



**May 1, 2024**

# First Congregational Church

2301 Main Street  
Stratford, Connecticut 06615

## MAY HAPPENINGS

**May 1, May 8, May 15, May 22 & May 29**  
**Spring Bible Study 7pm**

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**May 5**  
**Communion and Red Bag Sunday**  
**10:00 AM Worship in Person and Zoom**

**May 11**  
**Women's Service League Meeting**



**May 12 - Mother's Day**  
**10:00 AM Worship in Person and Zoom**



**May 19 - Pentecost and Confirmation Sunday**  
**10:00 AM Worship in Person and Zoom**



**May 26 - Traditional Service & Celebration of Pastor Ed's ministry!**  
**10:00 AM Worship in Person and Zoom**



## My Last Letter

This will be my last letter in the courier. In June you and I will move on to our next adventure. So, what else can I say? I am not sure, except to once again say, thank you. Thank you for being so welcoming when we moved here; so supportive when I was getting started; and not only being a part of our journey, but becoming our friends. Since moving here both Sam and I have lost both parents. Yes, it was my stepfather, but I had known my stepfather far longer than my actual father. You saw us through some dark times. One thing Sam and I often remind ourselves of, is that we had only been married two weeks before we moved here. Our life as a married couple has always been intertwined with First Congregational Church. We both owe you so much. You were not only welcoming to me but to someone who had never been a minister's spouse. You were accepting of our mistakes, patient in us learning the ropes, and forgiving when I did some stupid things. What comes to mind was wearing that Boston Red Sox cap when they won their first world series in a hundred years. I truly didn't understand the rivalry. Do you realize that George Bush was president when I arrived? It's been a long and fun journey. Whoever gets this position next will be a very lucky person.

There will be a lot of transitions for us. We will be leaving our church family, and my daughter, Kristin, will be leaving us this summer to attend Syracuse University. We will be working on who we are as ordinary citizens, as Christians. I know that Lyle is looking forward to seeing more of me. But what the future holds we have no idea. Honestly, I have never said that in my life. I have always known what is coming next. We do not plan to move anywhere for a year. I will not be filling pulpits or doing interim work anywhere either. But as they say, "We make our plans and God laughs." So with what time I have, I want to cherish each minute with you. If you would like some closure, feel free to come by the office, invite me over, or let's meet for a cup of coffee, or even a beer. Even if there are difficult things you need to say, I am open. I look forward to seeing all of you in May to make sure I say goodbye properly and to thank you for being such a special part of my life.

Blessings to all,

Reverend Ed Rawls



**MAY 2024**

- May 5 - Communion and Red Bag Sunday. Scriptures: Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17
- May 12 - Mother's Day. Rev. Richard Jenkins will be preaching. Scriptures: acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19
- May 19 - Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday. Scriptures: Acts 2:1-21, Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 104: 24-34, 25b, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
- May 26 - Trinity Sunday/Traditional Worship Service with Praise Band & A Celebration of Rev. Ed Rawls's ministry here at First Congregational Church as he prepares for his retirement on June 1st.

**A NOTE FROM THE TECHNOLOGY TEAM**



"Technology Alert: For those who attend our services in person, please be aware that the Sanctuary audio and video recording system is operating at all times. The system may pick up conversations and images that occur some distance away from the microphones and cameras."

## WOMEN'S SERVICE LEAGUE

### WOMEN'S SERVICE LEAGUE MEETING –

On Saturday, May 11th, members of The Women's Service League will meet directly at the Veterans Museum, 5952 Main Street Putney at 10:00 am to tour the museum.

Women's Service League members will be in Upper Packard Hall after church on May 4, May 12 and May 19 to sign up bakers for the Main Street Festival on June 1st. We are in need of bakers and we would like to know that we can count on you! Baked items that sell well are cookies, brownies, muffins, breads, pies and cakes without frosting. Thank you in advance for signing up and for your help.  
Gail McCarthy & Judy Therrien - co-chairs

Dear Church Family,

I have decided after twelve years to step down from heading up the Lord's Kitchen for First Congregational Church. If you are interested in replacing me, I am willing to go over the procedure that is necessary to volunteer for the position of lead person. It is a very rewarding experience and demonstrates how "Love Come First" from our church in the community. Please contact Jean Martire at 203-215-8422 or [jeanmartire23@gmail.com](mailto:jeanmartire23@gmail.com) if you are interested and or have any questions.  
Thank you,  
Jean Martire

## SOCIAL MEDIA



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES—FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INFORMATION - FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Year to Date Updates as of March 31, 2024

Total Income <i>(Pledges, fundraisers, rentals, etc.)</i>	\$69,915
Total Expenses <i>(Compensation, church operations, etc.)</i>	\$106,247
Total Operating Deficit	\$36,332
Total transfers from our investments <i>(Operating Budget &amp; Capital Expenses)</i>	\$50,000
Investment Portfolio YTD Change	<b>UP</b> \$159,888


*This information is intended to facilitate discussion and understanding. We will publish monthly data to keep you informed.*

LET'S ALL DO ALL WE CAN TO KEEP OUR CHURCH FINANCIALLY HEALTHY AND ABLE TO COMPLETE OUR MISSIONS OF ACTIVELY PROVIDING LOVE TO NEIGHBORS,

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

**FIRST ECCLESIASTICAL  
SOCIETY OF STRATFORD, Inc.**

Open to church members only.  
For information, please contact:  
William Cabral, Chair,  
[billc36114@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billc36114@sbcglobal.net)



or Walter Dunbar, Vice-Chair,  
[walter.dunbar@att.net](mailto:walter.dunbar@att.net)

**Kate Sterling Bunnell Scholarships**

Available to Stratford students



For more information, contact:  
Carol Haberlin, Scholarship Officer  
[KateSterlingBunnell@gmail.com](mailto:KateSterlingBunnell@gmail.com)

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
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## Practicing Stewardship

We have concluded that if we ever think we have “arrived” when it comes to our stewardship, we may at that moment be like the steward scorned for burying his talents (**cf. Luke 19 or Matthew 25**). Stewardship is a process, not a destination.

**1 Peter 4:10** challenges us to consider how we steward the spiritual gifts we have been given. Stewardship is about what we have. Each of us has spiritual gifts to employ for the common good and material goods that have been entrusted to us for enjoyment and sharing. This month, we want to direct your attention more closely to the connection between spiritual formation and stewardship. Because our walk with Christ is connected to everything we do, everything we are, and everything we have been given, growth in stewardship is a vital aspect of our spiritual formation.

Practicing stewardship is a vital aspect of spiritual formation. By stewardship, we are referring to much more than just our giving. Part of our growth as followers of Jesus is learning our role and carrying out our responsibilities as stewards in his kingdom. We believe we are stewards entrusted with spiritual gifts and material goods for the purpose of glorifying God, serving others, and making known the eternal gospel!

Stewardship is a spiritual journey. As we travel this journey together, may we open our hearts and minds to consider enhancing our understanding and practice of the giving of our time, talents, treasures, and service.

Written with the help of excerpts from an article by Kairos University.

***1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.***





**Is it acceptable to have an estimated 1,559 homeless and unstably housed youth and young adults in Fairfield County at any given time.? \***

### **A Coordinated Approach Can End Homelessness**

This requires using data to inform decisions about how to most effectively allocate resources, services, create legislation, and programs to best address the needs of those experiencing homelessness in our community. It means continually looking at what makes a true difference. Together we have the power of collective impact .....and we have Jesus calling us.

In March and April, our Social Justice Team, with other members of our church and town, joined in fact finding and discussions to better understand who our unhoused and at-risk neighbors are and what is impacting them. The goals have been to:

- 1- Shift our collective narrative. Recognize people experiencing homelessness, not as problems to be solved (or stigmatized and avoided), but rather neighbors to be cared for.
- 2- Reduce myths that stand in the way of helping our community work together (in nonpartisanship) to promote solutions to the issues that result in homelessness and costly disconnections.
- 3- Build relationships within our community to support what works; has a proven success record. Envision how we overcome broken and ineffective places in our systems,
- 4- Understand that while issues underlying homelessness are complex, we can impact these systems that need support. Building more affordable housing is only part of what's needed.
- 5- Create connections and relationships between different parts of our community that result in stronger supports for those trying to help our unhoused neighbors including community services, educators, our library, police, and health care providers.

As the Supreme Court listens to arguments about dealing with street homelessness, we remember that the people we see are only a small portion of our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. The majority are disabled or working. Families we don't see.

We are grateful for author Don Burnes' leadership in growing our understanding of key issues. A wide variety of community members have joined us. Some are at the ground level of this work. We also appreciate the partnership of our Stratford Library Association and C.A.R.E. (Citizens Addressing Racial Equity) which allowed for wider community engagement.

\*2019 Opening Doors Youth Count

**SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM**  
 First Congregational Church of Stratford  
**LOVE COMES FIRST**

## FIRST CHURCH STRATFORD

## MUSIC NOTES

The Music Department is busily preparing for Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday, as well as Pastor Ed's final service on May 26.

Please consider singing in our Festival Choir for these special events. Musicians are also needed for New Music Sundays.



## Chancel/Festival Choirs

Thank you to everyone who sang with our Festival Choir this season! Both the Chancel and Festival Choirs will sing in Pastor Ed's final service on May 26. For those who wish to sing on May 26, as well as on Pentecost Sunday (May 19), rehearsals begin on May 9. All rehearsals are held in the sanctuary, beginning at 7 PM. New members are welcome!

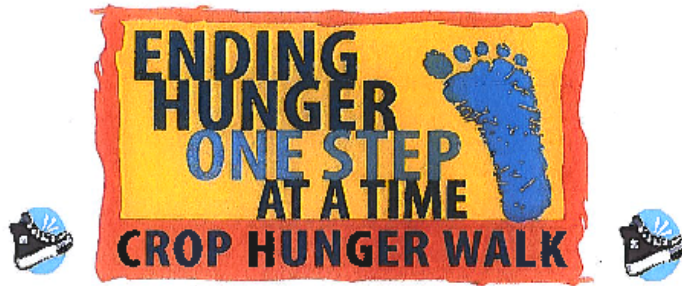
## New Music Sundays

Middle and high school aged youth are invited to share their musical talents on special Sundays throughout the year. Singers and all types of instrumentalists are welcome. The next New Music Sunday is in June. Please contact Chancel Choir Director Allison Fay at [allisonfay@gmail.com](mailto:allisonfay@gmail.com) for details.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT





CROP Hunger Walk - It's our 50th!

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 1:30pm-4pm for 2+ mile walk (Rain or Shine)

Beginning at United Congregational Church

2200 North Avenue, Bridgeport , CT

25% of monies raised goes to hunger related programs  
in the Bridgeport Area.

For more information go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/bridgeportct](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/bridgeportct)

For any questions,

please see Lynne Pert or a member of the Board of Benevolence.



**ADVERTISEMENTS**

***Union Cemetery Association***

23 Temple Court  
Stratford, Connecticut 06615



*Burial Plots Available*

**Contact: Janet M. Jennings**

Office: 203-375-4932

Cell: 203-583-1731

**CONGREGATIONAL BURYING GROUND  
STRATFORD, CT 06615**

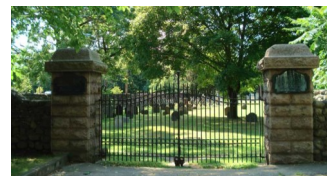
*(Established in 1678)*

Located in back of the Stratford Library and  
Sterling House Community Center

Columbarium Spaces Available \$1,000.

For Information:

Call Bill Cabral @ 203-377-6903





## Scholarship Opportunities

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the following scholarships are now available:

- **The Kate Sterling Bunnell Scholarship Endowment Fund** - This scholarship was established through the generosity of the late Catherine T. Mitchell. It offers financial assistance for college expenses to Stratford-resident students, based on financial need, without regard to academic achievement, sex, race or creed. Graduating high school students and undergraduate college students may apply. Applications are available on the following website: [www.firstchurchstratford.org/scholarship](http://www.firstchurchstratford.org/scholarship) . **Deadline is May 24, 2024.**
- **First Congregational Church Scholarships** - The following scholarships are available to students pursuing an undergraduate degree, who are members of First Congregational Church as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. Students may apply more than once as they continue to be enrolled in a full-time undergraduate program, but priority will be given to graduating high school seniors.
  - **The Frances C. and Harriet B. Blakeman Memorial Scholarship** of \$5,000 given by the Board of Trustees. This is in recognition of their devotion and generosity to First Congregational Church.
  - **The Jim and Ella Cebik Memorial Scholarship** of \$1,000 is funded by a grant from their son, the late Roy Cebik.
  - **The John Miller Edward Zorn Memorial Scholarship** of \$1,000 if funded by a grant from his father, the late Bob Zorn.

(The criteria for judging the above three scholarships will be scholastic achievement, church and community activity involvement, leadership qualities and achievement potential. )

- **The Joel and Mary Vodola Sacred Music Scholarship** of \$5,000 is funded by a grant from Rev. Esther Vodola. Limited to a student at any level majoring in music, or secondarily, education.
- **The Edna Viner Memorial Scholarship(s)** of \$5,000 or more, funded by a bequest from the late Edna Viner, is for **graduate students only**. Graduate students may apply more than once for this scholarship, but priority will be given to first time applicants.

Applications are available on the following website: [www.firstchurchstratford.org/scholarship](http://www.firstchurchstratford.org/scholarship) . **Deadline is June 1, 2024.**

Carol Haberlin, Scholarship Committee Chairperson

Email: [KateSterlingBunnell@gmail.com](mailto:KateSterlingBunnell@gmail.com)

## Love of Creation

### Bird Migration

Since 1970, bird populations in North America have dropped by 29%. There are now 3 billion fewer birds in North America than there were 50 years ago.

#### How can we help birds rest and feed during migration?

Manage your property with birds and insects in mind.

- \* plant grasses and flowers that are native to Connecticut and the northeast
- \* plant native trees and shrubs that produce fruit and berries
- \* leave parts of your yard unmanicured to give insects a place to take cover

Cut out pesticides.

- \* applying pesticides to your property kills insects. Insects are food that CT birds rely on. You're also killing butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Keep cats indoors.

- \* outdoor cats kill an estimated 1.3 - 4 billion birds in North America

The Board of Trustees Love of Creation Team

( Information provided by The CT Audubon Society - [ctaudubon.org](http://ctaudubon.org) )

Celebrate the Magic of Bird Migration with Connecticut Audubon's Migration Magic bird festival!



Connecticut Audubon invites you to Migration Magic, a month-long celebration of the beauty and importance of birds as they arrive back in Connecticut.

When: May 1-31, 2024.

What: 50-plus walks and programs plus a fundraising Birdathon for all skill levels.

Where: 28 preserves and centers in 20 Connecticut communities.

Why: To share the joy of birds with as many people as possible, and to raise funds for the ongoing work of bird conservation in Connecticut.

## May Is National Arthritis Awareness Month

### **The Different Types of Arthritis and How to Treat Your Arthritis**

While May is a time to celebrate the start of summer, this month is also [National Arthritis Awareness Month](#). With 100 plus different types of arthritis and related conditions, more than 50 million adults and 300,000 children have some type of arthritis. While arthritis affects both men and women, it is more common in women. So, what are the most common types of arthritis and how can they be treated?

#### **Osteoarthritis**

Osteoarthritis, also known as degenerative arthritis, is one of the most common types of arthritis. Over time, the cartilage in the joints can wear away, leaving the bone rubbing against the bone. This can cause pain, swelling, and stiffness in the joint. Some risk factors for this type of arthritis can include excessive weight gain, family history, age, and previous injury. When the joint symptoms of osteoarthritis are mild or moderate, they can be managed by balancing activity with rest, using hot and cold therapies, regular physical activity, healthy weight, strengthening the muscles around the joint for added support, assistive devices, over-the-counter pain relievers, and anti-inflammatory medicines, and avoiding excessive repetitive movements.

#### **Inflammatory Arthritis**

The immune system's job function is to protect the body. This system generates internal inflammation to get rid of the infection and prevent diseases. But the immune system can go awry, mistakenly attacking joints with uncontrolled inflammation, causing joint erosion, and damaging internal organs, eyes, and other parts of the body. These [types of arthritis include rheumatoid and psoriatic arthritis](#). Most researchers

autoimmune response. Early diagnosis and aggressive treatments are critical when experiencing inflammatory arthritis. Slowing down the disease's activity can help minimize or even prevent permanent damage. The goal of treatment is to reduce pain, improve function, and prevent further joint damage.

## Infectious Arthritis

Infectious arthritis is caused by a bacterium, virus, or fungus that enters the joint and [triggers inflammation](#). Some organisms that cause this type of arthritis include salmonella, shigella (food poisoning or contamination), chlamydia, gonorrhea, and hepatitis C. In many cases, timely treatment with antibiotics can clear up the joint infection but arthritis may become chronic even after treatment.

With the right treatments and therapies, you may be able to live a normal life with your arthritis.



Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns:  
Jane Hartigan and Sue Collozo

## BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

**The Board of Benevolence will once again have a Tag Sale in the Fall 2024**

**Tag Sale items can be dropped off NOW** during office hours 9am -2pm or on Sundays to the PreK classroom downstairs (the last classroom on the left hand side just before the double glass doors). **Everything accepted but furniture, electronics and clothes.**

**If you have items to donate and aren't able to drop them off, please contact Cindy Buckley and she will make arrangements to pick them up.**

**Any questions can be directed to Cindy Buckley: 203-923-5505.**





### Hygiene Products Can Promote Mental Wellbeing

Helping Hands FCC will serve a residential mental health facility for teen boys, Riley Branyan visited the campus to learn their needs. She is collecting desired hygiene care products; sending a message of hope and love, to boost confidence and enhance self-care.

CAN YOU HELP? If so, drop products off at the Sunday School office or contact [Rileybranyan@gmail.com](mailto:Rileybranyan@gmail.com) or 475.450.3176 for more information. Needed are:

#### **Body Wash**

Suave cocoa butter and shea body wash  
Suave Milk and honey body wash  
Old Spice Body Wash- any scent  
Ivory Sensitive Skin body wash  
Ivory regular body wash

#### **Oral Hygiene**

Any brand toothbrushes  
Alcohol-free mouth rinse  
Colgate or Crest toothpaste

#### **Hair:**

Suave men's 2 in 1 Shampoo and Conditioner (not the 3:1)  
Suave Shampoo and Conditioner- favorite scents are Coconut and the Almond and Shea Butter  
Any brand dandruff shampoo- only a few use this  
Cantu Shampoo and Conditioner for curly and natural hair  
Cantu leave in conditioning lotion or Olive Miracle leave in conditioner  
Blue Magic hair dressing  
Any brand men's regular hair gel  
Large tooth curly hair combs  
Hair picks (plastic only, no metal)  
Hairbrushes for all hair types  
Boar Bristle hairbrushes for natural hair  
Hair sponges

#### **Deodorant:**

Axe, Degree, Old Spice, Right Guard- the regular solid stick deodorant (not the gel or spray)  
Men's body spray, any brand, that is NOT in a glass bottle. Must be in plastic or a can.

Helping Hands FCC is a project inspired by Riley Branyan and supported by the Women's Service League and Social Justice Team

# Gift Card Year-Round Fundraiser

For the past few years, FCC Stratford has participated in an important fundraising program that allows participants to donate money to the church just by purchasing gift cards through the church. There are more than 400 retailers available in the program through RaiseRight. These include grocery stores, home improvement stores as well as some of your online favorites like Amazon. FCC Stratford buys the gift cards at a discount and sells them to you at face value. The church receives the difference as a commission for directing spending in this way.

We want to grow participation in this program because it's an easy way to raise significant amounts of money for the church simply by harnessing the spending and gift giving habits of our congregation, friends, and families.

There are two ways to help:

- (1) Don Coulson and Amy Elias are available in Upper Packard Hall most Sundays after church. They keep a limited number of regularly used gift cards on hand with retailers like Shop Rite, Stop and Shop, Big Y, Walmart, Amazon, and Home Depot for same day purchase for use.



There is also an extensive list of almost any retailer you can think of that you can purchase for physical delivery the following week. Many congregants use this program to buy gifts for loved ones and friends. Simply bring a check made out to FCC Stratford or bring cash.

- (2) You can also participate more independently by logging into [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) or by downloading the RaiseRight app.



Here is a helpful link to register with the church: <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=9D7L7BDC55169>. You'll need to use the church's enrollment code to participate — 9D7L7BDC55169.

You can order the gift cards online using your bank account or credit card or you can ask us to order cards for you to pick up at the church the following Sunday. Cards can also be delivered to your home for a small fee. The app/website also allows you to create an electronic wallet where you can store cards that you purchase by e-delivery.

A list of the participating retailers and the commissions that they pay can be seen by going to: <https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

For questions concerning gift cards, you can contact Amy Elias at [CongoCardsStratford@gmail.com](mailto:CongoCardsStratford@gmail.com) or 917-567-0246.

# JUNE COURIER SUBMISSION

## **Submission of information for the Courier: The June Courier deadline will be**

**May 18, 2024.** Send all submissions for the Courier via the church email at [firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com](mailto:firstchurchofstratford@yahoo.com) to help make the production of the courier easier to process. **Articles should be no more than two pages, ideally only one page if possible.** We will continue to send the courier via email. If you know of someone who isn't receiving it by email and would like to receive it by mail or email, please notify the office.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation

Sandy O'Neill, Church Administrator



## ADVERTISEMENTS

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203-455-1639

Handy Handler

Jason  
Handler  
Owner

[jhandler2@gmail.com](mailto:jhandler2@gmail.com) Stratford, CT 06615

CT HIC: 0670758

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## CHURCH FUNDRAISING

Dear Members & Friends,

Since Amazon Smile shut down their charity giving program at the end of February, I would like to suggest another charity giving site that you may wish to try called **iGive**.

If you don't have an iGive account already, all you need to do is go to **iGive.com** and create an account.

Then select **First Congregational Church of Stratford, CT** as your charity. That's it.

You do all your online shopping from the iGive website. Instead of going to several websites to order things, iGive has over 2000 stores to choose from including your favorite ones right on their site. For convenience, you can also bookmark your favorite stores on iGive. You can use the iGive search feature to find an item you are looking for, as well.

Your purchases must be ordered through the iGive portal to generate rewards for the church.

These rewards are figured at various percentage rates. Unlike Amazon Smile, every purchase made through iGive generates a reward for the church.

Our church link is:

<https://www.iGive.com/FirstCongregationalChurchStratfordCT>

or

Check out our QR code which makes it even easier!

I hope you will give **iGive** a try.

Virginia Millington



For more information, go to **iGive.com**.



## ADVERTISEMENTS



*Dennis & D'Arcy  
Funeral Home*

2611 Main Street Stratford, CT 06615

Burials - Cremations - Transportation

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Richard G. Ross

Attorney at Law

203-381-0092



83 Chanbrook Road

Stratford, Connecticut 06614

\*Wills & Trust—Elder Law

\*Probate Administration

\*Federal (IRS) & Connecticut  
Tax Matters

# ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE



Do you own a small business?

Would you like to help out the church and at the same time generate more customers?

We invite you to place an ad in the Courier. For as little as \$18 a month you can have a business card size ad appear each month in the Courier.

To get started or to learn more please contact

Beth Turner, after worship or [elturner@optonline.net](mailto:elturner@optonline.net)

Dick Ross, 203-375-6807, [rgrclo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rgrclo@sbcglobal.net)

# ADVERTISEMENTS

**Morgan Stanley**  
**Joseph A. Pramer**  
Portfolio Management Director  
Senior Vice President  
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[joseph.pramer@morganstanley.com](mailto:joseph.pramer@morganstanley.com)  
NMLS#1295688  
© 2022 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC. CRC 3938502 01/22  
“Financial Advisor for the Board of Trustees”

**KKS Associates Inc.**  
Commercial Cleaning Services  
**Phillip Simpson, President**  
20 Meadow Wood Road  
Trumbull, CT 06611  
Cell 203-257-6625 \*Serving First Church  
Email: [Phil.Simpson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Phil.Simpson@sbcglobal.net)



*Adzima Funeral Home*  
*50 Paradise Green Place*  
*Stratford, CT 06614*  
*(203) 375-2200*

# a fun Flower Frog

A flower frog sits atop a vase to help arrange flowers and hold stems in place. This personalized frog will become a favorite!

**What you need:**

- Air-dry clay
- Roller
- Vase (or jar)
- Plastic knife
- Straw
- Acrylic paint and brushes



**What you do:**

1. Roll out a portion of clay to about 1/2-inch thickness.
2. Cut out a circle that's slightly larger than the vase opening. (This will allow the finished frog to sit securely on top.)
3. To make holes for stems, use a straw to punch out circle shapes. If you make more than one frog, try arranging the holes in different patterns.
4. Let dry completely. Then personalize your work with acrylic paint.
5. When dry, place the frog atop the vase. Arrange flowers and greenery to make a Mother's Day bouquet.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Caylum Kempf – 5/4

Ben Branyan – 5/12

Kyra Angleri – 5/16

Cameron Smith – 5/17

Ethan Pilcavage – 5/19

Kyle Kodnia – 5/26

Jake Garrigan – 5/27

Charlotte Stack – 5/28

# PUZZLE UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment. How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong. Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV.

flower, stem, bee, leaf	_____○_____
pink, red, yellow, blue	_____○_____
mother, sister, brother, aunt	_____○_____
purple, dress, skirt, blouse	_____○_____
necklace, ring, bracelet, braid	_____○_____
diamond, emerald, heart, ruby	_____○_____
orange, cherry, potato, kiwi	_____○_____
my, our, she, your	_____○_____
faith, family, love, hope	_____○_____
sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature	_____○_____
cookie, cake, pie, sandwich	_____○_____
silver, white, gold, bronze	_____○_____

“Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a \_\_\_\_\_ and qu \_\_\_\_\_ p \_\_\_\_\_, which is of great worth in God's sight.” 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

Answers: bee, pink, brother, purple, braid, heart, potato, kiwi, family, love, hope, temperature, sandwich, silver, white, gold, bronze, unfading, beauty, inner, self, qu, p, which is, of great worth, in God's sight, 1 Peter 3:4, NIV



# May 2024



\*Worship Services are in person and online with Zoom. The Centering Prayer gatherings on the calendar are online Zoom meetings. If you are interested in attending any or all of these meetings and do not have the Zoom code, please contact the church office or the minister.

**Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat**

 <p>CROP WALK MAY 5TH AT 1:30pm</p>			<p>1 7pm Bible Study w/ Steve Wasko</p>	<p>2 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>3 4:30pm Prayer with Linda on Zoom 7pm The Broadway, The Little mermaid</p>	<p>4 10am AA 3pm The Broadway, The Little mermaid  7pm The Broadway, The Little mermaid</p>
<p>5 Communion and Red Bag Sunday 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11:15 Fellowship / Confirmation Mtg 12pm-3pm N-AIM Church 3pm Little Mermaid</p>	<p>6 6:30pm-8:00pm The Broadway 7pm Church Council on Zoom 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>7 10am Yoga 4:30 pm Prayer with Linda on Zoom 5:30pm-7:00pm The Broadway</p>	<p>8 7pm Bible Study w/ Steve Wasko</p>	<p>9 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>10 4:30pm Prayer with Linda on Zoom 5:30pm-7:00pm The Broadway  Confirmation</p>	<p>11 10am AA 10am WSL meet at Veterans Museum  Retreat</p>
<p>12 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11:15 Fellowship/ Stewardship Mtg 12pm-3pm N-AIM Church</p>	<p>13 6:30pm-8:00pm The Broadway 7pm Trustees Mtg on Zoom 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14 10am Yoga 4:30 pm Prayer with Linda on Zoom 5:30pm-7:00pm The Broadway 7pm SJT on Zoom</p>	<p>15 7pm Bible Study w/ Steve Wasko</p>	<p>16 6:30pm Deacons with Confirmands 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>17 4:30pm Prayer with Linda on Zoom 5:30pm-7:00pm The Broadway</p>	<p>18 10am AA 12pm-9pm FSBC</p>
<p>19 Pentecost &amp; Confirmation Sunday 8am-12pm FSBC 10am Worship &amp; Sunday School 11:15 Fellowship / BOB Mtg 12pm-3pm N-AIM Church</p>	<p>20 6:30pm-8:00pm The Broadway 7pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>21 10am Yoga 4:30 pm Prayer with Linda on Zoom 5:30pm-7:00pm The Broadway</p>	<p>22 7pm Bible Study w/ Steve Wasko</p>	<p>23 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>24 4:30pm Prayer with Linda on Zoom 5:30pm-7:00pm The Broadway</p>	<p>25 10am AA</p>
<p>26 10am Worship &amp; Celebration 11:15 Fellowship 12pm-3pm N-AIM Church</p>	<p>27 Office Closed 6:30pm-8:00pm The Broadway   Memorial Day</p>	<p>28 10am Yoga 4:30 pm Prayer with Linda on Zoom 5:30pm-7:00pm The Broadway</p>	<p>29 7pm Bible Study w/ Steve Wasko</p>	<p>30 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm AA</p>	<p>31 4:30pm Prayer with Linda on Zoom 5:30pm-7:00pm The Broadway</p>	