



Redeemer News

Church of the Redeemer UCC

February 2017

From the Pastor:

The building. Some of you are very concerned about what building the new congregation will decide to settle in as home. Some of you have said you are not ready to commit to the project until you know which building we choose. Which says to me that your primary, or perhaps only, relationship to this congregation is to a building. And that makes me sad. Because what is special about this congregation to me is not bricks and mortar, but heart and soul; not acoustics and pews, but love and food shared with each other and those in need; not columns and curtains, but hands outstretched and time offered. These construction materials for a congregation will continue to be in great supply, no matter what space ends up being our worship home.

One of the reasons I have loved being your pastor is that I kept hearing people talk about the building as *part* of our mission, not the *focus* of our mission. We weren't only about keeping up a structure, but about using the rooms in that structure to serve the community and each other. Sometimes that actually frustrated me; we didn't have the money to do some repairs that badly needed to be done (ask the Council how many times I talked about windows!) because we put our money into people to lead worship, give pastoral care, teach our children, make music and take care of administrative details rather than into windows and paint. The priority at budget time has always been program, with the building serving that program.

Lots of buildings could serve your program. If you want to stay in this one, you are going to have to invest serious dollars to bring it up to speed. If you want to go to United, probably same story. If you want to go to a whole new space, an option that has a lot of plusses to it, you also would have to do the same. No matter what the new congregation decides to do, (which I think will take some time and not all be worked out right away), I hope that your value is still that the building serves the people and not the other way around. Or, more faithfully, that the building serves God and is not, itself, an idol.

So come on Feb. 19. Listen with open spirits to ideas and dreams and hopes for a faithful, energetic, loving congregation. Share your own. Bless you!

Shelly

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FEBRUARY 19: IMPORTANT JOINT WORSHIP AT REDEEMER

Be sure to be in worship if at all possible on Sunday, February 19, at 10 AM. This service will be jointly planned by Shelly and the Coordinating Team for the new congregation (Bonnie will be out of town).

We know you have had the chance to give much input on the new congregation and are eagerly awaiting the recommendations by the working groups. Much more information will be available during and following worship on this day.

So plan now to be at Redeemer on February 19!

ASH WEDNESDAY



Yes, Lent begins late this year, on March 1, and we will hold our Ash Wednesday service at Redeemer at 7 pm.

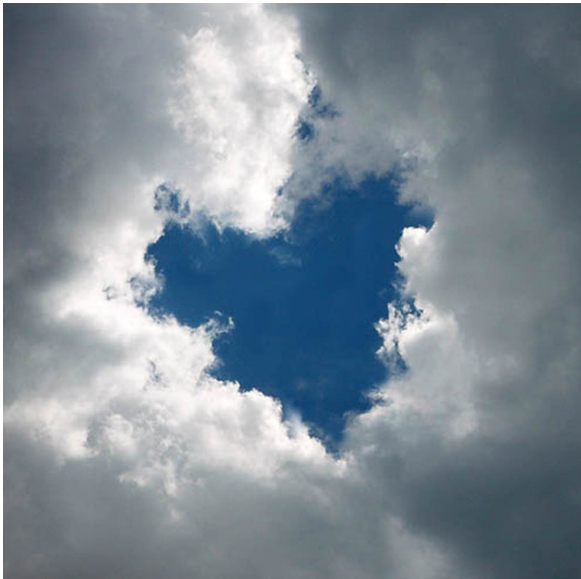
Mark your calendars!

UNITED CHURCH INVITES US TO MARDI GRAS

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1, so on February 26, United Church on the Green will hold a Mardi Gras celebration at 11:30 in the Bradley Room on the lower level of their Meetinghouse on Elm and Temple. You are welcome to go down following worship at Redeemer! A great opportunity to get to know more folk at United.

MAEBA JONAS ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL

Join us at 3pm on February 12 as the New Haven Association of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ meets to listen to our Member in Discernment, Maeba Jonas, present her reflections on her call to ministry and her beliefs. After Maeba speaks, anyone is welcome to ask her questions. Following that time, only delegates and clergy will stay to vote. After the vote, we will hold a reception to, we are sure, celebrate Maeba moving through the final requirement for ordination in the UCC! Please come out to support Maeba.



**“Watch for
email updates
from the
Coordinating Team!”**

The Coordinating team will be using email messages to update Redeemer and United members on information regarding work on the formation of the new congregation. The emails will come from newchurchnewhaven@gmail.com. Any questions or concerns about the new congregation can also be directed to this email, or you may speak directly to any of the members of the Coordinating Team, in person, or by email.

Children's Faith Formation



Every week, I stand in awe at the children in our Sunday School. They are so full of curiosity and hope, and every time we are together, I find myself learning something new about God. We are in a new year, and we are in a new day. Being God's people means that we find ourselves in new times and places often. As we have just come from experiencing again the transformation of the Christmas story, we realize that we cannot leave it behind in December, but are challenged to carry its message of peace and hope into the new year – into a new world and a new day.

We are currently in Unit Three, which will run until February 19th. This season in the liturgical year is known as the time after Epiphany, and we remember that the word Epiphany means “a showing forth” or “manifestation.” During this season we see God's glory and purpose “shown forth” or “made manifest” through the life of Jesus and his followers. God's call, and living out our faith, are important themes during this season, and I feel that it is important to talk with the kids about what it means to live out their own faith outside of our time together in church. We will use passages from the Hebrew Scriptures that tell of God's call to individuals, as well as communities. We will also use readings from the New Testament that focus on the call of the disciples and the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus. The gospel stories that we will read in this season tell of the beginnings of Jesus' ministry, and we certainly will think of the disciples discovering that they were in quite a new world and new day as they left their old lives behind and chose to follow Jesus. As we read some passages from the Sermon on the Mount, we will discuss the new world Jesus is speaking about and that it is something *we* are called to help bring about. We are a part of this mission. It continues today.

When we seek out ways to love our enemies, and to live the essence of God's law rather than the letter of it, amazing things can happen. Epiphany is a time when many churches reflect on their mission in the world, and the children of Redeemer are being encouraged to think about this as well.

During this month, I encourage you to talk to the children about what they are learning in Sunday School. Ask them what they think about God, or if they have any questions. Even if you don't think you have the answers, please know that even inviting them into a faith conversation is exactly what will keep them interested and talking, now and into the future. They are ready for you. I invite you to walk with them on their journey.

Jordan Rebholz, Minister for Faith Formation



THE BLEAK MID-WINTER SOUP SHARE: FEBRUARY 5

After worship February 5th we will hold our Bleak Midwinter Soup Share, one of the highlights of the season here. We welcome anyone to make your favorite soup and bring it in a crockpot to church. If you can't make soup but could bring bread or cheese, that works, too. If you can't bring either, bring your appetite and readiness for some great conversation and that will be enough.

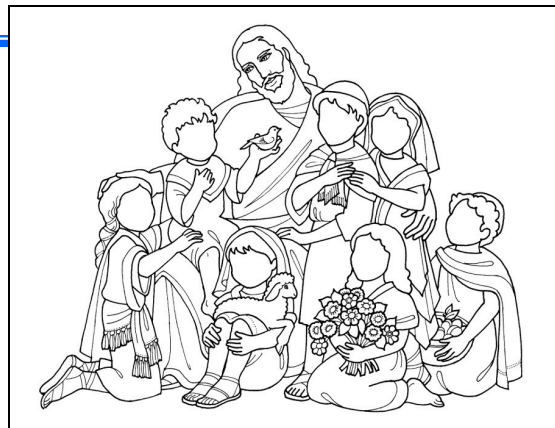
Tips for bringing soup:

Please bring your soup hot in a crockpot. Cold soup doesn't have enough time to warm up in a crockpot during the service.

Also, in the past, some people have spilled their soup in the car. We've learned that putting your crockpot in a large box and placing it on the floor of the car minimizes spills. Another tip is to tape the lid shut with packing tape.

If you need a crockpot or power strip or have an extra one of either, please let Grace know at giphalsey@yahoo.com or at home (203) 389-5297.

SECOND HOUR CONVERSATION WITH IRIS FEBRUARY 26



On Sunday, February 26th, Adult Faith Formation will present a second hour conversation with Ashley Makar from IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services). This is a follow-up to the Fall program. During the week, Redeemer hosts some of their programs. Ashley will share information about the services IRIS provides and the programs held in our building.

Anchored

January 20, 2017

Written by **Anthony Robinson**

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" - Psalm 27: 1

Shortly after the election last fall my wife and I traveled to Atlanta. There we visited Ebenezer Baptist Church where Martin Luther King Jr. had preached. We sat alone in the sanctuary and listened to King's words crackle over the sound system. Later, we visited Atlanta's Civil Rights Museum and relived the stories, from Freedom Rides to The March on Washington.

The next evening friends took us to the Atlanta Music Festival, which was birthed by Atlanta's First Congregational Church when blacks were barred from attending the opera in Atlanta. The concert featured several choirs, including the Glee Club of Morehouse College. They sang, "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord." It was a tonic for my soul, a balm for my heart.

The music reminded me, and all of us there, of the great truths and the living tradition of faith in which our souls may find an anchor and stay in times of trouble.

So too, Psalm 27 is an expression of unshakeable confidence and trust — of a soul deeply anchored in the Lord — despite the reality of threat and peril all around.

As I write I do not know how today's inauguration will go or has gone. I do not know if hope has been stirred or fear inflamed, healing proffered or division deepened.

But I know this: for the living of these days our souls shall need to be anchored, anchored in a deep, steady and strong faith. We shall need to find our way to join the Psalmist in declaring boldly, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"

As the concert began that evening all the choirs, musicians and audience rose to sing James Weldon Johnson's hymn, "Life Every Voice and Sing." The final verse is this:

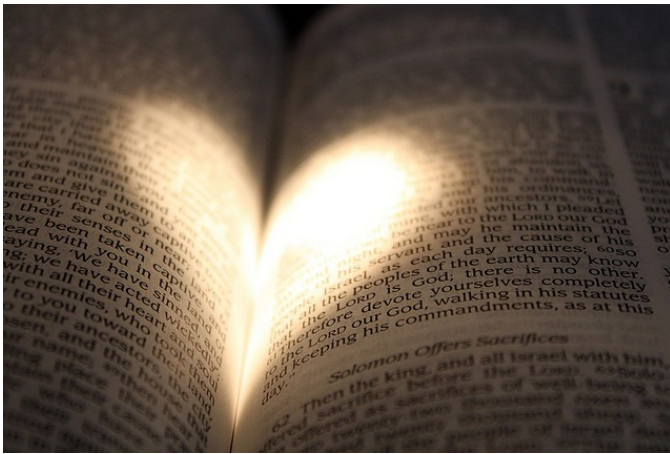
"God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand
True to our God, true to our native land."

In place of ending with another prayer, I invite you to pray (or sing) Johnson's words. I invite you to drop your anchor down deep into God and to join the Psalmist in declaring, "The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" and to go forth in that faith this day.

About the Author

Tony Robinson, a United Church of Christ minister, is a speaker, teacher, and writer. His newest book is *Called to Lead: Paul's Letters to Timothy for a New Day*. You can read Tony's "Weekly Meditation" and "What's Tony Thinking?" at his website, www.anthonibrobinson.com.

Robinson, Anthony (2017, January 20). Anchored. Retrieved January 27, 2017, from http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional_anchored



Book Group Information

The Noon Book Group

The Noon Book Group will gather on February 14 and 28 to discuss *The Book of Forgiving* by Desmond Tutu.

The group normally meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at noon to discuss works of non-fiction. Bring your lunch and join in some stimulating conversation. New members are always welcome.

The Evening Book Group

The Evening book Group meets monthly to discuss works of fiction. On February 27th the group will meet to discuss Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*. The location of this meeting is yet to be determined.

Planning ahead, the group will meet March 27th to discuss *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy.

Please come join us. New members are welcome.



ABRAHAM'S TENT OUTREACH MISSION



Abraham's Tent is a cooperative effort between Columbus House and congregations of faith in greater New Haven. These congregations open their facilities to house up to 12 homeless people overnight for one week each during the winter months. This year United Church on the Green and Church of the Redeemer are collaborating on Abraham's Tent which will be hosted at United Church on the Green from March 27th through breakfast on April 3rd.

We are looking for 3-4 individuals or families to collaborate in providing each meal, and a few people to socialize with the guests each evening. We also need 2-3 people to stay overnight each night (at least one of whom must be male and one of whom must be awake at all times.) Everyone participating in this program must attend one orientation session regardless of if they have participated in the past. Orientations dates will be announced in the near future.

The planning committee includes Lorraine Morrissey from Church of the Redeemer and George Lindsay from United Church on the Green. Please e-mail them with questions or to volunteer at AbrahamsTent@UnitedNewHaven.org. Volunteer forms are available weekly in the Sunday bulletin. Please fill out a form and return it in the collection plate or to the church office.

2017 SUMMER REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR SILVER LAKE

Silver Lake is a place where young people experience nature, make new friends, and explore their faith. With more than 60 acres of wooded land on lakeside shores, Silver Lake offers many opportunities for young people to take risks and try new things with the support of an intentional Christian community.

Registration is available online at www.silverlakeect.org. Click "Camp" to access information about this summer and to register. Brochures are available in the Tower Lobby or by contacting the church office.

INSIDE THE BOX: PUBLIC DISPLAY OF REPLICA SOLITARY CONFINEMENT CELL

Experience, Get Educated, and Become Equipped to Advocate

January 28 – February 18, 2017

New Haven Free Public Library, 133 Elm Street, Mon., Jan. 30 – Sat. Feb.
4

Yale's Sterling Memorial Library, 120 High Street, Sun., Feb. 5 – Sat. Feb.
11

Yale Law School Library, 127 Wall Street, Sun. Feb. 12- Sat., Feb. 18

Schedule of Events

Mon. Jan. 30, 1:30 pm

Opening Press Conference with Mayor Toni Harp; William Ginsberg; the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven; Keishar Tucker, solitary survivor; Steve Lance and Samerr Jaywant; Yale Law School; State Senator Gary Winfield; Martha Brogan, City Librarian. [New Haven Free Public Library]

Weds., Feb. 1, 6 pm

Screening of the documentary "The Worst of the Worst," followed by panel discussion with solitary survivors and survivors' family members. Co-sponsored by the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven. [New Haven Free Public Library]

Thurs., Feb. 2, 6:30 pm

Judy Dworin Performance Project, presenting through spoken word and movement the voices of those who have been incarcerated. [New Haven Free Public Library]

Tues., Feb. 7, 7 pm

Talk by Five Mualimm-ak, Incarcerated Nation, survivor of solitary confinement, organizer of the HALT (humane alternatives to long-term confinement) legislation in New York state. [Dwight Hall, Old Campus, Yale University]

For a complete program and schedule, go to www.insidetheboxnhv.org

More volunteers needed!

Please sign up to be a replica cell display attendant: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JDbvNV7wNp_R3-qIsnBBkEDjsl8tEME_YqhJshqhneE/edit?ts=585c0ad6#gid=0

Ushers and Hospitality Servers For February and March



Thank you so much to all who serve as Ushers and Hospitality Servers each Sunday!

Ushers and Hospitality Servers are assigned by their respective teams to serve on a given Sunday. Under Redeemer's hospitality plan two individuals or couples are assigned as hosts and hostesses for a given Sunday. One provides a savory food item and the other a sweet treat.

While our office administrator Barbara will continue to send reminders via email each week, this list should serve as a reminder in advance of Sundays that you are assigned. If you are unavailable on a date you are assigned please try to arrange to exchange dates with someone else and let Barbara know so that she can acknowledge the correct ushers

Ushers

February 5	Doby Hall Courtney Mason
February 12	Julie & Bill Moore Alan Kendrix
February 19	Chuck Peterson Carol Nardini
February 26	Peter & Grace Halsey
March 5	Doby Hall Courtney Mason
March 12	Julie and Bill Moore Alan Kendrix
March 19	Worship at United
March 26	Brad, Kathy and Meggie Czepiel

Hospitality Servers

February 5	Bleak Midwinter Soup Share
February 12	Julie & Bill Moore Matt Taylor
February 19	Anne Schenck Georgia Erickson
February 26	Claudia Bosch Julia McLaughlin
March 5	Ruth Kaufman Greta Seashore
March 12	Victor Bolden Holly and Paul Berry
March 19	Worship at United
March 26	Grace & Peter Halsey Joan Duffy

The Church of the Redeemer – February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 7:00 OWL required parents meeting, at United Church Parish House 7:45 Senior Choir, sanctuary	3	4
5 8:55 Church choir, sanctuary 10:00 Worship, sanctuary Bleak Mid-Winter Soup Share 11:15 Children's choirs rehearse 5:30 Super Bowl Potluck, Bradley Room at United	6 4:30 Building Team, Phillips	7 7:30 Leadership Council, Phillips	8	9 7:45 Senior Choir, sanctuary	10	11
12 8:55 Church choir, sanctuary 9:30 Chancel Choir, sanctuary 10:00 Worship, sanctuary 11:15 Children's choirs rehearse 11:30 Adult Forum, IRIS 3:00 Ecclesiastical Convention, Sanctuary; reception to follow in Sterling 4:00 Columbus House 6:00 OWL, Youth Room	13	14 12:00 Noon Book Group, Phillips	15	16 2:30 Knitting Group, Sterling 7:45 Senior Choir, sanctuary	17	18
19 Joint Worship at Redeemer 8:55 Church choir, sanctuary 10:00 Worship, sanctuary 11:15 Children's choirs rehearse	20 Presidents Day Church office closed	21	22	23 7:45 Senior Choir, sanctuary	24 about 5:30 OWL departure for retreat	25 by 5:30 OWL expected to return from retreat
26 8:55 Church choir, sanctuary 10:00 Worship, sanctuary 11:15 Children's choirs rehearse 11:30 Mardi Gras celebration. Bradley Room at United	27 7:30 Evening Book Group, location TBA	28 12:00 Noon Book Group, Phillips				

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER UCC

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redeemer@uccredeemer.org

Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse,
Pastor
rastackhouse@gmail.com



Jordan Rebholz,
Minister for Faith Formation
Robert Parker, Moderator of the Church
Henry Sykes, Treasurer
Kristen Forman, Clerk
Marguerite Brooks, Director of Music
Julia Blue Raspe, Chancel Choir Director
and Alto Section Leader
Paul Berry, Boys' Choir Director
and Tenor Section Leader
Sarah Reed, Soprano Section Leader
Brian Robinson, Bass Section Leader
Larry Bishop, Organist
Barbara Repetsky, Office Administrator
and Financial Secretary
Collin Morrissey, Security
Lou and Valarie Fanelli, Sextons

Super Bowl Tailgate Potluck

Sunday, February 5th, 2017

Kick Off - 6:30PM

United Church on the Green -
Bradley Room

270 Temple Street

Please join us in the Bradley Room to fellowship, share a meal and watch Super Bowl 51 with us. This event is open to staff, members, friends, family and all churches. Please bring a dish, snack or drink to share. Team paraphernalia, tailgate chairs and foam fingers are welcome!

office@unitednewhaven.org or 203-787-4195