

OUTLOOK ~ MAY 2021

Unity Hill United Church of Christ

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[@unityhillucc](https://www.facebook.com/unityhillucc)

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

The Rev. Dr. M. Todd Shipley, Pastor

Robert Coulson, Moderator

Carol Dunn, Treasurer

Dawn Brezina, Church Clerk

Jeffrey Stokely, Music Coordinator

Dorothy W. Pickens, Soloist

Joanne Wickson, Office Administrator

Diana Builes, Bookkeeper

Calap Brown, Sexton



JUNE OUTLOOK DEADLINE ~

We welcome contributions to our monthly newsletter and invite you to share information, or even something more creative!

***Please submit all articles, events or special announcements for the
June 2021 Outlook by Friday, May 21. Thanks!***

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND in your prayers or with
a note: Dorothy Barwick, Lucille Baver, Dolores Colaiacomo,
Ilse Plitt and Katie Schneider.



PASTORAL CARE ~ VERY IMPORTANT!

If you, or someone you know, is hospitalized,
please call the church office to let us know.

Hospitals do not notify us when a parishioner is hospitalized.

'Veni Creator' by Czeslaw Milosz

*Come, Holy Spirit,
bending or not bending the grasses,
appearing or not above our heads in a tongue of flame,
at hay harvest or when they plough in the orchards or
when snow covers crippled firs in the Sierra Nevada.
I am only a man: I need visible signs.
I tire easily, building the stairway of abstraction.
Many a time I asked, you know it well, that the statue
in church lifts its hand, only once, just once, for me.
But I understand that signs must be human,
therefore, call one man, anywhere on earth,
not me—after all I have some decency—
and allow me, when I look at him, to marvel at you.*



I loved my theology classes in seminary. It is incredible how much power is packed into words and ideas. And theology classes are all about words and ideas. My favorite professors all warned me and my classmates of the same thing: don't get so caught up in the beauty of the theories that you forget to put them into practice. A pithy way of understanding this dilemma is to picture a circle with the word 'theory' on the top and the word 'practice' on the bottom. As followers of Christ, it is important to understand biblical theory but 'understanding' is just the beginning. How will we practice? Let's look at an example. We'll put a powerful theory on top of our circle: *'Love one another as Jesus loves you.'* It doesn't get more powerful than a commandment from Jesus and that's what this one is ... *'a new commandment I give you, love one another as I love you' ~ John 13:34.* So that's the theory but HOW do we practice it? Our minds steeped in the scientific method immediately generate questions:

How exactly does Jesus love me? Does he mean be crucified for the sake of our friends? Since he is cleaning the feet of the disciples when he says this, maybe that's what he means? When he says *'one another'* does he mean everyone on earth? What if they believe differently than I do?

Since Pentecost is at the end of this month let's put a Pentecost related biblical theory on the top of our circle; *'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'* So, the theory is if you get baptized, admit your sins, and do something to

rectify them you will receive the gift of the holy spirit. I'm quite certain everyone reading this article has done the first 3 things on this 'to-do' list, but have you done the 4th? Receiving something isn't completely passive. When you receive a letter, you have to go to the mailbox and get it. If you are given a birthday present you have to pick it up and open it. Have you received the Holy Spirit?

You better check the mailbox.

Yours,
Pastor Todd

CHURCH UPDATES

OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, May 8 ~ 11am - 1pm



**Church
Council**

NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday, May 12 at 7 pm
COMMITTEE REPORTS TO COUNCIL ~ Due by Friday, May 7

PASTOR TODD SHIPLEY'S 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT UNITY HILL UCC

We had a celebration on Sunday, April 11 with coffee and cupcakes after worship and before our Annual Meeting. Thank you so much for your ministry here, Pastor Todd!



MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR ~ By: Robert Coulson

Good day Unity Hill UCC Members and Friends, It's been 16 years since I sat as moderator of Unity Hill Church Council. A lot has changed since then, but one thing that has not, is the dedication and wonderful work habits of its members. I look forward to working with them to keep the work of our church always moving forward. Sincerely, Bob

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE ~ By: Sharon Brezina, Chair

Well, we had a great time making our Easter Peep treats for everyone and designing our own stained glass wooden crosses. We have some incredibly talented youth!! Hopefully, you got to see their artwork.

Want to give a big thank-you shoutout to Mabel and Laura Buttress who took over the Easter Sunday Class and made it special and fun. Looks like everyone had a great time ... including the teachers with games and prizes. You gals are the best!

Our conversations revolved around Jesus' death and resurrection. Great conversations - especially with some of our newest classmates Ben and Alex!

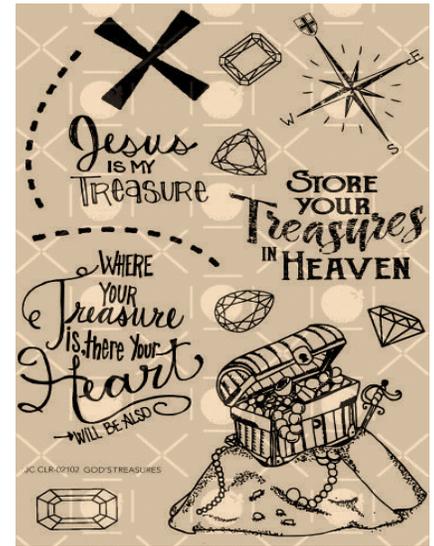
It is great to see Will and Brooklyn Rondon joining us these past few weeks!

Emily Brezina will be teaching the younger kids and has so many exciting ideas! Scavenger Hunts, Bingo ... can't wait.

Currently we are focusing on Treasures in the Bible and this week we discussed what does treasure mean to you? Glad to say when the youth were asked the replies were ... Family, Faith, God, Friends, Food (lol) ... but not materialistic things. They may have known what I was looking for ;). We had a great conversation about why these were considered invaluable and are things we cannot part with. It is great to spend time just talking to them and getting their thoughts.

Planning to get on a youth group schedule soon - so many great opportunities for our youth - can't wait!

Be safe and God Bless, Sharon



MISSIONS COMMITTEE ~ By: Brenda Finizio, Chair

Mission Funds have been given to the following:

Organizations:

Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport

Our Church's Wider Mission General Fund

Haitian Helping Hands - building church, bible workbooks, clothes & food to women and children in need, education initiatives.

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM):

OCWM, **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering is over. \$475 of budgeted funds plus donations will be sent to OGHS special mission offering of UCC. The funds support relief for disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world.

The next offering from OCWM is **Strengthen the Church**. The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. This will run till end of May.

Supporting Food Insecurity:

We continue to support Golden Hill Suppers. The average number of people served is 25-30 since Covid-19 guidelines were implemented.

Looking to have a summer food drive to support families with kids. The focus will be on healthy food items, similar to the produce donations. More details to follow.

Thank you for all your support.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

FELLOWSHIP OF UNITY HILL ~ By: Dorothy Pickens, President

GOLDEN HILL COMMUNITY SUPPERS – We will prepare the meal at Unity Hill on Sunday, April 25 for our turn at Golden Hill UMC, Bpt on Wednesday, April 28. Meals are still being distributed curbside & extra help is always needed & appreciated. FUH has been serving the homeless for many years. Thank you! Next turn is on June 23.

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

Events and monthly meetings are still on hold at this point. When everyone feels safe to come indoors, we will begin to plan for a meeting, etc. Maybe we can meet outside!

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE KITS ~ Responding to 2020's Natural Disasters

Many thanks for the extraordinary response to this year's collection for school and hygiene kits for Church World Service. They are much appreciated. We dedicated them during the worship service on Sunday, April 11. We collected 41 hygiene and 31 school kits plus money for 7 more! Thank you to: Dorothy Vars & daughter, Joy Evers, Marylin DeJoseph (Hazel Berger's daughter), Marsha Piper, Phyllis Bachinski, Linda Polito, Louise Evans, Bob Coulson, Marie Seavey, Carole Fanslow, Gayle Robles, Renate Krakovich, Brenda Finizio, Dot Pickens, the Rondon family and Pastor Todd.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND HAPPENINGS

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF THE UCC

2nd Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC will be on Saturday, May 8, 2021 ~ 9 am – 4 pm. ONLINE meeting (on WHOVA) \$25/person Register by Deadline - May 5 at <https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/2021SNEUCCAM>
For help or more info contact: Andrea Bellarosa by Email: bellarosaa@sneucc.org

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GR. BPT. VIRTUAL SPRING FLING

Our **SPRING FLING** will be on Tuesday, May 25 at 7:00 pm. Enjoy a Broadway inspired musical performance at home via zoom, with a **VIRTUAL AUCTION**, where people will bid on ways to support our work. **A Zoom link will be sent to you upon registration! To register click [here](#).** For more info and to see our Auction items visit this [LINK](#). Special guest musicians are Chris Coogan and Michele Grace.

FAIRFIELD EAST ASSOCIATION

The **SPRING MEETING** will be virtual on Wednesday, May 26.
Southport Congregational Church is host.

TICKS, LYME DISEASE, AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES

Transmission Ticks attach and feed slowly over a period of several days. Most Lyme disease cases are associated with the bite of the nymphal stage of *I. Scapularis*, also called the **Black-Legged Tick**, or the Deer **Tick**. The deer tick is **very, very, very tiny**, approximately the **size** of a fleck of **black** pepper. They are very nearly impossible to see on a dog and can still be difficult to see even when engorged. The probability of transmission of Lyme spirochetes increases the longer an infected tick is attached (0% at 24 hours, 12% at 48 hours, 79% at 72 hours, and 94% at 96 hours). It also takes at least 24 hours for the agents of babesiosis and anaplasmosis to be transmitted by the tick.



TICK REMOVAL **What is the best method of tick removal?** The following is a step-by-step method that is suggested for the safe and effective removal of all types of ticks.

1. Wear hand protection such as gloves so you don't spread pathogens from the tick to your hands; use fine-tipped forceps or tweezers to grab the tick at skin level.
2. Grasp the tick firmly with the tweezers as close to the skin as possible without crushing the tick. Apply gentle pulling motion upward until the tick comes free. Twisting or turning the tick does not make removal easier because the mouthparts are barbed; in fact, such actions may break off the head and mouthparts, thereby increasing the chances for infection. The second web citation illustrates the proper removal of a tick.
3. Once the tick is removed, do not crush the tick because it may release pathogens. Consider keeping it in a tightly closed jar or taped to a piece of paper. Show the tick to the doctor if the person bitten becomes ill after the tick bite. **Flush** any removed ticks not kept for identification down the toilet or sink.
4. The area of the bite should leave a small crater or indentation where the head and mouthparts were embedded. If portions of the head or mouthparts remain, they may be removed by a doctor.
5. Thoroughly cleanse the bite area with soap and water or a mild disinfectant. Observe the area for several days for the development of a reaction to the bite (rash or signs of infection). Apply antibiotic cream to the area as a precaution. Application of an antibiotic to the area may help prevent a local infection but usually does not affect the chance of developing diseases transmitted by the tick.
6. Wash hands thoroughly after handling any tick or instruments that touched a tick. Clean and disinfect any instruments that were used.



TO REMOVE THE TICK WITHOUT TWEEZERS, there have been several suggestions that may or may not work. The following are two examples that individuals claim work well and cause the tick to release itself from the skin with all its mouthparts intact:

- Find the tick on the skin, and with your finger (preferably a gloved finger), rotate the body of the tick clockwise or counterclockwise for about a minute or so. This irritates the tick enough to

cause it to let go of the skin and then the tick can be removed by simply touching the tick to scotch tape.

- Put liquid soap on a cotton ball and cover the tick with the soaked cotton ball for about 15 to 20 seconds; the tick will supposedly release itself from the skin and get caught up in the cotton ball. You can dispose of the tick by placing it and the cotton ball in a sealable [plastic](#) bag. These methods are mentioned because sometimes tweezers are not available; nonetheless, if these methods remove the tick along with its intact mouthparts, individuals should thoroughly wash their hands and disinfect any areas with which the tick may have come in contact. Other ways to remove ticks are not advised, such as using a hot match head or painting the tick with nail polish, petroleum jelly, gasoline, or other materials. Such treatments can cause the tick to release more fluids back into the bite and increases the chance to transmit disease before the tick releases itself from the skin.

TICK BITE RISK

- Nymphal blacklegged ticks are very small (pinhead size), difficult to see, and are active during the late spring and summer months. Roughly 70-80% of human Lyme disease cases occur in the summer months.
- The majority (about 75%) of Lyme disease cases are associated with activities (play, yard or garden work) around the home and about 21% in activities away from the home. Adult blacklegged ticks are active in the fall, warmer days in the winter, and in the spring when outdoor activity and exposure is more limited. They are larger, easier to see, and therefore associated with fewer cases of Lyme disease (even though infection rates may be slightly higher.)
- Ticks do not jump, fly or drop from trees, but grasp passing hosts from the leaf litter, tips of grass, etc. Most ticks are probably picked up on the lower legs and then crawl up the body seeking a place to feed. Adult ticks will seek deer and other larger animals at the shrub level several feet above the ground, about or above the height of a child.
- Children 5-13 years of age are particularly at risk for tick bites and Lyme disease as playing outdoors has been identified as a high-risk activity. Take notice of the proximity of woodland edge or mixed grassy and brushy areas from public and private recreational areas and playing fields. While ticks are unlikely to be

| Ticks & Diseases Transmitted | |
|--|---|
| <p>American Dog Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tularemia • Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever | <p>Brown Dog Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever • Q Fever |
| <p>Lone Star Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Tick Rash Illness (STARI) • Heartland Virus • Tularemia • Ehrlichiosis • Q Fever | <p>Rocky Mountain Wood Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado Tick Fever • Powassan Encephalitis • Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever |
| <p>Deer Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyme Disease | <p>Cayenne Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever |
| Soft Ticks | |
| <p><i>Ixodes</i> Ticks (Multiple Species)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyme Disease • Babesiosis • Powassan Encephalitis • Anaplasmosis (HGA) | <p>African Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever |

encountered in open fields, children chasing balls off the field or cutting through woods to school may be entering a high-risk tick area.

- Pets can bring ticks into the home, resulting in a tick bite without the person being outdoors. A veterinarian can suggest methods to protect your pets. Engorged blacklegged ticks dropping off a pet will not survive or lay eggs in the house as it is too dry.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO PREVENT TICK BITES?

1. Avoid grassy areas and shrubs where tick populations may be high and where they reside, waiting to grab a ride on a potential host.
2. Wear light-colored clothing so ticks can be easily seen and brush them off.
3. Tuck pants into boots or socks to avoid ticks crawling up loose pant legs.
4. Apply insect repellent and use the brands designed to repel ticks. Follow label instructions. Avoid the use of DEET-containing repellents on children. Carefully follow instructions and apply some repellents directly to the skin and others to clothing. DEET-containing repellents with concentrations of 15% or less may be suitable for children. These should be carefully applied strictly following label directions. Insect repellents containing permethrins may be applied to clothing but not to the skin. In areas that have a high tick population, DEET-containing repellents may need to be reapplied more frequently than for repelling mosquitoes. Follow the package label instructions carefully.
5. Promptly check yourself, others, and pets if exposed to areas where ticks are likely to be located.

Consider wearing tick repellent clothing if you spend a significant amount of time in potential tick areas. Be sure to treat pets with flea and tick repellents. If ticks are removed from pets, manage them the same way you would remove a tick on a person. Protect yourself from potential exposures with gloves.

Info in this article is from a link you can click on [Tick article on Medicinenet.com](#) and more info about ticks and testing ticks in CT can be found in the [Tick Brochure from CT Agricultural Experiment Station \(CAES\)](#).



May 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------|--|----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10:30am Worship Service | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 11am- 1pm Open House |
| 9 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10:30am Worship Service | 10 | 11 | 12 7pm Church Council Meeting | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 10:30am Worship Service | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Info for  Newsletter May newsletter due by today | 22 |
| 23 10:30am PENTECOST SUNDAY Worship Service | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 10:30am TRINITY SUNDAY Worship Service | 31 MEMORIAL DAY Office is closed  | | | | | |

Birthdays in May ~ HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Patricia Bowman | 12 Emily Brezina | 25 Dorothy Barwick |
| 6 Donald Gorlo | 12 Maddie Gaetano | |



Join us for Worship at 10:30 am

on Pentecost Sunday, May 23 and on Trinity Sunday, May 30



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