



The Congregationalist

Volume 18 Issue 9

May 2018

The Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Westfield, NJ

Senior Minister's Message Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea

As I have mentioned nearly every year during my time here, I do not claim to have any definitive answer for what exactly happened on that first Easter Sunday. I do not know exactly what this thing we call "Resurrection" is. Neither, it seems, did the early Christians, as it is described differently in several places throughout the New Testament. What I *can* say with confidence is that *something* happened. Something that was so inspiring and awesome that it gave those earliest followers of Jesus the courage and strength to continue his life and world transforming movement despite the ugly death they had seen him experience and the threat of experiencing that same fate themselves.

They were never the same again. They were changed. And as their descendants, we are called to change as well. The Easter event for us though, is not so much about the kind of one time, sudden transformation that the New Testament portrayal of those first Christians reflects, but rather a life of constant, steady, gradual change; renewal; improvement; transformation; reinvention. The Japanese call it *kaizen* - continuous improvement through smaller, intentional, incremental changes.

Over 30 years of formal study, writing and speaking on individual and organizational leadership has led me to conclude that the best organizations - organization taken in the broadest sense to include not just companies, but entities like schools, governments, families, and *churches* - practice *kaizen*, whether they think of it in those terms or not. And while I have not necessarily always spoken that language during my time at FCC, *kaizen* has always been one of my foremost guiding principles.

With that in mind, I have invited our Deacons - who as your elected lay leaders are, along with Joy, charged with helping guide this community spiritually - to join me in an even more intentional *kaizen* effort over the next several months. Based on our own thoughts and input we have received over the last several years from boards, lay leaders and individual members, we will be engaged in discussing what, if any, small, incremental changes might make our Sunday and other Worship experiences, as well as any of our other "spirituality" related efforts, more impactful to more of you. For example, based on last summer's "experiment" with having members regularly lead the Pastoral Prayer, offer the Word For Our Children, or deliver the morning's Message during Worship, we will not only do that again this summer (See item on p. 3), but look to intentionally make it a more regular feature year-round.

We do this, not because feedback tells us there is anything significantly *wrong* with what we are currently doing, but because, as a community of Easter people, we are called to always look to do and be better for God, for our own sake, and for the sake of God's people.

As Easter people, we are called by God to lives of *spiritual kaizen*.

Blessings,

Mark



WORSHIP NOTES

Sunday, May 6 - "WaySharers Sunday"

We share in the Sacrament of Communion, as well as recognize another year of our WaySharers ministry for developmentally challenged young adults. WaySharers participant Thommy O'Brien will offer a few thoughts this day. Then following Worship, members of the WaySharers community will host Coffee Hour in Patton Auditorium.

Saturday, May 12 - "First Saturday"

Our monthly "First Saturday" Worship time takes place on the *second* Saturday this month in the Sanctuary at 5:30pm. "First Saturday" is intended for those who find it difficult to be with us regularly on Sunday, or who desire a quieter, more contemplative worship experience on occasion.

Sunday, May 13

Join us for a day full of celebration! On this day when we commemorate Mother's Day and the Festival of the Christian Home, our Board of Outreach Ministries will celebrate and thank the entire FCC community for its dedicated participation and contributions to our numerous and varied efforts to serve God's people throughout this church year by hosting a special Coffee Hour.

Then, after Coffee Hour, we will celebrate the life and ministry of former FCC Senior Minister, the late Rev. Dr. John Wightman, through a brief ceremony during which we will officially rename our Chapel Lounge the "Wightman Chapel Lounge". All are invited to join in participating in that ceremony along with John's wife Marilyn.

(continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2. Associate Minister's Message/Communion/Wightman Dedication
3. Lenten Gratitude/Current Theologians /Summer Worship
4. Adult Studies/Leadership Retreat/WaySharers
5. Tag the Bag/Trivia Night/Moving Meditation/Readers and Riders
6. All-Church Work Day
7. Confirmation/Youth Fellowship
8. Mission Trip/Eagle Scout Project
9. Church School/Compass Schoolhouse/Alexander Award
10. Progressive Dinner

Associate Minister's Message
Rev. Joy Mounts

The Naming of Things

It is often said that April, that month between winter losing its grip and spring trying to get started, is the cruelest month. May is the one that brings flowers. And is said to be merry! I hope after all of the cold we have had that it turns out to be so.

But it got me thinking about why we have this tendency to label things. Is it to feel that we have some sort of ownership? Or to try to understand things better? To diminish things; make them more reachable; or just make them more fun?

I was thinking about this after the Confirmation Class' trip to Temple Emanu-El. After worship, we talked with Rabbi Sagal about many different elements of the service. One of the Confirmand's questions was about the names for God. Rabbi Sagal explained that in Judaism the name for God is so sacred that they do not say or write it. They say Yahweh, Adonai, or Lord. Some write it as G_d. In the New Testament, Jesus called God "Abba", which basically means "Dad", and made everyone mad. They thought He was being disrespectful when He was simply portraying the way He viewed God and the relationship He had and we all could have with God.

How do we name God? What do we call God when we pray? When we weep? When we laugh? The naming of things is important. And it can tell us much about how we view people, places, relationships and all that is important to us. Do we have special names? Nicknames? Are there names we cannot speak aloud? In many cultures, knowing someone's true name was a sign that you could have power over them.

The one thing we can know for sure is that God's name for us is "beloved". That is unchanging. And that is a warming thought to take with us as we head, hopefully, into spring!

Peace,
 Joy

May
By Jonathan Galassi

The backyard apple tree gets sad so soon,
 takes on a used-up, feather-duster look
 within a week.

The ivy's spring reconnaissance campaign
 sends red feelers out and up and down
 to find the sun.

Ivy from last summer clogs the pool,
 brewing a loamy, wormy, tea-leaf mulch
 soft to the touch

And rank with interface of rut and rot.
 The month after the month they say is cruel
 is and is not.

(continued from page 1)



Sunday, May 20

Join us as we take time during the 10am Worship celebration to thank our Church School teachers and leaders for their significant efforts on behalf of our children's spiritual growth throughout this church year.

Sunday, May 27

On this Memorial Day weekend, we will hold one of our periodic "Family Worship" Sundays, allowing our children the opportunity to learn about and participate in our full worship celebration and so gain a better sense of what this critical time is all about here at FCC .

**WIGHTMAN CHAPEL
 LOUNGE DEDICATION**



On Sunday, May 13, all are welcome to come to the Chapel Lounge area at approximately 11:45 for a brief dedication ceremony for the purpose of formally renaming that space "Wightman Chapel Lounge" in honor of the late Rev. Dr. John Wightman, former Senior Minister of FCC from 1988-1998. We will be blessed that day to be joined by John's wife Marilyn.

The Coffee Hour after Worship that morning will also serve as a reception for the Dedication, so when it is time to start the ceremony an announcement will be made in Patton for anyone who wishes to transition over to Chapel Lounge.

The Coffee Hour after Worship that morning will also serve as a reception for the Dedication, so when it is time to start the ceremony an announcement will be made in Patton for anyone who wishes to transition over to Chapel Lounge.



May
Communion Offering

WaySharers

WaySharers is an outreach program for adults with developmental disabilities. It provides social and service opportunities aided by non-disabled adults. Participants get to share their unique gifts and talents in a relaxed and fun setting. WaySharers meets every other Friday and on the first Friday of the month participates in a Yoga class. Please contact the Church Office to volunteer or for more information about the program.

LENT and EASTER GRATITUDE

From the darkness, mood of contemplation and distribution of ashes on the first day of Lent to the brightness, joyful celebration and distribution of lilies after our Easter Sunday services, Joy and I would like to express our enormous gratitude to all of you for making this Lent and Easter seasons so sacred.



Thanks be to God for:

Your spirit-filled participation in our Worship services

The Chancel Choir for their constant presence and significant contribution to all our Worship times, especially their “double duty” on Easter Sunday

The Deacons, who gave so much time and effort to preparing the Sanctuary throughout Lent, leading us in the moving Maundy Thursday worship, and all they did (and constantly do) to make Sunday worship go as smoothly as it does for the rest of us.

The Festival Chorus for their stirring performance of Haydn’s *Lord Nelson Mass*, especially our own Meredith Hoffmann-Thomson for coming back from Austria to serve as one of the soloists

All those who lead us in our Scripture passages each Sunday

The Bell and Children’s Choirs for blessing us with their gifts

Ellen Hollis for her leadership of what turned out to be our most successful Cake Auction ever on Palm Sunday, as well as all those who exhibited such a spirit of creativity through the many cakes they made.

The numerous participants in the Lent and Easter focused Adult Studies offerings

The musical leadership and gifts of Dr. Barbara Thomson and Mr. Joe Regan throughout all of our worship times

And of course, Jim Palme and Tom Lawler for all their efforts in keeping all our facilities user friendly and preparing them for our many classes, Coffee Hours and events.

Lastly, as I have often seen or heard in reference to “thank you” lists like this, “My apologies for any errors or omissions. The responsibility for them is solely mine.”

Mark

CURRENT THEOLOGIANS

As always, our most recent “Ask the Minister” segment during Worship on Sunday, April 8, produced a number of thoughtful, inspired, and challenging questions. One of those was:

“Who are some modern theologians that you are influenced by?”

A couple of days later, we were asked if we could publish that list for the benefit of those who did not have a chance to write them down or were not here that Sunday.

Here is a handful of the theologians who we have an affinity for. Full disclosure though - not all of them would be “officially” categorized as formal theologians. Nevertheless, their work and thoughts are significant.

Joy

N.T. Wright
Eugene Peterson
Nadia Bolz Weber
John Dominic Crossan

Mark

John Cobb
James Cone
Marjorie Suchocki
Walter Brueggemann
Alister McGrath

SUMMER WORSHIP THEME

“The Ministers of the Church - That Would Be YOU” Returns

Last Summer’s “experiment” of offering members of the congregation the opportunity to take the lead on three duties almost exclusively handled by our ordained ministers - Preaching, delivering the Word For Our Children, and offering the Pastoral Prayer - was a significant success. Several of our members provided informative, moving and insightful moments to our Worship experience.

Therefore, we will once again open those opportunities up to members of the FCC community for each of the ten Sundays starting on July 1 and ending on September 2.

If you participated last summer and would like to again, or were inspired by those who did to want to try it yourself...DO IT!

Mark and Joy will be available, as they were last summer, to guide and support you through the process.

Contact Mark as soon and as far in advance as possible regarding the duties and dates you would like to participate.

Remember - Under the heading “CHURCH STAFF” in our bulletin every Sunday, it says:

Ministers - All Members of the Congregation

Save the date for the All-Church Patton Potluck Picnic!



On June 10, immediately following Worship, please join us for the Annual All-Church Picnic! This year will be a potluck BBQ, with indoor seating, and games & fun on the front lawn! It will be a wonderful afternoon of food and fellowship!

Watch the Sunday Announcements for information!

We can’t wait to see you all there!





ADULT STUDIES

Our final Adult Studies unit for the year concludes in May.

“Hope Is A Muscle”

Mondays: May 7 and 14
7:30-8:30pm in Chapel Lounge

Hope. It is a foundational idea in the Christian spiritual tradition. But what *is* hope. What Christianity and other spiritual traditions have long understood, and what more recently, psychology and neuroscience have come to grasp, is that hope is far more than just a feeling we either have or don't. Instead, hope is a spiritual and emotional *skill* - a habit we can take steps to acquire and strengthen.

As the title of a best-selling book a few years ago put it, “Hope Is A Muscle”. During this four-week unit, we will explore, through spiritual texts, exercises and discussion, the meaning and practice of hope as a spiritual and emotional skill, habit...muscle.

“Prayer and Meditation”

Tuesday, May 8
7:30pm-8:30pm in the Sanctuary

Members, friends and guests are welcome to a time of sharing in prayer and meditative practices. These sessions also include time for participants to offer their own prayer intentions.

Adult Studies For 2018-2019

Give us your ideas!

Plans are already underway for next year's Adult Studies program, and we hope you'll help us move them along. Please consider providing us with any suggestions you have for new courses, formats, day/times, or anything else you think might improve our efforts in this vital aspect of our community's spiritual life.

While the implementation of any suggestions will obviously be dependent on time, space and staff resource issues, we do promise that all ideas will be given serious and prayerful consideration.

Please contact Mark with any thoughts at your earliest convenience.




FCC Adult Retreat Update

From late afternoon Friday, April 27 to late afternoon on Saturday, April 28, a group of FCC women and men went to Grove Hall Retreat Center in Ocean Grove for our 5th annual All-Adult Retreat.

The theme of this year's retreat was “Christian Soup – What Do We Gather from our Spiritual Garden?” Over the course of our 24 hours together, the group, facilitated by Steve Indelicato, explored where we are in our faith journeys and what we need to nurture our spirits.

We also shared meals and enjoyed opportunities for social and private time as well as walking by the ocean. The weekend closed with a short Worship service led by Deanne LaRue and Ellen Hollis, during which we offered donations for our FCC Food Pantry. Look for picture in next month's *Congregationalist!*

To the Congregation and Board of Deacons:

It Takes A Congregation

We are all familiar with the saying “It takes a village” which came from an African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child”. In my case it took a congregation to help me through some very difficult years.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the help you have given me during this time. The kindness was so appreciated. The meals brought to me, the rides to appointments and the cards. I am blessed to have been a member of this congregation of such caring and thoughtful people. I will remember your kindness forever in my heart.

God Bless you all.

Sincerely,
Marti Petersen



WaySharers

WaySharers will meet on Friday May 4 for Cookie Making and Karaoke. They will be serving the cookies at Coffee Hour on WaySharers Sunday, May 6.

Come and join us for that day. We will be celebrating the 15th Anniversary of this Outreach Program!

On Friday, May 11 we will stretch our bodies with Yoga!

For more info about this program call Cynthia Mathis (908) 233-0180.



Moving Meditation
Monday Evening Classes
 May 7, 14, 21, 28
 From 6:30-7:15 pm

Classes are held in Patton Auditorium (Look for Signs on Doors). Simple, gentle, graceful movement. Stress Reduction based on ancient Asian Qigong wellness systems.

Questions? Call Laura Berzofsky (908) 232-6516. Donations welcome. This month we will be raising funds for FCC's 2018 Youth Mission Trip.



TAG * THE * BAG
And help the FCC Summer Youth Mission Trip to John's River Valley, in Collettsville, NC!

Here's how it works: We purchased a backpack for the trip to Collettsville, North Carolina. The name of each person who donates any amount of money will be written (tagged) in black ink on the backpack...a tangible, visual reminder of all the people that care for us and pray for us while we are away. The bag will be carried throughout our journey. Please *Tag The Bag* and be a part of something really special, even if you cannot physically join us.

Each youth member will be carrying a backpack that can be tagged. Any money that they raise will come off the cost of their trip.

OR

If you would like to donate and TAG THE BAG, there will be a bag that represents FCC.

Questions about this fundraiser?
 Denise Schifando: (908) 217-5130
cschifando@yahoo.com



Board of Outreach - Thank You

The Board of Outreach Missions wishes to express our gratitude to everyone who donated food to the FCC Food Closet during the Lenten Food Drive. Every time we open the door, we are amazed at how fast the space is emptied. The food donations truly help our local outreach mission to continue to support those in need in our community.

Once again, Thank you.

SECOND ANNUAL...



Silent Auction, Door Prizes and a Few Surprises!
 Saturday, May 5 • 7 pm – 10 pm

Where:
 First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elmer St.

Match your wits against other teams for prizes and bragging rights!

Doors open at 7 pm • Trivia starts at 7:45 pm

Hearty Appetizers • Snacks • Desserts • Soft drinks • BYOB
 (Feel free to bring your own team/table snacks, too!)

Childcare on premises for an additional fee.

\$30/person • \$300/team (up to 10 people)

All money raised will benefit
 The First Congregational Church Summer Youth Mission Trip 2018 to Collettsville, North Carolina

To register, donate to the silent auction or for more details, contact:
 Nancy Elkin, nancelkin@comcast.net or 908-451-1977,
 Rev. Joy Mounts, uccfcc.joy@verizon.net,
 FCC Church Office, uccfcc@verizon.net or call the church at 908-233-2494

Please make checks out to "First Congregational Church" • memo line: trivia – mission trip

Women's Fellowship Readers and Riders

Let's go for a hike in the Alps...or let's go to the Newark Museum to see the Peak Experience exhibition: "The Rockies and The Alps" with Readers and Riders on Thursday, May 3. At noon, our docent will present 19th century mountain landscape paintings, prints, sketch books, travel literature, and scientific specimens.

After our one hour tour, we will enjoy a catered lunch at the museum and time to explore on our own. Don't forget the gift shop. We are meeting at Ann Harris' home (220 Linden Avenue) at 10:45 am. Please call Bev Heinrich at (908) 233-8656 for more information.



All Church Work Day – Thank You’s

Saturday, April 14 was a beautiful day for both the indoor and outdoor spring clean-up. The Trustees oversaw the weeding, raking and mulching, making the grounds beautiful. The Deacons organized the cleaning indoors of the Sanctuary, the kitchen, bathroom and stairways.

Many thanks to our members: Elizabeth and Ana Rehwinkel, Karen and Paul Federico, Don Young, Keith and Jane Westerhold, Bob Many, Bob Evans, Paula Horii, Sue Bonnell, Rob, Zach and Deb Volz, Bill and Alida Woods, Cynthia Burke, Eric Meade, Eric Thies, Martha Bergh and Ryan Bergh-Thies, and Scott Laird.”





Confirmation

Confirmation

- May 6 11:30am Class, Dr. Boyea's office
- May 11-12 (Friday- Saturday) Confirmation Retreat - **Mandatory for Confirmands, Mentors and Clergy**
Bellevue Strafford Inn, Ocean Grove, NJ,
Depart on Friday at 4pm from FCC, back by 5pm on Saturday.
- May 13 No Class
- May 20 11:30am Class, Dr. Boyea's office
- May 27 11:30am Class, Dr. Boyea's office



Confirmands visit Temple Emanu-El

Youth Fellowship Update



April was a fun month for the YF. On April 8, YF Leader Philip Rehwinkel organized a wonderful evening of problem solving games. Two teams completed to see who could build the biggest balloon tower, throw the most paper in baskets, knock down chalk sticks with marbles through a pool noodle, pass a hula-hoop up and down the line without breaking hands, and create a tower of cups using only string held by each team member to carry and stack them. Everyone had a great time! Thanks again to Philip. On Sunday, April 15 we gathered at the Garwood Lanes for a fun evening of bowling organized by YF Leaders Kendall Robertson and George Burke. We had three teams, and with bowling, pizza, fries and soda on hand – what was not to like? Thanks again to Kendall and George. On Sunday, April 22, nineteen senior highs and six adult chaperones had a great evening at their offsite dinner at Chili's, the highlight of which was wishing Mike Bonnell a very happy birthday. The month was closed out with a meeting on Sunday, April 29 led by YF Leaders Tommy and Joey Larmore.

In May the YF will help with the Trivia Night Mission Trip fundraiser and there is talk of laser tag on Sunday, May 6. Our end of the semester picnic will be held on Sunday, May 20 at the Marino's house. Details on that will be emailed. If you have any questions about YF, please see Rev. Mounts.

- May 5 Trivia Night – Mission Trip Fundraiser
- May 6 5pm YF Meeting
- May 13 Mother's Day – no YF
- May 20 5pm YF End of year Picnic hosted by the Marino family



Youth Fellowship





FCC Invites All to 2nd Annual Trivia Night
 Are you a Jeopardy junkie? Can't get enough of HQ? Come and match your wits against other trivia buffs to win valuable prizes and bragging rights!

First Congregational Church of Westfield invites all to its 2nd annual Trivia Night on Saturday, May 5, from 7pm to 10pm in its newly renovated Patton Auditorium, 125 Elmer Street in Westfield. All proceeds from the evening will benefit the church's Summer Youth Mission Trip to Collettsville, North Carolina.

Admission includes hearty appetizers, desserts and soda served by the Mission Trip youth. Childcare is available for a small fee. Bid on many fantastic auction items such as a seven-night stay at a vacation home in Florida or an evening with a beer connoisseur and tasting for 12 of your closest friends.

Doors open at 7pm and the Trivia Quiz, hosted by a professional quizmaster, will begin promptly at 7:45pm. Admission is \$30 per person or teams (up to 10 people) for \$300; checks made out to First Congregational Church of Westfield. On the memo line, note trivia – Mission Trip. To register or to donate to the silent auction, please contact Nancy Elkin at nancyelkin@comcast.net or (908) 451-1977 or the church office at (908) 233-2494 or uccfcc@verizon.net.

Come one, come all, to help make this a fundraiser that isn't trivial!



When Eagles Fly
 FCC High School Senior Michael Bonnell completed his Eagle Scout project to renovate Coe Hall in mid-April. He and his crew of Boy Scouts, family, parents, friends and mentors did a wonderful job! They painted the floor and walls in the Coe closets, and added shelving to make them much more usable for Waysharers, YF and several of the FCC Boards. He also painted the walls and ceiling of the main room as well as built a wall to hide chairs and tables and be able to clear the space for multiple uses. A new sitting area, white board and donated TV and new stand completed the renovations. Please make sure to stop by to look at how wonderful it looks. Congratulations on an excellent job, Michael!




Mission Trip Update
 There is a lot going on with the Mission Trip. Our second fundraiser – Trivia Night, will be here before we know it. All of the details on the Saturday, May 5 event can be found to the left. Get ready for a fun night of guessing and games. Your wait staff will be made up of the mission trippers! Also, please find information on page 5 about the Tag the Bag fundraiser which we officially kicked off during church on Sunday, April 15.

The vans have been rented for our trip to North Carolina. Rev. Mounts is working on where we will stop on the way down as well as our free day activity and all other trip related details. We have begun working with the staff at the Johns river Valley Camp in regard to what service projects we will be doing and forms that need to be filled out. Further updates will be in the next *Congregationalist*.

News from Christian Invitation...
 The FCC brochure you see in the pews today will soon be a thing of the past.. The old brochure has been rebuilt; a lift here, a tuck there, in all the right places to make it fresh, informative and welcoming.
 We still have some i's that need to be dotted and t's that need to be crossed. After we receive final approval it will go to print. Stay tuned for the launch of our New FCC brochure!



The next **"Name Tag Sunday"** is May 20, which is also Teacher Appreciation Sunday! After Worship, follow the crowd to Patton for coffee and conversation. Look for the name tag table and take this opportunity to introduce yourself to someone you don't know!



Completed Eagle Scout Project - Newly renovated Coe Hall

Church School News

May 20 - Church School Teacher Appreciation and Recognition Sunday

Please come and join us on May 20 as we recognize one of our most important ministries – our Church School teachers, Assistants and Substitutes, for their indispensable contribution to our community throughout this year.

Teachers Are Needed!

It is that time of the year when we begin to plan for the next Church School year. During the coming weeks the Church School Committee will be recruiting teachers. Get involved as a teacher or helper. Show your children your commitment to their spiritual growth. We would love to hear from you. If you are interested, please call Alida Woods, (908) 322-5030.

May 27 – Family Worship Service

A special Family Worship Service will be offered on May 27 - one of our regular opportunities throughout the year for families to worship together. We welcome children in Grades 1 and older to remain in Worship. The Crib Room will be provided for infants through five year-olds.

Fun and educational activity bags/clip boards will be provided to the kids when they arrive in church. The activity sheets and bags are a gift to the children, but we ask that the clip boards be left in the pews.

Bulletin Board Update

Periodically throughout the year our Church School classes decorate the bulletin board outside of Patton. Come and see the beautiful bulletin board created by the Third – Fifth Grade class. Thank you to Grade 3-5 teacher Denise Schifando for leading this effort!

Heifer International Arks and Read-to-Feed Pledges are Due

Thank you to all who participated in this year’s Heifer Mission Project. You are helping Heifer fulfill its mission to end global hunger and poverty while caring for the earth. To date, we have raised \$1020.00 through the Cake Auction, and \$90.15 through the Fill-the-Ark Program. Special recognition goes to Isabella and Robbie Burdick for raising \$75.00 through the Read-to-Feed program!

Please consider giving as much as you can since each dollar raised for Heifer International will be matched dollar for dollar by Wally and Linda Parker. We are truly grateful to Wally and Linda for this generous contribution.

Alexander Award

Applications for the Alexander Award Scholarship are due on Tuesday, May 2. All interested Seniors should submit their applications to the Church Office, uccfcc@verizon.net.



The Alexander Award Scholarship, named in memory of long-time members Edna and John Alexander, is given annually to one or more high school seniors who have made a significant contribution to the life of the church.



COMPASS CORNER

- Compass SchoolHouse partnered with the Moms Helping Moms Foundation to collect baby items and diapers for low-income and vulnerable children ages 0-5 who live in New Jersey. Last month Compass families donated 8 van loads of these items that will help babies and young children have a safe, happy, and healthy start.
- We have also partnered with Bonds of Courage, a non-profit organization honoring the courage and commitment of those who serve in the military, wherever they are stationed, wherever they are from, in times of both peace and war. Through the Bonds of Courage BOX BRIGADE program, Compass families donated over 30 boxes of toiletries, snacks, food and wellness items that will be mailed to service personnel overseas.
- Compass SchoolHouse is proud to support youth sports by sponsoring a Westfield baseball team this spring. And completely by chance, we're excited that two former Compass students are members of the team.
- With a focus on developmentally appropriate play-based learning, Compass partnered with Quiver Farms of Pennsburg, Pennsylvania for our PROJECT CHICKS program. Recently, Farmer Chris of Quiver Farms delivered an incubator that contained twelve eggs which ultimately hatched as chicks. The project was a school wide activity, woven into each class's curriculum and one of the many ways we bring the Compass community of students together. The eggs and chicks were used as tangible, hands-on teaching tools for lessons about responsibility, kindness, counting, sorting, teamwork, imagination, science, and more.
- Our annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) Fair was held last month and was a great opportunity to connect Compass families and expand their STEM knowledge. Families got to explore how the world around us works with our Engineering and Technology stations and how parts of our bodies work with the "Our Amazing Bodies" and "Our 5 Senses" stations. Favorite experiments and activities included Oobleck for fun and educational tactile exploration, our chemical reaction volcano bottles, and a fossil dig.
- Through the use of grant funds, fundraising dollars, and private donations, Compass is grateful to be able to contribute to improving the facilities of the FCC building. Painting and new decor has brightened the bathrooms in the McCorison building, the front stairway was refurbished and painted, the playground was renovated to expand the free play area, and a new fence on the playground was installed.



First Congregational Church
125 Elmer Street
Westfield, NJ 07090

Address service requested



The Congregationalist

is published monthly by

First Congregational Church
125 Elmer Street
Westfield, NJ 07090



Handicap Accessible



(908) 233-2494
FAX (908) 233-1416

Email: uccfcc@verizon.net
Website: www.fccofwestfield.org

Leslie Ann Kopf, Editor
Email: uccfcc.leslie@gmail.com

Worship & Church School
Sundays, 10am

Staff

Rev. Dr. Mark Boyea, Sr. Minister
uccfcc.mark@verizon.net

Rev. Joy Mounts, Assoc. Minister
uccfcc.joy@verizon.net

Dr. Barbara Thomson
Director of Music and Organist

Alida Woods,
Church School Superintendent

Jim Palme, Church Administrator
uccfcc.jim@verizon.net

Tom Lawler, Church Custodian/Sexton



Next Deadline: May 15

Progressive Dinner



Annual Progressive Evening - Saturday, May 19
Sign Up Now — Deadline is Sunday, May 13

Mark your calendar! On Saturday, May 19, from 6:30 until 10pm, join adult members and friends of FCC for our annual progressive event. Sign up at Coffee Hour during the month of April, or fill out the form below and mail it to the Church Office. The evening is a great way to make new friends and get together with old ones. Everyone is asked to either prepare food or open their home for part of the evening. Please call or email Merry Wisler (908) 403-7609 or merry.wisler@gmail.com (txts or email preferred) OR Judy Augustino at (908) 232-0661 or judyandalan1@verizon.net for more information or transportation.

Appetizers: 6:30–8:15 pm

You and your co-hosts (6-8) will plan and share expenses for soft drinks, wine, and hearty hors d'oeuvres for approximately 25–30 people.

Dessert: 8:30–10 pm

We need one generous person to host the evening's finale (~60 people). You will have several co-hosts to help plan and share expenses for coffee/tea and desserts.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Check one:

- Appetizer Hosts (2-3 to volunteer home)
- Appetizer Co-Host (provide food/ beverages)
- One Dessert Host (volunteer home)
- Dessert Co-Host (provide food/ beverages)

Please list food allergies.