



meditate

ON MY WORD



FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Dear Friends,

It is our nature to desire God. We are made that way. And so, we have passages in the church year that lead us into communion with God. Lent is such a time. It is time for reflection, examination of self, a rejection of that which moves us away from God, and a joyous entry into the awareness of God in our lives. Lent is not a time to pile on activities, but it is a time to choose those that will aid us in this movement.

I invite you to consider which of our church offerings during Lent might deepen your engagement with God, each other, and the wider community.



- The Lenten Bible Study is the Gospel of John, the most contemplative of the gospels. Join us for one or all these meaningful Christian writing sessions culminating during Holy Week on Mondays at 7:00-8:00am or Tuesdays (Women's) at 9:30-10:30am.
- The This I Believe Lenten Writer's Workshop will focus on experiences around the table and runs March 22, 29, and April 5, from 7:00-8:00pm. In these popular workshops, we get to know one another and our faiths on a deeper level.
- The Refugee Welcome Classroom Collection from February 22-April 9 benefits elementary-age Afghan refugees with basic needs they have identified.
- Noble Avenue Project Workday is March 25, 9:00am-1:00pm in Bridgeport. Join us in renovating a home for post-addiction recovery men as they reenter society.

Chapin, Kibbie, and I would be happy to talk to you about what you might choose at the church or at home for your own practice. Contact Tracy Goldman, office@godsacre.org, or me, marianna@godsacre.org, for optional zoom links or to sign up for mission projects.

However you decide to mark this reflective season, I wish you a blessed and meaningful Lent,
Marianna

"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:6-8

Lent on God's Acre

ADULT FORMATION

Art and Faith

This I Believe Lenten Workshop
March 22, 29, and April 5,
7:00-8:00pm, Library

Lenten Bible Study

The Gospel of John
Mondays, 7:00-8:00am, Library
Tuesday Women's, 9:30-10:30am,
Parlor

Contact Marianna Kilbride
marianna@godsacre.org

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Refugee Welcome

Classroom Collection

February 22 - April 9
Contact Marianna Kilbride
marianna@godsacre.org

WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday

Traditional Service

Wednesday, February 22,
8:00pm, Meeting House

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Youth and Family

Ash Wednesday Service

Monday, February 27, 5:00-5:30pm
Chapel

Family Bingo Night

Thursday, March 9, 5:00-6:30pm
Smith Hall

Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 9, 10:00am

Church Lawn

Contact The Rev. Kibbie Laird

kibbie@godsacre.org

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Supper Club

Saturday, March 4, 7:00-9:00pm

RSVP to Lesley Cousley

lacousley@gmail.com

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Lenten Yoga

Saturdays, 8:30-9:30am, Smith Hall

February 25 - April 1

Contact Lesley Cousley

lacousley@gmail.com

MUSIC

Lenten Musical Moments

Wednesdays, 12:30pm, Meeting House

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*

Karl Hedrick, *piano*

Palm Sunday, April 2 at 10:00am

Trumpets, Children's Choirs, Bells,
and Chancel Choir herald Jesus' entry
to Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 8:00pm

The Chancel Choir sings reflective
music for the service.

Easter Day, April 9 at 9:00am and 11:00am Worship Services

Brass, tympani, organ, and Chancel
Choir celebrate the Resurrection.

Holy Week on God's Acre

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 2

8:00am Worship Service

Chapel

10:00am Worship Service

Meeting House

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 6

8:00pm Tenebrae Service

Featuring the Chancel Choir, Meeting House

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 9

6:15am Contemporary Sunrise Worship Service

Church Steps

- A light breakfast follows in the Parlor

9:00am Traditional Worship Service

Meeting House

- Prelude begins at 8:45am

- Church School Chapel Service and Nursery Care available

10:00am Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

Church Lawn

11:00am Traditional Worship Service

Meeting House

- Prelude begins at 10:45am

- Church School Chapel Service and Nursery Care available

www.godsacre.org

New Needs, New Callings to Serve

Now that our beloved church has survived the pandemic and is vibrant, and growing, your deacons have turned their attention to evaluating our current ministry teams for their effectiveness in providing the programs and services our congregation needs and enjoy. We are also very focused on finding opportunities for our members to engage in meaningful ministry and fellowship to enhance their spiritual growth. This process will be ongoing for several months starting with the board of deacons.

Meanwhile, the deacons believe there are four new needs that are not currently covered by any existing ministry team. We wanted to make you aware of these new ministry teams in the hope that one or more of them will fit your particular passion and expertise and that you will feel called to help us establish these new ministry teams. Here they are:

- **Mental Health & Substance Abuse**

The need in our community for services, support, and education around mental health and substance abuse is increasing. This is true among our children as well as our adult population. We believe there is an opportunity for a new ministry team to develop capabilities to help address this critical need.

- **Young Adults (post YG)**

Our Youth Groups have been an amazing blessing for our children and families. Still, eventually, most of our children leave New Canaan and the Congregational Church to attend college or take a job elsewhere. We believe there is

a deep need to develop programs and fellowship opportunities to keep these young adults connected to our church, protect their faith, and build life-long relationships with each other.

- **Technology**

One thing we learned in the pandemic is the value of the internet, video, and virtual technologies in keeping our congregation connected and providing worship opportunities outside of church attendance on Sunday. This new hybrid world is here to stay, and we need to learn how and when to use these technologies to better serve our congregation, enhance worship and improve fellowship. There is also an important opportunity to improve the audio/visual capability within our Meeting House, Smith Hall, and the Chapel.

- **History & Archiving**

One lesson we learned from questions about who actually owns God's Acre is the need to better archive our historical files for easy access and search. It would also be wonderful to understand and preserve our church's history as we move toward our fourth century. Researching, documenting, and summarizing that history may not only be intellectually interesting, but helpful as we face new challenges in the future. How did our predecessors solve similar problems?

If any of the above areas call you, please contact Hoyt Davidson at hoyt@nearearthllc.com and Dionna Carlson at dcarlso2@optonline.net.

ANNUAL MEETING

Upcoming Annual Meeting

The Trustees are reviewing the financial results for 2022. Last year's results, and the budget for 2023, will be presented at the upcoming Annual Meeting on March 5, 2023. Please join us for a full update from our Deacons and Trustees, nominating recommendations, and a review of our Raymond Trust. Contact Caroline Leather at caroline@godsacre.org to RSVP and receive the Zoom link.



This I Believe Lenten Workshop - At the Table

Please join us for this popular Lenten writers' workshop, where we will discuss experiences at the table. We will read, write, listen, reflect, create a dialog with one another, and share stories of meaning. We will learn from each other's perspectives, and those who desire will craft a personal essay with the theme of the table as a jumping-off point. See Andy Parkin's beautiful reflection from our fall series on gratitude below. To participate, RSVP to Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org or Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org.



This I Believe

Andy Parkin

I believe that my parents (Ron & Joyce) and, by connection, my home town has shaped who I am and for this I am grateful.

My home town is Cleethorpes, population about 40,000. It is a Victorian era seaside resort where factory workers from nearby towns and cities would come with their families to spend their 2 weeks' vacation each year – but now they go to Spain or Greece. It is bordered by the larger town of Grimsby which once boasted the world's largest fishing fleet with over 500 trawlers but they are now long gone. The place has seen better days.

My Dad was a motor mechanic by trade who worked his way up to be a car salesman. To help out, my Mum had a part-time job serving school dinners.

I believe they have taught me the importance of hard work. I can remember my Dad sat on the floor at night counting the tips he had got from his second job - driving a bus. This encouraged me to work hard at school and go to college – the first in my family to do so.

They also taught me the importance of loyalty – my Dad had a loyal following of people who would buy cars from him as he was known to be a fair and honest salesman. When I was 9, I went to see Grimsby Town play football for the first time and I was hooked. To this day, they are the only football team I have supported.

I left my parents and Cleethorpes at 18 - moving to Birmingham for college, then to Nottingham and the US for work. So for the last 45 years, I have been an infrequent visitor to my parents and my home town. I was focused on myself and my career.



I thought my association with Cleethorpes would come to an end in 2013 when my Dad, Mum and an aunt all died within the same week. That was a tough year for me and my sister (Jan) and our partners. To quote Oscar Wilde "To lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness." I felt guilty about being the

absent son – not realizing how ailing they all were. We arranged the funerals, sold their houses and settled the estates. Time to move on and leave this place behind me or so I thought. However, my wife, Stephanie, encouraged us to have a burial plot for my parents' ashes – saying it was important to have a marker to say these people existed. A place for me and my sister to visit and to reflect.

The last visit was during the summer and the sun was shining for a change. Stephanie and I

walked the town and I reminisced – some things were the same but others were changing – mostly for the better. The Lifeboat (my local pub) and the Winter Gardens (the local music venue) are now apartments, the Queens (the only pub open on Christmas night) is now a restaurant and the food is actually good. Willy's Wine Bar and the Papas (a fish and chips restaurant on the pier) are welcome new additions. I met my best friend from school and it's like we have never been apart. We saw Grimsby Town play football – the team was not so good but the gallows humor made me laugh. I walked past my parents' house but can no longer go inside – however, I can go and visit my parents' grave, say a prayer and say thank you. I will be back in 2023.

Lenten Bible Study

Our Lenten Bible Study is the Gospel of John. 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 for one or all sessions. Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org or Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org.

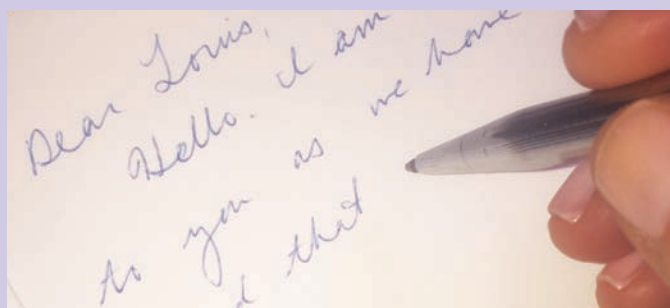


Card Ministry Team

Interested in helping to bring a smile to fellow church members? Please consider joining the Card Ministry Team. We send handwritten notes to do-gooders, unsung heroes, those needing support, those going through a life change, etc. Please join us and write cards that make a difference in someone's life. We will supply you with beautiful church note cards, the recipient's name, and address.

If you know of anyone needing a pick-me-up, going through a difficult period, or feeling lonely, please let us know, and we will send a kindhearted note.

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



Circle of Friends - March 26, 2023



On Sunday, March 26, we will welcome our third Circle of Friends guest preacher, The Reverend William H. Lamar IV. Lamar serves as Pastor of the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, DC. He was the Managing Director of Leadership Education at Duke University Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina. For nearly 15 years, Lamar has been actively involved with organizations like Direct Action Research Training (DART), Industrial Areas Foundations (IAF), and Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) for faith-based community organizing for justice. Most recently, he has collaborated with Repairers of the Breach, the Center for Community Change (CCC), and People Improving Communities through Organization (PICO) to enact a social justice ministry in surrounding communities and to exhibit a real embrace for the beloved community.



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 370 pledge cards (93% of the 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.



Currently, we are at 370 pledge cards (93% of goal).

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

MG Pivot Breakfast Success!

On Saturday, February 4, the Men's Fellowship Group (MG) hosted our brothers from Pivot Ministries for our annual Winter Breakfast. With over 60 guys in attendance, it was a great morning of fellowship and delicious food, with our own Scott Heath in town cooking up a storm.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Lenten Yoga Series

Are you looking to improve your mental and physical health while also focusing on a little self-reflection during this Lenten season? Join us for a six-week Women's Yoga Series! Drop-in yoga classes will be held at 8:30am in Smith Hall on the following Saturday mornings: February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25 and April 1. Feel free to come to one class or all six. \$10 per class (cash or Venmo). Bring your own mat. Contact Lesley Cousley at lcousley@gmail.com to learn more.



Souper Bowl of Caring was Such Fun! And Successful for Open Doors Shelter

Church School students wore jerseys of all kinds to worship on February 12 (football, basketball, swimming, etc), and brought canned food items to Open Doors Shelter. Lindsey Daly and Sydney Anderson led a Chapel for grades 1-4, where two teams faced off in a Bible Bowl. Great fun was had by all!



Children and Family Bingo Night

Family Bingo Night is Back! Thursday, March 9 from 5:00-6:30pm. Last year this was one of our most popular events! Come for dinner out, great prizes, and a super fun night of Bingo! Look for the evite and please RSVP so we get the headcount right for dinner. Contact Sarah Haddad at churchschool@godsacre.org



Clementine's Playdates Spring Semester is here

Wednesdays at 9:15am and 10:30am and Fridays at 9:15am and 10:30am; children three and under gather with a caregiver to play, socialize, sing, and hear a story. If you are interested in joining us, there are a few openings in the 10:30am classes. Please email kibbie@godsacre.org to register. Friends are welcome, too!



Ash Wednesday Children and Youth Family Service

Our Annual Ash Wednesday Children and Family Lenten Worship service featured our Children's Choirs, a meditation on worry stones, and a blessing with ashes for all who wished to receive. We talked about what worries us and took home worry stones with the promise that we would worry with Jesus and not alone. All are invited to walk closer with Jesus this Lent.



Children's Music in Church

All four children's choirs joined forces to lead the congregation in joy-filled worship music on "Souper Bowl" Sunday. The whole church smiled as the PreK-4th graders led everyone in fun motions on the opening hymn, a traditional Negro Spiritual, "I've Got Peace Like a River," in honor of Black History Month. The budding Junior Worship Team also sang a beautiful contemporary worship song, which they will reprise on Palm Sunday.



Spring Musical Scenes

The Children's Music & Drama Ministry is planning for our Spring Musical scenes! Rehearsals will take place starting March 13 during normal 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.

Come to choir Monday evenings to be a part of this special activity. For information, please contact Sydney at sydney@godsacre.org.

SAVE THE DATE The Musical Scenes presentation will be **Monday, May 15 at 5:00pm.**

Upcoming Children's Choir Appearances

MARCH 5

10:00am Worship

Spirit Singers and Joyful Noise (K-4th)

APRIL 2 Palm Sunday

10:00am Worship

(ALL choirs: PreK-8th)

Valentine's "Love Notes"

The Children's Choirs celebrated Valentine's Day on Monday, February 13, by touring the church and singing "love notes" for the Staff. They shared their love for Jesus and their understanding of God's love for us and received Valentine's treats in return. They even sang for the Staying Put gathering in the Parlor! This special tradition was enjoyed by all.



Thank You Mission Sponsors

Dear Mission Sponsors,
 My name is Hadley Walker and I am a Junior at New Canaan High School. It is because of your donations that I am able to experience countless Mission Trips that hold so many inexplicable and wonderful memories. This year we traveled to San Antonio a place I have never visited before however, after just a few days, I have been able to see the many beauties this place holds. We began this trip by traveling to a gorgeous river-walk that went on for many miles. It was such a great way to start the trip as we began bonding with our team members while taking in the peaceful sights. That same day we were able to meet with the wonderful people who run Blueprint Ministries, and hear them speak about this wonderful place. They have been working with countless groups of people on different houses in the area making grave and beautiful changes to peoples lives. It's truly so inspiring and warmed my heart hearing them speak about what they do. The following day we visited a Rodeo/Amusement Park which was so incredibly fun. We spent the day riding countless rides and enjoying each others company. That was truly one of the best YG weekend trips. Spending quality time with my fellow YGers is one of the most special parts of YG as it brings us all so close. Which is why Sunday was a day filled with so much love. We spent the day around Blueprint laughing and enjoying the meaningful conversations that filled the circles. Truly so beyond special.

Now onto my favorite and most memorable part of these Mission Trips. The worksite. This year my team, Team Full House led by Will Hennessy and Khanisha has the pleasure of working on Laura's house. She is a single mom of four who is unable to work due to health restrictions. Something that struck me when hearing her story was hearing that she is ashamed of her house and rarely let's anyone come over. This immediately overwhelmed me with heartache as I cannot begin to imagine that painful feeling. It also moved me to put fourth my best foot to help her feel secure in her home. We are working on the flooring inside her house by ripping out the previous floor and replacing it with new boards. The difference is already so evident. We also began painting the outside of her house in efforts to make Laura feel better about her already beautiful home. My favorite part of the day however was the time I spent with 8 year old Violet, Laura's daughter. We invited her outside to talk and hang out with us and seeing her smile and share stories made my heart smile. Violet today made me appreciate so many things as she was the happiest girl who showed us her rolling skating skills and lit up my whole teams faces. We even shared a dance party which radiated so much love I cannot even describe it. It is these moments that I cherish the most. I am so thankful and over-filled with blessings from YG. Thank You so much for donating as it is because of you that I am able to make a difference and make so many people smile. No thank you could ever express my gratitude however I hope this letter brings a smile to your face because these trips hold such a special place in my heart. Truly, thank you so, so much.

with immense love and gratitude,

Hadley Walker



The Congregational Church
 of New Canaan

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JOIN US FOR YOUTH SUNDAY 2023!



The graphic features a map of Texas with a red location pin over San Antonio. A large white 'YG' logo is positioned above a wooden sign that reads 'Serving in San Antonio!'. A brown cowboy hat is to the right of the sign. A yellow oval contains the text: 'Thank you Mission Sponsors for your support of our mission to San Antonio, Texas! Sunday, March 12th 10:00am Worship Service'. The background includes a wooden fence and a light blue sky.

Serving in San Antonio!

Thank you Mission Sponsors for your support of our mission to San Antonio, Texas!

Sunday, March 12th
10:00am Worship Service



Hymn Sing-a-long

Sunday, March 19 at 9:45am

Select your favorite hymns, and the congregation will sing a few verses! All ages are invited for this monthly Hymn Sing: any season, any page in our Hymns of Truth and Light Hymnal. Jody will lead at 9:45am to hear your selections!



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MAY 6 AT 7:00PM

Mary Bradley Clarke Fund Benefit Concert with reception following. Childcare provided.



Lenten Musical Moments



WEDNESDAYS, 12:30PM

You are invited to Wednesday recitals during Lent from 12:30–1:00pm. Chancel Choir section leaders and guests will give this contemplative music. Join us for 30 minutes in the Meeting House and invite a friend: these are free and open to the public.

- 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

What is Pastoral Care?

Are you a caring and nurturing person by nature? Are you interested in joining one of our pastoral care ministries? Read below, and join us!

Pastoral Care in our church takes on many different forms; however, all of them focus on caring for God's people, providing care for our flock, and walking with those in need through difficult and joyful times of life. While everyone in the church is called to "love your neighbor," we are blessed by a large number of people who have joined organized ministries within our church to use their gifts and talents to serve others. In addition to our pastors, who are the first line of defense in emergency situations, and who make daily and weekly pastoral calls and visits, these ministry teams support our members and bring joy and support, prayer and fellowship.

Our **Visitation Team** supports our ministers in providing care and support to members who need help and support on a temporary basis. Whether it is help when someone returns from the hospital or calling to make sure a parishioner is doing alright after a transition in life, our visitation team is there to help and support when a Stephen Minister is not needed.

Our **Stephen Ministry Team** is comprised of twenty-five trained Stephen Ministers, Stephen Leaders, and two pastors who support our flock during a difficult season of life. Stephen Ministry is a nationwide program that teaches lay members to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, depression, or loneliness. Stephen Ministry is completely confidential and free, and Stephen Ministers become skilled at walking beside another in crisis after receiving 50 hours of training. Our Stephen Ministers meet weekly



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**



with their care receivers and meet twice monthly for supervision and continuing education. The program began in our church in 2006, and we are blessed to have them.



The **Prayer Shawl Ministry Team** meets monthly to knit prayer shawls for our members who need an extra measure of God's grace and care during a difficult time in life. Every church has a thing or two, and these prayer shawls are one of our most prized gifts. The women on the prayer shawl ministry use this gift to bring healing and hope to those in crisis in our church. The shawls are blessed in worship and given with love through this amazing ministry.

The **Prayer Chain** operates under the faithful leadership of BJ Flagg. Those who need prayers or wish prayers for others contact our ministers or BJ directly, and the prayer concern is sent via email to our prayer chain. Members of the church and those outside of the church as well can ask for prayer in this way.

Flower Team Ministry, under the direction of Juliet Howe, chooses flowers for our weekly worship or responds to specific flower requests when members wish to memorialize a loved one. The member of the committee in charge weekly and goes directly to the wholesale florist and chooses their flowers for the week. Following worship, the flowers are then divided into smaller arrangements and delivered to members needing pastoral care.



The **Card Writing Ministry** Stephanie Radman is the point person for our card ministry team. Our ministers request cards for those who need prayers and fellowship.

If you would like to join any of these pastoral care ministry teams, we would love to have you! Reach out directly to their leaders, or email kibbie@godsacre.org.

Noble Avenue Project Work Day

Please join us on Saturday, March 25, 9:00am-1:00pm to renovate a home in Bridgeport for men reentering society post-addiction recovery programs. This safe, affordable, and supportive environment increases the likelihood of successful and long-term sober living. No experience is necessary to help. To sign up or with questions contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godscare.org, or Tracy Goldman at office@godscare.org.



A Souper Big Thank You!

Thank you to all the kids and adults for making our Souper Bowl of Caring and Open Doors food collection a big success! Because of your continued generosity, we loaded up three large vehicles filled with non-perishable food and delivered them to our local partner in Norwalk, Open Doors.



March Plate Collection – Filling in the Blanks

The mission of Filling in the Blanks is to fight childhood hunger by providing children in need with meals on the weekends. Filling in the Blanks (FITB) delivers meals directly to children from low-income families each weekend to bridge the gap when they are not receiving nutrition from their schools, after-school programs, or camps. The expected outcome is to remove one worry from their lives, put them on more equal ground with their food-secure peers, and provide consistent nutritional support. Filling in the Blanks is in its tenth year of operation and has delivered over 2 million meals to children in Fairfield and Westchester counties. Currently, meals are provided to over 4,600 students each week; enrollment is anticipated to be 6,000 children by June 2023. Our plate offering for March is designated to this important cause. Please join us in supporting Filling in the Blanks.



Refugee Welcome Classroom Lenten Collection

The Refugee Welcome Classroom in New Haven serves elementary-aged refugees who are primarily Afghan and trying to learn English and other basics. Our Lenten collection addresses some of their most basic needs – gift cards for food, lunch boxes, ice packs, and other necessities. Contact Tracy Goldman for a sign-up link at office@godsacre.org.



Earthquake Aid

We continue to pray for the victims of the Turkish and Syrian earthquakes. Congregants wishing to help with Turkish and Syrian earthquake disaster relief are invited to donate to our three partner organizations, Americares, UCC, and World Vision.

Americares relief workers are in contact with longtime partner organizations working in Turkey and Syria to offer assistance. The health-focused relief and development organization will send urgently needed medicines and relief supplies, including wound care products and first aid items, to supply health workers treating survivors. Americares will also provide emergency funding to local health partners working in the region to help restore health services in the hardest-hit communities. Donations to Americares Turkey-Syria Earthquake Relief Fund will support this crisis response. To donate, go to: americares.org/Turkey-SyriaRelief.

UCC donations will be deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for “Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response.” Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need for relief and long-term recovery. To donate: <https://support.ucc.org/donate-now>.

World Vision is on the ground providing aid to the most vulnerable children and families. They are helping people get access to temporary shelters, heaters, clean water, and critically needed healthcare. They are also providing care for children whose families are not able to during this crisis. Select Turkey and Syria Emergency Response at: <https://donate.worldvision.org/cart>.



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



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

Newsletter Submissions

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

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 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 laurel@godsacre.org