



THE SPIRE

September 2020

HARWINTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

PASTOR

Rev. Lisa M. Gustafson
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ORGANIST

Rod Ives

CHAIR OF
DEACONS

Merrill French

CHURCH SCHOOL
COORDINATOR

position is open

OFFICE
COORDINATOR

Nancy Lewis

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HAPPY NEW YEAR HCC FAMILY AND FRIENDS! No, I have not so lost track of the passing time that I forgot we are in the month of September 2020. Perhaps it's because I have spent so much of my life as a student and teacher I think of September as the start of a new year. Perhaps it is because I was born in September that I see this month as the start of a new year. For our Jewish friends, September brings the celebration of Rosh Hashanah, the new year. The new year begins for them on the 1st day of Tishrei (September 19th to us). As they turn the page in their calendar this year, they will enter the year 5781. It is one of the High Holy Days and it is a happy and joyful time as they look ahead to another year.

One of the traditions for Rosh Hashanah is to begin the year eating new fruit. The symbol for that fruit is the pomegranate. It symbolizes fruitfulness because of its many seeds. It is said to **have 613 seeds**, which corresponds with the **613** commandments of the Torah.

September for us at HCC usually signals the start of a new program year. This year, even though COVID 19 makes it a little different, we still begin our new year. It will be a year filled with inspiration, blessings, and Joy as we come together in church or from our sheltered places to worship, study and serve.

SHANA TOVA, May the coming year fill us with the peace, love, and grace of God.

Blessings,

Pastor Lisa

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020



September 6

Exodus 12:1–14
Psalm 149
Romans 13:8–14
Matthew 18:15–20

September 13

Exodus 14:19–31
Psalm 114
Romans 14:1–12
Matthew 18:21–35

September 20

Exodus 16:2–15
Psalm 105:1–6, 37–45
Philippians 1:21–30
Matthew 20:1–16

September 27

Exodus 17:1–7
Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16
Philippians 2:1–3
Matthew 21:23–32



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Hartford Office – 125 Sherman Street, Hartford, CT 06105
Framingham Office – 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702

August 20, 2020

Harwinton Congregational Church
PO Box 173
Harwinton, CT 06791-0173

Dear Friends at Harwinton Congregational Church,

Keep alive in me the forward look, the high hope, the onward surge. Let me not be frozen either by the past or the present. Grant me, [O God, your] sense of the future without which all life would sicken and die.

– Howard Thurman

It seems altogether fitting that as we all live into a time of global pandemic, that we should think about prayer, with hope for the future. It is a gift of our faith that we are full of hope even in the bleakest of times and it is with that sense of hopeful future that we engage in prayer.

It has been the practice of the Connecticut Conference staff to pray for churches, their congregations and their leadership, one by one, throughout the year. As we move from being three conferences into one very large conference, we should keep those things that make sense and prayer for one another is one of those practices that we need to continue into the future. Therefore, we will be selecting 12 churches each week from our Southern New England Conference to pray for.

And so, the staff of the SNE Conference this week will be praying for the ministry of your congregation and of your leadership. As followers of Jesus, you all make a difference among yourselves, in your community and in God's wider world.

In addition to the staff praying for the congregation we will be listing the church in the prayer list published as our weekly "Starting With Scripture," available at SNEUCC.org. What prayers can we pray for your church? It has been our experience that there are moments when you have very important needs that we would like to lift up in prayer. Of course you can contact any of your three Bridge Conference Ministers at any time with prayer requests. It obviously doesn't need to be just in this week! You should know that any specific prayers will be held in confidence and circulated only among the staff and not listed in any public forum.

We would also welcome your prayers for our new Conference and the Associations in your public prayers in worship. We cannot do this ministry alone. As the new Southern New England Conference of the UCC we need to undergird this important transition in prayer. Your prayers for our mutual ministries sustain us and deepen the covenantal connections between us.

The Rev. Marilyn Kendrix
Bridge Conference Minister
SNE Conference, UCC

The Rev. Don Remick
Bridge Conference Minister
SNE Conference, UCC



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Harwinton Congregational Church Council Meeting – August 12, 2020

Held at the home of Nancy Shanley Lyons during state mandated social distancing.

ATTENDEES: David French, Merrill French, Nancy Lyons, Terri Ruot, Jeep Ruot, Nancy Lewis, Margaret Arigoni, Marilyn Mitchell, and Lisa Gustafson.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 pm with quorum present by Council President Nancy Lyons

OPENING PRAYER: Pastor Lisa opened the meeting asking that our prayer concerns for the week include prayers of thanks for all the electrical linesmen, bucket truck operators, tree removal companies, volunteers of the fire departments and EMT squads and the town agencies that were all put to the test during a week of restoration after a hellacious storm. And the people said AMEN!

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 12, 2020 agenda as presented.

MINUTES: Minutes of the June 10, 2020 Council meeting were accepted as printed in the June-July SPIRE.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported by email that all accounts are balanced through May 31, 2020 and all bills have been paid. Approval was given to reinstate Albreda Refuse's schedule of a monthly pickup and to right the dumpster that was overturned in the storm.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR: Council President Lyons thanked everyone for attending the meeting after such a trying week with power outages and that feeling of "disconnect" caused by Storm Isaias.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board and Committee Reports:

- **Board of Deacons:** After speaking with the five of our seven current Deacons, Head Deacon Merrill French will be adjusting the monthly assignments, as necessary.
- **Board of Christian Education:** As the summer progresses into Sunday School season, sadly it has become apparent that during the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Annual All-Member Picnic will not be feasible this year and has been cancelled.
- **Board of Finance:** Our income to expense ratio is good and Pledges continue to come in by mail and/or during the Sunday Service.
- **Buildings and Grounds:** We sustained no major damage during the storm but there are dead limbs hanging along the iron fence and the tree at the entrance end of the parking lots need attention: gladly, we have two volunteers that will handle the project!!! It was noted that the handicap entrance door to the Sanctuary has swollen in the heat and humidity and needs a really hard slam from the outside to lock properly. The handicap ramp also needs attention.
- **Missions & Social Concerns:** N/A
- **Stewardship Board:** The committee is researching the 2020 campaign items available through UCC. A motion was made, seconded, and passed by Council to approve up to \$50.00 to allow the Board to purchase the 2020 UCC Stewardship Campaign. A minimum Stewardship envelopes order will be researched by Terri Ruot.
- **Book of Remembrance:** Donations have been received in memory of Barbara Baer in amount of \$830 to date.
- **Fundraising:** Chairperson Margaret Arigoni is due to set a meeting of the committee to discuss the possibility of having a Drive-Thru Chicken Barbeque in the fall. It would be take-out only, assembled and handed out to runners to place in cars as they line up. NO pies, sheet cakes only and possibly a pre-pay online function. Research is on-going. There is also an idea for Pies before Thanksgiving...more to come on that.
- **Flower Committee:** The committee would like to thank the gardeners who have been sharing their beautiful flower weekly for the Altar!
- **Music Committee:** N/A

- **Nominating Committee:** N/A
- **Pastoral Relations:** Meeting tentatively scheduled for week of August 16.

COMMENTS FROM THE PASTOR: Pastor Lisa, noting the time, graciously yielded to Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Review of church re-opening plan:** Protocols are being followed by all attending. We can now suspend the RSVP emails as we can accept up to 50 attendees. Unfortunately, the ceiling fans cannot be used unless they pull air UP not push it DOWN. There was a discussion as to how we are going to maintain ventilation when the cold weather sets in and the doors and windows would be closed. Jeep Ruot suggested using fans at the stairways, one blowing up, one blowing down creating a “circle” of air moving.
- **Cleaning crew update:** We are now on our weekly schedule (Saturdays) and everything is looking good! They do a great job and are very conscientious.
- **Lawn Service review:** Also doing a great job!
- **Chair Lifts:** continues to be on hold currently.
- **Sale of Parsonage review:** With the current times during the pandemic, zoning board meetings by the town are not going on. Our need to facilitate any sale of the Parsonage includes the necessity of concluding a water rights issue with the Town to proceed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Parsonage Lease:** A new lease with Shameka N. Moon, Kenny Johnson, and two minor children (dated July 31, 2020) for a term from August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021 for the property located at 20 South Rd, Harwinton, CT 06791 was signed and includes a monthly rent of \$1795 and includes tenant paying a monthly water bill. The completed lease is on file in the church office.
- **Purchase of “ONE LICENSE” :** One License is a subscription service giving us access to songs, hymns, liturgical materials to use in worship aids, service bulletins, and is based on average weekly attendance that makes it convenient, comprehensive and cost-efficient. The annual License bundled with Podcast and Streaming for a congregation our size is \$277.00 and protects us from copyright infringements that could be cost-prohibitive. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to purchase the subscription for \$277.00. A confirming email will be shared with the Treasurer for file.
- **Opening building requests from Boy Scouts for September:** A request was received from Bruce Politz, Scoutmaster for BSA #55, to begin using Lower Fellowship Hall for troop meetings in September. They would also like to use the room for an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Saturday, Sept. 12. After some discussion, questions of how many scouts each week on Thursdays? and how many would they expect at the Court of Honor? What is our insurance liability during Covid? Nancy Lewis offered to email Bruce to meet with Pastor to discuss options on Friday, Aug 14 during office hours. The same questions arose when discussing the possibilities with allowing AA to reconvene on Monday evenings. Council President Lyons was asked to contact our insurance company to investigate groups using our church during this time of social isolation and to see if there any restriction according to our policy. NO decisions were made until we have more information.
- **Filling of empty Deacon slot:** David French has offered to fulfill Linda Colasurdo’s term and was unanimously approved by all Council members present.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:10 PM

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Lewis, Clerk

Deacons for September 2020 are: Merrill and David French



Note: If you have a birthday or an anniversary you would like published please call the church at 860-485-1043 or email to

harwintonchurchucc@gmail.com

September Birthdays

1 Becky Adkins	20 Patricia Ladd
3 DJ Audet	Tyler Mahoney
4 Roger Wasilonski	21 Kevin Fletcher
	Sandra Ives
5 Spencer Howe	23 John Dunbar
Jeff Gangloff	24 John McNabney
7 Laura Russotto	29 Jill Bishop
8 Donald Smith	30 Mitchel Yother
13 Grant Peabody	Kai Denton
15 Beth Hamel	Benjamin Sutak
Connor Sheahan	Lisa Gustafson
16 Devon Wells	
17 Jushua Dumas	
18 Tom Sheahan	

September Anniversaries



1 Carrie & Fred Howe
15 Rebecca & Kevin Curtis
16 Gail & Rick Atkinson
16 Herb & Nancy Bunnell
 Dave & Brigitte Bousquet
25 Alison & Tom Rabinko

September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>PLEASE NOTE: ALL THESE EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO COVID 19 MANDATES</p>	<p>Only the Sanctuary is open at this time. Other meetings or gatherings may not be allowed</p>	1	2	3	4 Church Office Hrs 9 - 12	5
6 10 AM Worship (50 allowed) with Communion Service	7 Labor Day	8	9 7 pm HCC Council Meeting (place TBD)	10	11 Church Office Hrs 9 - 12	12
13 10 AM Worship (50 allowed) Grandparents Day	14	15	16	17	18 Church Office Hrs 9 - 12 Rosh Hashanah	19
20 10 AM Worship (50 allowed)	21	22 Autumn Begins	23	24	25 Church Office Hrs 9 - 12	26
27 10 AM Worship (50 allowed) Yom Kippur	28	29	30			



Staying Connected for September, 2020

Watch your email each for:

The Mid-Week Note from Pastor Lisa
The link to the Weekly Worship Video

You can also view our Sunday worship on YouTube, or on our Facebook page (Harwinton Congregational Church, United Church of Christ) and on our website: www.harwintoncongucc.org

AND: We are now open Worship on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Protocols for social distancing, sanitizing of hands, temperature being taken and the wearing of masks by all in attendance will be strictly enforced. Our allowable attendance is up to 50 people.

Pastor Lisa can be reached

By phone: 860-908-7913

By email: lisabethgg@gmail.com



As you stay safe at home, do you need a helping hand with errands? Grocery delivery? Post office run? Let Pastor Lisa know! We are glad to help where we can!