



news @ GOD'S ACRE

May 2018



Don't miss the MSYG Car Wash on Saturday, May 12!

From the Pastor's Study

Greetings Members and Friends,

I think we're all hoping the month of May will bring with it warmer temperatures, budding trees, and blooming flowers. May also brings some important days on the Christian calendar. Sunday, May 20, is Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost is considered the birth of the Church. It is the event in which the Holy Spirit rested on the disciples empowering them to witness to Jesus and to engage in their ministry. On



Pentecost, there were people from every nation gathered in Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit worked in such a way that when the disciples spoke, each person could hear the disciples' words in their native language. It was a miracle of communication!

In conversations I've had with many of you, I've heard the desire for a modern day miracle of communication. Many of us struggle with the polarization of our nation. We avoid certain conversations with friends and family members

because they turn painful or contentious. On Pentecost weekend, May 19-20, we are holding a special event on God's Acre to address this issue. The Rev. Dr. Allen Hilton, a former pastor here at The Congregational Church, will lead an event that will help us to have what he calls a "courageous conversation." Allen is spearheading a movement based on the belief that the church ought to be a place where people can hold civil discourse.

Continued on page 2

“ In conversations I've had with many of you, I've heard the desire for a modern day miracle of communication. ”

From the Pastor's Study
Continued from page 1

Drawing on the Bible and the words of Jesus, Allen will lead us in a mini-retreat on Saturday, May 19. He'll preach Sunday morning, May 20 and following the 10:00am service, he will lead us in a Courageous Conversation.

I hope you will carve out time to join us on Pentecost weekend for this special event. The biblical knowledge, understandings, and skills we take away from this mini-retreat will be vital for how we relate to people in our families, our neighborhoods, our church, at work, and at social gatherings. This is the kind of spiritual work the world needs right now. This event is open to everyone in the community. Bring a friend. Join us for all or part of this event. We hope you will come and be a part of it.

Blessings,

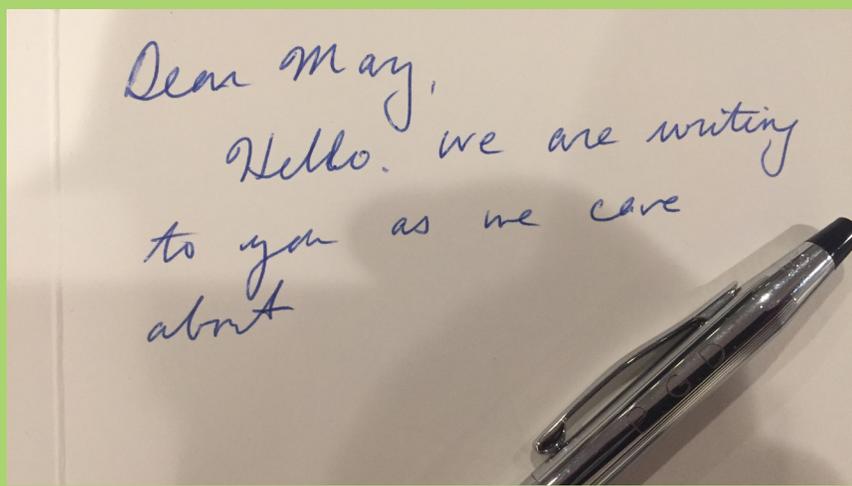
Eric

Card Ministry Team

Please join us in Smith Hall to help us launch the Card Ministry Team! Our goal is to send caring handwritten notes to: do-gooders and unsung heroes, those who may need support, those going through a life change, etc. Please help us write cards that will make a difference in someone's life.

Ministry Kickoff: June 3 11:00am in Smith Hall

Questions? Contact Stephanie Radman at (203)952-4554 or stephanieradman@aol.com, or BJ Flagg at (203)216-5642 or bj@nurenu.com.



Park Street Singers in Concert

Monday, May 14 at 1:30pm
in the Chapel

Free and open to the public
Reception following

The Park Street Singers are New Canaan ladies who sing programs in nursing homes and at various community occasions and re-



hearse in the church parlor on Monday afternoons. To thank the church for this kindness, they will perform their spring concert for us. All are invited to this lovely occasion. A reception will follow.

Marijuana - Just the Facts: A Panel Discussion

Tuesday, May 8, 7:00-8:30pm

Saxe Middle School Auditorium, 468 South Avenue

"Marijuana- Just the Facts" will be a discussion of the facts about marijuana. The goal is to provide a better understanding of marijuana, in light of the trend towards legalization in Connecticut and conflicting results from clinical studies.

The discussion will be led by Kevin Hill, MD. Dr. Hill is a marijuana expert from Harvard, and author of the book *Marijuana: The Unbiased Truth about the World's Most Popular Weed*. Joining him in the discussion will be John Douglas, MD, MBA of Silver Hill, Amy McDonnell, BSW of Aware Recovery Care, and John Hamilton, LCSW, LADC of Mountainside. There will be plenty of time for Q&A.

Co-Hosts for the evening are the New Canaan Parent Support Group and New Canaan Cares, and many of the town churches, including ours, are sponsoring the event.

For further information, access the flyer here: <http://bit.ly/2GC1ZET> or email Paul Reinhardt, Founder, New Canaan Parent Support Group (preinhar99@gmail.com).

Missions & Outreach

“He who is gracious to the poor lends to the Lord...”

Proverbs 19:17

HomeFront

Saturday, May 5, 8:00am-4:00pm

Help Us Renovate a Norwalk Neighbor's Home

No experience necessary, just loving hands and hearts.

Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org for more info or to sign up.



Maasai Latrine Project



May 6 Kickoff

Help us provide a school of 500 children with latrines and handwashing stations.

Stop by the missions table during Fellowship Hour in May and June to learn more and to participate!

May Missions

May 5 - HomeFront, 8:00am-4:00pm

May 6 - Maasai Project Kickoff, 10:00am

May 17 - Pacific House

Dinner Service, 4:30pm

May 22 - Open Door Lunch

Service, 11:15am

Signups/questions?
Contact Marianna Kilbride
at marianna@godsacre.org.



A House United Weekend: Busting Polarization One Habit at a Time

May 19-20 on God's Acre

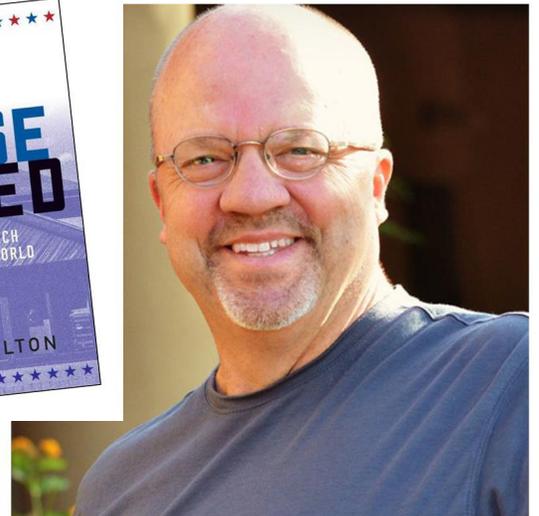
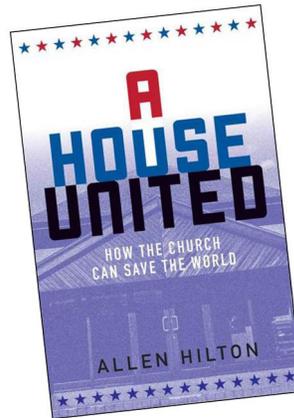
In a society and culture divided by political tribalism and incivility, we Christians seem like the least likely saviors. We have over 30,000 Christian denominations and our rap sheet includes the inquisitions and the deadly religious wars of modern Europe. In our American political realm, the aisle between right and left keeps widening.

What if God changed the church? Jesus commanded his disciples to “love one another as I’ve loved you” and prayed, “That they all may be one.” (John 13.34-35 and 17.20-21) While those hopes may seem futile in polarized America, our God “makes all things new.” Join the Rev. Allen R. Hilton, Ph.D., along with the clergy and lay leaders of CCNC, as we imagine living into Jesus’ brilliant call to partner with God in healing our land.

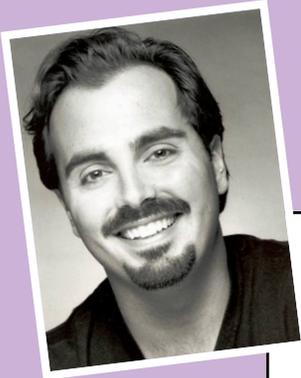
We’ll learn Christian practices that help us change our habits including “Courageous Conversations”, “Christian Mingle”, and “Mission 4.0”.

The mini-retreat will be held on Saturday, May 19 from 8:30am – 1:00pm in the Parlor. Please reserve your space with Laurel Carr at laurel@godsacre.org and bring \$10 suggested donation to cover costs. Allen will preach at both services on Sunday, May 20 and will hold a Courageous Conversation session from 11:15 – 12:15pm in the Parlor. Both days are open to the public, so please bring a friend!

Join us and learn how we can partner with God and one another to build a House United in New Canaan!



🎵 Music Ministries 🎵



*The Congregational Church of New Canaan
invites you to join us to*

Celebrate Music!



*at a benefit Concert for
the Mary Bradley Clarke Fund*



Friday, May 4, 2018 at 7:00pm

23 Park Street, New Canaan

Free community concert

Reception following

Childcare provided



Hear Spirit Singers, Joyful Noise, Sonshine Singers, Chancel Choir and the section leaders sing Broadway and light-opera music. Reception follows.

Youth Ministries: JYG Overnight to Pivot Ministries



For the past three years our JYG'ers (5th and 6th graders) have taken part in a small pilgrimage to Pivot Ministries in Bridgeport to take part in fellowship and service. This overnight is filled with fun, laughter, and discussions with residents about some of the decisions that led them to be in the care of Pivot Ministries. Along the way JYG'ers come to see firsthand the transformative power of God's love, forgiveness and grace.

In the morning JYG was able to help build planters for the Pivot greenhouse, and hear the story of Adam, a resident of Pivot, who had found a home and community with the ministry there. Another great trip for JYG!

Save the date for the 12th Annual Beacon of Light Dinner, celebrating our year in Youth Ministries!

Beacon of Light

**Sunday, June 3, 5:00-7:30pm
Dinner and Worship**

**More details and RSVP at:
www.godsacre.org/beaconoflight**

**\$20 per person; \$10/children 10 and under
\$75/family of four**



*Submissions for the June Newsletter are due May 20.
Email submissions to Laurel Carr at laurel@godsacre.org.*

Women's Fellowship

Spring Luncheon Honoring Our Women of Wisdom

11:30am-1:30pm on Friday, May 11
Roger Sherman Inn, 195 Oenoke Ridge Rd.



Please come and enjoy a fabulous lunch at the beautiful Roger Sherman Inn. We will be honoring the Women of Wisdom of our church. Please come celebrate these lovely women!

RSVP to Stephanie (information below) by May 7. Checks payable to The Roger Sherman Inn, in the amount of \$30.00, should be mailed to Stephanie Radman at 912 Weed Street, New Canaan, CT 06840. Those born in 1938 or before are our honored guests.

Questions? Contact Stephanie Radman at (203)966-4439 or stephanieradman@aol.com or Michelle Crookenden at (203)966-1615 or michelle@crookenden.com. Rides are available upon request.

Irwin Park Lunch and Walk

11:30am on Friday, June 1
Irwin Park, 848 Weed Street

Let us walk, talk, and lunch at beautiful Irwin Park! Please bring a bag lunch. Meet at the picnic tables in front of the main house at 11:30am to eat together. Then, we will walk a lap or two. Rain date: June 8.

Rides are available. Questions? Contact Stephanie Radman at (203)952-4554 or stephanieradman@aol.com.



Our Church Community

Ministers

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner, x1
Senior Minister

The Rev. Eric M. Dupee, x2
Minister of Christian Formation

The Rev. Chris Tate, x829
Transitional Director of Children's Formation

Staff

Laurel Carr, x833
Christian Formation Coordinator

Debbie Chapman, x831
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Dr. Jo Deen Blaine Davis, x4
Director of Music Ministries

Morgan Flagg, x834
Youth Director

Noëlle Francis, x821
Director of Children's Music and Drama

Anthony Jones
Sexton

Marianna Kilbride, x832
Director of Missions & Outreach

Caroline Leather, x835
Assistant Director of Children's Formation

Kelly Leather, x824
Senior Youth Director

Marie-Ange Masters, x823
Director of Accounting

Kelly Morrissey, x822
Chief Administrative Officer

Beth Picard, x839
Administrative Assistant

Church Lay Leadership

Stephanie Douglas-Parkin
Chair, Board of Trustees

Mark Tedford
Chair, Board of Deacons

Doug Raymond
Chair, Nominating and Governance

Kathy Dinnie
Chair, Personnel



The Congregational Church
of New Canaan

23 Park Street • New Canaan, CT 06840
(203)966-2651 • www.godsacre.org

WE ARE A STEPHEN MINISTRY CHURCH