

# news@G@D'S ACRE

# No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39

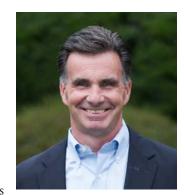
#### FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Dear Church Family,

Winter tends to be a quiet time in the life of Jesus' church in New England. After the holidays, in towns like ours, many people begin to take their leave for warmer winter retreat designations, or folks aim directly into the heart of winter by heading north for the slopes. This year has had far less cold, and snow than usual, and our folks in Florida report that it has been quite chilly down south. Whatever the case, our winter patterns continue

uninterrupted by Florida frosts nor the opportunity to ski on patchy New England ice.

While many of you travel extensively during the winter, by the grace and goodness of God, life on God's Acre does not slow down all that much. Unlike so many churches in our region, winter is a dynamic time for those who are around. I am still marveling at the many New Members who joined our church last Sunday.



This is the first time in recent memory we needed to offer three different sessions of classes during the year for people who wanted to join our church.

This Sunday, we will have our second guest in our "Circle of Friends" preaching series. Rev. Laura Everett is a dear friend of over twenty years and has been the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches for the last decade. She is a self-described urban cycle evangelist and an avid promoter of women's professional sports. She is a savvy social media user and teacher. Laura has a passion for knitting and mending that has led her to instruct others on how those practices can be employed in interpersonal and communal healing. I hope you will join us for worship on February 5 and for a time of conversation in the Chapel afterward to hear from Laura about where she sees the Spirit alive and well in churches in New England.

On Super Bowl Sunday, when we come together for worship, we will pray for our YG Mission Fish's safe travels to San Antonio, TX, to work with Blue Print Ministries. We will send 92 teens on this trip, along with a couple of dozen leaders, contractors, and logistic support team members. In a post-COVID age, it is such a blessing to see how our Youth and Children's programs are thriving. We will also have our Souperbowl Food Drive to benefit Open Doors in Norwalk that morning.

#### Circle of Friends - February 5, 2023



#### Our Second Circle of Friends Guest Preacher – The Reverend Laura Everett

On Sunday, February 5, we will welcome our second Circle of Friends guest preacher, The Reverend Laura Everett. Laura serves as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches. A graduate of Brown University, Laura received her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. Ordained by the United Church of Christ, Laura is formed by many parts of the Church. She is happiest exploring somewhere new, preferably by bike. A dedicated urbanist and bicycle evangelist, Rev. Laura is the author of "Holy Spokes: The Search for Urban Spirituality on Two Wheels." Committed to the renewal and thriving of vibrant Christian institutions, she serves as an advisor with Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School. Laura is also the co-host of the podcast "Can These Bones" with Bill Lamar from Faith & Leadership at Duke Divinity School. Laura aims for attraction, not persuasion. A moderately competent seamstress, Laura loves working with her hands. Join Laura after the 10:00am worship service in the Chapel at 11:15am for a Friends' Ministry Chat. All are welcome!



#### FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Continued from page one

Finally, Lent begins! Ash Wednesday is February 22; our service will be held in the Meeting House at 8:00pm.

So, as you can tell, winter life on God's Acre is anything but quiet. The Holy Spirit is alive and well, and our church continues to thrive. Please join us this season when you are in the area or online if you are at a distance. And, because we are still working on getting everyone to participate in our Stewardship Campaign, we remind you to contribute to the good work of our church if you haven't already.

Yours in Christ, Chapin

#### The Gospel of John

On January 30 and 31, our series on the Gospel of John began. Many Christians consider John to be their favorite book of the Bible. Its theology, literary style, and some of its famous stories of Jesus are unique among the gospels. Timed to culminate during Holy week, this beautiful book is a perfect way to walk through Lent and should not be missed! Sessions meet Mondays from 7:00-8:00am in the Library and Tuesdays (Women's) from 9:30-10:30am in the Parlor. A Zoom link is optional. No prior study is needed; all are welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.



#### Stewardship Update

Our 2023 Stewardship Campaign is making positive strides toward our goal, though we still have a ways to go. This Stewardship season, we are focused on Jesus' call in the Sermon on the Mount to be light to the world and to allow God's light to be reflected in our living and giving. We ask that you consider how our community of faith has brightened and enlightened

your lives and that you support our church by pledging to the very best of your ability. Currently, we are at 320 pledge cards (76% of goal). We are very grateful for the blessings of this community. If you have not yet pledged, please consider making a pledge to the Stewardship Campaign.

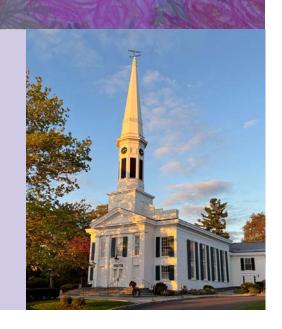


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#### ANNUAL MEETING

#### **Upcoming Annual Meeting**

The Trustees are reviewing the financial results for 2022. Last year's results along with the budget for 2023, will be presented at the upcoming Annual Meeting on March 5, 2023 at 11:15am. This year's meeting will be hybrid, both in-person and available via zoom. Stay tuned for further details to follow.



#### This I Believe Gratitude Essays

In November several of us got together to think about things we are grateful for in conjunction with our This I Believe writing workshop. Our conversation was rich and some wonderful and moving essays resulted. See for yourself below and consider taking the plunge during Lent when we take up the topic of "the table". Mark your calendars for March 22, 29, and April 5 to attend the series.

#### **My Connecticut Stone Wall**

Ralph Hills, November 2022

Yes, I believe in God. How else could I try to understand walking balanced on this spinning earth, with air to breathe, warmth, gravity, and water that are available to keep me and eight billion others alive and aware of our blessings.

If this all seems like a miraculous coincidence, we know someone once said a coincidence was God sending us a message.

And from a young age I have always been grateful for every day, every family member, every friend, every warm home, and the give and take of so much love.

What blessings all.

But eight years ago, after a routine physical, I received a surprise call from a complete stranger that I had an acute cancer.

When I asked about a prognosis the answer was "Acute means fast growing,

go home and get your affairs in order".

Eight years ago the standard of care for my illness was chemotherapy and transfusions, a very rough down and up process projected to give me only a one year lifeline.

But a new, expert, alert and caring doctor discovered a special mutation of my cancer, and I elected a risky clinical trial as my only treatment. After a very hard six months full time in bed and many trips to New York, the trial proved successful.

Now, with a newer drug, I receive monthly chemo treatments to hold back my incurable cancer. This April my doctor said "who knew I could ever get Ralph on a maintenance plan"?

I have always felt my life as being mostly along a linear single path; child, sibling, student, Army band, engineer, spouse, parent, provider, grandparent, church deacon, community volunteer, medical advocate.

So why the stone wall?

However, during these cancer years, my life no longer feels linear. I feel I am balancing on a fence trying to not tip between two parallel separate lives, hoping to not fall off to the wrong side.

The good side, a nice normal life, even with signs of aging.

And the bad side, where cancer again takes over everything and everyone in my life.

I cannot balance on a picket fence, a deer fence, a chain link fence, so I am fortunate I have our solid Connecticut

stone walls for my imaginary foothold on life.

Before I might fall off to the wrong side, I continue to cherish everything I am grateful for and try to give back. I gave my first speech for my New York doctor at her cancer center. Since then I have given many

speeches and interviews to advocate for the other 300,000 families who get the same terrible diagnosis each year, maybe bringing them hope, when it is so hard to find.

A medical crisis is like life itself, you know the most about it after it happens. So I recognize so much more and am grateful for every bonus moment.

I am grateful for family and friends, and even more for my wife Dorcas, who gave up her entire life to support me during those months in bed and recovery. For better for worse, these were times when she carried 100% of the physical and almost all the emotional load in our lives.

Of course I believe in God and am grateful for everything I see and every extra moment I have been given as I balance atop my imaginary Connecticut stone wall.

How can I not be?





#### **Silver Linings**

Tracy Goldman

Everyone always says things happen for a reason. For years I questioned this statement. If this is true, why would my husband lose his mother at age 13? And, why would I lose my job during Covid when my husband had been laid off as well? These were heart wrenching life experiences. There has to be a silver lining.

At times when I would question everything, I remember Ecclesiastes 3:1-8: for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

My husband, George, doesn't have many memories of his mother. She died of breast cancer at age 43 when he was only 13 years old, and his father passed away before our daughter was born. Life was hard. Teenage years were hard. Healing was hard. After we met, not once did I hear him say "Why me?" In fact, having such loss in his life made him empowered to make it different, better for our kids. He

makes every second of fatherhood count. Whether our kids like it or not, he's involved. He's the first to play barbies, have a catch, figure out a math problem, help you practice for the tryout, camp in the backyard, and initiate family game night. He's the best, and we are grateful for him every single day.

As for losing my job, it was like getting sucker punched in the stomach. How could this happen? I went back to work full time because my husband had lost his job. I wanted to do my part, help us financially. Even though it wasn't my dream job, it was a job, and I gave it everything I had and more. Maybe it was me, maybe it was because of Covid and customers weren't spending, but for the first time in my life, I got laid off. Like in Ecclesiastes, I took time – time to heal, time to build up, and time to figure out what I really wanted to do with my life. Six months later I heard about the job opportunity here at The Congregational Church of New Canaan. I instantly loved the team, the opportunity was perfect, and the work couldn't be more rewarding. I just passed my one-year mark, and I am beyond grateful to work here.

Maybe things do happen for a reason. Seeing the father my husband has become is extraordinary and working here at the church has given me such purpose. Maybe you have to go through the hard times to find the good, to rebuild, to heal, to be grateful, to find the silver linings.

#### Souperbowl of Caring

### Wear a jersey and bring a food item on Sunday, Feb 12

In 1990 it all began with a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." This prayer was delivered to a small youth group in Columbia, SC, by a seminary intern.



#### tacklehunger.org

Since 1990 over \$175 million in dollars and food has been generated through Souperbowl Sunday collections benefitting soup kitchens and local food pantries. This year on Feb 12, we invite your children to wear a sports jersey of any kind (football, soccer, swimming, lacrosse, baseball) and bring a can of soup or an item from the food list below to support our very own Open Door Shelter in Norwalk.

Come dressed for the Bible Bowl – wear a jersey – bring a can of soup (or other).

- · canned tuna or chicken
- peanut butter
- · jelly
- rice
- · dried beans
- canned soup
- · canned beans
- · canned vegetables
- · mad and cheese

- · vegetable oil
- sugar
- flour
- pancake mix
- · pancake syrup
- · cereal
- · oatmeal
- snack bars



#### **Church School Winter Highlights**

Our Church School continues to have strong attendance, and we are grateful for a chance to worship together monthly in the Chapel.





#### Clementine's Playdates Spring Session

Clementine's Playdates, a playgroup for three-year-olds and their parent or caregiver, is back with four classes for the spring. The group features a chance to play, socialize, and play music with Miss Jody and story and snack with Miss Kibbie.





# Youth and Family Lenten Ash Wednesday Service

#### Monday, February 27, 5pm in the Chapel

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Please come for a very special worship service for children and families,



grades K-4th will be attending for choir, but all are welcome, on Monday, February 27 at 5:00pm in the Chapel. This later date will accommodate families who are away on February Break. The service will be quiet and contemplative, featuring children's choirs, candles, worship, and the imposition of ashes on foreheads and hands for those who desire to receive them.

#### CHILDREN'S MUSIC AND DRAMA SPRING UPDATES

#### Children's Music Time Change Begins February 6

Due to upcoming spring sports schedules and the attention spans of our littlest participants, we have decided to make a slight change to the Monday schedule.

#### What's the same:

- All children, K-4th grade will still have the opportunity to participate in 2 full hours of programming each week.
- This includes Youth Group time and Music/Drama time, plus a snack.

#### What's different:

We are swapping the order of Youth Programming, so the schedule will now be:

- K-2nd graders 4:00-5:00pm Spirit Singers (Music & Drama) / 5:00-6:00pm Minnows
- 3rd & 4th graders 4:00-5:00pm Guppies / 5:00-6:00pm Joyful Noise (Music & Drama)

This won't be much of a change for anyone unless your child only participates in one or the other ministry.

Please contact the ministry leads directly if you have any specific questions about this change!

Music & Drama - Sydney Anderson: sydney@godsacre.org

Youth Groups - Erik Burns: <u>burns@godsacre.org</u> Kelly Antonson: <u>leather@godsacre.org</u>



#### **Spring Musical Scenes**

While we have hung up our Nativity costumes for 2022, the Children's Music & Drama Ministry is planning for our Spring Musical Scenes! Rehearsals will take place starting in March during regular Monday choir times to make it easy for your children's schedules. There will be roles for everyone — not just singers! Speaking lines, stage crew, technical crew, and more. All are welcome. The Musical Scenes presentation will be Monday, May 15 from 4:00-6:00pm.

Come Mondays, starting March 6, to participate in this special activity. For information, please contact Sydney at <a href="mailto:sydney@godsacre.org">sydney@godsacre.org</a>.





#### Super Bowl Sunday Music

The 10:00am worship service on Sunday, February 12, will be extra exciting, with all four of our children's choirs featured during the service. Cherubs, Spirit Singers, and Joyful Noise will offer two African-American Spirituals in honor of Black History Month. Our Junior Worship Team will sing a special contemporary worship song to get everyone in the mood for the Super Bowl Halftime Show that evening!

#### Youth Ministries in February

February brings us closer to spring, and youth ministries have a big month ahead. 92 YGers will depart on their yearly Mission Trip to San Antonio, Texas, this month, and our younger groups have some incredible events planned. As we prepare to serve our community and the people of San Antonio, we know that God is working in our midst.

#### Winter Weekend Recap - Hope and Forgiveness

In January, 32 MSYG Fish, 8 Junior Advisors, and 4 Advisors traveled up to Camp Silverlake in Sharon, CT, for this year's Winter Weekend. Despite the lack of snow, our fish had an incredible time participating in teambuilding activities, the low ropes course, and exploring the vast Silverlake Campus. Fish lived in community, grew in their faith, and had the opportunity to reflect on the ideas of hope and forgiveness. Overall, it was a successful weekend that continued to build a Christian community for our middle schoolers.





#### Midnight Run

#### **Donations Needed - March 17**

On the evening of March 17, thirteen of our thirty confirmands will participate in Midnight Run, traveling into New York City to distribute clothing, toiletries, and food to the homeless population. In preparation for our first Midnight Run of 2023, sweatshirts, sweatpants, hats, and gloves are needed! Starting on February 1, please place your donations in the bin labeled "Midnight Run" in Smith Hall. Thank you in advance. Contact Erik Burns, burns@godsacre.org. for more information!





Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-2

January 9, 2023

Dear Church Family,

For the past 32 years the young people of our church and our town have engaged in a relay-style race. They have been participants in a shared collective experience as young Christians running at times against the current and the norm. From one generation of YG fish to the next, the faith-forming community of the youth group has been lovingly inherited, maintained, shaped, and then passed along.

I ask you to become a Mission Sponsor this year because I am convinced that the success and investment of this year's mission trip are as much about all the trips that have come before it as it is about all the trips in the future. Your commitment to support this program means the baton will be passed down to our MSYGers, JYGers, Guppies, Minnows and to all the children just now being baptized in our church. Committing to support the YG program means we acknowledge how crucial faith development is in the lives of our teenagers in not only shaping who they are now, but who they will become.

As part of our community, you too, are a member of our YG family at large and part of YG's cloud of witnesses. You love our fish, pray for them, and support our mission to create commu-nities where our young people can come and know the love of God.

During the ten days of this year's mission trip to San Antonio, Texas, our 92 mission Fish will work hard in the service of others, make life-long friendships, and establish themselves as members of the body of Christ. They will be transformed by God's grace as they work to trans-form homes in disrepair. For the fourth time, we are blessed to partner with Blueprint Ministries.

Today I ask you to join us as a mission sponsor and give both your prayers and resources to this mission. Your donation will not only help provide housing, food, and other needs but, more im-portantly, make this trip possible for our Mission Fish in need of scholarships.

The race is set before us. Our goal is set at \$75,000! Please become a 2023 mission sponsor today and most fully live into your role as a crucial member of our cloud of witnesses. God's work can only be accomplished with the help of volunteer groups like YG. And we cannot do it without sponsors like you! Will you be a Mission Sponsor?

In Christ's service, Kelly Antonson Senior Youth Director To contribute you can mail in a check or donate online at:

www.godsacre.org/give

Designate your gift as "YG Mission Sponsors"

#### Men's Fellowship Supports YG Mission Trip

On December 13, sixty-one of our men enjoyed the annual Christmas dinner, which was held at Waveny House for the second year. Ten Pivot House guests joined us for a festive evening that included a convivial cocktail hour, a four-course dinner provided by Simply Delicious, and of course, the traditional carol singing. In addition, a light-hearted raffle included generous prizes provided by various town retailers, with the top prize being a set of onion goggles! The raffle raised \$890 for the YG Mission Trip.









#### Pivot Breakfast plus a lot more

There are a number of MG events scheduled in February and March. MG will host a breakfast with our Pivot brothers with reflections from the group on the topic of perseverance on February 4 at 8:00am in Smith Hall. Contact Don Moyle at



donmoyle@gmail.com to RSVP. The M4 workplace reflection meeting hosted by Dirk Dunlap is scheduled for Friday, February 11 at 7:30am at 31 Grove Street. Contact Dirk at dirkdunlap@hotmail.com. And last but not least, the monthly MG Small Group meeting is scheduled Monday, February 27 at 7:30pm in the Meeting House. During March we are planning of a March Madness event in addition to the regular M4 and Small Group gatherings - more to come.

#### Fellowship Dinner Parties

The Fellowship Team invites you to Italian Night on Saturday, March 4, from 7:00-9:00pm. There will be several dinner parties taking place simultaneously throughout the town. Each house will have 8-10 people in attendance, and guests will be assigned a dish to prepare and a beverage to share. Hosts are essential to make this night a success; all that is required is setting the table and providing non-alcoholic beverages. No need to be a gourmet cook; the recipes are all easy to make and can even be purchased! Please RSVP by Sunday, February 26, or email Lesley Cousley, lacousley@gmail.com, if you are able to host.

\*Host information and menu assignments will be emailed on Monday, February 27.

#### **WELCOMING TEAM**

#### Winter New Member Class

Our church has been so blessed to have so much interest in membership that our Welcoming Team decided to open a Winter New Member Class! We ran two sessions, January 22 and January 25, followed by New Member Sunday on January 29. We welcomed 16 people into our congregation: Adam and Allison Benenson, Jason and Sicily Bennett, Chris and Mary Carter, Rob and Polly Grube, Ryan and Jennifer Lindner, Jason and Jennifer Russell, Scott and Ashley Simon, Mark and Mackie Spadaccini. We are thrilled to add these new members into our church family!





#### MUSIC MINISTRIES UPCOMING EVENTS

#### February is Black History Month

In observance of Black History Month, a spiritual will be included in each Sunday service in February. The music of African-American composers has provided a unique richness to our services.

#### Hymn Sing-a-long in February

#### Let's Prepare For Worship By Singing Your Favorite Hymns!

On Sunday mornings at 9:45am on the Third Sunday of each month, we will gather in the Meeting House to sing your favorite hymns! Jody will ask the congregation to select hymns to be sung during this pre-worship fellowship. The next Hymn Singalong will be on Sunday, February 19. All ages are welcome!



# Sing during the Lenten and Faster Seasons

Plan Ahead: if you would like to sing with the Chancel Choir but have limited time, consider singing during the Lenten season and on Easter Day. The Chancel Choir will sing Lenten anthems beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22, and Sundays starting February 26. You may sing the Palm Sunday service with trumpets on April 2, Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service on April 6, and Easter Day on April 9 with brass and tympani. There's a place for you! Come Thursday evenings, from 7:30-8:15pm, for quick rehearsals for these occasions. You will sit next to a strong singer who will support you along the way. For more information, please contact Jody Blaine Davis at <a href="mailto:music@godsacre.org">music@godsacre.org</a> or (203)966-2651 x104.



# Lenten Musical Moments WEDNESDAYS, 12:30PM

You are invited to hear our exceptional section leaders sing Lenten contemplative music in the Meeting House. These begin Wednesday, March 1 through Wednesday, April 5 at 12:30pm; they are 30 minutes and everyone is invited. These are open to the public so invite a friend.

March 1 Greer Lyle, soprano
 March 8 Aram Tchobanian, tenor
 March 15 Sergio Martinez, bass
 March 22 Anne Maguire, mezzo soprano

March 29 Hans Tashjian, bass
April 5 Linda Maranis, piano and
Karl Hedrick, piano



Greer Lyle soprano



Aram Tchobanian tenor



Sergio Martinez bass



Anne Maguire mezzo soprano



Hans Tashjian bass



Linda Maranis pianist



Karl Hedrick pianist

#### Calling All Handbell Ringers

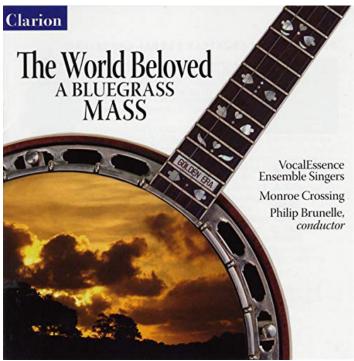
Calling all handbell and tone chimes ringers!! Ringing handbells and tone chimes are fun. Mr. Karl meets ringers after Sunday church services in Room 8. Come for 15 minutes or longer to learn bell techniques. High schoolers and adults, there are openings in the Joyful Ringers handbell choir. It is helpful if you read music but not mandatory; Joyful Ringers meet Thursdays from 6:15-7:15pm in Room 8. Bell ringing is a wonderful way to use your talents at church. For more information, please contact Jody Blaine Davis at music@godsacre.org or (203)966-2651 x104.

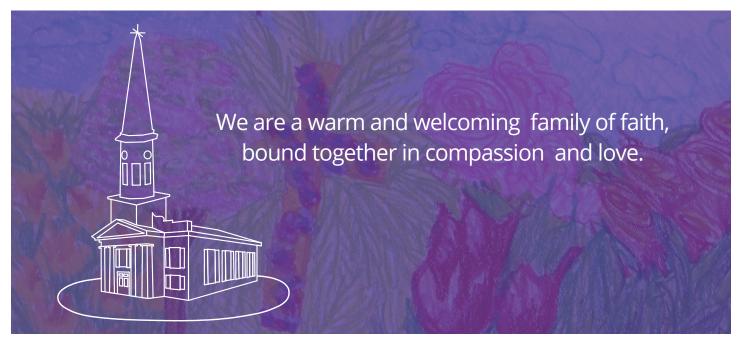


#### Spring Folk-Singing Opportunity

On Pentecost Sunday, June 4, at the 10:00am service you are invited to sing A World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass by Carol Barnett and Marisha Chamberlain. This work blends classical, bluegrass, and modern music styles into a multi-movement piece. It will be accompanied by strings, banjo, and mandolin. You will be seated near a strong singer, and you will find the music fun to learn!

Come Thursdays, starting February 9 from, 7:30-8:00pm. Please contact Jody at <u>music@godscre.org</u> or (203)966-2651 x104.





#### Open Doors Food Collection - February 12

Mid-winter is a time of increased need at shelters. The holiday rations are waning, and the client numbers here increase due to cold weather. Help us restock the Open Doors Pantry by bringing non-perishables to the open car trunks in the church circle on Sunday, February 12, from 9:45am-12:00pm. The most needed items are rice (preferably 2lb bags), dried beans

(red or black), canned tuna, chicken noodle soup, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jelly (grape or strawberry), breakfast cereal, spices, and coffee. Can openers (regular old manual can openers) and reusable grocery bags are always appreciated as well!

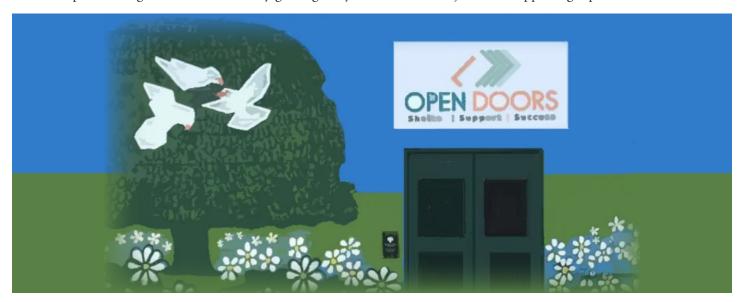




#### February Plate Collection - Open Doors, Norwalk

Every night in Connecticut there are 3,033 people without a home; 771 of those are in Fairfield County. Homelessness has many causes. In Fairfield County, the lack of affordable housing drives many individuals and families into homelessness. Our longtime partners Open Doors' mission is to make a direct impact in the greater Norwalk area by guiding every

person in the cycle of homelessness towards housing stability. Their vision is to engage every person at risk of and experiencing homelessness with a holistic set of tools and resources that can be tailored to their individual needs. Our plate offering for February is designated to this compassionate cause. Please join us in supporting Open Doors.



#### Flower Ministry Many Thanks!

#### With Gratitude and Joy

As we enter 2023, the Flower Ministry can not help but look back at 2022 in awe at what a wonderful year of flowers and fellowship it has been. We especially want to thank the congregation for supporting the beautiful Christmas and Easter displays they brought joy first to our services and events and then to those members of the community to which they were delivered - a huge Thank You to all.







Our congregation has been blessed by Stephen Ministry since 2006. Why? We believe you don't have to go through stressful times alone.

During Covid I have felt....





## Prayer Shawl Ministry

#### What is it?

Since 2005, our Prayer Shawl Ministry has knitted shawls for members and friends of the church who are experiencing significant life challenges. The prayer shawls are made with love and blessed with prayers in worship. They have become a healing presence to all who receive them in times of need. The prayer shawl ministry knits, shares secrets of the craft and is rewarded as a group that cares deeply for one another. If you have always wanted to knit, this is a wonderful time to join us! No experience is needed, and all supplies are provided.

#### When is it?

Knitters gather on the 2nd and 4th Monday from 10:00-11:30am in the Parlor.

#### Contact

Kibbie Laird (203)966-2651 x102 or Twee Haffner (203)966-0606

#### **OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY**

#### Check out our new staff phone extensions!

We have upgraded our phone systems to better serve our congregation. Please take a moment to see the new extensions.

#### **Ministers**

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Chapin Garner, **x101** Senior Minister

The Rev. Kathryn Kibbie Laird, **x102** Associate Minister of Children, Youth, and Families

#### **Staff**

Sydney Anderson, **x115**Director of Children's Music and Drama

Kelly Leather Antonson, **x110** Senior Youth Director

Erik Burns, **x111** Youth Director

Laurel Carr, **x107**Director of Communications

Lindsey Daly, **x112**Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Jo Deen Blaine Davis, **x104** Director of Music Ministries

Tracy Goldman, **x109** Administrative Assistant

Sarah Haddad, **x113** Church School Coordinator

Karl Hedrick, **x115** Organ Scholar

Anthony Jones, **x116** Sexton

Marianna Kilbride, **x105**Director of Missions and Outreach

Caroline Leather, **x106** Director of Operations

Maria Stadnik, **x108**Director of Finance

Allison Wolter, **x114**Youth Ministries Administrative Assistant

#### **Church Lay Leadership**

Diane Bailey Chair, Personnel

Chris Baker Chair, Board of Trustees

Barbara Clayton Chair, Nominating and Governance

Hoyt Davidson Chair, Board of Deacons



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

We are a Stephen Minister Church

#### Newsletter Submissions

If you are planning on contributing to the March newsletter, please submit by February 19. Email submissions to: <a href="mailto:laurel@godsacre.org">laurel@godsacre.org</a>.

#### myConnect 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 <a href="https://www.godsacre.org/myconnect">www.godsacre.org/myconnect</a>
- 2. Go to <a href="www.godsacre.org">www.godsacre.org</a> 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 <u>laurel@godsacre.org</u>

