

THE GOOD NEWS
From The
Stratford United Methodist Church

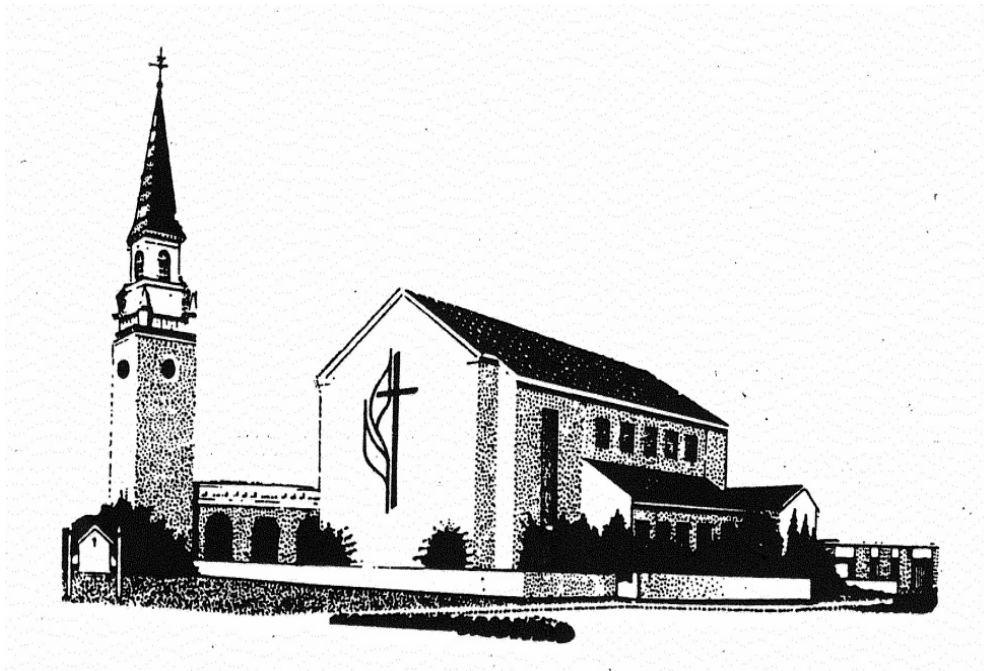
2600 MAIN STREET • STRATFORD, CT 06615-5893

SUMC phone: 203-375-5851 ~ fax: 203-375-6890

SUMC & Good News email: secretary@sumcct.org

SUMC website: www.sumcct.org

APRIL 2024



The Rev. Suhee Kim, Pastor
Affiliated Pastors: Rev. Carol Gibson,
Rev. George Hilton, Rev. James Stinson
Chris Muller, Director of Music
Beth Buckmir, Preschool Director
Church Office: Beth Sullivan, Secretary

To listen the 10 am Sunday Worship Service by phone:

- 1) call (646) 558-8656,**
- 2) Enter Meeting ID: 203 375 5851**
- 3) Password is 123**

Notice Regarding the 8:15 Chapel Service

There will be no 8:15 Chapel Service on Sunday, April 7th

The 8:15 service will resume on Sunday, April 14th.

HOSTS NEEDED!

COME AND SIGN UP TO HOST 10 AM SERVICE COFFEE HOUR AND HELP WITH THIS AMAZING FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY! SIGN UP SHEETS ARE LOCATED ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

April

7th

14th - Spring Break - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

21st

28th

May

5th - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

12th - Mother's Day - Flower Pots

19th

26th - Memorial Day Weekend - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

June

2nd - LAST WEEK!

Sunday School will participate in the service and provide a picnic lunch



It's Heifer Month – Please Donate!



- Heifer has helped more than 32 million families in 19 countries achieve a living wage.
- A living wage allows families to send their children to school and provide housing and other essential resources.

OUR FUNDS WILL PURCHASE LIVESTOCK

- Livestock provides families with nutrition and income to help build successful lives.
- Some examples:
 - Flocks of chicks (\$20)
 - Sheep or Goat (\$120)
 - Heifer (\$500)

Please join us in supporting our Heifer project!
~ SJMC Sunday School



You can easily donate using your phone by scanning the QR code below:



CHOIR NEWS

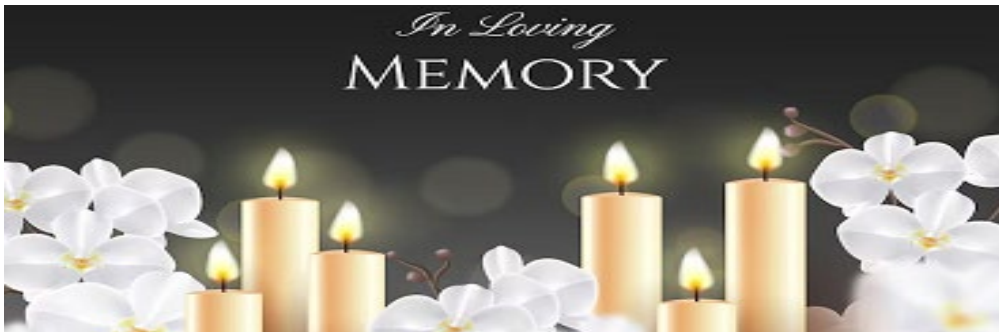


We are still seeking new Choir members.
If you know someone who loves to sing, please let them know
that we are looking for new members. All are welcome!
If you have an interest in joining or have questions please stop by and speak to Chris after worship or send an email to music.director@sumcct.org.

Required rehearsal times are flexible.

Support our Music Program

If you would like to support the music program, donations can be made to the Church with a note/notation intending their direct support of this important ministry. Your support allows us to hire extra musicians and singers for special events such as our seasonal Cantatas (Palm Sunday and Christmas) and Easter services.



Stephanie Reid Memorial Service Information

Saturday, April 6th at 11:00 a.m.
in the sanctuary

Reception following at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Norine Myhre Memorial Service Information

Sunday, April 7th at 2:00 p.m.
in the sanctuary

***Palm Sunday Cantata Sunday, March 24th Portraits In Grace by Joseph Martin
Presented by the Choir, Guest Singers, Guest Pianist, Jerold Goldstein, and the Grace Notes Handbells***



The Sunday School held an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, March 24th during Coffee Hour.





Incidents and Happenings

OUT OF OUR PAST

Tedcastle Friendship Quilt

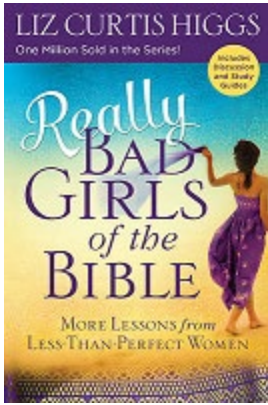
In November 2023 the Historical Committee was given a quilt which had been donated by Brian Tedcastle and his wife, Jennifer, of Barnstead, New Hampshire. Brian is the grandson of Rev. Arthur and Ethel Tedcastle who served our Stratford UMC from 1963-1973. Barnstead is the town in which Arthur owned his summer cottage, just up the road from the Suncook Lakes. The quilt was given to Art and Ethel to celebrate the newly built church and Arthur's retirement in 1973.

The Friendship Quilt was made by a committee of quilters led by Edith Cornelius and Ethel Kimball. The group made patchwork quilts. Congregational members were invited to purchase a 6" cotton white or blue square for \$1.00, sign their names and elaborate as they wished. The signatures and designs were embroidered by the purchasers themselves or by a committee member. Then they were pieced together into the quilt and the quilt was tied. The center features an embroidered picture of the newly built church, taken from the architectural drawing as in fact the bell tower had not yet been built in 1972. In October 1972 there was a note in the *Chatterbox* (the newsletter of the United Methodist Women) that "the squares coming in are just so beautiful and all so very different and original." The Wintons put a pie on their square, others put their first names in creative ways with their last, some have flowers, another a quotation. In the November 1972 *Chatterbox* Edith Cornelius said the committee "would like to thank everyone for contributing their 'talents' to the Friendship Quilt."

The Historical Committee will be displaying the quilt for all to see from April 14 – 28 in the Narthex. There are 14 rows of squares with a total of 152 squares in the quilt. With the help of some "old timers" lists have been compiled of the names on every square. One list is alphabetical, the other by row and column. There are a few which we are unsure of the complete name. We invite you to view the quilt. Did you or someone in your family do a square? A parent, a grandparent? Do you remember any of the other folks? Can you help us name the remaining ones?



Arts and Crafts meets on Wednesday April 10th at 1 pm in the All Purpose Room



Really Bad Girls of the Bible

More Lessons from Less-Than-Perfect Women

- By [Liz Curtis Higgs](#)

Paperback
\$13.49

(\$18.00)

When it Comes to Badness, There's Nothing New Under the Sun

In her best-selling book *Bad Girls of the Bible*, Liz Curtis Higgs breathed new life into ancient stories depicting eight of the most infamous women in scriptural history, from Jezebel to Delilah. Biblically sound and cutting-edge fresh, *Bad Girls* already has helped thousands of women experience God's grace anew by learning more about our nefarious sisters.

And there are more where they came from! With *Really Bad Girls of the Bible*, Liz reveals the power of God's sovereignty in the lives of other shady ladies we know by reputation but have rarely studied in depth:

- Bathsheba, the bathing beauty.
- Jael, the tent-peg-toting warrior princess.
- Herodias, the horrible beheader.
- Tamar, the widow, and not-so-timid temptress.
- Athaliah, the deadly daughter of Jezebel.

And three ancient women whose names we do not know but who have much to teach us:

- the ashamed Adulteress
- the bewitching Medium of En Dor
- the desperate Bleeding Woman

The eye-opening stories of these eight "Really Bad" women demonstrate one really life-changing concept: the sovereign power of God to rule our hearts and our lives with grace, compassion, and hope.



Donations are still being accepted to support Our Woven Community, a Bridgeport-based program run by the Burroughs Center that provides local resettled refugee women the opportunity to become self-sufficient and empowered with entrepreneurial skills and economic opportunity.



Walk With Us ... It's Our 50th!



New location for the Rally! Pick up materials on
Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 2 PM at
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
406 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT



CROP Hunger Walk – It's our 50th!

Sunday, May 5, 2024

at 1:30 – 4:00 pm 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 info, call 203-375-1284 or go to www.crophungerwalk.org/bridgeport



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



Neighborhood Breakfast

The Neighborhood Breakfast is **every third Saturday at SUMC**. Eat-in breakfast will be served from 8:30am to 10am. Guests will be greeted at the back parking lot entrance. We would greatly appreciate your help serving breakfast, donating items, or your time, if you can. If you are interested in helping, send a message to missions@sumcct.org.

Next month's breakfast will be Saturday, April 20th

**Please donate breakfast items such as fruit, granola bars, muffins, yogurt, etc.
Thank you for your donations!**

Toiletry Items are Being Accepted!

Our team has been sharing donated toiletry items with guests who attend our monthly Neighborhood Breakfast. These items are greatly appreciated, and we could use more donations to offer at breakfasts in the months ahead.

There is a donation bin located in the narthex, and both men's and women's items are being accepted. We will gladly accept any size item (full size, samples, etc.). Donations suggestions include (but are not limited to): soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste/toothbrush, deodorant, razors/shaving cream, lotion, tissues, and feminine products.

Golden Hill UMC Community Supper - Volunteers Needed

The Golden Hill United Methodist Church in downtown Bridgeport is one of several Bridgeport churches that provide evening meals for those in need on different evenings of the week. Golden Hill hosts a meal every Wednesday. They provide the food, the location, and the planning. Others volunteer to provide the labor.

Our upcoming turn at Golden Hill UMC Community Supper is Wednesday, April 17th.

A cook and about 3 additional volunteers will be needed to start around 2:30 - 3:00 to prepare the meals. One to two volunteers will be needed to stay and help pack the meals from 5:30 on. Please contact Pat Knebel (pknebel@yahoo.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

A NOTE FROM PAT:

For many years, Stratford UMC has been on preparation duty six times a year. Working from 3 pm to about 5 pm, we prep and cook. Since COVID, they have been handing out grab-and-go bags, still with a hot meal, but to many fewer guests, so fewer volunteers are needed. When they are able to go back to serving a sit-down meal to a full hall of people, we will probably be looking to recruit some new additional volunteers. We'll let you know. – Pat Knebel

The Lord's Kitchen

The next Lord's Kitchen will be on Monday, June 17th.

JOIN US FOR A

COMMUNITY BOOK DISCUSSION

led by the author Donald Burnes

When We Walk By is a deeply humanizing look that will change our understanding of our neighbors, poverty, and homelessness

To get the Zoom link, email:
socialjusticeatfcc@gmail.com

On Zoom

**Mondays: 3/18, 3/25, 4/15, 4/22 & 4/29
6:30 to 7:30 pm**

The discussion is sponsored by:



When We Walk By

FORGOTTEN HUMANITY,
BROKEN SYSTEMS, AND THE ROLE
WE CAN EACH PLAY IN ENDING
HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA

Kevin F. Adler and Donald W. Burnes
WITH AMANDA BAHN AND ANDRIJANA BILBIJA



Pick up a free
copy of the
book at
Stratford Library
(while supplies last)

Stratford Happenings

Stratford Community Conversations

As You Know - All Stratford residents, businesspeople, community leaders, government leaders and staff, and others are invited. Topics are generated by attendees. No reservations are required, and there is no charge to attend.

Please join us, and bring a friend if you would like.

The program runs on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Dates

April 3rd

Unitarian Universalist Church, 275 Huntington Road

April 24th

Stratford United Methodist Church, 2600 Main Street

May 15th

Stratford Library, 2203 Main Street

June 5th

Unitarian Universalist Church, 275 Huntington Road

June 26th

Our Lady of Peace Church, 651 Stratford Road



CHURCH OFFICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Phone: (203) 375-5851

Rev. Suhee Kim: senior.pastor@sumcct.org

Beth Sullivan: secretary@sumcct.org

Bible Word Search: CALLED TO BE MERCIFUL

N C O Q B T X D T P S U J L S
 O E O O F F N U B A J C J N T
 I C A M S U O E L U E L O S R
 T N O L P V Q V M G L I R I E
 A E V O L A A P A G S D W N S
 I I X U D T S R J S D E V N P
 L T R W I S U S E O Q U T E A
 I A A O D O V R I Q Z H J R S
 C P N K C F G P E O S M D S S
 N P W B N S J W D V N L N R E
 O A W E N E M I E S E D P M S
 C F O A F O R G I V E N E S S
 E P R Z B N R C X O T R G K S
 R T N E R H T E R B C E G E B
 J M P N X R B M J Y M B E J G

BRETHREN	COURAGE	COMPASSION
ENEMIES	FORGIVENESS	JUDGMENT
LOVE	MERCY	PATIENCE
RECONCILIATION	REVENGE	SALVATION
SINNERS	TRANSGRESSIONS	TRESPASSES