

Faith Notes



Dear friends,

“How did I get here?”

... we sometimes ask ourselves... as life gives us challenges and problems that we would never have dreamed. We may be alone again when we never would have guessed that in our mid-fifties our friendship circle would need to expand in new ways. Or we are dealing with a health crisis that goes beyond anything we have imagined in our life. Or our marriage is on such new and unfamiliar ground that we want to throw up our hands and walk.

The suffering that comes into our lives challenges our vision of life and of God. Even as it challenges us deeply, it also creates for us the chance to ask for blessings from God in a new form.

*James reminds us not to mistake our circumstances for God's will, but to find God's will **in** our circumstances. This requires a flexibility of spirit that is both challenging and rewarding.*

Today we remind ourselves that we are not outside God's will, but that we are together learning how to find God when our path is unfamiliar.

In faith,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jonathan".

Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thought creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.

- Lao-tzu

We are told that talent creates its own opportunities. But it sometimes seems that intense desire creates not only its own opportunities but its own talents.

- Eric Hoffer

Congregational life...

We have a wonderful heritage! We are a church where every member counts... their opinions (as in our survey), their feelings (Walking in the Way)... their leadership (on Boards and Committees). There are no wallflowers in a Congregational Church. And when we embrace that truth our church flourishes.

I hope you can join us on Tuesday evening, May 1st at 7:00pm. It will matter that we are together as a church and I hope you will feel uplifted and strengthened by our time together.

Pastor Jonathan

Minister and President Jim Antel has advised us that UCC member and Presidential candidate Barack Obama will address visitors and delegates as one of the many “*Synod in the City*” events on Saturday, June 23rd at the Hartford Civic Center. The day before on June 22nd, the **Massachusetts Conference** will gather at the Cromwell Crown Plaza in Cromwell, CT for the **Annual Meeting**. Visitors are welcome to the annual meeting and encouraged to stay over so you can participate in “*Synod in the City*”. For registration information go to the national UCC website: www.ucc.org.



Members of Ladies Aid met to create simple flower arrangements on April 11th. It was a great time for all as Heather Richtsmeier instructed the women in floral design. Pictured is Natalie Thistle with her arrangement.

Message Board

- **Today** is the due date for the **church questionnaire** to be completed and placed in the **Church Council's** mailbox. Please consider filling out a questionnaire if you haven't done so already. This is a very important tool used in our planning. Results will be discussed at our semi-annual meeting scheduled May 20th.
- Our thanks to those who planned, purchased groceries, and assisted in organizing the annual **Scholarship Breakfast**. Sharing a meal is always a great time to socialize and enjoy each other's company.

'New Steps Contemporary Worship'

After a dreary weather week, the church was filled with sunshine for the *New Steps* worship service on Sunday evening, April 22nd.

“*Conforming to the ways of the World*” was Sunday's message. Bob Mulvey spoke of the family's trip to Amish Country in Pennsylvania. We had some great songs of praise.

We also viewed a slide show of our soldiers with the children of Kosovo. We discussed our mission of school supplies and Bibles going to them.

- Heather Mulvey

Looking at our work...(*We are looking for members on Boards and Committees for 2007-2008. Members on this year's Nominating Committee are Christopher Jenkins, Paul Manning and Sue Trudeau.*) This week's focus is on the **Pastor Parish Relations Committee**. Members of this committee act as an advocate for the Pastor's leadership; clarify expectations (congregation to Pastor and Pastor to congregation); and provides a forum for the Pastor to reflect in confidence on joys and concerns. Currently serving on the Pastor Parish Relations Committee are Valerie MacKenzie, Sue Trudeau and Linda Bowley.

Missions

Submitted by JOJO Scharmer

Some facts about Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC)

- Formerly Middlesex Shelter
- Provides safe temporary shelter for homeless men and women (18 and older)
- Multiple services provide opportunities to end homelessness
- Began August 1986
- Answered the plight of people living in cars in below freezing temps
- Originally consisted of 20 beds, hot meals, clothing and showers
- Between 1986 and 1994 grew from 20 to 90 beds
- Loss of community resources created a new young adult homeless population
- As general population aged, many elders on fixed incomes appeared in shelter
- In 1996, a new vision was changed to a multi-service providing more support
- In May of 2000, name changed to Lowell Living Transitional Center (LTLC)
- Today, there are 12 supported housing residences
- 200-300 volunteers support the center
 - Serve meals
 - Raise money
- All services are free of charge
- The center focuses all their efforts in facilitating a positive change in people's lives

“At LTLC we end homelessness...one person at a time.”

MAY GOD BLESS THE STAFF, BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS WHO DO THIS WORK!

Please advise the church office of the names of any graduating seniors so their names can be listed in Faith Notes celebrating Youth Sunday, June 10th. Also a reminder that scholarship applications are available and should be completed and returned by Sunday, May 20th. Applications are on the table outside the office.

JUNIOR YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT UNDERWAY

TCC is proud to be counted among the volunteers at LTLC. We give financial assistance; we serve a sit-down dinner to the men and women the second Thursday of each month; we bake brownies to bring with us for their dessert and now our **Junior Youth** have begun a **bath towel and kitchen towel** collection. See our various posters around the church and contact any youth if you have donations. We will accept new and gently used bath towels, light weight beach towels, wash cloths and kitchen towels. The youth are having a contest, so please give your donation directly to one of the following: Jacqueline Cochrane, Caitlin Dunn, Taylor Eloi, Jaclyn Fulton, Sarah Galevi, Jessica Kenney, Ashley Mulvey and Jenna Stanley

Calendar of Events for the Week of April 29th.

Date	Event
Today	9:00 AM - Jr. Choir Rehearsal 9:30 AM – Worship Service & Sunday School 10:30 AM – Coffee Hour & Reception of New Members - (Fellowship Hall) 10:45 AM – Cherub Choir Rehearsal (Rm. 10) 11:00 AM – Scholarship Pancake Breakfast <i>(Free-will offering taken to support the Scholarship Fund.)</i> 6:30 PM – Jr. Youth Fellowship 7:30 PM – Interfaith Choir Rehearsal
Monday	6:00 PM – Jubellation Ringers Rehearsal
Wednesday	12:30 PM – Prayer Circle (Parlor)
Thursday	7:30 PM – Sr. Choir Rehearsal

Walking in the Way
Tuesday, May 1st
7:00 to 9:30pm
Vestry

All are welcome to this special meeting hosted by the Church Council and facilitated by the Rev. Karen Nell Smith of *Walking in the Way* ministries.



Sign up today for the **Fellowship Potluck Supper, Saturday, May 5th** in **Fellowship Hall** from **5:00 to 7:00pm**. Good food, games and fun! A chance for fellowship and enjoy a great meal together.

FINANCIAL NEWS

2007 thru April 22	Actual	Year-to-Date Budget
Pledge	\$42,490	\$44,275
Identified	\$6,387	\$7,596
Rentals	\$20,040	\$16,793
All Other	\$5,202	\$4,929
Total Revenues	\$74,118	\$73,594

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