



The Chimes

April 2025 Edition

Editor: Sherri Boldt

E-copy: Brian Hager

From the Pastor's Desk:

Monday morning's Study Group has been getting a tour of Israel. We have an excellent lecturer helping us explore Jesus' life and travels. We see Jesus grew up under the oppression of Rome and its governors. Jesus found himself ministering to people who were poor, hungry and very often ill as a result of high taxes, loss of homes and land, and lack of nutritious food. His knew he had to put social justice ahead of the Jewish Law. It was likely he learned from the words of Jeremiah:

"If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever." (Jer 6:5-7) From this we can see why Jesus was so often at odds with religious leaders.

As Lent progresses toward Easter, and we anticipate the drama of Holy Week, we follow Jesus' mission that did not end with his death but lives on in us. Let us embrace the gifts God's Spirit gives us: faithfulness, gentleness, peace, goodness, joy, self-control, love, patience and kindness. For these are the gifts we bring into the world that so needs the justice Jesus stood for – and stands for – in us.

Peace, Sue

Inviting ANYONE who wants to learn how to make a Prayer Shawl!

Prayer shawls can be lap-sized or pocket-sized;
crocheted, knitted or even quilted!

If you would like to be a part of this caring ministry in any way, join Pastor Sue at 5:30 pm on **Monday, April 14th** in Hewitt Hall. Feel free to bring your supper. We will meet before Church Council (7pm).

Thank you! Sue

Christian Education and Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday Walk will take place again this year: Sunday, April 13th at 9:30 am. Margaret Leonard and her staff will be leading the walk beginning at 9:30 am. The walk will begin and return to church by 9:55 am to be greeted by all who are not walking. All will be given their palms to wave. More details will follow in church bulletins. Praise God!





Choir Notes

Our choirs continue to prepare music for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter with our Senior Choir singing weekly along with music for Maundy Thursday on April 17th. The Youth Choir will sing on Palm Sunday and sing with Senior Choir, too. Our Cherub Choir will sing Easter morning at the 10 am service along with beautiful music by our Senior Choir, Youth Choir and festive organ music. Come celebrate in music, the many services in Lent leading to the glorious resurrection on April 20th!

CALLING ALL CHERUB CHOIR SINGERS - Age 3 and up

It is that time of year again when our cherubs are invited to sing at our Easter Sunday worship at 10 AM on Sunday, April 20th.

Mrs. Thaxton and Mike will once again lead the Cherub Choir. Children who are ages three and up are invited to join the group. Our Youth Choir Scholars will assist the Cherub choir singers as well. Rehearsals are on the three Sundays before Easter, beginning on March 30th, in the music room after Sunday worship and run for about 20 minutes. Parents are invited to stay during the rehearsal with Mrs. Thaxton.

The Cherub Choir will rehearse on Easter Sunday morning at 9:45 in Hewitt Hall, just before worship begins.

Please speak with Mike if you have any questions.

In Memoriam

Brian K. Boldt June 23, 1969 – February 26, 2025



“Death is just another path, one that we all must take. The grey rain-curtain of this world rolls back, and all turns to silver glass, and then you see it. . .white shores, and beyond, a far green country under a swift sunrise.”—from *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Boldt family would like to extend their sincere thanks to the entire congregation for all their prayers, support, friendship, and love.

Jon Wilska March 10, 1945 – March 13, 2025



Please keep Jon’s family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Habitat Faith Coalition BUILD DAYS



Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT hfhect.org

April News for our Faith Coalition:

The latest report is that the building at Lake of Isles Road is enclosed, so builders will be doing inside work.

We expect to have a build day in April – details are being worked out, since so many factors must fall into place first.

Mark your calendar for either April 3, 9 OR 10 – those are weekdays; which are great for retirees and there is likely to be good weather.

There will be Saturday builds in the summer.

Let us know if you wish to be a part of our Faith Coalition as we support the work of Habitat for Humanity.

Contact Julie Evans or Pastor Sue; or go to hfhect.org and click on VolunteerUP. Julie Evans, 860-889-1636



MEMORIAL EASTER FLOWERS



For the Congregational Church
of North Stonington

*(The flower committee suggests that
Easter lilies, daffodils, tulips,
or hyacinths would be appropriate.)*

My plant will be a

It will be in memory of

or in honor of _____

It is given

by _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please be sure to take your flowers home following worship. To allow the flower committee ample time to arrange plants, they must be at the church by noon on the Saturday before Easter (fill out this form, mail to church, or bring to worship before Palm Sunday). Thank you!

Women's Fellowship

Friendship and Lunch



Wednesday, April 16
NOON Hewitt Hall

Bring a bag lunch, please

All ladies are welcome to attend and participate.

We will try to work on plans for our 2025 activities:

-The May food booth for the Garden Club sale

-Fall and bazaar ideas

44th GOOD FRIDAY WALK, APRIL 18, 2025

The Mystic Area Ecumenical Council is holding its annual Good Friday walk; it is open to the public.

Registration: between 7 and 9 am at Mystic Congregational Church.

This walk is (up to) 7-miles and will take place on Friday April 18th, from Mystic Congregational Church (UCC) 43 East Main Street, to Old Mystic Methodist church and then a return to Mystic Congregational.

Walkers will pass by stations of the cross along the way. The purpose of the walk is to support our local food agencies in Groton and Stonington and rural communities in Alabama and Mississippi (through Sharing Inc.)

For more information, please contact the Mystic Congregational Church Office at 860-536-4259 or Beth Manning at 860-599-8857.

More information can also be found at
www.WalkingOnGoodFriday.org



A Christian steward knows how to give and why we give!
Now, especially during Lent, we want to give and give more.

Consider:

The Great Commandment Mark: 28 - 33

“And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, ‘The most important is ... The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.’

And the scribe said to him, ‘You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart. and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself.’”

That is what Christian ministry is all about.

Giving to our church’s ministry is an affirmation. AMEN.

Earth Day, April 22, 2025

Now, more than ever, we have to conserve, reuse, reduce and repurpose; and save the world from danger!

EARTH DAY 2025: Our Power, Our Planet

The biggest lesson from the first Earth Day in 1970:

“When we come together, the impact can be monumental”

- Start protecting our environment today and help us create a healthy, more sustainable future.
- Go green with us by making small changes that add up to making a big difference.
- Commit to earth-friendly acts by making more sustainable choices:
 - reduce your carbon footprint
 - conserve energy and resources
 - collaborate on environmental projects in your community
 - vote for leaders committed to protect us and the environment
 - share your acts of green to help educate and inspire others to join the movement – all ages
 - Visit www.earthday.org



Why not try to have a green Easter?

Since Easter is the week of Earth Day, plan your Easter celebrations to reflect on how much you care.

These ideas can become “Earth Day, every day” habits:

-Plan your meals or treats and baskets to use only paper or foil containers and wraps.

-Let's all avoid plastic as we purchase for the holiday:

- Use real china, glassware, and silverware for meals
- Hide real hard-boiled eggs or wooden eggs instead of cheap plastic ones
- Buy flowers and plants in glass vases or terracotta pots
- Use colorful paper grasses for the baskets
- Buy candies wrapped in foil
- Buy stuffed bunnies and chicks without wrappings
- When purchasing the roast, ask the butcher for fresh cuts and wrap them in cardboard trays and butcher paper.
- Buy fresh produce that have no wraps or frozen foods in boxed containers.



Helen's Birthday Party: THE BIG 50!

Sunday, April 27th 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

***You are invited to a lunch buffet
Congregational Church
89 Main Street, North Stonington, CT***

Helen likes little things like Snoopy, Buzz Light Year,
Mickey & Minnie – please, no major gifts;
just come to share the fun!

***Please reply to Julie Evans (we will need a count):
860-889-1636 evansjulia889@gmail.com***



HELO HAITI

NEWS FROM ELISABETH

Although Haiti continues to battle gang violence, there is some hope in the south (where HELO is located). A new port has opened and the airport in les Cayes has just opened to international charters, perhaps a prelude to international flights. We are hopeful that these developments will ease the stranglehold on supplies. Time will tell, but we hope and pray!

Some people have asked me how our government's shut down of USAID will affect us at HELO. While it is difficult to know in a monetary sense, it will have a great affect on Haiti and on us at HELO. USAID was the major importer of rice, which is a long story. Haiti was once a large producer of rice, but the US began importing rice at prices Haitian growers could not compete with.

What will happen now without USAID's subsidized pricing? Will rice imports from the USA stop altogether? I don't have the answers. The other impact we will feel is medical. USAID helps fund the major hospital in les Cayes and medications, which are already extremely difficult to find, will be more costly and more difficult to find.

A rare opportunity presented itself some weeks ago, and I confess that I had little hope in our ability to seize it. Thanks to some amazing donors, that hope was realized. We are so excited to share that HELO just purchased a parcel of farmland adjacent to our

campus in the hope to respond to growing concerns about food scarcity and escalating prices.

Our hope is that we can become a little more self-sufficient by growing more fruits and vegetables and raising chickens, rabbits, goats and sheep will help provide our children with protein.

APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH: HELO Haiti!

We give blessings for the HELO Haiti Center; there is joy in the good news they share with us.

We celebrate the folks from our congregation who traveled there; some of them will be invited to recount their stories in worship on a Sunday in April.

Even as they struggle to keep the center running, we can help to keep hope alive in Haiti.

It is not always easy, but it is something we strive to do at HELO.

Education is the hope of many children in Haiti, and we are fortunate that our schools are open, operating, and our students are thriving. Many have gone on to high school and university.

Please make your offerings to CCNS and write HELO Haiti in the memo. Thank you for your care and support. Elisabeth Kennedy's letter will be posted with pictures.

MONTHLY MISSION PROJECTS: 2025

April “Cause Contest:” Pick One – Simply Smiles, HELO Haiti or UCC Global Disaster Relief and have a speaker

May Church World Service (CWS) Blanket project

June Tools of Hope project for CWS & Hunger Awareness at PNC

July & August - PNC Hunger & Start CWS, SCHOOL KITS

September - Habitat for Humanity of Eastern CT
Continue Work on School Kits

October - UCC Neighbors in Need collection.

FALL (Oct. 1 – ~ Nov. 22) - Jammie Grammie PJ collection with First Baptist Church.

November Provide for the PNC Thanksgiving Baskets

December UCC The Christmas Fund

PNC foods for Christmas

Thanks a Heap!

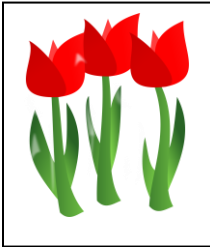
Thanks to...

- Margaret Leonard for the security overhaul, design, ordering and implementation.
- The Coulters for their volunteer coverage of church school.
- Everyone who contributed to the calendar and conversation process on March 9th; also, for sharing the lunch.
- Irene Donald for the prayer shawl donation.
- Mary Bliven for working from home on Women's Fellowship calls.
- All who signed up for the World Vision Mission Child for 2025.
- Everyone who donated to the PNC Fuel Fund in February and March.
- Families and friends who are prayerfully donating to One Great Hour of Sharing for LENT.
- The Deacons for their help with Ash Wednesday and for planning Holy Week.
- Folks who helped with the February build for Habitat for Humanity at the North Stonington location.
- The women of the church who attend and/or help with all of the activities and the kitchen care.
- Julie Evans who represents us at Southern New England Women's Connection and at Mystic Area Ecumenical Council.
- The fundraising committee planning for the spring events, including getting ready to make lots of pies.
- All of the musicians and Michael Noonan for outstanding services.



April Birthdays...

2	Lauren Rockwell
4	Patricia Munzer, Christine Wagner
6	Jennifer Hess
7	Jordan Ames
9	Megan Byassee
10	Will Stevens
14	Abby (Murphy) Devolve
15	Elizabeth Lewis
18	Missy Thaxton, Russell Tuthill
19	Dick Slimak, Barbara Taylor
22	Betsy Alvarez, Dave Larson, Charlotte Melia
25	Alyssa Nilson
27	Helen Evans
29	Ken Stevens
30	Jessica Gray



...and Anniversaries

	Peter and Jill Davis, Rob and
4	Robin (Shabunia) Zadroga
8	George and Pat Danley
26	Russell and Nancy Tuthill

If we have missed your special day(s) or if there are corrections to be made, please notify the church office at 860-535-0379.

Worship Volunteers

	Ushers	Deacon	Altar Flowers	Lay Reader	Communion	Comments
6-Apr	Paul Ames Julie Clow	Dave McCord	Bliven	Sherri Boldt	Amy Foster Dave McCord	<i>Deacons' Meeting After Worship</i> <i>Cherub Choir Rehearsal</i> <i>Palm Sunday Cherub Choir Rehearsal</i>
13-Apr	Joe Serwinski Kris Serwinski	Evelyn Bamford	Open Date	Open Date		
17-Apr	TBD	TBD	Open Date	TBD	TBD	<i>7 pm Maundy Thursday Service</i>
20-Apr	Patty Danley Monica Eppinger	Matthew Sander	Easter Flowers	Kevin Noonan	Amy Foster Anne Nelson Kevin Noonan Rob Robbins	<i>Easter Sunday</i>
27-Apr	Gretchen Noonan Kevin Noonan	Anne Nelson	Open Date	Open Date		



Worship Watch - April 2025

Congregational Church of North Stonington

Worship at 10 a.m. & streaming online.

Church School at 10:15 Office Hours Mon-Thurs 9 to 1.

When arriving at church during the week, please call to be let in.

6th - Communion Sunday - "Breaking the Jar"

Isaiah 43:16-21 and John 12:1-8 Images of refreshment contrast with greediness and extravagant giving.

Senior Choir sings; **Deacons' meeting, Cherub Choir rehearsal.**

13th - 9:30 am Palm Parade - 9:20 a.m. meet in front of meeting house. **10 am: The Voices Jesus Heard"** Palm Sunday readings and more. Senior and Youth Choir sing; **Cherub Choir rehearsal. Palm Sunday.**

17th - 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Service

Communion; Senior Choir sings.

18th - Good Friday - MAEC Walk

20th - Easter Sunday

5:45 am - Sunrise Service, Edwards Winery

10 am Celebration of the Resurrection

Senior, Youth, and Cherub Choirs sing.

27rd - "No Laughing Matter" - John 20:19-31 and Acts 5:27-41

Jesus appears to the disciples and shakes things up. Then the disciples continue to teach in Jesus' name...at the risk of their own safety.

Senior Choir sings; Handbell Choir rings.

***"As an Open and Affirming church:** We respect the worth and dignity of all persons who come into our church family regardless of race, age, marital standing, gender, economic status, mental or physical challenges, nationality or sexual identity. We promise to support one another in our personal struggles, to understand and accept differences in one another, and pray to strengthen our love and acceptance."*

Mission for April: HELO Haiti

HELO began in 2007 but today's need is as great as it was then. Amid gang violence and lack of regular access to amenities, our help goes a long way in Haiti.