

# THE TIE that binds

## April 2019



### **Easter Joy**

*Jesus came to earth,  
To show us how to live,  
How to put others first,  
How to love and how to give.*

*Then He set about His work,  
That God sent Him to do;  
He took our punishment on Himself;  
He made us clean and new.*

*He could have saved Himself,  
Calling angels from above,  
But He chose to pay our price for sin;  
He paid it out of love.*

*Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
But the cross did not destroy  
His resurrection on Easter morn  
That fills our hearts with joy.*

*Now we know our earthly death,  
Like His, is just a rest.  
We'll be forever with Him  
In heaven, where life is best.*

*So we live our lives for Jesus,  
Think of Him in all we do.  
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.  
Help us love like you!*

## Pastor's Page



### Mystic Area Ecumenical Council Choir Festival

I am honored to join with Charley Freeman, Joe Greene, Jonathan Liu and Li Ling Liu as we add our voices to this celebration of song. We joyfully gather for a concert at Union Baptist Church in Mystic on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> with combined adult and youth choirs from area churches, under the direction of guest conductor, Cristi Cary Miller.

Special thanks to our members who contributed to a group gift of sponsorship from PBBC. We gave \$385 to the Festival! Everyone is invited to come and praise God through music.

### Sharing the Journey Through Holy Week

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday worship at 9:30am  
Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday service at 7:00pm  
Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, Good Friday service at 12noon  
Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, Easter Sunday worship at 9:30am

### Gifts to America for Christ and One Great Hour of Sharing

During our Lenten Bread and Broth series this year we shared gifts between two of our special offerings. First we gave to America for Christ, supporting local and regional ABC ministries here in the United States and Puerto Rico. Then we gave to One Great Hour of Sharing, supporting emergency relief efforts in this country and throughout the world. Thank you for your generosity and sacrifice!

### Books We Have Recently Shared

*“Who Counts? 100 Sheep, 10 Coins, and 2 Sons”*

*By Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso*

*“You Make the World Better”*

*By Jennifer Pletsch and M. H. Clark*

## *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

#### High School Meetings

April 7th - Noank Baptist Church

May 12th - Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

#### Middle School Meetings

April 28th - Noank Baptist Church

May 26th - Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

### **Super Charged Trampoline Park**



Tuesday, April 9th—4-6 pm Cost \$10 per hour jump pass

\$10 per race for Go Karts

Let's bounce around!

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

GoKart racing optional for those old enough.

Open for middle and high school youth. Please RSVP as soon as you can.



### **Nightwatch Interfaith: New York City** **New DATE**

Friday, April 26, 2019—Saturday, April 27, 2019

Unfortunately we couldn't get everyone together for the last date so we are going to try again for the Nightwatch Interfaith at St. John the Divine Cathedral. We had a great experience last time and I would love to have a bigger group for this special evening.

Cost \$45

go to the website to register.



## **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**

## **MAY MINISTERS**

**Communion: Prepare: Marilyn Baird & Carol Gatlin**

**Serve: : Marilyn Baird & Carol Gatlin  
Peg Straub & Londa Wesche**

**Assist Pastor: Barbara Brant**

**Lay Leader:**

**05 – Jonathan Liu  
12– Li Ling Liu  
19 - Carol Gatlin  
26 - Dennis Piscitello**





## 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

## MAY

12 – Eleanor Cebriwsky  
13 – John David Helsel  
15 – Andrew Dellarco  
21 – Mei Ling Liu  
22- Susan Schmidtknecht  
23 – Gayle Donahue  
23 – Jeff Land  
28 – Cherri Ashbey  
29 – Derek Bianchi



## PBBC Council Minutes

April 1, 2019

Our moderator, Catherine Hiller, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and Heidi Butler led us in devotions.

**Communications:** Nothing to report

### **Pastor's Report**

- We are well into Lent, and will have two more Bread and Broth sessions. We've had lots of positive feedback on the program, both on the video curriculum and on the new table setup encouraging people to sit with new groups and meet new people. We've had about 40 people in attendance each week.
- The MAEC Choir Festival is this Sunday at Union Baptist at 4:00 p.m. We have five PBBC members taking part. MAEC invites individual sponsorships to help cover costs beyond music and the guest conductor, and we as a congregation turned in \$385 as a group sponsor of the festival. The music is great and Claudine is thrilled to be a part of what should be a great festival.
- The journey through Holy Week will begin with the Palm Sunday service on April 14<sup>th</sup>. We will host a Maundy Thursday service with Ledyard Gales Ferry Baptist Church and Noank Baptist Church as invited congregations. The service will be a bit later than normal, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in part to accommodate the Rev. Bill Aldrich's work schedule so that he can take part along with his congregation. Claudine will be gathering readers from the involved congregations. We will be doing a traditional communion during the service, and Worship & Membership will prepare the chancel table with candles and will bring over the side table to serve as the communion table. On Good Friday, there will be the MAEC hunger walk (more information is in the office if people are interested) and then we will have our service at noon. This will all lead up to our Easter morning celebration. We will be inviting people to make donations for the Easter flowers.
- There will be an infant dedication on April 28<sup>th</sup> for Marilyn Benson's great-grandson. Hospitality will be providing a cake for the reception.
- The ABCCONN annual meeting is on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be there in spirit, but not in person – it's tag sale day! Claudine will send Harry a note of support and explanation for our absence.
- John Rodearmel has completed the plaque for the stained glass window from Old Mystic Baptist Church. The OMBC committee met this week in their final steps for closing, and they got to see it. They agreed at their meeting that they will cover the expense of making the plaque and will reimburse John. The council got to view the beautiful plaque and Claudine read the inscription, written by Catherine and Heidi, and history-checked by Charley. On Palm Sunday, Claudine will take a moment to read the inscription and officially dedicate the plaque and the window, as we prepare for Maundy Thursday and the original Last Supper so we have this in our hearts and minds. Catherine added that if anyone is interested, they should ask John how he created the photo for the plaque because it's an amazing process and the end result is quite beautiful.

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

Catherine began by asking everyone how the committees are shaping up. She would like to highlight a different committee each month in the Tie, with information about what they're doing to keep the congregation informed and to get people thinking about committees and the Council before it's nomination time. So please let Catherine know who your committee members are!

#### Worship & Membership: Portia Freeman and Barbara Brant

- Bread and Broth has been a wonderful success! As Claudine described, we've had between 36 and 43 attendees every week and it has been quite enjoyable. The committee wants to thank the generous soup makers and bread providers.
- The committee would also like to thank Darrell for fixing the communion lid after the cross came off last month.
- The committee would like to recommend that we purchase new candleholders and cross for the chancel table. The old candles have been coated many times and they can't be done anymore, they're pitted, and the candles have become difficult to fill. Additionally, the wicks are difficult to find and they produce quite large amount of smoke. Peggy Straub has offered to purchase them as a donation. The committee provided a catalog with a recommendation of which set they would like to purchase. Pat added on that we would do well to purchase a new short candle lighter as well. Catherine said that the item would be added to New Business.
- The committee also brought a recommendation from Richard Tourjee that we replace the large Lenten cross with one made out of a lighter material. It is quite heavy and the people who are responsible for moving it every year are concerned about safety when moving it. Richard would be willing to build it. The item was added to new business.

#### Buildings & Grounds: Alex Lew and Brian Berry (absent)

- Alex was told that Susan Schmidknecht would handle some gardening by the front sign.
- He also noted that he was told something is wrong with the internal light in the front sign. He will follow up with Ron about that.
- Alex updated the council on the ongoing saga with rental property garage. He emailed the town twice and they hadn't been able to provide the licensing and permits we needed, as they wanted to see a plan before proceeding. He talked to Richard who said that that was pretty standard. They've been discussing what to do, and Dave Rowley was volunteered to go down to Town Hall. He would like to go in with photos of the old garage and the dimensions, and wanted to know if it was sitting on a platform or not. And we'll look up a plot plan for the 15 South Rd property. We put the item under New Business.

#### Finance & Stewardship: Pat Tootell

- The committee is looking into investments to see how we can improve the interest rates to make the most of our funds. The ABEC interest rate is currently 2.20%. The Ameriprise interest rate for the cash portion is 1.97%. Chelsea Groton's interest rate is only 0.05%. Pat has a stack of files to go through and then she will get together with the committee to discuss further actions.
- Sonny Lew has agreed to be the second money counter on Sundays.
- Pat also noted that Jane Imdahl spoke to her about the Prayer Shawl ministry, and Pat told her to talk to Cathy.
- For a few years we did the "P&Q" Potholders and Quilt raffle, but after a couple of years had trouble selling enough potholders because people already had enough. We came up with a new idea of things to sell for raffle tickets – key chains and luggage tags. Pat brought examples for the council to see. The items will be sold throughout the coming months leading up to the Christmas Bazaar, and the raffle of the quilt itself will be part of the Bazaar. Barbara and Marvin will create the tickets for the raffle.

Minutes cont.

Education & Discipleship: Dianne Dellarco and Li Ling Liu (both absent)

- Nothing to report
- Pat noted that the older children have been working on filling the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, and Winnie and Austin will be the “clean up crew”

Mission & Outreach: Carol Gatlin and Holly Boyle (both absent)

- Although both deacons were absent, the clerk received an electronic report after the meeting. These were the contents of that report:
- February: Food donations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday food collection was 34 bags. America for Christ was brought before the congregation in February and will continue through March. Donation envelopes are in the pews and collection boxes in the Narthex, on the table in the lounge and on the children’s table. A thank you note was received from Groton Human Services for our support of their Adopt-A-Family program, for gifts taken to them for a family of 3 children and a single mother in December 2018; this thank you note is posted on the bulletin board in the Lounge.
- March: Food donations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday food collection was 22 bags. The recipient of the last 4 weeks of the Bread and Broth Offering was changed to One Great Hour of Sharing in support of global emergency relief needs such as tropical cyclone in East Africa and flooding in Nebraska. This was suggested by Pastor Claudine and agreed to by Holly and Carol.

Hospitality: Sarah Adams and Cathy Greenfield

- Someone graciously donated some money towards the coffee fund, so everyone has had free Sunday coffee for two weeks!
- Catherine thanked Hospitality along with Worship and Membership for the great job they have been doing with Bread and Broth.

### **Standing committees:**

PRC: Sue Shontell

- The PRC met for the first meeting of the year. They discussed what they will be doing for pastoral evaluations this year, as they want to continue seeking feedback. They are thinking of doing a cycle with different levels of evaluation each year, for example having the PRC do one the 1<sup>st</sup> year, the council do one the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and the congregation do one the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The committee plans to explore that with Claudine further in depth.
- Sue also followed up on the discussion from last month about the potential future of video recording for the sermon and/or service for viewing by members online. Sue has established a closed Facebook group and along with a number of other volunteers is experimenting with the privacy settings before going ahead with it. She is continuing to tweak it to ensure privacy and security, and will continue providing information to the council as we move forward.

### **Old Business:**

Continuing on the subject of video recording, Claudine had some information to follow up on. She thanked everyone for listening and providing feedback on her thoughts from the last meeting. She has had many conversations with Dianne, Marvin, Heidi, Ron, and Sue in the last few weeks and we are continuing to move forward and try things out. Ron and Marvin are still working on trying to put a video recording on the website as a first step. She wanted to bring up one issue that has come up recently as people have engaged more with our Facebook page, namely that Dianne has had a few requests for joining the website from people that do not seem to be connected with our congregation. People seem to be in agreement that we are not comfortable creating an online community of people we don’t know. Claudine has discussed the aims of our social media presence with Marvin as being for the two purposes of sharing with our community and getting the word out to those outside of our congregation, but NOT to replace the community of our congregation. In this spirit, Dianne has been responding to such denied online requests with the

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Minutes cont.

following message: "Dear \_\_\_, Thank you for your interest in hearing the sermons of the PBBC. To protect member privacy, our current policy offers this access to members of the congregation. We invite you to worship with us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 to hear these in person and be part of a great faith community." As we move forward we will continue to explore our options in how to best be involved in the digital world, and there will likely be more information to come in the upcoming months' meetings!

- Freezer donation: Pat and Barbara were not able to check into storage locations, so this item will be continued for next month's meeting.
- Tag Sale volunteer organization: Dianne met with Belle and worked up an organizational spreadsheet. There are still sign-up sheets in the lounge, and Dianne will continue to communicate with the council about what Belle needs. As an added clarification, we ARE in fact having a bake sale at this tag sale as usual, despite some discussion of possibly discontinuing it.
- Second signer on the General Fund account: Dave is all set and just needs to complete the paperwork!

### **New Business:**

- After viewing John Rodearmel's beautifully completed plaque for the stained glass window, Cathy made a motion to approve the gift of the plaque to accompany the stained glass window. Dave seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed. Heidi will write a thank you letter both to John and to the council of OMBC.
- After considering the recommendation from Richard Tourjee, the Worship and Membership Committee made a motion that the council approve the building of a new, lighter cross for the Lenten season, to be constructed by Richard at some point between now and next Lent. Mei Ling seconded the motion. Discussion was held, including a question about what fund would cover the cost of the cross, the answer being that it would most likely be the contingency fund. A vote was held and the motion passed.
- Mei Ling had received a letter from Church Mutual insurance regarding their terrorism risk insurance. This insurance had been included free with our policy per governmental guidelines, but that is no longer the case. If we want to continue this coverage, it will cost \$62 annually. For such a policy to be in effect, a catastrophic event would have to be declared by the government as a terrorist act, and the combined damage to the community as a whole would have to equal over \$5 million; the insurance company would then cover 81% of the damage. The insurance company provided us with the option to pay that extra or discontinue this coverage. After a discussion on its merits, Dave moved that we disregard this terrorism risk insurance rider. Sue and Cathy seconded. A vote was held and the motion passed. Mei Ling said that she will send back the letter informing them of our decision.
- Per the earlier discussion, the Worship and Membership committee made a motion that we replace the existing cross and candle holders on the altar with the set chosen in the catalog. Cathy and Alex seconded. A discussion was held about the size of the new candles and cross, as some were concerned they would be too small. The motion was tabled to be returned to next month so that the council can think on it some more. We will also return to the issue of a new candle lighter next month.
- The Buildings and Grounds committee recommended that the council authorize all needed activities, including but not limited to the obtaining of permitting information from the Town of Groton, to facilitate the eventual removal of the garage on the rental property and its replacement with an equivalent garage. Dave seconded the motion. A vote was held and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Devotions will be led by Portia Freeman.

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



The walk starts at the parish house of the Mystic Congregational Church. The sanctuary of that church will be open on Good Friday from 7am until noon. Ice cream will be served at the Old Mystic Methodist Church - the half way point of the walk

## *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.



Holy Week

Palm Sunday April 14th



Maundy Thursday Service, April 18th , 7 pm

Good Friday Service, April 19th, 12 noon



Easter Sunday Service, 9:30 am

# 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

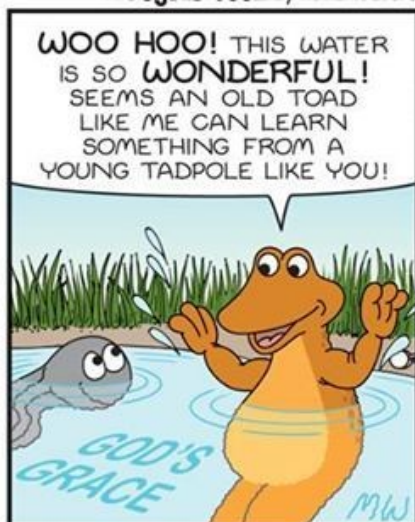
Call or email your interest.  
860-376-2179  
[campwightman@abcconn.org](mailto:campwightman@abcconn.org)



# A Little Church Humor

## TADPOLE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

- MATTHEW 18:3 NIV

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## EASTER BASKET

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

- 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV

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***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 the First Baptist Church in Meriden, CT

We will be present in spirit that day, since all hands and hearts  
Are needed here for our Annual Tag Sale!

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**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**



## KNOW YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL AND WHAT IT DOES

Recently Pastor Claudine led us all in a dedication and installation of the officers of PBBC. As a follow up to that inspiring piece of our morning worship I would like to use this space to briefly enlighten you regarding the more specific responsibilities of the officers and deacons who serve you as church leaders. Because their work is so evident during the present season of Lent this month is dedicated to the **Worship and Membership Committee**. The deacons serving in this ministry are Barbara Brant and Portia Freeman with Peg Straub and Mei Ling Liu as committee members.

One part of their duties as specified in the church bylaws consists of planning with the pastor all aspects of worship experiences in order to make them as spiritually fulfilling as possible. Obvious examples of their care are the paraments that adorn the chancel furniture, banners, the brass ware and communion service pieces, and flags. All of these adornments need care and occasional replacement and the organ and piano need regular maintenance and tuning. Mei Ling's special contribution is the presence of flowers and plants that bring a freshness to our sanctuary each week. This committee also lines up the lay leaders and the teams that prepare the communion elements.

The other piece of responsibility is in preparing folks for membership in the church. The committee meets with the pastor and potential members and assists in acquainting them with our church program and history, and will assist in the transfer of membership letters or in baptism, and keeps our membership roll current.

Ideally there would be another member on this committee and if one of you would like to know more about the work of the **Worship and Membership Committee**, please speak to Barbara or Portia. (Committee members do not have to attend council meetings and are not required to speak publicly.)

Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church  
1241 Poquonnock Road  
Groton, CT 06340