little Church Humor



**REVERENDFUN.COM** COPYRIGHT **BIBLE GATEWAY**



12-06-2013

**RAIN? 40 DAYS AND NIGHTS? RIGHT AFTER  
I FINISHED A MOST THOROUGH WAX JOB ON  
MY WAGON?**



***Come, let us worship and bow down.***

Psalm 95:6-7

**195TH ABCCONN ANNUAL GATHERING**

**SATURDAY, MAY 4TH, 2019**

**8:30AM – 2:30PM**

**Theme: Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down**

The event is designed as an experience of worship -- we will worship and bow down before the God who calls us to gather, to work, to minister, but above all, to worship

The location is yet to be announced -- watch the ABCCONN website and the weekly eNews for more details about the event

Registration and more information will be in the next ABCCONN mailing

**Save the date!!!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Grace Spaces – A Production of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut**

The ABCCONN Staff is thrilled to announce the launch of our new podcast, Grace Spaces. Join us on the second Monday of each month (starting March 11, 2019) for a powerful 30-minute conversation with a fellow sojourner as we discuss themes like cross-cultural church development, being Missionally-minded, spiritual health, leaving a legacy, and more!

You can find Grace Spaces on Apple Podcasts, SoundCloud, or abcconn.org. Look for the link in your weekly e-news



*Do you enjoy the refreshments each week after  
worship?*

*Would you like to participate?*

*Please feel free to sign up in the Lounge.  
If you unable to bake items or time to purchase  
them—a monetary donation is always acceptable.*

*Please see Cathy Greenfield or Sarah Adams  
Our Deacons of Hospitality*

**\*\*\*\*\***



*Do you shop on Amazon?*

*Are you aware that part of your purchase can be  
donated to a charity of your choice? Go on  
Amazon and select PBBC as your choice and we can  
benefit from your shopping  
experience!*

*Last month we received \$89—so keep this in mind!*

Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church  
1241 Poquonnock Road  
Groton, CT 06340