



FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Dear Church Family,

I would like to begin our program year by communicating the important interim plans in place for this fall. There are three features of this plan that I want to share with you. 1) Plans for our Music Ministry 2) Plans to cover the ministries Kibbie oversaw 3) Plans for the leadership of our Youth Ministry.

1) By the grace and goodness of God, we have identified an interim Director of Music Ministries. Michael Burnette, who has worked with us over this past year, has agreed to join us this coming program year to give leadership to our music ministry. He is immensely talented (please see his attached bio) and a delight to work with. Michael will join us in November to overlap with and learn from Jody in anticipation of assuming leadership of the entire program by Christmas Eve. The Deacons are in the process of assembling a Search Committee to identify our next Director of Music and will share more about this important search process upon commencement. To cover children's music for this program year, Greer Lyle, our soprano section leader, has agreed to serve as Director of our Children's Music Ministry for the interim. Greer is also a delight to work with, has been a part of our community for the past few years, and has extensive experience leading children and youth choirs. So, I feel confident that we have solid, faithful, and dynamic music ministry leadership in place for the coming year and a great team and process in place to identify future leadership in our church.



2) In her last year of service to our church, Kibbie primarily focused on Clementine's Playgroup and Pastoral Care. Blessedly, we are well-equipped to cover these two ministries with current staff and church members. Lindsey Daly and Sarah Haddad, who lead our church school program, will continue to offer Clementine's playgroup. Barb Clayton and Beth Baker will share the part-time Minister of Pastoral Care role until we decide on the appropriate long-term support. Beth has served as the leader of Stephen and Visitation Ministries for nearly a decade, and Barb has completed two units of Clinical Pastoral Education (more than Kibbie and I combined). Barb also serves as Chaplain at Silver Hill and Norwalk Hospital. Both Beth and Barb feel called to this shared role.

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The one piece of Kibbie's job that we do not yet have an interim solution for is her coverage of my pastoral duties when I am away. This means we will eventually need to begin a search for a new Associate Pastor, but the more pressing matter is identifying the next generation of leadership for our Youth Ministry.

- 3) After nine years of service to our youth, Kelly Antonson is preparing for a career in pastoral ministry upon graduating from Yale Divinity School in 2025. Kelly's long-term desire is to be a church pastor, and while I hope that Kelly might be a candidate for our Associate Pastor position, we can be certain that Kelly will be serving a church somewhere. This means we need to begin a search for our next Senior Director of Youth Ministry soon with the hope that someone could overlap with Kelly to learn our programs under her guidance and direction. There is much work to do, but we have the gift of Kelly, along with my daughter Emma, to faithfully guide this growing program for the coming year.

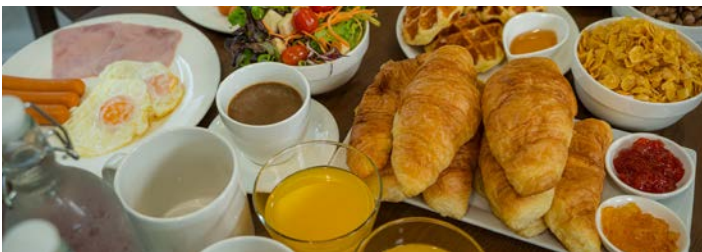
These are our plans to date, and I believe they will allow us to pursue the ministry the Lord is calling us to this year with characteristic faithfulness and excellence. There are challenges ahead, but I do believe God provides and that every challenge is an opportunity for creativity, growth, and faithfulness. I give thanks to our church leadership and to the Lord for how quickly and well this transition plan has come together!

I am truly excited to launch into a new program year with you as we Kickoff together on Sunday, September 10.

Yours in Christ,
Chapin

All Church Fellowship Brunch

Join us for the All Church Fellowship Brunch immediately following the 10:00am worship service on Sunday, September 10. Plenty of food and fellowship will be on hand for all to enjoy! We are asking that congregants with last names A-L bring fruit (to serve 10) and congregants with last names M-Z contribute bagels or baked goods (to serve 10); these can be dropped off in Smith Hall before the 10:00am service.



Church School Registration and Kickoff Sunday!

Church school registration is now open! Please be sure you enroll your child for the 2023-24 Church School year (in conjunction with any of our Youth programming and Children's Music offerings!) using the email link and form sent to you. We ask that you complete your registration prior to Sunday, September 10 at 10:00am, when we will have our first Church School class of the year in conjunction with Kickoff Sunday! Classroom options for infants through 7th grade will be waiting to welcome all children. Come reconnect with old friends and teachers and meet new ones! Stay after church for fun, food, fellowship, games, and activities.

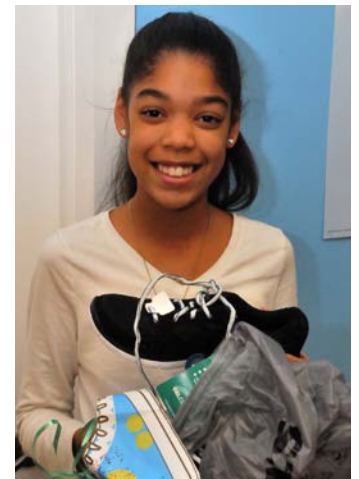
Be sure to visit the "Sneaker Tree" following the service for an opportunity to purchase a pair of new kicks for a kid in need! This is a wonderful, family-friendly outreach opportunity!

We can't wait to see you and kick off another church year!



Inspirica Sneaker Tree

Back to school means pencils, pens, and new school sneakers! New sneakers in the right size, such a given for most of us, are an incredible gift for a homeless child. Take a sneaker from the tree on Kickoff Sunday to sign up and buy for your chosen child. Sneakers may be returned to the box in Smith Hall or mailed directly to the church c/o Tracy Goldman. Contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org.



September Plate Collection

Our plate collection for the month is Inspirica. Inspirica is one of the largest providers of services to the homeless and those facing housing insecurity in Connecticut and the largest in lower Fairfield County.

Each night, they house approximately 475 people, and each year they serve more than 3,000 people. They operate 12 facilities in lower Fairfield County and provide extensive support services, including vocational training, workforce education, job placement, housing placement, job & housing retention support, early childhood & parenting services, children's services, counseling, case management, and much more.

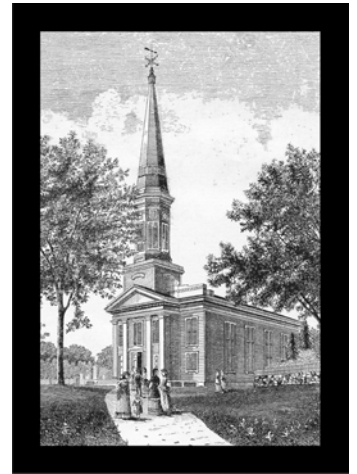
Inspirica is one of only a handful of organizations in the nation that address the physical components of homelessness and housing insecurity and the underlying root causes on a single, powerful end-to-end platform.

You can help them in this effort by contributing to the plate offering on September Sundays and by participating in the Sneaker Tree Project. Thank you!



Church History New Ministry Team

In August, the Deacons approved the formation of a new Ministry Team to document the history of our church going back to its formation. The team's mission is to "Compile comprehensively, accurately, and objectively the history of the Congregational Church of New Canaan." At the very least, Chapin Garner, Wes Fredericks, and Steve Case will be involved in developing an initial work plan and scope. We expect this project to be ongoing and make incremental progress over time - reporting back to church staff, Deacons, and the overall Congregation on an ad hoc basis. Involvement is open to anyone with the time and inclination to participate and can be as extensive or as light as you are able to provide. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to Steve at scase135@outlook.com or approach Steve, Chapin or Wes for further information. The team will hold their first meeting on Thursday, September 28 at 4:00pm in the library and via Zoom.



HomeFront Day

Saturday, September 23, 2023, 9:00am

Join us in repairing and rehabbing a Norwalk neighbor's home who cannot do so for health, age, or financial reasons. HomeFront, a community-based volunteer-driven home repair program, provides free repairs to qualified homeowners,

enabling them to stay in their homes with improved quality of life. No experience is necessary, and lunch is included! Ages 14 and up are welcome. Contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org to sign up.



2023 - 2024 Men's Group (MG)

Ways to get involved

The Men of the Congregational Church of New Canaan are blessed to have many ways to walk together and support each other throughout the year. We are planning an introductory MG meeting on Monday, September 25 at 7:30pm (pizza and salad included) in the Chapel and Parlor, when we will explain all ways to get involved and kick off our Small Group (SG) initiative (zoom participation will be possible).



MG highlights planned for the year include traditional social gatherings such as the Christmas Dinner and Pivot Breakfast, monthly M4 breakfast gatherings on the 2nd Friday morning each month hosted by Dirk Dunlap, a quarterly book group gathering (BG) hosted by Jim Clayton, and monthly MG Small Group meetings on the last Monday evening each month. Please consider getting involved in any/all in whatever way your schedule allows. If you would like further information, please contact Steve Case at scase135@outlook.com or (203) 434 0617. A sign-up invitation for the MSG Kickoff will be sent in early September.



Men's Ministries 2023-2024



The men of the Congregational Church of New Canaan are blessed to have many ways to walk together and support each other throughout the year. We invite you to explore our offerings and participate as you are able.

MEN'S SMALL GROUP	BOOK GROUP
MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP	MEN'S GROUP

SEPTEMBER	
Mon. Sept. 25	MSG Kickoff - Pizza and Small Group, Chapel +
OCTOBER	
Sun. Oct. 1	BG Kickoff Book Group, Jim Clayton's Home
Fri. Oct. 13	M4 Breakfast Small Group, Dirk's Office
Mon. Oct. 30	MSG Small Group, Chapel +
NOVEMBER	
Fri. Nov. 10	M4 Breakfast Small Group, Dirk's Office
Mon. Nov. 27	MSG Small Group, Chapel +
DECEMBER	
Fri. Dec. 8	M4 Breakfast Small Group, Dirk's Office
Wed. Dec. 13	MG Christmas Dinner Waveny
Mon. Dec. 18	MSG Small Group, Chapel +
JANUARY	
Sun. Jan. 7	BG Book Group, Jim Clayton's Home
Fri. Jan. 12	M4 Breakfast Small Group, Dirk's Office
Sat. Jan. 20	MG Pivot Breakfast, Smith Hall
Mon. Jan. 29	MSG Small Group, Chapel +
FEBRUARY	
Fri. Feb. 9	M4 Breakfast Small Group, Dirk's Office
Mon. Feb. 26	MSG Small Group, Chapel +
MARCH	
Fri. Mar. 8	M4 Work Small Group, Dirk's Office
Thu. Mar. 21	MG March Madness, Steve Case's Home
Mon. Mar. 25	MSG Small Group, Chapel +
APRIL	
Sun. Apr. 7	BG Book Group, Jim Clayton's Home
Fri. Apr. 12	M4 Breakfast Small Group, Dirk's Office
Mon. Apr. 29	MSG Small Group, Chapel +
MAY	
Fri. May. 10	M4 Breakfast Small Group, Dirk's Office
Mon. May. 20	MSG Small Group, Chapel +
JUNE	
Mon. Jun. 10	MG BBQ, Todd Baker's Home

Christian Women's Book Club Kickoff

Are you an avid reader and looking to connect with other book-loving church members? Join us Wednesday, September 20, at 7:00pm to kick off a new year of reading, fun and fellowship. Our summer selection is *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. If you haven't read the book, but are still interested in joining, come anyway. This group reads a variety of books from historical fiction, popular fiction, memoirs, and more! If you have any questions, please contact Lesley Cousley at lacousley@gmail.com.



Women's Fellowship Christmas Gathering

Please save the date for our annual Women's Fellowship Christmas gathering on Thursday, December 7 at 7:00pm at the Carriage Barn Arts Center in Waveny Park. This will be a catered event, and we look forward to sharing more details closer to the date.



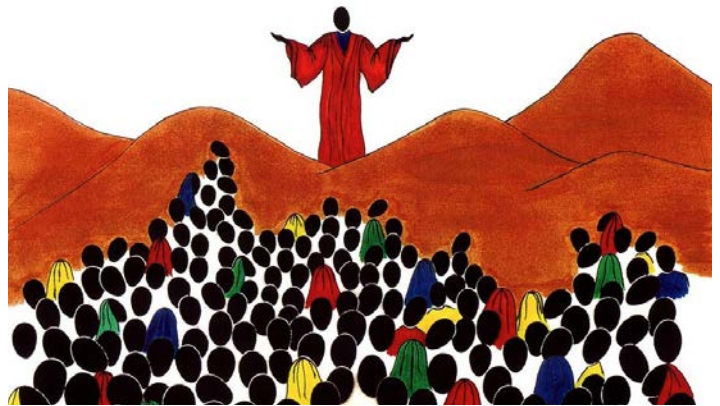
Women's Small Groups

Small Groups within our church are essential to deepening our engagement with others and with God. Join us to explore together our faith journeys as they play out in our daily lives. Groups will begin gathering in October and will meet monthly. Participate in person or via Zoom. Our 2023-24 groups are now forming.

To learn more contact Marianna Kilbride at marianna@godsacre.org

The Gospel According to Matthew Bible Study

The Gospel of Matthew has some of the most familiar stories of Jesus' life, from Jesus' birth to his Sermon on the Mount (the topic of Chapin's recent book, *Practicing What Jesus Preached*) to his crucifixion—making Matthew a great study for beginners. It is also beautifully nuanced, with much to ponder, even for those who have spent some time reading and thinking about the scriptures of the New Testament.



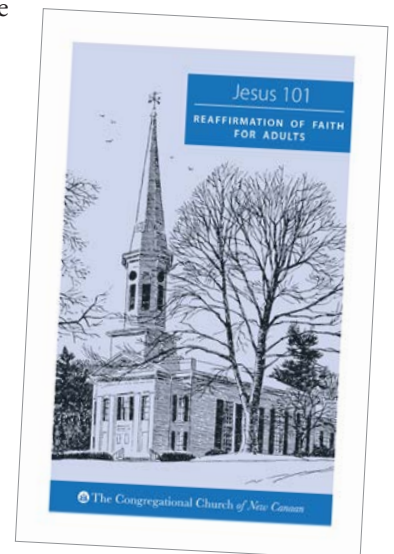
Most sermons preached this fall will be from Matthew's gospel. This 8-week course is the perfect complement. Join us for an hour on Mondays at 7:00am in the Library or Tuesdays (Women's) at 9:30am in the Parlor, beginning September 18 and 19.

Contact Marianna Kilbride at marinna@godsacre.org, for more information or a Zoom link.

New! Adult Confirmation

Begins September 24, 8:45-9:45AM

Adults are invited to spend twelve Sundays this fall reading and discussing scripture, faith themes, and faith questions with church friends, just like our confirmands. Prayer, resurrection, worship, and sacraments are explored before writing your own statement of faith. Whether brand new to faith or reaffirming a long-held one, join Chapin, Marianna, and BJ to engage in your faith with your church family. A Zoom link will be available upon request. For questions or to sign up, contact Chapin Garner at pastor@godsacre.org.



September Youth Programming

YG friends and family! We have missed you. Good news – we are back! All youth programming for the upcoming year will kick off the week of September 10, and we cannot wait to see you! Programming for Kickoff Sunday includes our annual YG Carnival, the MSYG Pool Party, and Rain Gutter Ice Cream Socials for our JYG and Guppies. These are integral events to building community with one another as you anticipate the year ahead and begin to grow in this journey of faith, leadership, and fellowship.

JYG and Guppies will kick off the program year with our annual Rain Gutter Ice Cream Social! JYG will take place on Monday, September 11, at 4:15pm. And Guppies will have their event on Tuesday, September 12, at 3:30pm. The Rain Gutter Ice Cream Social is a highly anticipated event of each program year with the intention of reinforcing old friendships and making new ones with a day of fun games and ice cream.

As for our MSYG fish, we will kick off the program year with a pool party hosted by the generous Salami Family! Please join us on Sunday, September 10, at 1101 Valley Rd for a day of fun starting at 3:00pm and ending at 4:30pm. This event is a great opportunity to engage in fellowship and meet new friends. We will spend the day getting to know each other, playing pool games, eating good food, and looking forward to the year ahead. We cannot wait to see you there!



YG Kick-off Carnival
Sunday, September 10
6:00-7:30pm



MSYG Pool Party
Sunday, September 10
3:00-4:30pm

Welcome back, YG fish! Please join us on Sunday, September 10, for an evening of fellowship and fun as we kick off the year with a carnival at the church. We will have all your classic carnival games, a dunk tank, cotton candy, and more! The annual kick-off carnival is the first event of our program year, where you will get to reconnect with your YG friends and meet new ones too. This event is all about getting to know each other and getting excited for the year ahead.

We cannot wait for the year ahead as we grow together in faith and fellowship.



Youth Ministries – Program Year 2023-2024

SUNDAY

10:00am



Church School

4:00-5:30pm



MSYG (grades 7 & 8)

7:00-8:30pm



YG (grades 9-12)

MONDAY

4:15-5:30pm



JYG (grades 5 & 6)

TUESDAY

3:30-4:30pm



Guppies (grades 3 & 4)

4:30-5:30pm



Minnows (grades K-2)

WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30pm



Quest (grades 9-12)

Children's Music

11:15am-12:00pm



Junior Worship Team
(grades 5-8)

3:00-3:30pm



Cherubs
(ages 3-5)

3:30-4:30pm



Spirit Singers Choir
(grades K-2)

4:30-5:30pm



Joyful Noise Choir
(grades 3 & 4)

VBS: Stories from the Sea Success!

We had a fantastic week at the end of August, hosting Vacation Bible School: Stories from the Sea. We had close to 70 campers and counselors who joined us for four days of faith-building, learning, fellowship, and fun! Campers explored several Old and New Testament Stories that take place in or around water. In exploring these stories, kids deepened their understanding that God is always with us and working through us. We loved partnering with Wilton Congregational Church and witnessing children building relationships across our church communities. Many thanks to our amazing junior and senior counselors and parent volunteers who helped make the week such a special and enriching experience for all.



F A L L



- MARK YOUR CALENDARS - Children and Families Fall Events

September 10 Kickoff Sunday: First day of Church School and Welcome Back Celebration

September 14 4:00-6:00pm Family Playground Pizza Meet-up

October 5 4:00-4:30pm Blessing of the Animals on the Church Steps

October 27 4:30-6:30pm Family Halloween Party

October 29 Trunk-or-Treat following 10:00am worship



November 19 Turkey Drive Service Project during and following 10:00am Worship



Family Playground and Pizza Meet-up

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, September 14 from 4:00-6:00pm

Children's Ministries will host an informal family meet-up on our NEW playground! Join us anytime for fun, fellowship, and pizza to break in this special new space!



Register For Children's Music And Drama

Registration for all youth programming is now open, and Children's Music and Drama will be integrated into other weekly programming!

This program is not just about standing still and singing – we celebrate all the creative skills your kids bring to rehearsal, including instrumental exploration, dance, acting, and vocal development. In addition to singing once a month during 10:00am worship, the children prepare the beloved annual Nativity Pageant, and scenes from favorite Bible stories for the spring musical.



Music and Drama Ministry for Children PreK-4th grade begins Tuesday, September 12.

Follow [this link](#) to register for all youth programming, including any of the choirs listed below.

NEW CHILDREN'S MUSIC SCHEDULE

Cherub Choir (PreK 3s and 4s)

Tuesdays, 3:00-3:30pm

This is a musical training class for Independent Learners ages 2-4. (2-year-olds must turn 3 by November 2023 and be in choir without a parent present.)

Spirit Singers (grades K-2)

Tuesdays, 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Joyful Noise (grades 3-4)

Tuesdays, 4:30pm – 5:30pm

Junior Worship Team (grades 5-8)

Select Sundays at 11:15am beginning October 1

For more information or to be added to the Children's Music and Drama email list, contact Greer at greer@godsacre.org.



Welcome Greer!

Greer Lyle is taking on a new role in the church as Director of Children's Music and Drama. You know Greer as a brilliant soloist who recently graduated from Yale University, but you will soon discover that Greer is also passionate about children's music. Ms. Lyle has a teaching studio of over 40 children in New York City. While living in Georgia, Greer was musical director for children's theatre programs at the Carrollton Center for the Arts.



We Say Goodbye to Sydney Anderson, Director of Children's Music and Drama

A note from Sydney

Dearest families of the Congregational Church of New Canaan,

I feel so blessed to have spent the past two years teaching your children to find fellowship through music. As I expressed at the end of the program year in June, my time as Director of Children's Music and Drama has been filled with joys, challenges, and triumphs that have grown me as a person and educator. I will forever be grateful to all of you for being a part of this important chapter in my personal and professional life. Your children are such lights in this world, and I hope that I was able to offer them the joy of creative play that they can carry with them as they grow.

I don't plan to be a stranger - I'll be around singing from time to time!

In the meantime, a note to the children: keep singing! Even if it's just for yourself or during your prayers at night! God loves your voice and the music it makes.

Thank you again for your support of this important ministry. I am confident that the program will be in good hands with my brilliant successor, Greer Lyle!



HYMN SING-A-LONG!

Sunday, September 17

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

On Sunday morning, September 17, at 9:45am, 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. All ages are welcome!



Music Lessons Available



Anne Maguire, Chancel Choir, alto section leader, has openings in her vocal studio for students of all ages. If you enjoy singing, want to develop good vocal technique, and want to expand your repertoire, contact Anne at annemaguiremusic@gmail.com.



News from the Music Ministry

Join us – Chancel Choir, Joyful Ringers, Joyful Noise, Spirit Singers, Junior Worship Team, and Cherub Choir.

We are blessed to have a robust Music Ministry, and there is something for everyone, ages 2 to 102! You are invited to sing or ring with the choirs this year.



Chancel Choir rehearsals begin Thursday, September 7, 7:30pm-9:00pm

Joyful Ringers rehearsals begin Thursday, September 14, 6:15pm-7:15pm

Children's Choirs begin Tuesday, September 12 (see Children's Music section for ages and times)

For more information or to be added to the music email list, contact Jody at music@godsacre.org.



WELCOME Olivier Zerouali



Welcome to our Chancel Choir scholar, baritone Olivier Zerouali. From Middletown, Delaware, Olivier recently graduated from Purchase Conservatory of Music's Opera Performance program and begins a Masters in Opera Performance at Yale University this fall. Olivier has appeared in opera productions and sung in church choirs. This summer, he sang the role of Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet at Glimmerglass Opera Festival.

Welcome Olivier!



WELCOME Anneliese Klenetsky



Welcome to our Soprano Section Leader, Anneliese Klenetsky. From Edison, NJ, Anneliese received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Vocal Performance at The Juilliard School and recently completed a Master of Fine Arts in Opera Performance at Yale University.



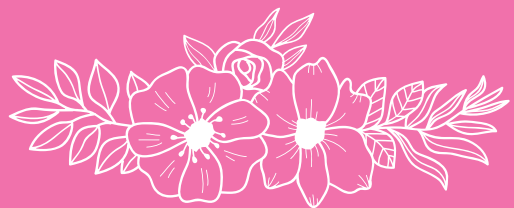
YOU ARE INVITED TO A Visitor's Evening with the Chancel Choir

Thursday, October 5, 7:30pm – Music Room

All singers are invited to sing with the Chancel Choir! You will be seated with helpful singers to rehearse music that will be sung in upcoming weeks. After a short rehearsal, everyone will go to the home of Jody and Ray Davis for refreshments and a Get Acquainted Time.

Summer Night Arranging

On a beautiful mid-August night, the flower ministry gathered for a fun night of flower-arranging games. There were nibbles and even a prize or two! We shared our favorite tricks and enjoyed each other's company. If you enjoy arranging flowers and would like to join the flower ministry, contact Juliet Howe at juliet@eehowe.com. We are a large team that takes turns arranging for services each week. After services, we break the arrangement into smaller ones, which the deacons deliver within the community. Flowers bring joy!



Dedicate Flowers for Sunday Worship

Dedicate a floral arrangement to remember someone special who has passed away or who is celebrating a special birthday, anniversary, or graduation. Please contact Tracy Goldman at office@godsacre.org to choose a date and discuss color preference. A suggested donation of \$100 is greatly appreciated.

BBQ & Brew Dinner

SAVE THE DATE

BBQ & BLUEGRASS WEEKEND

SEPTEMBER 30 Fellowship BBQ & Brew Dinner
6:00pm at the Parsonage

OCTOBER 1 Circle of Friends Guest Preacher, Rev. Eric Dupee
8:00am Chapel Service and 10:00am Bluegrass Mass

Enjoy a night on the Mississippi Delta without leaving town! Bring your appetite (and favorite beverage) for our annual adult fall fellowship event. Join us on Saturday, September 30, from 6:00-9:00pm at the Parsonage (1 Park Street) for a fun night of BBQ, brews, and bluegrass! A classic Memphis BBQ with all the fixins will be served; please bring your favorite adult beverage to share. The cost is \$25pp. RSVP by September 17 to Laurel Carr at laurel@godsacre.org.

BBQ & BREW DINNER

Circle OF Friends

October 1
8:00am and 10:00am Worship
Reverend Eric M. Dupee
Senior Pastor,
First Parish Church
in York, Maine

Eric has served United Methodist churches in Wayne, Maine, and Lenox and Winchester, Massachusetts. From 2016-2020, he served at The Congregational Church of New Canaan and became a UCC minister. He is a graduate of Southern Connecticut State University and Boston University School of Theology, where he met and befriended Chapin. Eric is passionate about putting faith into action through service and justice work.

The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass at 10:00am
The music for our October 1 service will combine sacred classical choral tradition with a sparkly bluegrass accompaniment. The Chancel Choir will be accompanied by a 5-piece bluegrass band with 5-string banjo, mandolin, guitar, fiddle, and bass. The work was composed by Carol Barnett with librettist Marisha Chamberlain.

Do you know what the Stephen Ministry logo represents?

The broken person behind the cross symbolizes the brokenness in our lives, while the whole person in front of the cross symbolizes how we are made whole again through the cross of Jesus. The circle represents the wholeness we receive through Christ and God's unending love for us.



Stephen Ministers are people who, through their own experiences, have been called to help others during difficult times. Our church's ministry team is here to support you. Please don't hesitate to contact our Stephen Leaders Beth Baker at bethcudabaker@gmail.com or (203)-554-4736 or Maria Hemmings at mariahemmings@hotmail.com or (203) 286-9409.

Love Thy Neighbor

These three words are the foundation of Pastoral Care and define the mission of our pastoral care ministries. Our love of neighbor is already demonstrated through our many established Pastoral Care Ministries: Stephen Ministry, Visitation Team, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Flower Ministry, Prayer Chain Ministry, and Card Writing Ministry. We are expanding our mission of faithful comfort and care and are eager to include other ways to demonstrate our love of neighbor. Stay tuned!



As we honor our Church covenant to be a welcoming, inclusive, and compassionate church community, our Pastoral Care Ministry Teams embody that mission; we are the "boots on the ground" following Heavenly inspiration. Be a part of our mission and join a Ministry Team. Blessings are abundant!

Contact Beth Baker at beth@godsacre.org or Barb Clayton at barb@godsacre.org, to learn more.

LIVE EVENTS

Birth



Crawford and Samantha Hamilton welcomed their daughter, Daisy Gray Hamilton on July 14, 2023.

In Loving Memory



John Hetherington
August 15, 1938 – June 14, 2023



Denney Voss
April 24, 1949 – August 16, 2023

Would You Like to Join a Ministry Team?

Pastoral Care in our church takes on many different forms. All of them focus on taking care of 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.



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.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

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 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.



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 committee member in charge weekly goes directly to the wholesale florist and chooses their flowers for the week. Following worship, the flowers are 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.



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 in 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.



If you would like to join any of these pastoral care ministry teams, we would love to have you! Contact Beth Baker at beth@godsacre.org or Barb Clayton at barb@godsacre.org.

Ministers

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

Pastoral Care Emergency, **x103**

Staff

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

Beth Baker, **x102**
Interim Minister of Pastoral Care

Laurel Carr, **x107**
Director of Communications

Barb Clayton, **x102**
Interim Minister of Pastoral Care

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

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

Emma Garner, **x111**
Youth Director

Tracy Goldman, **x109**
Administrative Assistant

Sarah Haddad, **x113**
Church School Coordinator

Anthony Jones, **x116**
Sexton

Marianna Kilbride, **x105**
Director of Spiritual Formation

Caroline Leather-Smittle, **x106**
Director of Operations

Greer Lyle, **x115**
Director of Children's Music and Drama

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

Dionna Carlson
Chair, Board of Deacons



The Congregational Church
of New Canaan

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We are a Stephen Minister Church

Newsletter Submissions

If you are planning on contributing to the October newsletter, please submit by September 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