



**Sunday Worship, March 13, 2022, 10am
Second Sunday of Lent**

As you know, we are now gathering both in-person and online.

**If you are worshipping at home, you may access
the livestream of the service in one of two ways.**

**If you prefer to watch on youtube, the link and Bulletin will be in an email that
will go out Sunday at 6am.**

**The service will also be live on the church's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalBranford/>**

**Each Sunday, BCTV Cable 18 airs the worship service
from the previous Sunday at 5:30pm.**



Daylight Savings Begins

Turn your clock forward one hour before going to bed Saturday night.



About several times a year, we have a staff meeting for worship planning. It is part team building and fellowship and part business. We go through the schedule and Joe tells us what is planned for the sermons. Kerry lets us know what the youth will focus on, and Philip and I updated everyone on music events that are going to occur during the time frame. And then comes the fun part! Joe likes to have us weigh in on hymn selections, and picking the hymns is my favorite part of our meetings. That, and listening to Philip and Joe discuss the art of grilling!

When we go through our lectionary planner with hymns suggestions, we then plug in hymns. We consider the favorites of the church members, the choir, and each of us. And when we don't know a hymn, we all turn to Philip and he starts humming a few bars of the hymn, sometimes after a quick google search. Throughout our hymn selection process, one of us may tell a story about a hymn we love, or one we really don't (ask Joe about his least favorite hymns someday), At times, Philip and Joe will go on a tangent about how to smoke ribs the right way, woodworking, or blacksmithing, and either Kerry or I corral the conversation back to work. Joe has referred to Kerry and I as the moms that keep the conversation on task, and then we may spiral again!

So, this Sunday, or next, when you look at the hymns, you can take a guess which ones are a favorite of one of us, the congregation, or just a great hymn that we are adding to the rotation!

Katie Jones

March 13, 2022

Prelude: *Erhalt Uns Herr Bei Deinem Wort*, Bach - Phil Rinehart

Introit: *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days* - FCCB Choir

Liturgist: Susan Bennitt

Hymn of Praise: *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Anthem: *Abide with Me*, V. Johnson - FCCB Choir

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 27 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=513785889>

Luke 13:31-35 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=513785914>

Sermon: *Full to The Brim...Under God's Wing* - Rev. Joseph Perdue

Hymn of Reflection: *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

Offertory: *Full to The Brim* - Katie Jones

Hymn of Dedication: *Lord of the Dance (I Danced in the Morning)*

Benediction Response: *Lenten Meditation*, J. Althouse - FCCB Choir

Postlude: *How Great Thou Art*, Diemer - Phil Rinehart

Your Offering

We are so very grateful for your generosity. It makes a real difference. Every little bit of your generosity counts and we thank you so much! FCCB, 1009 Main St., Branford, CT 06405 Thank you for being the Church!



New COVID Protocols

- Masks will be optional downstairs in the meeting house and at coffee hour.
- Masks will be required in the balcony (with the exception of the choir loft). We recognize that not everyone is fully comfortable being unmasked or around people not wearing masks. We want to prove a safe place for them to join us for worship.
- Hymnals and Bibles will soon return to the pews. (this is a big project and probably won't be finished before the 13th).
- We will continue to social distance with every other pew being blocked off.
- We will continue taking communion and collecting the offering as we have since we resumed worship in April 2021. The team agrees its safer for our ushers to not walk around the sanctuary while everyone is unmasked.
- We will no longer ask people to sign up for services.
- We will likely open windows for increased circulation unless it is close to freezing.



Faith Formation Focus with Kerry

It's a very exciting week for our children and family programs. **For the first time in 2 years, we are returning to the Sunday School Wing and Classrooms!**

Woohoo!!! We will be spending some of our time together, with the day's lesson and readings, then breaking up by age group for activities. I am very pleased to have Franklin Brown and Megan Villanueva co-teaching our 3rd graders and up and I will be working with our Pre-K-2nd graders. The rooms are all being freshened up and I look forward to filling the bulletin boards with everyone's artwork!

During Lent, we will be extending our learning from our Wednesday evening series into Sunday School. This week we'll be talking about how God always takes care of us and how to find ways to listen and surround ourselves with people and activities that help us with that. **We will have time for show and tell during Sunday School. We are encouraging you to bring an item that makes you feel safe or helps you**

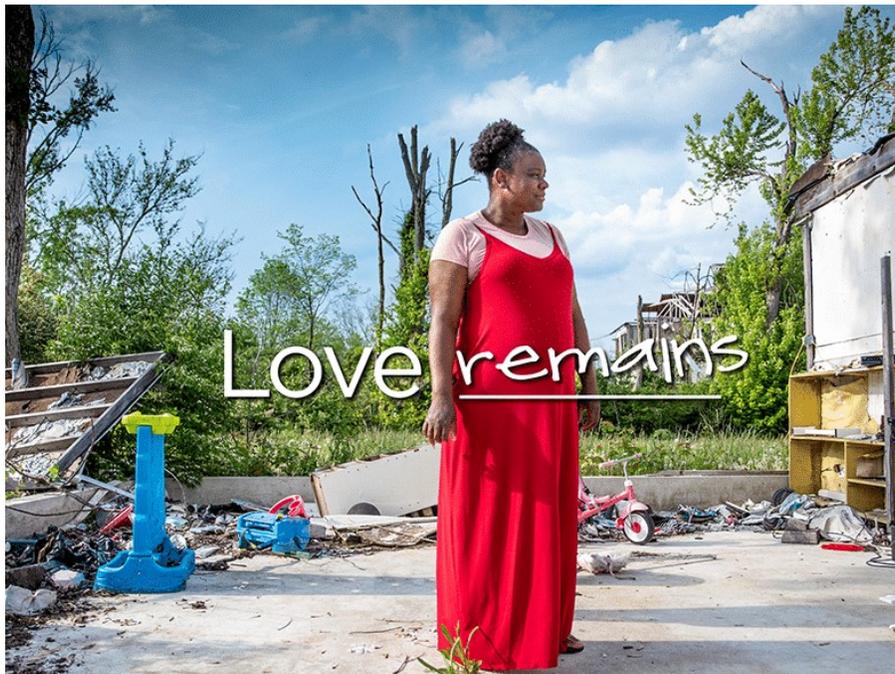
feel close to God. We'll be heading to Sunday School after this week's Children's Moment during Worship at 10 am.

Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group meets this Sunday, March 13th from 3-5:30pm here at FCCB. We have a game and activity afternoon scheduled. We'll be doing some activities around our Mission Theme for this month: One Great Hour of Sharing. And have some awesome Minute to Win It Games planned as well (that may involve food!) and of course snacks and treats. **A reminder that PFYG is open to everyone in grades 5 and up and your friends are always welcome. RSVP to Kerry.**

As our weekly prayers say "Thanks to God for returning to normal, bit by bit, I am so grateful for this return to a new normal in our Sunday School classrooms. For your Children and Youth to have space they can claim, decorate and enjoy is a beautiful thing! And I am so grateful for it.

In Peace and Gratitude,

Kerry Stewart
Faith Formation Coordinator
kerry@firstcongregationalbranford.org



One Great Hour of Sharing

Our Church World Service's One Great Hour of Sharing is Sunday, March 27th. Theme is Love Remains based on Paul's letter to the church in Corinthians: 1 Corinthians 13. Parts of this reading have been used in weddings. Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy, boast, or self-serve. Love never fails. As we grow in closeness with God, we will see that all that remains is faith, hope, and love. The greatest of these is love, thus Love Remains.

Donations given to the UCC partnering with Church World Service assist those in need at home and the world with basic needs of food, water, and shelter. This unique service assists others in a sustainable life for their community with education and support. An example of this program is a widow in Myanmar who was selling herbs at market to support herself. Then Covid-19 restrictions curtailed public gatherings at large markets and travel. She did not know how she would survive. She learned One Great Hour of Sharing partners through CWS were sharing chickens with families who had great need and training them in animal care and husbandry. Her chickens produced eggs which she sold to buy more chickens and roosters. Now she is able to support herself. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing made this new beginning possible!

Every day we are faced with more challenges, most recently, the million plus refugees fleeing Ukraine. Most of the refugees are women and children. I am encouraged by the outpouring of Love that many people have given in comforting, food, shelter in their homes, etc. Most of these people may not be able to return to their homeland and must learn to support themselves in new countries. When we feel overwhelmed by the need we see around us, remember that all things are possible with God. How will He help us to make a difference in people's lives? Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing is a way we can make a difference through this Church World Service.

Please give generously on March 27th at church,
mail to the church at: 1009 Main St., Branford, CT 06405
or online at www.firstcongregationalbranford.org/give

Thank you for your gifts,

The Discipleship Team

Cyndie Neely, Jennifer McCaughtry, Fred Cotton, Cheryl Tripp, and Katie McMahon-Brown



Lenten Study Series: Full to the Brim

A Series on Ways We Can Fill our Spiritual Cup

As is our tradition, we are planning a Wednesday evening supper and study series for the season of Lent. This year's theme is *Full to the Brim: An Expansive Lent*. Our study series will focus on filling our spirits with the fuel they need. The past few years have been difficult for us all; A chance to sit back and look at what we can do to recharge and be sure we have what we need to care for ourselves and then be able to reach out and care for all those around us is very much needed.

The first three weeks will focus on some more modern takes on Spiritual Practices and how we can incorporate those into our lives to enrich our spiritual lives. The last two weeks will focus on ancient Spiritual Practices.

Our program will run on Wednesday evenings during Lent. This program is open to all ages and all stages! A light supper of soup, salad and bread will be served at 6pm with the program beginning at 6:30pm. Our meeting dates are:

March 9: Kerry Stewart: The Precious Resource of Time and How We Use it To Enrich Spiritual Lives

March 16: Carol Rutt: Art and Faith; Including a Community Art Project (for all!)

March 23: Betsy Dorsi: Nature and Faith: How to see God all around us in Creation

March 30: Lisa Haupt: Spiritual Practice: Labyrinth: A Discussion and Practice

April 6: Rev. Joseph Perdue: Spiritual Practice: new expressions of ancient spiritual practices that help us find rest and God's love.

We will have sign ups to share the responsibility of bringing soup (one vegetarian), salad and bread as well as serving, clean up and set up. If you do need a vegan meal, please let us know ahead of time so we can accommodate your needs, by contacting the Church Office.

We can't wait to see you all soon.

The Discipleship Team



The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. And so, our Lenten series, Full to the Brim, is an invitation into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

The scriptures for this Lenten season are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise — these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. This season is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love

spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

March 2 Ecumenical Ash Wednesday: As we begin our Lenten journey, we're invited to come fully as we are.

March 6 The First Sunday of Lent: Jesus expands our definitions of a full life Even in the midst of struggle, oppressive forces, hardship, and grief—God's promises spill over, like the bounty of the first fruits from the ground.

March 13 The Second Sunday of Lent: God is our refuge. There is nothing that can separate you from God, or could keep God from gathering you in, protecting you fiercely. No matter how much we try to separate ourselves from God, God will run to protect us. God's love for us is fuller than we can imagine.

March 20 The Third Sunday of Lent: You're not a lost cause. You're not a waste of resources. You deserve audacious hope. You deserve to be nurtured. Your fruit will come.

March 27 The Forth Sunday of Lent: God's grace is extravagant, lavish, and illogical. It is never earned, but joyfully given again and again.

April 3 The Fifth Sunday of Lent: We are called to exhibit a shameless and brazen faith that resists injustice and death.

April 10 Palm Sunday: As we begin our walk through Holy Week, we are invited to ask: What can't be silenced? What must be said? What things can we not stay quiet about? What is bubbling up that we need to give voice to—faith questions, apologies, issues of justice, truth-telling? As we go deeper into the story, the truth will soon be set free.

April 14 Maundy Thursday: Jesus shocks his friends with loving vulnerability and tells us to do likewise. We are encouraged to remove the walls and protective layers we have built up, to allow ourselves to be loved fully by God, and to be filled to the brim so we can go out and fill others too.

April 15 Ecumenical Good Friday: On Good Friday, we grieve the violence of humanity Yet, even here, God's love is full, poured out, and self-emptied. Even in his last moments, Jesus is overflowing with truth and the fullness of the human experience. God embodies the fullness of pain and deep sorrow.



Killam's Point Registration is Open!

Registration for the 2022 season of Killam's Point Day Camp is now open for members of First Congregational Church and returning campers. New campers may register beginning March 15th. We have four weeks of wonderful fun and adventures at beautiful Killam's Point. Waterfront activities, science projects, arts and crafts and exploring are all part of the camp experience.

Camp fees are \$175 for a 9-3 day.

Killam's Point Day Camp is for **all** children and no child will be turned away for financial hardship.

Transportation is provided.

Further information, and registration forms, please visit the Killam's Point webpage: www.killamspoint.org

Registration forms for new campers will be posted on March 14th.



Knit, Purl and Pray

We will wear masks and be socially distanced in the Russel Room, but we can once again be together and catch up on the past 14 months. Anyone is welcome whether you can knit or crochet or neither. We can teach you. We make prayer shawls, baby hats, and work on our own craft projects.

We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 10:00 – 11:30. Our next session will be March 24th.

Please join us!



Book Group

The book group will meet on Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 pm in the Russel Room. **NOTE CHANGE OF DAY AND TIME.**

We will be discussing the book, Connecticut Bootlegger Queen Nellie Green by Tony Renzoni.

May 4 - The Choice: Embrace the Possible by Edith

Eger June 1 - TBD

Barbara Colley



Scholarship Program

The purpose of the First Congregational Church of Branford Scholarship program is to provide some financial aid to needy and worthy young men and women who are members or are children or grandchildren of members of The First Congregational Church of Branford (FCCB). Applicants for a scholarship grant must be a senior at a private or public secondary school, who are planning to attend a post-secondary school. Scholarship grants are given to the recipients for use during their first year of post-secondary education and are paid in two halves. The first half of the grant is paid to a recipient after confirmation of the school the recipient will be attending. The second half is paid to a recipient after the recipient provides to the Scholarship Committee a copy of their first semester transcript, showing they have achieved at least a "C" average. Applications are available in the office.

The deadline is April 15, 2022.



GROCERY CARDS WILL BE SOLD AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

Big Y Stop and Shop

Did You Know... FCC Branford makes 5% of every dollar on the grocery cards we sell?

If you buy a \$100 grocery card, you get \$100 in groceries, and FCC gets \$5! It's that easy. This currently adds up to about \$2000 income annually for FCC and could easily be more. We offer both \$50 and \$100 Stop and Shop cards and \$50 and \$100 Big Y cards. Cards are sold after worship every Sunday. Why not try it out and help support FCC?

THANK YOU



Kids Weekend Meal Pick Up

Weekend food for Branford children will be distributed at:

Feed Branford Kids Warehouse - 29 Business Park Dr.

Every Thursday, 5-6 PM

Free for all Branford Children

For further information, please go to www.feedbranfordkids.org, or find @feedbranfordkids on Facebook.



The Branford Microfund, Inc.

The Branford Microfund, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit whose mission is to help members of the Branford community, in need of assistance to see them through a financial emergency. Something a bank can't or won't do.

The Microfund offers loans of up to \$3,000, interest free, with up to 30 months to repay. The loans are for unexpected, non-recurring expenses such as the purchase of a car needed to get to and from work, a major car repair, dental work, etc. The application process is confidential. All you need to show is the ability to repay the loan without interest in up to 30 months.

The FCCB Mission Board, the Branford Rotary Club, the Branford Community Foundation and others have made generous donations to the Microfund to fund its mission.

For additional information on how to apply for a loan or make a donation, go to www.branfordmicrofund.org . Brochures are also available in the Church office. Remember, all inquiries are completely confidential.

Betsy Gay
Norb Church
Chip Marsh



Sunday Flower Chart

If you are able to contribute \$35 for flowers, please consider signing up on the flower chart located on the bulletin board outside the Russel Room. You can also call or send an e-mail and Missy will sign up for you. Include who/what you would like the flowers to be in honor/memory/celebration of.

Thank you so much for keeping our altar adorned, and our flower fund supported!

*The flowers in our sanctuary were given in joy for
the Birthday of Julia Reynolds, Granddaughter of Sharon and Bill Reynolds*



For Our Prayers This Week

We give thanks for...

The return to normalcy - step by step

Ongoing prayers for...

Jean Andros, Sharon Reynolds, Ethel Marchesseault (Linda's mother) and Linda's Brother-in-law Charlie, Barbara O'Keefe, Tom Spivey (Linda Mitchell's father), Marissa, Betsy Boynton, Ruth Greco (Mae Genovese's sister), Zak and EmmaRae Carroll, Alberto Tirry (friend of Deb Laudano), David Lendler, Jeff Buggee, Philip Rinehart, Bianca Dorsi (Aunt of Betsy Dorsi), Janice Roberts (FCCB CDC), Rick Barker, Don Potter, William Chisholm (Teresa Sander's Grandfather), George Spear, Janet Young, Jean Andros, Colin & Justin Williams (Linda Mitchell's cousins), Grace Chaplin (Paul's mother), Nancy Dougherty, Joseph Arnson (Take-A-Vet Fishing Volunteer Care Member), Marge Nalewajek (Meghan St. Pierre's mother), Ella Furjes, and her mom, Gwen (Jennifer and Mareyna McCaughtry's friends), Cory Martens (Kelly Marten's brother), Jim Bolan, Rose & Tom Moore (Sharon Reynold's Mom & brother), Edward DeFrancesco, Dormer Family, Robert & Margaret Gehm (parents of Nancy Gehm), Martha Hickman (Lil Sakai's mom), Alison Hobbie (Betsy Gay's daughter), Sylvia O'Brien, Lou Wells

Life Among the Believers

Sunday, March 13

10:00am Worship Service - Meetinghouse

Monday, March 14

Tuesday, March 15

9:00am Operations Team Meeting - Russel Room

7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal - Meetinghouse

Wednesday, March 16

6:00pm Lenten Study Series: Full to the Brim - Pilgrim Hall

7:00pm Church Board Meeting - All Purpose Room

Thursday, March 17

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Meetinghouse

Friday, March 18

Saturday, March 19

Sunday, March 20

10:00am Worship Service - Meetinghouse

GLOBAL MINISTRIES - WEEKLY PRAYERS

Each week Global Ministries highlights the work our mission partners do in countries around the world. We're able to pray together for our partners and the people they serve, and learn a little about the ways they're bringing God's realm to earth today. This week we are invited to pray with the people of Puerto Rico.



Pray with Puerto Rico, March 13, 2022

Lectionary Selection: Luke 13:31-35

Prayers for Puerto Rico

God, Creator of life, your overwhelming love and compassion is over Puerto Rico, its residents, and our partner in ministry, the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico. As the people of Puerto Rico walk the streets claiming salary and retirement equality, justice, and a stop to the marginalization of the workforce, we ask for your guidance, mercy, and blessing to be present among those who walk and those that support their efforts. God gives us strength, patience, tolerance, and courage to gather those who walk and claim their rights. Guide us to protect them from harm as the hen gathers her chicks under her wings. Allow us to be the prophetic voice that claims justice and proclaim your gospel of freedom, justice, and equality. Not to be judgmental or rejecting those on the other side of the issue. But to be your servants and stewards of your mercy in times of distress. We ask you for your overwhelming blessing on this day, our Lord and Savior, amen.

Mission Moment from Puerto Rico

Every day, faculty and staff at the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico engage in preparing the future leaders of the Christian church in Puerto Rico with the knowledge and skills to better serve in their missionary call. From the local parish pastoral duties to leading life-transforming ministries, the current and graduated students have used the acquired skills, knowledge, and visionary experience to not only preach the gospel but to live the gospel in action. The Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico's mission partnership with Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ has been visionary and missionary in transforming lives, developing leadership skills, and providing the essential tools for ministry. Your support of this mission partnership ensures this

mission's continued support. Mission partnerships transform words into living testimony of God's mercy and compassion.

Prayer and Mission Moment by Raul Santiago-Rivera

Mission Partners in Puerto Rico

- AMANESER 2025
- Amnesty International
- Hope Builders Home
- Council of Churches of Puerto Rico
- United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico
- Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico

[More about Puerto Rico](#)

Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Puerto Rico

Raul Santiago Rivera works with the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico. His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

[Make a gift that supports the work of Raul F. Santiago Rivera](#)

BCTV

This Sunday's service will be shown on BCTV next Sunday. BCTV Channel 18, 1070 for Comcast customers and Channel 6004 for Frontier customers at 5:30 pm on Sundays.

Notifications

Information Regarding The E-Spire

- **The deadline for an article to be published in the weekly e-spire is 12pm on Tuesdays.**
- Email articles to office@firstcongregationalbranford.org
- Those who have requested a paper copy now receive a copy of the weekly e-spire in the mail.
- The e-spire is only mailed out weekly if it can be done in a timely fashion.

If you have not received recent e-Spires, or would like to subscribe to our weekly newsletters, please let the office know and we'd be happy to help!



Check out the church Facebook page! This is a public page for everyone to be able to see everything going on at OUR church.

Please be reminded that this page is open to the public and therefore no pictures should be shared of children unless the parents are asked specifically. The FCCB Youth Ministries CLOSED GROUP is where pictures including children can be posted.

Click the link below to be brought right to the page and like it!

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalBranford/>



AMAZON SMILE DONATIONS

PLEASE shop at smile.amazon.com, and First Congregational Church can receive donations from AmazonSmile.

StartWithaSmile at smile.amazon.com/ch/06-6042800 for your purchases and Amazon donates to First Congregational Church.



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