



## **The Chimes**

April 2024 Edition  
Editor: Sherri Boldt  
E-copy: Brian Hager

### **From the Pastor's Desk:**

*So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,  
you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an  
example, that you also should do as I have done to you.*

– John 13-13-15

The act of foot washing was something a lowly slave would perform for someone greater. Jesus knelt down at his disciples' feet and set an example for them, and for us: That even the least of our actions can care for and serve another. The Church grew out of the work of the followers of Jesus who sought to care for one another. Even to the extent they sold what they could and made resources available to all in their community.

Being the worshiping Church requires a lot of actions – from turning out the lights after worship to helping clean the buildings and grounds. Going out in the world as the church gives us a lot of opportunities as well.

When I first started serving here in North Stonington I did a poll of the congregation to discover how church members volunteered and for how long. It was encouraging to learn that our little faith community gave over 11,000 hours during the year and reached out with time and donations to over 200 organizations! And that was just the result from those who responded!

We are the church because you are. Your time and energy and giving serve God every day. If you are considering

ways to serve, think about dedicating time to Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut. Our church is a covenant supporter of HFHECT and we are looking for a person to represent us in an area Faith Coalition. Or maybe you would like to contribute to helping HELO Haiti's youth support program. There is a pasta supper in Hebron soon (see article below). Maybe you want to help in our kitchen or help chaperone our children at a Kid's Club. No matter the task, it is a way to care and serve one another.

*In His Peace,* **Sue**

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## Fundraiser at Gilead Congregational Church

Pasta for a Purpose

April 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 pm

As the situation in Haiti gets worse each day, we pray for the many families in Haiti who do not have enough to eat. Fortunately, the children of HELO are still able to enjoy three meals a day, but prices continue to skyrocket due to scarcity of everything from food to toothpaste and toilet paper.

In an effort to keep up with the soaring food prices, we will be holding a fundraising dinner at the **Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead Street in Hebron, CT**

For only \$20 you will enjoy a delicious buffet of various pastas, salad, bread, and some yummy desserts.

Please come out to Pasta for a Purpose and support our beautiful children, learn more about our programs, and laugh and have a good time. Enjoy a meal so that they can enjoy a meal.

**If you are unable to attend but wish to donate,  
you can send your donation with Julie Evans.  
Thank you so much for your support!**

## *Habitat for Humanity has begun a New Faith Challenge*

As a congregation will be looking to pledge to a Faith Covenant. Along with other Eastern CT Congregations we will be able to share many opportunities to do good work.

This will be a cause you can try during this year.

We will plan a special date when you can ask questions and vote for our church to join.

**HERE is one of the new projects for you to dig into.**

**APRIL 2 THRU 4:** Habitat is having a *WOMAN BUILD* for women of all ages.

Call or go online to register. Bring a Friend.

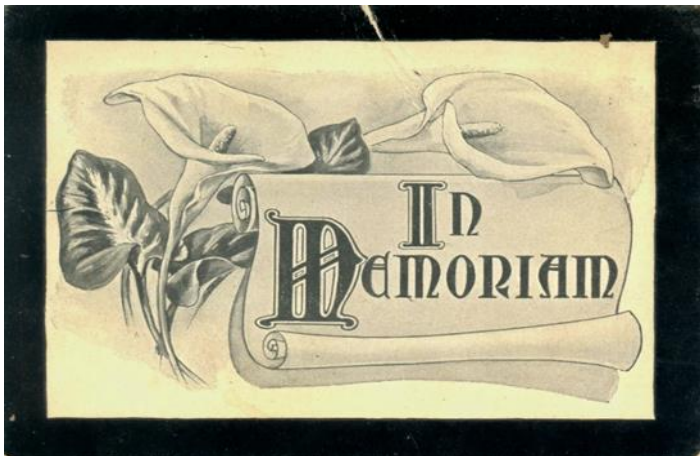
Also, Look into Building, Office work or the ReStore.

See the [hfhct.org](http://hfhct.org) website, or for questions email

[engage@habitatect.org](mailto:engage@habitatect.org)

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***We offer our prayers of sympathy for the family of Patricia Strout Turner, who died on March 6, 2024.***



# Choir Notes



***Michael Noonan to perform at New London County AGO  
75th Anniversary Gala on April 14<sup>th</sup>***

Our Director of Music and Organist, Michael Noonan, will be talking part in the 75th Anniversary Gala of the New London County Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The free event, open to all, will be a grand concert on Sunday, April 14, 2024 at the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme at 3 pm. The concert will feature music of local composers and Mike will be one of the organists, performing music by his first organ teacher, Dr. Roberta Bitgood, as well as a composition by Douglas Green, who has served as a substitute for Mike here at church.

The concert will be followed by a gala reception. All are invited but please let Mike know if you plan to go so they may get a head count for the reception. See more information below and on the following page.

**Gala Concert & Reception**  
*in celebration of the*  
**75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New London County**  
**Chapter of the**  
**American Guild of Organists**

**April 14, 2024, at 3:00 pm**

**First Congregational Church of Old Lyme**  
**2 Ferry Road, Old Lyme, CT 06371**

**AGO Gala, continued...**

Nathan Bayreuther, Kathleen Cooper, Jesse Glaude, Simon Holt, Jason Largent, Mary Beth Lee, Phred Mileski, Michael Noonan, Matthew Provost joined by guest artists Megan Sesma, harp; brass quartet (BRASS); and choir.

Performing music composed by chapter members Steve Anderson, Richard Bennett, Roberta Bitgood, Jesse Glaude, Douglas Green, Glenn Hardy, Beatrice Hatton Fisk, Nancy Phillips, and Godfrey Tománek.

**Reserve your free tickets by April 5, 2024.**

**Contact: Kathy Cooper**

[DeanNLCAGO@gmail.com](mailto:DeanNLCAGO@gmail.com)



## HELO Haiti

**HELO, an orphanage in Haiti, NEEDS YOUR CARING WISHES:**

**It stands for Home, Education, Love & Opportunity.**



**Dear Friends,**

We have a very real concern for HELO, the orphanage and their missionary, Elisabeth Kennedy.

If you want to write a check, it can be to our church:  
CCNS with Memo HELIO Haiti.

If you want to share words of hope and concern the address is here in CT:

HELO Haiti

[www.HeloHaiti.org](http://www.HeloHaiti.org)

HELO INC

P.O. Box 290407

Wethersfield, CT 06129

See the fundraiser info on Page 2



**BLOOMIN' 4 GOOD PROGRAM**  
**Mystic Area Ecumenical Council – Care & Share**

**During April, we will receive \$1 for every Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet purchased at Stop & Shop!**

Dear Neighbors,

We are so excited to share that, for the entire month of April, The Mystic Area Ecumenical Council – Care & Share has been selected by store leadership to benefit from the Stop & Shop's Bloomin' 4 Good Program, created to fight hunger across the communities served by Stop & Shop.

For the month of April, the purchase of a \$10.99 bouquet in the sleeve marked "Bloomin' 4 Good" from the Stop & Shop at 91 Voluntown Rd in Pawcatuck will brighten a home or make someone's day while also directing a \$1 donation to The Mystic Area Ecumenical Council - Care & Share.

This is a great way to broaden awareness in the local community and raise donations for our organization to help fight hunger. Since the program's launch in February 2021, more than \$1.2 million has been donated to more than 2,500 hunger organizations.

Let's get started! Share the news with friends and family. Call, send emails, and post on social media. The more bouquets sold, the greater the donation we will receive from Stop & Shop! To learn more about this program, please visit [stopandshop.2givelocal.com](http://stopandshop.2givelocal.com).

Gratefully,  
The Mystic Area Ecumenical Council – Care & Share

## Kids Club

We had an exciting Kids Club in March, even though some couldn't make because of drama practice for their Frozen play. Thank you to all the kids who were able to come. The kids, Miss Natalie and Mary would like to say thank you to Julie Evans for coming to explain our Mission program our church does with the school kits. The children helped fill the school kits and Julie showed them pictures when Miriam made the bags and how many years we have been putting these together! Also a big thank you to Karen Doble for ordering pizza for dinner, it was very much appreciated!

## Thank you, Natalie and Mary

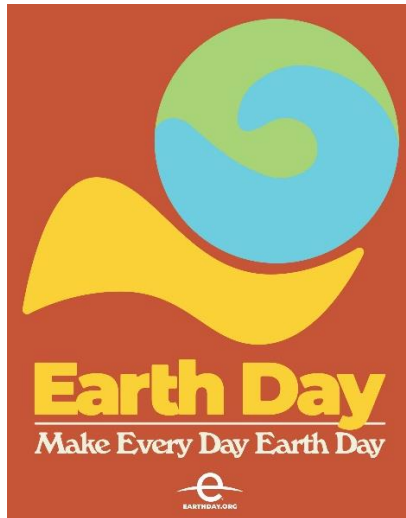






**Join EARTHDAY.ORG and over 1 billion participants around the world who take action on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.**

**EARTHDAY.ORG**



**This year's emphasis is Planet vs. Plastics**

**For Earth Day 2024 on April 22nd, EARTHDAY.ORG is unwavering in our commitment to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of ALL plastics by 2040.**

There have been problems over the last decade getting the corporations to comply; for quite a while they were not wholly dedicated because of assuming the environmentalists were over-reaching. Now, they finally see the cause as important and real. Now it is make-up time. It is called **advanced recycling** – you can see this in the new COKE bottles that are totally made from recycled plastic. Recycled plastic can also be used with food grade packaging for better containers with less plastic.

Six Basic Steps need to be set in place and be followed on a global scale. This needs the planning and cooperation of municipalities and every level of processing.

1. Collection requirements
2. Sorting
3. Shredding and Processing
4. Re-Building new wrappings and containers
5. New types of Plastics
6. Circular plastics or “Continual recycling.

First let’s be further educated and do our part ... Is your congregation developing a “GREEN” Policy?



## **WHAT MATTERS FOR APRIL** ***Renewal, Rebirth and Loving Others***

We are Easter people, and we are loved by Jesus. How can we avoid being of good faith and counting our blessings?

It is time for renewal – We have seen the snow drops, the crocus' and the daffodils, brightening our dreary yards; we have had the spring rains to bring the green back to our lawns. Let nature in and YOU will enliven your spirit of blessing.

It is time for rebirth – I have felt my spirit lifted by Easter's Hallelujahs, the colors of spring, the sunrise on Easter Sunday and the victory on the cross, and the children in our lives, celebrating with songs and egg hunts. The music and the people who all come to church are very richly inspiring us to strengthen our spirits and to be followers of Jesus Christ and children of God.

It is time for you to build, and for us to become servants of God. After the resurrection, the disciples went out to the nations to do the work that Christ had taught them. Thomas went to India and built a Christian congregation and a shrine. As we seek to love Jesus even more, we do not have to build a temple, but in loving God as God loves us, there is a way to be Christian, doing more to make God's love and justice real in the world.

It is time to find goodness and love in this world by seeking and serving others. ***Let's find a way to be Christian, doing more to make God's love and justice real in the world.*** Begin by loving yourself, and then share with others, lovingly.

**Women's Fellowship**  
**Friendship and Fun**



**POT LUCK DINNER 4 pm**

**Wednesday, APRIL 10**  
**Hewitt Hall**

*All ladies are welcome to attend and participate*

*We will try to work on plans for our 2024  
Activities:*

*The May food booth for The Garden Club sale  
& our fall events*

*Can you please reply to say if you will attend?*

***Please Join Us!***

## *Thanks a Heap!*

### Thanks to...

- Mike Noonan for keeping the information sign at the church entrance continually updated.
- Mike Noonan for volunteering to play the music for the beautiful prayer and healing services on February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The Senior Choir for the beautiful music at our Maundy Thursday service on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Our Handbell Choir for the very moving music at our March 17<sup>th</sup> worship and to Robin Crandall and Sue Prince for being substitute ringers.
- All of our Cherub, Youth, and Senior choirs for the beautiful music for Palm Sunday and Easter worship, and to Michelle Macina for being our Easter Sunday flautist.
- Max Leonard and Eli Gadaree for the hand chime ringing with Cherub Choir.
- All the kids who were able to come to Kids Club in March; to Julie Evans for coming to explain our Mission program that our Church does with the School Kits, and to Karen Doble for ordering pizza for dinner.
- CE Director Margaret Leonard and Mary Bliven along with the volunteer staff for the Kids Club activity in March.
- All the people who came out to set up, clean up, etc. for the reception for Pat Turner, and those who shared desserts.
- The many folks who donated to One Great Hour of Sharing in March.
- The pie makers who have been rebuilding the inventory. The pie people selling pies at the community Market in North Stonington on the third Sunday at the town education center.
- Margaret Leonard and Christian for hosting the child care service on the professional day.
- Michael Noonan for providing the music for the professional day
- Anne Nelson for her work in the garden.

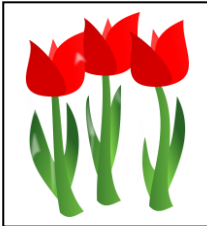
## *Thanks a Heap! (continued)*

- Julie Evans, Pastor Sue and others who made refreshments for the Mystic Area Ecumenical Council,
- All of the women who support the Women's Fellowship, and Irene Donald who leads their group.
- Those who attended the Healing Services.
- Everyone working on packaging CWS School Kits.
- All who came early for Palm Sunday Celebrations.
- Deacons and Confirmands, Lay Readers and Pastor Sue for the Holy Week activities.
- Rob Rockwell, Gretchen Noonan and Julie Clow for the "pot-luck" sunrise breakfast foods.
- Kathi Thaxton and the children of the Cherub Choir.
- Every family bringing their families and their delightful children to worship and our Christian Ed activities.
- Rosemary Kemper, our faithful secretary, for working so cheerfully to get things done, answer questions, and sell pies from the freezer on busy days.



## **April Birthdays...**

- 2** Lauren Rockwell
- 4** Patricia Munzer, Christine Wagner
- 6** Jennifer Hess
- 7** Jordan Ames
- 9** Megan Byassee
- 10** Will Stevens
- 14** Abby (Murphy) Devolve
- 15** Elizabeth Lewis
- 18** Missy Thaxton, Russell Tuthill
- 19** Dick Slimak, Barbara Taylor
- 22** Betsy Alvarez, Dave Larson  
Hilding Carson, Charlotte Melia,
- 25** Alyssa Nilson
- 27** Helen Evans
- 29** Ken Stevens
- 30** Jessica Gray



## **...and Anniversaries**

- 4** Peter and Jill Davis, Rob and Robin (Shabunia) Zadroga
- 8** George and Pat Danley
- 26** Russell and Nancy Tuthill

If we have missed your special day(s) or if there are corrections to be made, please notify the Church Office at (860) 535-0379.

# Worship Volunteers

	<b>Usher(s)</b>	<b>Deacon(s)</b>	<b>Altar Flowers</b>	<b>Lay Reader</b>	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Comments</b>
7-Apr	Steve Gadaree Matthew Sander	Dave McCord Amy Foster			Anne Nelson Dave McCord Kevin Noonan Elizabeth Witter	<b>11:30 am Deacons Meeting</b>
14-Apr	Paul Ames	Evelyn Bamford Karen Dobley	Coulter	Sherri Boldt		<b>11:30 am Fundraising Meeting</b>
21-Apr	Joe Serwinski Kris Serwinski	Julie Clow	Evans			<b>11:30 am Cemetery Committee Meeting</b>  <b>10 am - 1 pm NS Artisan Farm Market at Hewitt Farm</b>
28-Apr	Gretchen Noonan Kevin Noonan	Anne Nelson Kevin Noonan				



# Worship Watch - April 2024

## Congregational Church of North Stonington



Worship at 10 a.m. & streaming online.

Church School at 10:15 Office Hours Mon-Thurs 9 to 1.

**7<sup>th</sup> - Communion Sunday; Joy Runs Deep**  
**Proverbs 17:16-22** gives us wisdom for fools. **1 John 1:1-7** is a testament to Jesus. This first Sunday after Easter we look on the lighter side of things. Bring your sense of humor!

Senior Choir Sings. Deacons Meeting after worship

**14<sup>th</sup> - "Travels Open our Eyes"** **Psalm 4** sings of a God who keeps us safe; **Luke 24:36b-48** On the road to Emmaus, two disciples meet with a stranger.

Senior Choir sings. Fundraising Committee meets

**21<sup>st</sup> - "Divine GPS"** **Psalm 23** gives us the image of the protector God; **John 10:11-18** We hear one of Jesus' "I am" statements – "I am the Good Shepherd"

Why don't we follow the paths of righteousness?

Senior Choir sings and Handbell Choir rings. NoSto Market

**29<sup>th</sup> "Grafts, Roots, and Shoots"**

**John 15:1-8** Another of Jesus' statement: "I am vine..."

**1 John 4:7-12** A proclamation that God is love and if we love we know God...and abide in God, as the branch is to the vine. One can usually tell what kind of tree is growing by its fruits...but we can be fooled.

Senior Choir, Youth Choir

**April Mission Focus: Mystic Area Care and Share** – donations feed local people and get gas \$ for them to work.