



Greetings Members and Friends,

When most of us think of Easter, we tend to think of it as an annual event. It moves around on the calendar, but it is one day in which we dress our best and make our way to church. We know the music is going to be spectacular. We expect the preacher has made a special effort to provide an engaging and uplifting sermon. After the worship service and the Easter egg hunt, we put Easter behind us for another year.

From the Pastor's Study

What if Christ's resurrection, the central witness of our faith, was never meant to be affirmed on only one day each year? What if the power of resurrection can't be confined at all? In fact, we do celebrate resurrection every week. Each Sunday morning worship service is intended to be a mini Easter celebration. I believe the love and power that made Christ's resurrection possible, is available to us in our daily lives and when we face the forces of evil and oppression in our world.

In recent days, I've needed that power. As I write, I am in Mobile, Alabama on the OG mission trip. I am working on a site in which the homeowners are experiencing serious health concerns and financial hardship. This week happens to be bookended by the memorial services for two of our beloved church members: Harlan Anderson and Jim Cole. Jim was a big part of the OG experience. He has been on our minds all week. I've also been mindful of the recent massacre of Muslims in Christchurch, New Zealand.



It might be cliché to say, but it really can feel like we live in a Good Friday world. That's the world of pain, denial, suffering, crucifixion, and death. There are times when we are particularly ready for resurrection power and the joy of Easter.

Holy Week worship experiences are meant to reflect the emotional ups and downs in the days preceding the first Easter. Palm Sunday brings with it a sense of suspense. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, we know there will be a confrontation with the political and religious authorities. Holy Thursday brings mixed emotions. It was the last night of Jesus' earthly life, yet he gathered his disciples for an intimate meal. Friday was devastating. Jesus died on the cross having experienced the worst humanity had to offer. On Sunday morning, everything changed.

I hope you will make a special effort to join us for our Holy Week worship services. This is the time of year the church most boldly proclaims its message. Even if we experience the worst humanity has to offer, it is no match for the love and power of God. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Blessings
Eric

For over 280 years, we have gathered as a family of God's children in order to experience His presence, learn Christ's ways, and serve our neighbors – all to make faith a way of life.

Holy Week on God's Acre

Blessing of the Palms

Sunday, April 14, 9:30am

Church Steps

Maundy Thursday

Tenebrae Service

Thursday, April 18, 8:00pm

Meeting House

Good Friday

Friday, April 19, 7:00am

Pivot Good Friday Prayer Breakfast

Woodway Country Club

Easter

Sunday, April 21

Sunrise Service

6:00am

Church Steps

This Contemporary Sunrise Worship Service is led by our YG Fish and YG Worship Team. A light breakfast follows in the Parlor.

Traditional Easter Services

9:00am

Meeting House

Prelude beginning at 8:45am

11:00am

Meeting House

Prelude beginning at 10:45am

Childcare will be provided for children 5 and under in the nursery during the 9:00am and 11:00am services. All other children will remain in worship to experience and be a part of the Easter service.



Adult Education

It is not too late to join our Lenten Book Study!

For Lent we are inviting each member of our church to read, *Let Me Ask You a Question: Conversations with Jesus* by Matthew Croasmun. You can answer the question assigned for each day in Lent (Monday – Friday) and to join a group to discuss the concepts presented in the book and our responses to the questions.



The following are our weekly group opportunities:

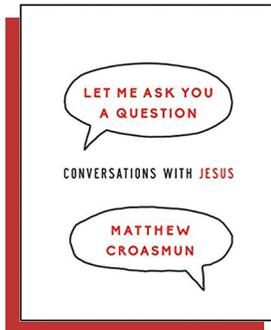
Sundays 9:00-9:45am (Parlor)
Led by Eric Dupee

Mondays 6:30-7:30am (Library)
Led by William Picard and
Diana Beecher

Tuesdays 9:30-11:00am (Parlor)
Led by Diana Beecher – Women’s Group

Wednesdays 7:00-8:15pm (Library)
Led by Eric Dupee
*This group will conclude in time to attend the deacon led
Lenten worship service.*

To purchase a copy of the book contact Laurel Carr
at laurel@godsacre.org or stop by the church office.



Let Me Ask You a Question: Conversations with Jesus

Matthew Croasmun

WEEK 4

4/1 Monday
John 6:53 – 61
Does this offend you?

4/4 Thursday
John 9:1 – 38
Do you believe in the Son of Man?

4/2 Tuesday
John 6:66 – 69
You do not want to leave too,
do you?

4/5 Friday
John 13:31 – 38
Will you really lay down your life
for me?

4/3 Wednesday
Luke 6:46 – 49
Why do you call me, “Lord,
Lord...?”

WEEK 5

4/8 Monday
Mark 8:27 – 35
Who do you say I am?

4/11 Thursday
John 13:1 – 17
Do you understand what I have
done for you?

4/9 Tuesday
John 18:28 – 37
Is that your own idea...?

4/12 Friday
Mark 15:22 – 37
Why have you forsaken me?

4/10 Wednesday
Mark 10:35 – 45
Can you drink the cup I drink...?

WEEK 6

4/15 Monday
John 21 – 18
Whom are you looking for?

4/18 Thursday
John 21:17 – 23
...what is that to you?

4/16 Tuesday
Luke 24:36 – 49
Why are you troubled...?

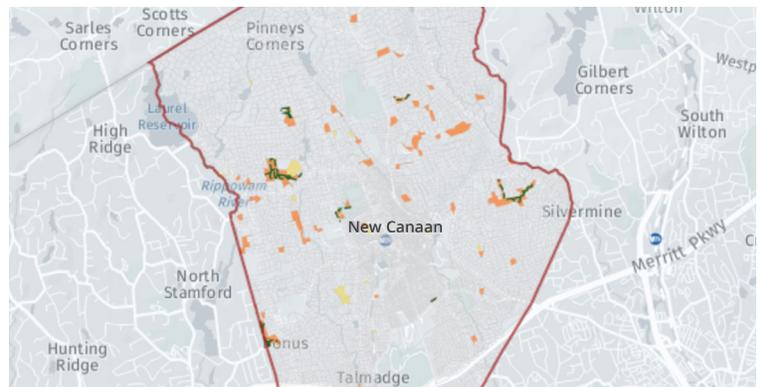
4/19 Friday
John 11:1 – 44
Do you believe this?

4/17 Wednesday
John 21:1 – 17
Do you love me more than these?

Women’s Fellowship

Women’s Fellowship Guided Nature Walk with New Canaan Land Trust

Ever wondered how to tell a beech tree from a birch tree? Come join Aaron Lefland, New Canaan Land Trust’s Executive Director, on a guided walk beginning at Irwin Park in Thursday, May 2, from 11:00am-12:00pm. Rides are available. Please contact Stephanie Radman with questions, stephanieradman@aol.com or 203-952-4554.



Music News



Noon on Wednesdays in the Meeting House

You are invited to Wednesday noonday recitals during Lent. This contemplative music will be provided by Chancel Choir section leaders. Join us for 30 minutes in the Meeting House and invite a friend: they are free and open to the public.

APRIL 3	APRIL 10	APRIL 17
 Diana Benton <i>soprano</i>	 Aram Tchobanian <i>tenor</i>	 Anush Avetisyan <i>soprano</i>

The Children's Music Corner

This year's musical will be "Bible Top 5." We will focus on 5 stories out of the "Bible Top 40," and act and sing them out! The musical will be presented on May 15 at 4:30pm (the Preview), May 19 at 10:00am in the Meeting House, and May 22nd at 4:30pm at the New Canaan Inn. Please invite friends and family!! We are so excited to share this musical with you!



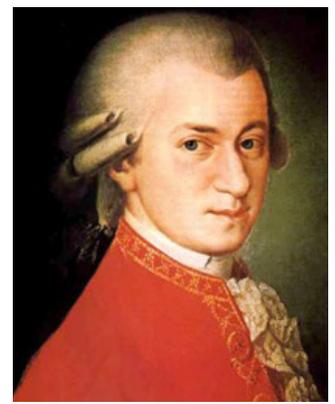
God's Blessings!
-Mrs. Mya

Vesperae solennes de confessore, K. 339 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Sunday, April 7

A 10 minute prelude will precede the service.

The Chancel Choir will present Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore* during the 10:00am service on Sunday, April 7. There will be a 10-minute prelude before the service to include more music of the work.

Featured will be Diana Benton, Anush Avetisyan, Anne Maguire, Antonio Abate, and Dimitrie Lazich. This work will include four movements with choir, strings, organ, and timpani. This is a great opportunity to invite friends for a special church service.



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Palm Sunday, April 14

Antonio Abate, tenor, sings Stephen Adams' "The Holy City" at the 8:00am and 10:00am services. At the 10:00am service, the Chancel Choir will be accompanied by guest trumpeters as we celebrate the Procession into Jerusalem. The Chancel Choir will sing Paul Lindsley Thomas' famous work, "Shout the Glad Tidings" and "A Festive Hosanna" by Victor C. Johnson.

Maundy Thursday, April 18, 8:00pm Service of Tenebrae

The Chancel Choir will present anthems for this somber and beautiful occasion of the Last Supper. There will be a variety of music: "O Ye People" by Pablo Casals, "Ubi Caritas" by Marcel Duruflé, "Ave Verum" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, "Drop, Drop Slow Tears" by Robert Graham, and "Lamb of God" arr. by F. Melius Christiansen, and "O Crux" by Knut Nystedt. The service will end with baritone Dimitrie Lazich singing "The Lord's Prayer" by Albert Hay Malotte.

Good Friday, April 19, 8:00pm

You are invited to a Good Friday concert at First Presbyterian Church, 1101 Bedford, Street, Stamford, Connecticut.

Hear Anush Avetisyan, Diana Benton, Anne Maguire, Dimitrie Lazich, Hans Tashjian, and Jody Blaine Davis join the Presbyterian Church's Adult Choir in anthems and Heinrich Schutz's *Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ*.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 1 at 7:00pm – Mary Bradley Clarke Fund Benefit Concert with reception following. Childcare provided.

Easter Flowers

If you wish to make a donation toward our beautiful Easter display, the deadline is noon on Tuesday, April 16. Please send your check to Debbie Chapman. Include your name plus any notation you would like to appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin. NOTE: as we did last year at Easter, we will include Easter flower donation envelopes in the bulletins for the two weeks prior to Easter Sunday. You may also make your donation to Flowers online and email Debbie with the text of your notation at debbie@godsacre.org.

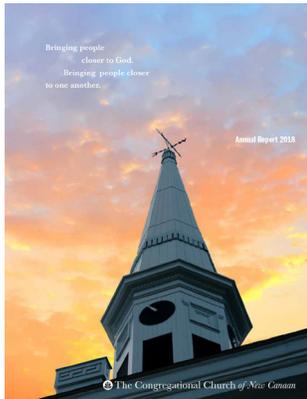


Easter Flower Delivery Volunteers Needed

The beautiful flower display created for Easter by our flower ministry will be delivered after the services to members of our congregation. Volunteers are needed as there are too many flowers for the deacons to deliver them all. If you can spare some time on Easter Sunday or Monday to make a flower delivery, please be sure to come forward on Easter after the 11:00am service.

2019 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the congregation took place on Sunday, March 3. Thank you to those who participated in this important conversation about our church. We are pleased to say that the church is spiritually strong and continues to grow financially. Those present unanimously approved the 2019 budget, details of which can be found in the 2018 Annual Report (<http://www.godsacre.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CCNC-AnnualReport-03052019.pdf>) or in the Annual Meeting Summary (<http://www.godsacre.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Annual-Meeting-Summary-3-8-19.pdf>). Nominations for standing committees were approved, and the Trustees of the Raymond Fund provided an update on status of the fund. Deacon Raymond's will is available on the church website for those interested in learning more about this ministry.



Thanks to all for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure that you give so freely to our church. If you have any questions or would like additional information about the Annual Meeting, please contact Stephanie Douglas-Parkin at stephparis@yahoo.com.

Missions and Outreach

We Need You On HomeFront Day 5/4/19!
8:30am-4:00pm

For more than 20 years we have partnered with HomeFront on the 1st Saturday in May to improve the quality of life for a neighbor in need. Volunteers assist with much needed repairs to a home for someone who cannot afford to have it done any other way. No experience is necessary. Please help us field a big team and come enjoy this rewarding service.



WHAT'S YOUR M.O. ?

Congregants 14 years of age and older who would like to volunteer please rsvp here: Marianna Kilbride marianna@godsacre.org

Pacific House Dinner Service 4/18, 4:30pm
Open Door Lunch Service 4/22, 11:15am



SAVE THE DATE
SPRING FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL

Please join the Fellowship Ministry Team for a Spring Fellowship Social on Saturday, April 27 at 7:00pm. The party is hosted by Jay and Linda Twombly at their home at 1 Runningbrook Lane. Please bring a beverage and an appetizer to share. RSVP to laurel@godsacre.org.

Faith and Finance

From Bob Lotich, patheos.com, Nov. 19, 2018:

John Wesley (1703-1791) was a Church of England cleric and Christian theologian who, along with his brother Charles, is largely credited with founding the Methodist movement. He was a man who also taught – and lived – some financial principles which continue to challenge us today.

Wesley was – and is – known for these three principles:

1. Gain all you can.
2. Save all you can.
3. Give all you can.



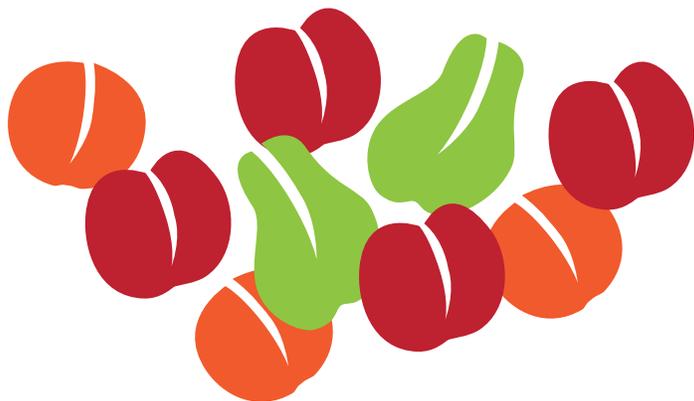
He practiced the “give all you can” principle with a passion, setting and maintaining the same standard of living throughout his entire life and giving away everything above that threshold... What were the bible verses that Wesley used for his money decisions?

1. “But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” 1 Tim 5:8
2. “But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.” 1 Tim 6:8
3. “Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.” Rom 12:17
4. “Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.” Rom 13:8
5. “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” Gal 6:10

There you go. Five principles which can be summarized as:

- Take care of your family.
- Be content with what you have.
- Always deal honorably, even with those who are unscrupulous.
- Avoid debt.
- Look for opportunities to be a blessing to others.

As we should expect from timeless scripture, these principles are as relevant today as they were in Wesley’s day.



Ministry News

Thank you for your service to our church family!

Please join us in thanking these committee members who faithfully served our church and completed their terms in March 2019:

Board of Deacons

Kim Hall, Linda Haney, Ralph Hills, Mark Tedford (chair)

Board of Trustees

Mike Abbott, Michelle Crookenden, Peg Davidson, Dawn Doak, Tom Mangas

Investment Committee

Stan Sokolowski

Missions and Social Action Committee (MSA)

Sally Anderson, Kirk Carr (chair), Jim Doak

Nominating and Governance Committee

Lonnie DeMarco

Personnel Committee

Kathy Dinnie (chair)

2019-2020 Committee List

Our thanks to our committee members for their commitment of time and talent to serve our church!

Board of Deacons

Allison Boeckmann
Ann Clay
Jeanne Fredericks
Margery Gardner
Michael Holland
Derrek Metz
Tom Muller
Andy Parkin
William Picard
Jill Robey*
Philip Sleeman
Ann Whittaker

Board of Trustees

Seth Alvord
Christy Bonner
John Burges
David Carlson
Jim Clayton
Laura Doscher
Stephanie Douglas-Parkin*
Jeff Johnson
Justin King
Don Moyle
Steve Palmer
Julia Portale

Investment Committee

Nick DeMarco
Jeff Johnson
Chris Pohle*

Leadership Committee

Jeff Altman
Stephanie Douglas-Parkin
Rev. Eric Dupee
Rev. Chapin Garner*
Janis Hennessy
Kelly Morrissey
Jill Robey

Missions and Social Action Committee (MSA)

Eben Breed
Leigh Engen*
Will Flynn
Kristine Gore
Katrina Harriman
Dan Radman
Debbie Shew
Marianne Toldalagi

Nominating and Governance Committee

Bill Connolly
Janis Hennessy*
Liza Pohle
Doug Raymond
Donna Reinman

Personnel Committee

Jeff Altman*
Lonnie DeMarco
Stephanie Douglas-Parkin

Officers

Clerk: Marianne Toldalagi
Treasurer: Diana Beecher
Assistant Treasurer: Niles Howard
General Counsel: Gabriella Kiniry

*Indicates Chairperson

Church School

Don't Miss Out!

Share in the season of Lent with our amazing teachers in Church School!

Church School Schedule for April

April 7

Join us to learn the importance of Holy Week & prepare for Palm Sunday!

Palm Sunday, April 14

No Church School; Nursery care available

Easter Sunday, April 21

No Church School; Happy Easter!

Nursery care available during 9:00am and 11:00am service of worship.

April 28

Return to the classroom with us as we discover the story of The Road to Emmacus!

Special News

SAVE THE DATE!

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

April 28, 2019

The many ministries of the church would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers.



Join us at the 10:00am worship service on Sunday, April 28 as we lift up and celebrate all those in our church who volunteer their time and talent over the course of the year.

Thank you for your love of our church family!

Youth Ministries



What an exciting month Youth Ministries had! After returning from their February Mission Trip to Mobile, AL, YG took over worship with their annual Youth Sunday. Seniors had an opportunity to share their experiences on their mission with the congregation and the YG Worship Team rocked out - showcasing all their hard work over the past year. We are so thankful to all the hands that helped to prepare for Youth Sunday and we are so forever grateful to our Mission Sponsors. Without them this ministry would not be possible!



MSYG had a very fun month of fellowship, culminating in our Choices night where we discussed how our choices in everyday life affect others and ourselves. We chatted about how it's important that we as Christians are always examining how our actions are impacting others.



Guppies and JYG started their Lenten walk. Together we talked about what we might do during Lent to remember Christ's sacrifice and grow closer to God. All while having some serious fun and of course, eating cookies.



Looking towards April and our community's commitment to Lent, we are excited to continue keeping our hearts and minds focused on how we prepare for Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. A fan favorite of JYG is our Last Supper Game Show! Lenten trivia, snacks, and prizes! Guppies won't be left out of the fun either, with our Easter Smash and Bash. Keep an eye out for our flier for details. MSYG will be beginning our push towards our Mountainside Mission Trip, with our big Teambuilding event in late April. If you're interested in coming on Mountainside there is still time to sign up!

Finally, YG Worship Team will be leading our Easter Sunrise Service. We invite our entire congregation to join us for a brief worship at 6:00am on the steps of the church. What greater way to celebrate the resurrection of our lord than sharing in worship at Sunrise.

Our Church Community

Ministers

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

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

Staff

Laurel Carr, x833
Program Manager

Debbie Chapman, x831
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Dr. Jo Deen Blaine Davis, x827
Director of Music Ministries

Morgan Flagg, x834
Youth Director

Mya Gill, x821
Director of Children's Music and Drama

Anthony Jones
Sexton

Marianna Kilbride, x832
Director of Missions & Outreach

Caroline Leather, x835
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

Debbie Raymond, x837
Christian Formation Coordinator

Avril Sweeny, x836
Director of Pastoral Care Ministries

Church Lay Leadership

Stephanie Douglas-Parkin
Chair, Board of Trustees

Jill Robey
Chair, Board of Deacons

Janis Hennessy
Chair, Nominating and Governance

Jeff Altman
Chair, Personnel

Newsletter Submissions

If you are planning on contributing to the
May Newsletter, please submit by April 19th.
Email submissions to: laurel@godsacre.org.

my connect corner

Become part of myConnect, our online church community!

Within myConnect you can:

- view an online directory
- interact with groups
- set up and manage your online giving
- view giving statements
- register for events
- find ways to volunteer

Two ways to login:

1. Visit www.godsacre.org/myconnect
2. Go to www.godsacre.org and click
"myConnect@God's Acre" in the upper left corner.

Need an Account?

Click "Sign Up Here" on the login page, enter your
info, and look for our email to get started.

Questions? Contact marie-ange@godsacre.org



The Congregational Church
of *New Canaan*

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

We are a Stephen Minister Church

