

DECEMBER 2018 OUTLOOK

Unity Hill United Church of Christ

“Where God’s Love Grows a Family”

364 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT 06611

Web site: www.unityhillucc.org

E-mail: unityhillucc@snet.net

Phone: 203-374-8822 Fax: 203-374-1120

The Reverend M. Todd Shipley, Pastor

Diane Henderson, Moderator

Dawn Brezina, Church Clerk

Dorothy W. Pickens, Soloist

Jeffrey Stokely, Music Coordinator

Joanne Wickson, Office Administrator

Kathleen Miranti, Bookkeeper

Calap Brown, Sexton

Louise Evans, R.N., Parish Nurse

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
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OUTLOOK DEADLINE ~ We welcome contributions to our monthly newsletter and invite you to share information, or even something more creative!

The **JANUARY 2019 Outlook** will be published at the end of **DECEMBER**.

All submissions, special announcements, articles or events **provided on, or**

before, the DEADLINE of Tuesday, DECEMBER 18 will be included.



Please remember our homebound in your prayers or with a note:

Dorothy Barwick, Hazel Berger, Dolores Colaiacomo, Gail Gorlo,
Katie Schneider, Rose Vars, Mitch Wein and Nellie Wirth.

PASTORAL CARE ~ If you, or someone you know, is hospitalized, please call the church office to let us know (203-374-8822).

Hospitals do not notify us when a parishioner is hospitalized.



*“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,
you are welcome here!”*

You've heard these words before ... perhaps you were around when these exact words were first spoken or, in this case, first sung. They are the lyrics to the song 'Turn! Turn! Turn!' by The Byrds released in 1965. You definitely were NOT around when the words that inspired this song were first written or sung because that would make you about 3000 years old. The songwriter Peter Seeger was profoundly moved by the stoic hope articulated in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 by the writer who is assumed to be King Solomon. The book of Ecclesiastes is in a section of the Bible known as the Wisdom Literature. Other books in the Wisdom Literature are Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and The Song of Solomon. Ecclesiastes is similar to the other books in the 'Wisdom' section because in it there are no easy answers to life's BIG QUESTION: What is the meaning of this life?

**To everything, turn.
turn, turn.
There is a season,
turn, turn, turn.
And a time to
every purpose
under the sun.**

It may strike you as odd or even controversial to hear that there is a book in the Bible that doesn't give clear instructions for a meaningful life, but this one does not. What it DOES have is clear instructions on how NOT to build a meaningful life, and those instructions can be summarized as follows: stop trying to control your world and amass wealth. All hope is not lost in finding some spiritual direction in this book and specifically in the words quoted by The Byrds. If there is no meaning found in worldly things there MAY be meaning attained by discerning God's will for your life, HOW to discern this is not made clear but since there is a time for all things there must also be time to be still, and quiet and LISTEN. If Jesus did what he did for US so that we could know God then we must at times stop, let the days and seasons turn, and let God speak to us of where we go from here, 'we' as individuals, and 'we' as a church. A child is coming to tell us...

Shhhhhh....

The snowy earth turns, and it is time...

To Listen.

Yours,
Pastor Todd

CHURCH UPDATES

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, December 9 following worship service.

All members plan on being present to vote on the Budget for 2019.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT UNITY HILL UCC

Monday, December 24

5:00 pm Family Service; 11:00 pm Service with Holy Communion.

Please join us! Candlelight, Christmas Carols and Poinsettias at both.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT UNITY HILL UCC

Sunday, December 16 at 11:30 am



Christian Ed will help to host the Holiday Luncheon. We have a potluck signup sheet posted on the CE board. Please sign up if you're coming and let us know what you can bring. We need side dishes and dessert; CE is supplying the ham. We will also have Holiday Bingo and are looking for prizes to give away. Please consider donating a gift. We may even have a special visitor.

MEDITATION WORKSHOP ~ Wednesdays – 9:30-10:30 am in the sanctuary

GEORGE'S HILL

George's Hill Support Group ~ Thursday, December 13 ~ 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, including lunch. To register, please call the church office at 203-374-8822 or sign up on our web site. We meet on the second Thursday of every month.

Our motto is: **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**



MISSIONS ~ By: Brenda Finizio, Chair; Marsha Piper, Carole Fanslow, Committee Members

THE CHRISTMAS FUND: Remembering Our Veterans of the Cross ~ Those Who Serve Our Church ~

Provides financial aid to retired and active ministers and their surviving spouses and children who face overwhelming financial demands, a ministry carried out by the Pension Boards. We collect the envelopes for this mission during the month of December ending on Christmas Eve.



CHRISTMAS CARD FROM UNITY HILL UCC MEMBERS ~

Instead of sending out individual Christmas cards you can choose to sign the "Blanket Fund of Church World Service" card, and send your Christmas Blessings to everyone at Unity Hill. Your \$10 donation will help people in times of disaster through CWS. Sign the card on the bulletin board, or call the church office to add your name and you can mail a donation, by December 17 so your names can be posted in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



Thank you for all your donations which provided a Thanksgiving meal for 5 needy families.

Mission Committee Members: Brenda Finizio, Missions Chair, Marsha Piper and Carole Fanslow

HARVEST FAIR AT UNITY HILL UCC

Unity Hill's second "Harvest Fair" was held on Saturday, November 3rd. It was a cold, rainy, windy day. But it turned out to be a day of family fun, with festivities kicking off at 10 am and lasting right up to 4 pm. We had a variety of activities for the whole family, Farmer Bruce's Market and topped off by Pastor Todd's pulled pork sandwich. Danielle's Bake Table was a big hit (seems everyone loves sweets). So, THANK YOU to everyone that donated a baked good. We couldn't have done it without you. The hours put in to help us organize and run the "Harvest Fair" was an incredibly generous gift to our church from the many donations received and the people that donated their time to help. The positive feedback we've received from those who attended is awesome. Everyone had a fabulous time Saturday even though the weather didn't cooperate. The grand success of this event is due in large part to you and your efforts. On behalf of our church and the "Harvest Fair Committee", thank you for sharing your energy, talents and time. Dawn Brezina & Carol Dunn

RECAP

Hand Craft Table	\$ 43.00
Baked Goods	\$ 277.00
Junk-In-A-Trunk	\$ Rained Out
Food Kitchen	\$ 247.00
Raffle	\$ 212.00
Silent Auction	\$ 346.00
Bingo	\$ 63.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,188.00
- Less Fair Expenses	\$ 164.00 (Food, Drinks, Dessert, etc.)
NET PROFIT	\$ 1,024.00.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE ~ By: Carol Dunn



Building & Grounds has spent many hours making Unity Hill aesthetically pleasing and noticeable from White Plains Road. We think we have accomplished this with the new cross, the memorial garden and now lights on the sign at the bottom of the hill. We have also put lights on the granite stone behind the bell in the memorial garden. You can actually read the two psalms as you drive up the driveway.

Also, lights have been placed over the keypad to gain entry to the church.

Now we will move on to decorating for the Holidays.

May God bless you and your family on this holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Building & Grounds Committee: Henry Parker, Chair; John Rossi, Carol Dunn and Allen Fanslow

CHURCH COUNCIL ~ By: Moderator, Diane Henderson

NO CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING IN DECEMBER.

Next Council Meeting is Monday, January 7 at 7:00 pm.

Committee reports to Council are due in office by Monday, December 31.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~ By: Sharon Brezina, Chair

Well the season is upon us. This includes colder weather, snow on the ground, holiday cheer in the air and the celebration of the birth of Jesus. This is an amazing time to teach our youth. So much to say and so many ways to say it.

We will be taking a break from the Parables to discuss the Season of Advent. Very exciting.

We would like to attend "Journey to Bethlehem" on Friday, December 7th. Kids and families are encouraged to go. It's an outdoor interactive drama put on by a church in Ansonia. Guests will walk the wooded trail to experience authentic, time-period appropriate scenes, starting in Nazareth and culminating at the Nativity. We would love for as many of our kids to go as possible - maybe meet at church for dinner and then go up together.

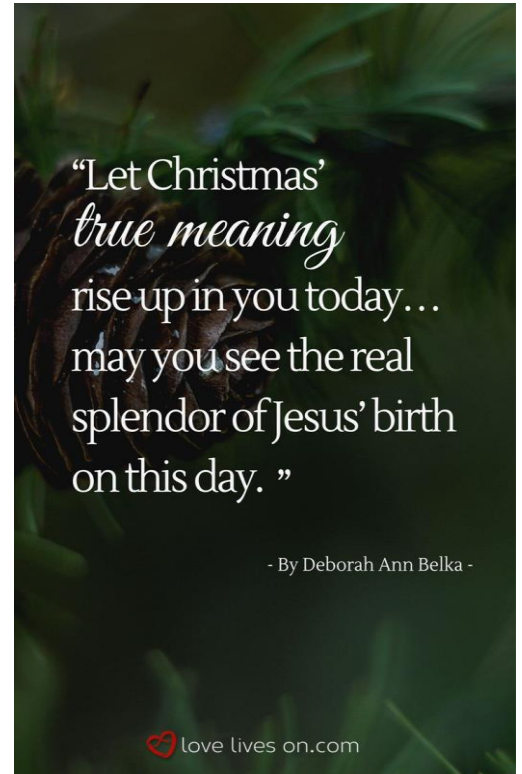
Christian Ed will help to host the Holiday Luncheon at church on December 16th. We have a potluck signup sheet posted for all those who can bring in a side dish or dessert. We will also have Holiday Bingo and are looking for prizes to give away.

Please consider donating a gift everyone seems to enjoy it. We may even have a special visitor.

The kids and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!

God bless you now and in the New Year!

Sharon



DIACONATE~ By: Patricia Bowman, Chair

Our meeting for December will be on Monday, December 3rd at 1:00 pm.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

FELLOWSHIP OF UNITY HILL ~ By: Dot Pickens, President 2018

~ The **Annual Christmas Party** is Sunday, December 9th at 5:00 pm at Stonebridge Restaurant in Milford. Cost is \$25 per person. We will choose from the early bird prix fix dinner menu – lots of good choices. Please bring diapers (any size) or wipes for Trumbull Social Services. RSVP by December 1 on the bulletin board or call Carole Fanslow at 203-375-1284. The more the merrier!!!

~ Our next turn at **Golden Hill Community Suppers** will be on Wednesday, December 26. Anyone that would like to help either by cooking at 2pm or serving at 5pm at Golden Hill UMC, please contact Dot Pickens or Allen Fanslow. Additional help is very much needed and always appreciated.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ~ By: Carole J. Fanslow, President

- ~ The **Executive Board Committee** will be meeting on the first Monday of every month at 12pm. Our next meeting is on Monday, January 7 at 12 noon.
- ~ December 6 is the **Annual Christmas Tea** sponsored by the Women's Fellowship. It begins at 1:00 pm with the Park Street Singers performing. Sandwiches and finger desserts are always appreciated. Donations will be accepted for the Center for Family Justice. Devotions by Waltraud Yeager and Hospitality by the Executive Board Members and Friends.



COMMUNITY GROUPS AND HAPPENINGS

MIDDLEBROOK FARMS

WORSHIP SERVICE will be on Wednesday, December 5 at 2:00 pm with Deacons Waltraud Yeager and Carole Fanslow.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

- ~ **2018 ANGEL APPEAL GIFT CATALOGUE**, sponsored by the Council of Churches, is available for your Christmas gift giving. We invite you to participate in our 35th annual ANGEL APPEAL by making a gift to The Council of Churches in honor or in memory of one or more of the "ANGELS" in your life who has inspired, encouraged, or partnered with you in making a difference in our community. The challenges faced by our poorest neighbors are significant, but hope abounds! We at The Council are acutely aware of the unmet needs throughout Greater Bridgeport, and with your help, we are making a difference. Go to <https://ccgb.org/CCGB/AngelAppeal> or contact us at info@ccgb.org or at 203-334-1121



- ~ **CCGB's FEED Center Foods Available for Purchase!** Order Christmas goodies from Feed Marketplace! Why cook all of those side dishes? Let us help! Our half trays are delicious, environmentally friendly, support our CREATE course and students, and make life easier for you. Check out our products. Orders must be placed **NO LATER THAN 5pm** on Monday, December 15. Pick up is on December 21 between 10am-12pm and 4-6pm at Salem Lutheran Church, 3160 Park Avenue in Bridgeport. Orders for 5 or more people can be delivered to a location provided by the group. To make arrangements, call Michelle McCabe at 203-334-1121 x16 or online at www.feedbridgeport.ccg.org/feed-bridgeport-store/site



Aditi Goswami, our new CREATE program manager and three CREATE graduates have developed recipes that are available for purchase on our CCGB website. Many of them make great hostess gifts, Christmas gifts, or awesome and easy lunches for your school children. Our products are easy to order online and can be picked up at The Council's offices on Fridays, between 12 and 2pm. All proceeds from the sale of these products will support our CREATE culinary training program that provides food industry skills for low-income area residents.

Please follow our progress on CCGB's or FEED Marketplace [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

TRUMBULL INTERFAITH COUNCIL

- ~ The next meeting of TIC will be on Wednesday, December 5 at 7:00 pm at Congregation B'nai Torah, 5700 Main Street, Trumbull.

TRUMBULL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

CHARITABLE GIFT FAIR at Trumbull Congregational Church
Saturday, December 1 ---- 10am – 2 pm. See community bulletin board for more info.

HEALTH CORNER: *Living with Chronic Pain*

Affecting nearly 100 million Americans, according to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academics, 1 in 3 people live with pain. This statistic does not include children living with pain. The misunderstood, complex disease costs the nation up to \$635 billion each year in medical treatments, disability payments and lost productivity. Despite the vast number of people living with pain, many within the pain population feel unheard and isolated. In fact, chronic pain is still widely underfunded, misunderstood and undertreated.

In 2001, a coalition of groups and organizations established September as the official month for the chronic pain community to receive national recognition. Organizations across the country come together during the month of September with the combined goal of bringing awareness and highlighting how pain affects individuals, families, communities, and the nation. These awareness goals include educating caregivers, healthcare professionals, and the community about available treatments – ranging from alternative to mainstream – that may complement existing care for a more holistic approach to pain management.

There are more Americans living with pain than those affected by cancer, heart disease and diabetes combined.

Pain is subjective and varies from person to person.

Assessing and treating chronic pain can be a difficult and time-consuming process.

Living with chronic pain can lead to feelings of isolation

Pain is recognized as an invisible illness.

Each person's pain journey is unique.

Chronic pain is underfunded, misunderstood and undertreated.

**Not all scars show.
Not all wounds heal.
Not all illness can be seen.
Not all pain is obvious.
Remember this before
Passing Judgement on another.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN DECEMBER!

2 Sandra Osten	10 Lucille Baver
5 Gail Gorlo	17 Andrew Pickens
5 Kim Gorlo Hayward	18 David George Brezina
9 Brenda Finizio	26 Wally Yeager
10 Al Paolozzi (Dad)	



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN DECEMBER!

12/17 Gail and Donald Gorlo

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 1 st Sunday of Advent	3	4	5 9:30am Meditation 7pm Trumbull Interfaith Council at Congregation B'nai Torah	6 1pm Women's Fellowship Christmas Tea	7	8
9 11:30am Congregational Budget Meeting 5pm Fellowship of Unity Hill Christmas Party	10	11	12 9:30am Meditation	13 11:30am George's Hill	14	15 2-3:30pm Overeaters' Anonymous Intergroup
16 11:30 am Unity Hill's Church Holiday Luncheon & Christmas Party	17	18 JANUARY OUTLOOK INFO DEADLINE	19 9:30am Meditation 11:30am Kennedy Center – crafts & birthday party	20	21	22
23	24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> 5pm Family Service 11pm Service with Holy Communion	25 <u>Christmas Day</u> Office is closed	26 Golden Hill Community Suppers 2pm Cook 5pm Serve	27	28	29
30	31 <u>New Year's Eve</u>					

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2018



Choice of White or Red potted poinsettias at \$12.00 each.

Payment and order MUST be submitted to Office by **Monday, December 3, 2018.**

IMPORTANT: Please do not include any other payments or pledges in the same check.

Please check off one options: If you **do not** check off a choice, your plant(s) will be donated.

- () I will pick up my plant(s).
- () I will help deliver the plants.
- () I wish to donate plant(s) to shut-in

QUANTITY	PLANT	COST EACH	TOTAL
	Red Poinsettia	\$12	\$
	White Poinsettia	\$12	\$
TOTAL			\$

Please do not take your plant until after checking with Carol Dunn & John Rossi.

You can either submit form to church office or Cash () Check () Check # _____

Mail to: Unity Hill United Church of Christ, 364 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT 06611

Attention: Christmas Poinsettias

Please Print.

From _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Celebration of _____

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITY HILL UCC "BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE"

If you would like to make a Christmas Memorial Contribution to the "Book of Remembrance" in addition to, or in place of, a Christmas poinsettia, please complete this form and return it, with your check, to the office no later than Monday, December 17th so we can prepare the list of memorials for the Christmas Eve bulletin.



Donations should be made payable to "Unity Hill UCC" with a notation for: "Book of Remembrance." Please be sure to write your loved ones' name exactly how you want it inscribed in the Book of Remembrance. Thank you!

DONOR'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE DONATION: \$ _____

IN LOVING MEMORY OF _____

The Blessings Of
Christmas
PEACE★HOPE★JOY★LOVE

Unity Hill United Church of Christ
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Ms. Amy Aanensen & Family
744 Canaan Rd.
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