

The First Congregational Church

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The Spire

April 2023

Announcements:

A Note From the Chair

I know I wrote of Hopefulness as my word of the year earlier this winter and spoke of it at our budget meeting as well. I'm taking a different look at that concept now, partially influenced by reading *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall.

In her Introduction/Invitation to the book, she writes "Hope is often misunderstood. People tend to think that it is simply passive wishful thinking. I hope something will happen but I'm not going to do anything about it. This is indeed the opposite of real hope which requires action and engagement."

While she is speaking about the global environment, I think we can apply it to our Church community. I am presenting you with a few challenges.

First, consider increasing your pledge. If 50 people increased their giving by \$1 a week, that would amount to \$2500 in a year, Second, take the plunge and volunteer to serve on a Committee. Deacons will be in desperate need of new members as our remaining two deacons are set to step down in May. Council will also need a Vice-Chair/Secretary at that time. The other committees will also welcome new members who will bring new perspectives and new ideas. Maybe you served on a committee before and would consider re-joining. Third, if you have been attending regularly, take the step to formally be received into membership. Be ready to fully participate in the life of the church that has given your life meaning and hope.

I still believe we can overcome our current difficulties with everyone's participation.
Veralyn Davee Chair of the Council of Ministries

1st Quarter of 2024 update from the treasurer: Thank you for your faithful contributions to our church! At the end of the first quarter for the year, we are currently at a deficit of \$1500 (about 6% less than what we need). This is the amount we need to receive to pay our budgeted expenses.

Category Description	1/1/2024 -		2/29/2024
	Actual	Budget	Difference
INFLOWS			
Carry Over - OP	-\$11,506	-\$11,482	-\$24
Church Facility	\$6,116	\$5,954	\$162
Diane Simmons RE Gift	\$0	\$166	-\$166
Endowment	\$4,870	\$9,500	-\$4,630
Holiday Gift-OP	\$55	\$116	-\$61
Non pledges-OP	\$918	\$2,500	-\$1,582
Pledged-OP	\$11,896	\$11,340	\$556
TOTAL INFLOWS	\$12,349	\$18,094	-\$5,745
OUTFLOWS			
Cleaning	\$1,125	\$500	-\$625
Cleaning Supply	\$0	\$66	\$66
Electricity	\$2,697	\$2,650	-\$47
Fire Alarm	\$250	\$82	-\$168
Garbage	\$426	\$416	-\$10
Insurance	\$4,018	\$4,017	-\$1
Maint Buildings	\$770	\$666	-\$104
Maintenance Ext	\$0	\$382	\$382
Med. & SS	\$424	\$332	-\$92
Media Director	\$262	\$582	\$320
Minister Expens	\$139	\$66	-\$73
Minister H-D-A	\$2,968	\$3,100	\$132
Minister Salary	\$7,937	\$7,936	-\$1
Office Supply	\$79	\$500	\$421
Oil	\$6,045	\$5,500	-\$545
Organ & Piano	\$0	\$0	\$0
Organist	\$4,400	\$3,032	-\$1,368
Parsonage	\$3,477	\$3,476	-\$1
Program Expense			
Deacons	\$65	\$82	\$17
Fellowship	\$258	\$200	-\$58
Religious Ed	\$373	\$250	-\$123
TOTAL Program Expense	\$696	\$532	-\$164
Secretary	\$2,069	\$1,832	-\$237
Telephone	\$719	\$750	\$31
UCC Conferences	\$0	\$0	\$0
Water & Sewer	\$346	\$300	-\$46
Workers' Comp	\$0	\$266	\$266
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	\$38,845	\$36,983	-\$1,862
OVERALL TOTAL	-\$26,496	-\$18,889	-\$7,607

During the week of April 15-19 Barbara will only be in the office On Tuesday 4/16 and Wednesday 4/17. It is spring break for the kids. If you need anything, please email if possible. Barbara has linked the email account to her phone and will be able to get right back to you. Thank you in advance for the understanding.

FAMILY NEWS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

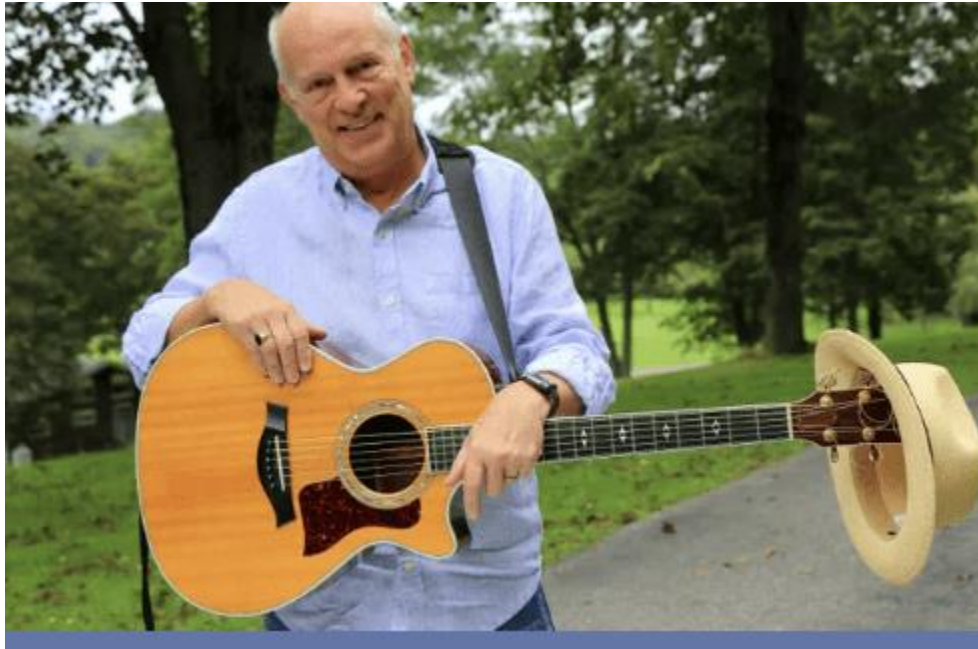
Apr 5	Bev LaFontan	Apr 18	John DiGiacomo Jr.
Apr 6	Scott Thornton	Apr 21	Eric Fredritz
Apr 7	Simon Winter	Apr 25	Lynn Worthington
Apr 13	Abigail LaFontan		
Apr 14	Dave Shaffer		

Opportunities within the congregation

Spring has sprung and the days are getting longer. This means that the flower beds need to be cleaned up, the pinecones collected and the weeds removed. As we look at our budget, remember, that there are things we can do to benefit the church without spending money. We are a community of people who love and respect each other. We also need to love our buildings and land. If you have 15 mins or maybe even 5 think about doing a few mins of yardwork. I have a wheel barrel in the back by the office and a rake and such inside. If we can do the work we don't need to have to pay for a "clean up". Thank you in advance for all the help.

Opportunities within the community

A Folk Cabaret with George Potts



STARTS

Sat, Apr 6th @ 7:00pm-8:15pm, St. Andrew's Parish Hall- COST \$10

EVENT DESCRIPTION

George Potts, whose sweet tenor and dazzling guitar-playing have been part of NW Connecticut's music scene for decades, released his first solo album, "Ends & Odds," to critical acclaim and a top-20 spot on the folk charts. Sit back at a candle-lit table, have a glass of wine on us, and hear songs that'll make you laugh and cry. His featured guest will be multi-instrumentalist Gordon Titcomb, who has worked with Paul Simon and Arlo Guthrie.

"The Big Win" Community Breakfast at KVFD



Sun, Apr 28th @ 7:00am-11:30am, Kent Volunteer Fire Department

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Eggs | Pancakes | Bacon | Sausage | Juice | Endless Coffee

Adults - \$8

Seniors - \$6

Children under 8 - \$5

Cash/check

Celebrate Opening Day with the Scouts

Breakfast Sandwich

Dine-in / Grab-n-Go

Saturday, April 6

6 - 11 A.M.

Sandwich
& Coffee/Drink **\$10**

Kent Congregational Church

Parish House

97 N Main Street

Kent, CT

All proceeds to benefit
BSA Kent Troop 11



PUZZLE

The Kent Memorial Library is looking for puzzle donations for its summer book sale. If you have any, please feel free to drop them off at the library. Please mark if they are known to have all pieces. Thank you!



If you no longer wish to receive the Spire please reply to this email.

The background is a dark, starry night sky with a forest silhouette. In the foreground, there are several colorful mushrooms (white, yellow, pink, and blue) and a white rabbit sitting on the left, holding a yellow flower. A green banner with a white border is draped across the top, and a white moth is flying above it. The text is written in a white, serif font.

YOU'RE INVITED TO
AN
ENCHANTED EVENING
TO BENEFIT KCNS

Silent Disco - DJ- Libations- Auction
Items - Hors d'Oeuvres by Chef Mario
from NYC's Hotel Carlyle - Desserts by
Rosie's Kitchen

APRIL 27, 2024
7PM TO 10PM
KENT COMMUNITY HOUSE

Hosted by the Kent Community Nursery School Board

April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunday Worship 10:00 AM	1 AA Meeting-Parish Bible Study 7 PM	2	3	4	5	6 Boy Scout breakfast 6-11 am Bridge Club 1-4 parish house
7	8 AA Meeting-Parish Bible Study 7 PM	9	10	11 Bridge Club 1-4 parish house	12 AA Meeting-Parish	13 Bridge Club 1-4 parish house
14	15 AA Meeting-Parish Bible Study 7 PM Office closed	16	17	18 Bridge Club 1-4 parish house Office closed	19 Office closed	20 Bridge Club 1-4 parish house
21	22 SPIRE deadline Bible Study 7 PM AA Meeting-Parish	23	24	25 Bridge Club 1-4 parish house	26 AA Meeting-Parish	27 Bridge Club 1-4 parish house
28	29 Bible Study 7 PM AA Meeting-Parish	30		Church Office Hours: Mon/Thur 1:30pm—3pm Tue/Wed.Fri 9am-1pm	Quality Thrift Shop Hours: Tuesdays-Saturday 12:00-4:00	