

DECEMBER



2017

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING

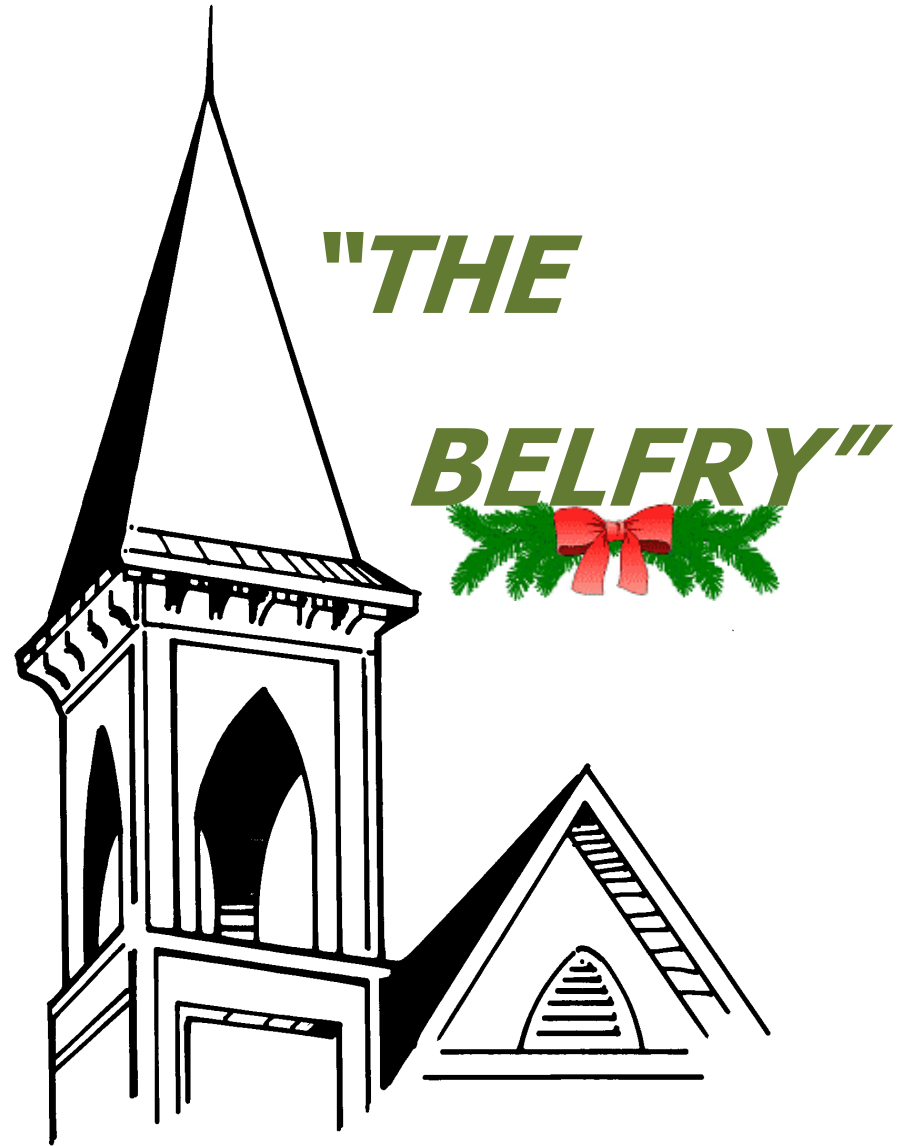
11:00 a.m.

&

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight Lessons & Carols

11:00 p.m.



HUNTINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

19 Church Street

Shelton, Connecticut 06484

Phone - 203.929.1223

Website: www.huntingtonucc.org

E-mail: hcc@snct.net

The Rev. Lucille L. Fritz, Minister

James T. Bruni, Minister of Music

Kirsten E. Keith, Director of Christian Education

Karen S. Boroski, Editor/Office Manager

Minister
Rev. Lucille L. Fritz

Minister of Music
James T. Bruni

*Director of
Christian Education*
Kirsten E. Keith

Moderator
Laura Salvio

Deacon Co-Chairs
Justine Connery/
Gail Schoennagel

Trustee Co-Chairs
Bob Sember/
Ed Zinsky

Women's Fellowship
President
Sue Lindley

*Huntington Center
Nursery School
Director/Teacher*
Linda Rizzitelli

9:30 am
*Sunday Worship/
Sunday School
& Child Care*

*Office Manager/
Belfry Editor*
Karen S. Boroski

Prayer List

Marion Fairbanks	Gertrude Wilson
Arlene & Steve Grey	Lydia Fritz
Judy Heyse	Tom Taylor
Barbara Grisgraber	RJ Sember
Muriel Csire	Anne Pocevic
Don McEwen	Roger Friend
Donald Gallant	Chris Schoennagel
Danny & Sue Schmitt	Bob
Wendy Zelanin	Shelia Klein
Barbara Ann Walls	Ruth Johnston
Bill Comcowich	Joan Chonko
Michelle Parker-Baricko	
Tom Symski	Joan Risner
Terri Haliy	Sandy Johnson
Gail Pivarnik	Mary Glynn
Faith E.	Emily M.
Irma Geher	Juli Lindsay
Jan Schiappa	Chek

FROM OUR MINISTER...

Dear Folks,

**We light a candle in the darkness to dispel
the gloom of night and pray for hope.**

**We light two candles in the darkness to
show us the path to peace.**

**We light three candles in the darkness to clear the shadows for
joy.**

**We light four candles in the darkness to warm our hearts with
love.**

**We light the Christ candle in the darkness to welcome Christ into
our hearts again, that we may be born anew, just like the Babe in
Bethlehem. May we shine forth Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love
this Christmas time and always.**

**A very blessed Christmas and
a joyous New Year to you, my beloveds!**

**In Christ's love,
Rev. Lucille**



December 31st Worship: "Aloha 2017 & Aloha 2018!"

**This service will be at our regular 9:30 A.M. time, but it will
be informal, with snacks, chats, maybe laughter, and maybe
tears as we usher the old year out and welcome the new
year in Hawaiian style!**

The Belfry Article Deadline for the January 2018 issue
is December 13th. The Belfry will be available after December 18th.



It's time to prepare your
Annual Reports!

The 294th Annual Meeting of the Huntington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ will be held on **January 21, 2018 with a snow date of January 28th**. If you are the chairperson of a committee, you are responsible for a report from your committee to be included in the Annual Report. Please e-mail your report to Karen in the office at hcc@snet.net.

The deadline for annual reports is
Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

Your promptness is greatly appreciated.

REV. LUCILLE'S PRAYER DAYS

Rev. Lucille's prayer days will be Thursdays, November 16th, December 14th, and January 18th. Please let her know if you have any joys or concerns you would like her to lift up.



***Welcome to our newest members who
were received into the congregation on
Sunday, November 5, 2017.***

*Theresa Adams, Marion Quaka, Philip Saba,
Charlotte and Ron Schlegel, Valerie and Elliott Wilson*

SPOONER HOUSE CHRISTMAS MEAL
DECEMBER 8, 2017



*I'll be home for Christmas
You can plan on me
Please have snow and
mistletoe
And presents on the tree
Christmas Eve will find me
Where the lovelight gleams
I'll be home for Christmas
If only in my dreams*

I'm certain that every resident of Spooner House, especially the children, wish that they could be "home" for Christmas. Unfortunately, we can't bring them home, but we can make the holiday brighter for them by sharing our love and OUR good fortune.

Most of you know about Spooner House, but for our new members I will give a little background. Spooner House is a shelter located in Shelton operated by Area Congregations Together. HCC provides a meal every month. Residents are given a safe place to live, food, counseling and assistance in finding jobs. It is a clean and safe haven, but it's not "home".

I will be in the Alcove collecting money to provide a holiday meal for all the residents and gifts for the children (last year there were 12 children). I will also be selling cupcakes.

Look for me with the basket with the big red bow.

Please, be generous.

Holly Fassbender

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 2017

TREASURER: reviewed the draft budget for 2018. Some discussion about some line items and he will update before December 3rd meeting.

DIACONATE: 7 new members and 2 baptisms. November 26th Carol Rawls will preach in Rev. Lucille's absence. Diaconate will decorate on Sunday, November 26th and they can finish on the 28th.

MISSIONS: Collected \$237 this week for Masters Table. Spooner House Christmas meal will be 12/8. Men's Group has expressed an interest in taking a month to prepare a Spooner House Meal.

TRUSTEES: Furnace needed some repair for Fellowship Hall heat. One of the 3 remaining pumps went out so now we only have 2 working. One is currently being repaired and Bob is going to see if the repair for this latest one will be the same as the current one – about \$1500. Orkin will come a couple of extra times in the winter. Basement Systems suggested another dehumidifier, but due to the cost, committee decided against it.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Held Harvest Festival even though it was small. Pizza and scenery party will be November 29th from 7 – 8:30 to prepare for the “secret” pageant. Pageant will be 12/10. Currently we have from 2-7 kids in CE. Rev. Lucille pointed out that Shelton overall is down about 1000 kids so it's not just us.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP: We did not have a Board meeting this month due to the Fair. However, we did have our Circle meeting. At that meeting it was brought up about safety concerns during worship especially which Rev. Lucille will discuss. Also, it was voted to send \$400 to Bridgeport Rescue Mission for their Thanksgiving meals program. Thanks to Denise Wilson for the great All Women's Meeting program on downsizing which was well attended by both men and women. Thanks to everyone for their help in preparing for the Fair – your continued help would be appreciated. We will have our post-Fair dinner at Linda Sember's on Wednesday, December 13th.

NOMINATING: 1 Trustee open, 1 CE and Nursery. Lois Ricker is due to go off Stewardship and she is trying to find a replacement. Nominating will take the March 2018 Spooner House meal.

NURSERY SCHOOL: Had such a good year, so will donate \$10,000 to Operating Budget. Still leaves them enough money. They made out well with cookie sales including over \$200 from just church members. The new employee is working out very well. Linda is expecting more 3-year olds.

STEWARDSHIP: Our Season of Generosity went very well. Pledges are coming in. They did Spooner House meal last week. Rev. Lucille thanked the committee for all their hard work.

MINISTER Sue Lindley from Women's Fellowship had approached her about safety concerns during church. The Catholic priest at St. Lawrence called a meeting of the Center churches – the Mayor and Chief of Police were there. There will be police cars around the Green on Sundays. She will ask police and fire to come in and educate us after a worship service on safety in general and an escape plan. They will be locking the offices during worship as folks have been going in during services at other churches. Her prayer day is this coming Thursday after a Veteran's program at Griffin at 8:00 a.m. 11/19 will be the bag message, 11/21, the Thanksgiving ecumenical service will be 11/21 at the Church of the Good Shepherd and we now have a rabbi who will be speaking. Carol Rawls will preach on 11/26. The Longest night service will be 12/21 at 6:30. There will be a baptism on 12/17 – Kim Witiak Pearson's child. 12/31 will be an informal service with something special. Christmas Eve Services will be 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. Someone asked about whether we had change florists – Judy said we are using Eastside and Stenz, a new florist here in town.

MODERATOR: Laura reminded everyone that reports are ABSOLUTELY due January 3, 2018, but can be turned in sooner to Karen. If possible, please submit them electronically so she doesn't have to retype them. Annual budget meeting December 3rd. Sue Lindley will give the call this week and next.



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Lovely **RED** poinsettias, 6 1/2" pots, will grace our sanctuary for the Christmas holiday services. If you would like to dedicate a plant(s) in honor/memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below and return it as soon as possible; OR you may call Judy & leave an order on her machine. **The final order deadline is Sunday, December 10th**
– Cost: \$15.00

Number of plants: _____

I will take my flower(s)_____ Please bring to a shut-in _____

Paid by cash_____ check #_____(Check payable to HCC)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

INFO WILL BE PRINTED AS LISTED.

IN MEMORY OF:

IN HONOR OF:

GIVEN BY: _____

Please return to: Huntington Congregational Church
19 Church Street
Shelton, CT 06484
ATTN: Judy Tucker
Home phone: 203.929.5174

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

The Shelton Clergy Association will be hosting a Community Christmas Carol Sing on December 3rd, 4 P.M., at St. Paul's Episcopal's "old" church. Come and sing the season!



MISSIONS ***Under the Tree***



The Mission Committee is in the process of connecting with BH Care sponsoring the ***Under the Tree*** program to benefit needy adults and children at BH Care in Ansonia. Watch for tags listing gift requests on our Christmas tree in the alcove and select a gift request to help make Christmas a little brighter for someone in need. All purchased gifts need to be returned by Sunday, December 10th. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



Keeping the Christmas Spirit Alive

Women's Fellowship will be selling these "Keep Christ In Christmas" car magnets for \$4.00 beginning at the Fair and throughout the holiday season. See Sue Lindley with questions.



Longest Night Service Thursday, December 21st, 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, December 21st is the longest night of the year. For many people, dark is symbolic of the harsh things of life. And, those harsh things become more evident in the light of the "shoulds" of Christmas time: we should be happy, we should be glad, we should be joyful. Well, sometimes our life is not conducive to the shoulds: we have lost a loved one, or a relationship, or a job, or whatever. We don't feel happy and glad. The Longest Night Service is a time to realize that for some, all is not goodness and light. We can come, acknowledge the darkness, but also look to the Nativity for our hope and our Light. All are welcome.



Please watch for the special offering envelopes in the pews for your donation to the 2017 Christmas Fund. The fund is the primary source of annual income used to support and honor those who have served and are serving the United Church of Christ. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care. HCCUCC will be taking your offering in December. Donation envelopes can be found in the pews until December 17th.

Please remember that your generous contribution can and will make a difference in the lives of many.

The Mission Committee

HUNTINGTON CENTER NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



Huntington Center Nursery School is accepting registrations in December for the 2018-2019 school year for 3 & 4 yr. olds. We offer half day and extended day programs and additionally a before school program. If you are, or know of someone who is interested in this wonderful program please contact our Director, Linda Rizzitelli at 203-929-7197 for more information. H.C.N.S. is open to the public.

For the Christmas season, the children are collecting new toys for Toys for Tots.

Cookbook Sale!

If you haven't purchased one of our "Good Taste" cookbooks, now is the time. These make great hostess gifts and stocking stuffers, not to mention the terrific recipes you can use for the holidays. Cookbooks are only \$5.00! See Denise Wilson or Sue Lindley if you don't find them in Fellowship Hall.



AND SCENERY NIGHT

Calling all HCCUCC children...we need your help in creating the scenery for our upcoming Christmas Pageant. Please come Wednesday, November 29th to Fellowship Hall, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to have dinner and work on the Christmas pageant scenery.

This should be a wonderful night full of fellowship and paint!!



Please join us on Sunday, December 10th for our Christmas Pageant during the church service. Also join us in Fellowship Hall for a Happy Birthday, Jesus reception following the Pageant.

Credit Card Giving is available at HCCUCC

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported **Huntington Congregational Church, UCCUCC** this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. The site is open for giving, including giving to the Christmas Fund for retired pastors and for giving towards HCC Staff Christmas Gifts.

As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit www.huntingtonucc.org or contact the church office for more information. Try it out and please give generously. Thank-you.



FAITH PROMISE/PLEDGE CARDS

Thank you so much to everyone who has returned their Faith Promise/Pledge Cards!!

If you have not done so, please be sure to return your card to HCCUCC as soon as possible. Your faithful generosity makes our ministry in the name of Jesus to our community and our world possible!



Women's Fellowship would like to thank everyone that helped with this year's Pumpkin and Holly Fair. Whether you donated your time, ingredients, made crafts or came to fair, you were part of our success. We hope you enjoyed the experience – everyone appreciates your efforts, and we certainly had a good time.

Next month we will let you know how much the fair earned and how the money will be distributed. We look forward to seeing you at the Fair in 2018.

Merry Christmas

Terri Johnston, Justine Connery, Judy Tucker, Jaqui Olivo

Christmas Sanctuary Decorating

Sunday, November 26th please join members of Diaconate after worship to help decorate the sanctuary. As the proverb says, "Many hands make light work"!

The Diaconate Committee

DID YOU KNOW?

(Some historical tidbits about our history in Shelton)

Under Rev. Charles Smith the sign in front of the church read "*This filling station is open on Sundays*" and services were 9:15 and 10:30.

Evidently our church basement, in the 1700's, served as a jail where David Shelton, an Anglican, was jailed for refusing to pay taxes in support of our parish!

Many documents indicate that our church was actually petitioned in 1717, making us 300 years old this year! Interesting to contemplate!

There will be a meeting for all members of the Huntington Congregational Church, UCC immediately following the worship service on Sunday, December 3, 2017 for the purpose of presenting a draft budget for 2018.

Birthday Greetings to the following who will celebrate during the month of December:

- 1 Diana Banks, Julie Chase
- 2 Robin Hartel
- 4 Tracy Dawley, Jonathan Leung, David Roberts
- 5 Allison St. Germain
- 8 Rod Kneen, Jr.
- 10 Gordon Harris
- 11 Jessica Harris, Steven Salvio
- 13 Steve Brighindi
- 15 Justin Toth
- 20 Brian Harris
- 24 Jean Vollaro
- 26 Deborah Margolies, Pat Tober
- 28 Daniel Frolish, Lupe Maybeck-Nicholas
- 30 Gerry Fassbender



Congratulations to the following couples who will celebrate wedding anniversaries in December:

- 12 Faye & Jim Fair
- 18 Connie & John Glenn
- 23 Betty & Bill Thresher



TROOP 101 FUNDRAISER

All you can eat Pancake Dinner & Trimmings

When: Sunday, December 3rd, 2017

Where: Huntington Congregational Church
19 Church Street, Huntington

Time: 3pm – 6pm

Fee: \$8 per person (children under 5 are \$5)

Join the Boy Scouts of Troop 101 as they cook up a delicious Pancake Dinner for you and your family.



1ST ANNUAL PANCAKE DINNER FUNDRAISER

RESERVE YOUR SEAT

VISIT OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE:

[https://www.facebook.com/
events/129902457699328](https://www.facebook.com/events/129902457699328)

OR CALL

203-650-2119

Meet and Greet

JACK & SALLY

Photo Opportunity





DECEMBER 2017



SUNDAY

MONDAY





TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1	2 8am- Yoga
3 9:30am –Worship/Sunday School/child care 10:30am-Congregational meeting on Budget 1pm-Troop 101-FH 4pm-Carol Sing-St.Paul's	4	5 7pm- Trustees meeting	6 Troop 101	7 6:30 pm-Missions 7:15pm-Choir 8:15pm-Bells	8 SPOONER HOUSE CHRISTMAS MEAL 	9 8am- Yoga 9am-Habitat Workday
10 9:30am & child care 10:30am- Christmas Pageant Fair meeting-lib. 4:30pm-T. Brown Foundation Vigil-FH	11 7:15pm-WF Ex Brd.	12 7pm- Council at Pemberley (Parsonage)	13 6pm-All WF @ Sember's	14 Rev. Lucille's Prayer Day 7:15pm-Choir 8:15pm-Bells	15	16 8am- Yoga
17 Christmas Fund 9:30am –Worship- Baptism/Sunday School/child care 10:30am- Endowment meeting	18	19 7:15-Diaconate meeting	20 Troop 101	21 6:30pm-Longest Night Service	22	23 8am- Yoga
24 Christmas Eve Services 11am –Morning Service & 11pm-Candlelight & Carols 	25 Merry Christmas! 9:30am- Worship - FH 	26 Rev. Lucille away OFFICE CLOSED	27	28	29	30 8am- Yoga 1pm-FH usage 
31 9:30am-Aloha Service-FH 