



**Sunday Worship, February 27, 2022, 10am
Transfiguration Sunday**

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.



The poster features a background of dark, textured ash. In the top left, there is a circular logo for FCCB (First Congregational Church) with a white steeple icon. In the top right, there is a logo for Tabor Lutheran Church with a colorful sunburst and a cross. The central text is white and bold, listing the participating churches and the event details. In the bottom left, there is a stylized logo of overlapping green and blue circles. In the bottom right, there is a shield-shaped logo with a white background, a blue top-left quadrant containing white crosses, and a red cross on a white background.

FCCB

Tabor
Lutheran Church
BRANFORD, CT

Ecumenical Ash Wednesday

**First Congregational Church
Tabor Lutheran Church
Trinity Episcopal Church
New Antioch Church of God**

**First Congregational Church
1009 Main Street Branford, CT 06405
7PM**

FCCB is hosting an *Ecumenical Ash Wednesday* service on March 2 at 7pm.

We will be joined by friends from Tabor Lutheran Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and New Antioch Church of God.

Rev. Joseph Perdue
Senior Minister

February 27, 2022

Prelude: - *Allemande*, Bach - Phil Rinehart

Introit: *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*, Spiritual - FCCB Choir

Liturgist: Sharon Reynolds

Hymn of Praise: *Be Thou My Vision*

Children's Moment Kerry Stewart

Anthem: *Gather By The River To Pray*, P. Choplin - FCCB Choir

Scripture Reading:

Exodus 34:29-35 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=512568763>

Luke 9:28-36 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=512568795>

Sermon: *Hold the Holy, But Lightly* - Rev. Joseph Perdue

Hymn of Reflection: *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*

Offertory: Phil Rinehart

Hymn of Dedication: *Shine Jesus Shine*

Benediction Response: *This Little Light of Mine*, Spiritual - FCCB Choir

Postlude: *March*, Matthias - 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!**



From the Moderator

The February 16, 2022 Church Board meeting was called to order with members in-person and online. Betsy Hyde presented a quarterly report for Killam's Point. They are pleased with the reservations for 2022. The FCCB camps have been scheduled for the summer. Killam's Point Day Camp starts registration in early March and then opens to the public. Betsy shared the results of a Evaluation Survey for the organizations using the facilities for 2021. Responses were overwhelmingly positive with only a few comments of needed improvements.

The new sound system has been installed and training to use the equipment has begun. The sanctuary used the sound system this past Sunday, but the live streaming might take another week or two until the training is completed. Rev. Joe has posted a job description for a new position, Director of Communications. This part-time job Director will manage the live streaming each Sunday, other possible events, work with staff to update website and social media sites.

The Church Board approved strategies to help us reach our first short term goal: Sponsor, develop, encourage or promote programs/events that build relationships and trust in our own church community. Be on the watch for announcements as a few programs become a reality in a few weeks.

The Church Board has a second church goal which is to develop strategies to establish a Church Policy Book. The Policy Book would have a broad collection of all the policies and procedures of the church. These policies define the responsibilities and functions, describing who does the work, why it is done, and under what conditions. This is a short-term goal only in the sense that this

is beginning of the process. Policies do change as well as the procedures and the Policy Book would need to reflect those changes.

The minutes of each of the Teams and the Church Board are available for reading at the front desk.

Deanna O'Connell
Moderator



Faith Formation Focus with Kerry

As our month of Love continues, I look back and am very inspired by the discussions we have had around this ideal. This week we continue the discussion, act and practice of Love. This is the last Sunday we are collecting for both Church World Service Blanket Sunday and Food and donations for the Branford Food Pantry.

This week, during our **Children's Moment** we'll be talking about another one of our Holy Troublemakers. This one is one many of you may have heard of and maybe even visited her house in the Hartford area, Harriet Tubman. Her story goes right along with our **Sunday School** lesson of the parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin. Join us for some great storytelling, and a game that ends in eating chocolate!

Youth Group is going Rock Climbing directly after Worship on Sunday morning. If your youth wanted to come and you did not get back to me, do so quickly! We do have to have the numbers in ahead of time. For March, we are meeting on Sunday, March 13th and Sunday, March 27th. Check your email for details!

In Peace and Partnership,

Kerry Stewart
Faith Formation Coordinator
kerry@firstcongregationalbranford.org



Love Fest 2022

A huge Thank You to this wonderful, generous community for living the Love that Jesus taught us, sharing that Love with our Neighbors, and living the Golden Rule and treating our neighbors as ourselves!!

So far, we have raised \$492.68 for the Church World Service Blanket Sunday (Which means nearly 50 blankets!) and \$160 for the Branford Food Pantry, in addition to the bags and boxes full of food donations! This Sunday is the last Sunday to bring donations in. The list of most needed food can be found on the church website at www.firstcongregationalbranford.org.

Blessed to be a Blessing!

Thank you!
Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group



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: How Community and Media enrich our 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.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0449ACA62AA0FB6-lenten>

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 Fourth 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-empty. 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.

 <p>Let's Go!</p> <p>Killam's Point Day Camp</p>	<p>July 11-15 July 18-22 July 25-29 August 8-12</p> <p>(For ages K thru 7th grade)</p>
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<p>Transportation provided 8am to 3pm \$175 Scholarships provided</p> <p>to register or more information www.killamspoint.org/camp</p>	<p>Swimming, arts and crafts, games, kayaking and nature activities</p> 
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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 sessions will be March 10th & March 24th.

Please join us!



Book Group

March - Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 3rd, at 7:00pm in the Russel Room.

Please join us.

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!



For Our Prayers This Week

We give thanks for...

The return to normalcy - step by step

Happy Birthday to...

James Bolan - February 28th

We are so happy to have you in our lives!

Ongoing prayers for...

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), Wayne Childs, 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, February 27

10:00am Worship Service - Meetinghouse

12:00pm Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group (leaving FCCB at 11:15am) - City Climb Gym

Monday, February 28

Tuesday, March 1

7:00pm Discipleship Team Meeting - Russel Room

7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal - Meetinghouse

Wednesday, March 2

Thursday, March 3

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal - Meetinghouse

Friday, March 4

Saturday, March 5

Sunday, March 6

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 Korea



Pray with Korea, February 27, 2022

Lectionary Selection: Luke 9:28-36

Prayers for Korea

Heavenly Father,

In a world where discrimination is intermixed into many aspects of our daily lives, it is easy to lose sight of the just world you envisioned. We ask that you open our minds and hearts to all who reside in our communities so that we are able to live in harmony and celebrate diversity.

God of life, as COVID-19 continues to remain in our lives, we are reminded of the importance of hope and looking to the future. For church leaders and staff who may be struggling to share your message, as well as small business owners who are suffering economically during the pandemic, we come to you

seeking guidance, reassurance of your never-ending love, and a reminder of your presence in our lives.

We share our concern with you, O Lord, that many young adults have turned away from the church over the past few years due to misconceptions and uncertainty of the Christian faith. May those who are lost hear your calling and find shelter once again within your presence.

God of all things, we are thankful for all you have provided for us during these uncertain times. We appreciate the space you have created for us to learn and grow in our faiths. Please continue to help us block out distractions so we may hear you more clearly.

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen

Mission Stewardship Moment from Korea

In July of 2019, Yangmuri opened a branch with the education institution of Reading Star. The program currently runs Tuesday to Friday with the students attending classes before and after school, for a total of 5 hours each day. The students within the program have proven to be quick learners who are becoming more dedicated to their studies; a repeated theme over the last few years since the program opened.

When learning a new language, especially one as complex and confusing as English, an abundance of challenges arise; homonyms, homophones, irregular verbs, and so on. As a native English speaker, it was not until I began teaching within ESL programs that I realized just how complicated it truly was. I have also noticed that one of the biggest key factors in overcoming these obstacles is having confidence, both in your own capabilities and in God's guidance.

For the first four months of working in the program, I oversaw the students' Christmas drama rehearsals. After the roles were decided, the students were given a few weeks to memorize their lines and work on pronunciation. I am still in awe when I think of how quickly some of the students completed this task. If anyone can recall how much the angel Gabriel says to Mary, you may have an idea as to why. Throughout the weeks of rehearsals, the students began to gain confidence to both be on the stage in front of their peers and speak a language they were still in the beginning stages of understanding.

By the time Christmas day arrived, the students were nervous and full of excitement to share all of their hard work with family members sitting in the congregation. Having confidence in themselves helped the students to see that they could try again each rehearsal to improve on their skills as opposed to giving up entirely. Having confidence in God's guidance allowed all of the students to have faith that They were watching over us and things would be okay in the end.

I look forward to continuing to watch the students acquire confidence in themselves, in their faith, and in the world around them.

Prayer and Mission Moment by Abigail Reed

Mission Partners in Korea

- Popular Education in Health (EPES), Chile
- Theological Community of Chile (CTE)
- Pentecostal Church of Chile (IPC)

[More about Korea](#)

Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Korea

Abigail Reed serves with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). Her appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, Week of Compassion, and special gifts.

[*Make a gift that supports the work of Abigail Reed*](#)

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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