

January 2012

First Congregational Church
Deep River, Connecticut
Established 1834



The Messenger

Reminder

The Annual All Boards Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m.

New or updated photographs will be taken on January 8th and 22nd at 11:30 in the Sanctuary (See Upcoming page for details.)

Medieval Dinner Sunday January 22nd
5:30 pm



Pageant 2011

Worship: 8:30 & 10 am

January 1, 2012 (10 a.m. service only)

New Year's Day

1st Sunday after Christmas (White)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Timothy Haut Preaching

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40

January 8, 2012

1st Sunday after Epiphany (White)

Baptism of Christ

Rev. Timothy Haut Preaching

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

January 15, 2012

2nd Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

Rev. Timothy Haut Preaching

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

January 22, 2012

3rd Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

Rev. Timothy Haut Preaching

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

January 29, 2012

4th Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28



UPCOMING

New Members Welcome!

There will be a New Member Orientation on January 11, 2012 at 7:00 pm in the Upper Room (snow date January 18), and New Members will be welcomed into the congregation on Sunday, January 22. If you are interested in becoming a member of DRCC at this time, or would like more information, please contact Kris in the church office at 860-526-5045 or office.drcc@snet.net.

First Congregational Church of Deep River

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Church Directory news

A new Pictorial Directory will be published in February 2012.

If you have never participated before and would like to be included, this time. or if you would like your photograph changed or updated, please make a note of the following two dates.

Immediately after Sunday service,
11:30 am

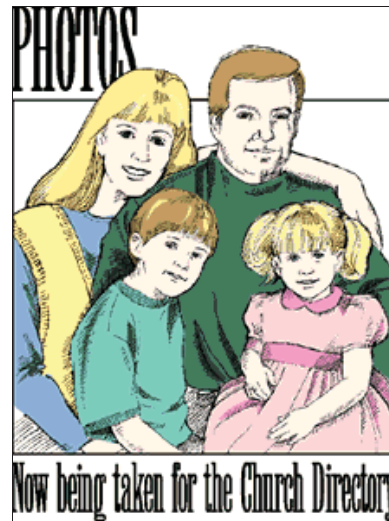
January 8, 2012 and January 22, 2012

In the Sanctuary

New and updated digital photographs will be taken and information that needs to be changed or corrected will be recorded at this time.

Please note that these two days are the only times that pictures will be taken.

If you want to participate please mark these two days and meet us there.



11:30 am

January 8, 2012 and January 22, 2012

In the Sanctuary

Note: These are the only days to change photos, correct or change personal information.

DON'T MISS OUT!

The Epistle Of Timothy



Earlier in the year I said that I intended to preach a year of sermons on the theme of grace. It has always been my hope that the one enduring gift of my ministry in Deep River would be to help create a climate of grace. And it is surely the case that this congregation has been a place of grace and welcome for me and for many who have come through our doors. Indeed, in one week I had several experiences that made my heart feel joyous.

Recently I talked to Betty Johansen on the phone. She called from Colorado to update us on the condition of her grandson, Alex, who has been struggling in a New Jersey hospital with cancer. A while ago, she had asked people to send cheerful, funny cards to Alex, along with a square of fabric that could be stitched together into a quilt of "prayer and love" for his bed. This week, she called to say that over a hundred cards had come from Deep River, a remarkable outpouring for a young man who was a stranger to us. Further, she said, Alex's condition has taken a turn, and he is believed to be cancer free. All those squares of fabric will go to fashion an apron that he can wear while he makes cookies and muffins for other cancer patients. The Deep River church is incredible, Betty concluded, and all those prayers have made a difference in Alex's life.

Last Sunday, a visitor, a father with children, came for the service and his kids attended Sunday School. After worship he approached Emily and said that it was important to let people know that he and his family had never felt so welcome in a church in their lives. He was visiting from some distance, and it was unlikely that he would return on a regular basis, he said, but he hoped other people would find their way through our doors.

At our early service the same day, Bill Morris thanked the congregation for their love and prayers during his recent hospitalization for cancer. He said that there was nothing that could help him more during his illness than knowing that he was a part of this church, a family that will be around him in the months ahead.

I know that we do not always offer the hand of hospitality and welcome so warmly and generously. I have had many of those experiences on a Sunday morning when, during coffee hour, I have had to get to my office quickly and walked right past someone eager for a kind word or a smile. I know that occasionally at the door after worship I get sidetracked by a personal conversation that holds up the line or causes others to take a quicker route to the coffee pot or parking lot. Most of us find it hard to seek out the stranger or the newcomer when we are eager to make contact with old friends or make our way to the circle of laughter and conversation at the other end of the room.

But I know that the acts of welcoming a stranger and offering a kindness to the person standing alone in a corner are the hallmark of our life as Christ's people. Such hospitality may also lead us to meet someone who enriches our own life personally, who may become a great asset to our church and community, and who may some day become a dear and precious friend. Even Paul reminds us to show hospitality to strangers, for **"thereby some have entertained angels unawares"** (Hebrews 13:2).

As we begin a new year together, we have a field of possibilities that stretches out before us. None of us know what this year 2012 may hold. Some still point to the ancient Mayan calendar that predicts that this year will be the end of an age. I am not a prophet, but I believe that in this year there will surely be challenges, sadness, and loss. But equally there will be wonderful surprises, joys, new beginnings. The truth is that we can do nothing about the things that may happen to us against which we have no control. To worry and fret about the unavoidable problems of life is to live miserably.

God's promise is that whatever may come in this Year of our Lord 2012, he will be there, too. He will be there to turn our problems into possibilities, to open new doors to the fresh winds of his spirit in our lives. Most of all, he offers us to participate in the grand plan to fill this weary world with grace and love. We do this as we say yes to his invitation to follow him. We do this as we come into this great old building filled with new gifts and joys, and become part of a community of grace and graciousness. We will be people who smile. We will be people who open our arms to those who hurt. We will be people who pray for brothers and sisters that we don't even know. We will be people who have a sunrise in our hearts, because God is there.

Faithfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Treasurer's Report As of 11/30/2011

	Actual	Annual		YTD %
	Year to Date	Budget		92%
Income:				
Pledge Goal*	\$ 167,789.36	\$ 225,553.00		74%
Prayed For	\$ 28,601.00	\$ 35,000.00		82%
Prior Year Pledges	\$ 1,552.00	\$ -		
Sunday School	\$ 253.52	\$ -		
Messenger donations	\$ 398.21	\$ -		
CW Missions Donations	\$ 501.00	\$ -		
Other Income	\$ 23,575.11	\$ 24,900.00		95%
CSCC donations	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 17,800.00		81%
Church Fund-raisers	\$ 7,112.83	\$ 16,000.00		44%
Total Income	\$ 244,283.03	\$ 319,253.00		77%
Expense:				
Youth & Family	\$ -	\$ 250.00		0%
Music	\$ 966.74	\$ 2,850.00		34%
Christian Education	\$ 3,823.05	\$ 6,015.00		64%
Deacons	\$ 9,769.73	\$ 10,971.00		89%
Trustees	\$ 9,738.62	\$ 15,160.00		64%
Care of Property	\$ 51,458.60	\$ 63,850.00		81%
Christian Service/Missions	\$ 4,296.29	\$ 14,105.00		30%
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 182,699.17	\$ 206,052.00		89%
Total Expense	\$ 262,752.20	\$ 319,253.00		82%
Net revenue	(18,469.17)			
<i>*The actual total of pledge cards received is \$190,050 this translates into a shortfall of \$35,503 compared to budgeted pledge goal.</i>				

Board of Trustees

At the November 29th meeting of the Board of Trustees we received an update on the status of the 2012 Stewardship campaign by Deb Van Wyngaarden. As of that date pledges were \$70,000 below our 2012 Budget and \$37,000 below pledges received at the same time in 2010. Continued efforts will be made by the Stewardship Committee and Board of Trustees to reach all our members and friends who have not pledged to date. In order to meet our 2012 budgeted expenses it is important that we have the monetary support of our Congregation.

Jane Syme, Chairman, and Joy Mlozanowski, Bookkeeper, for Church Street Child Care reported that they would be donating an additional \$2,000 to the Church by the end of the year. The Church Street Child Care 2012 budget was discussed and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Dayle Larson, Treasurer, presented the financial report for the Church as of November 30 and a projection of results for year end. At this time an estimated \$35,000 short fall may result for the year. The Board will work with the Treasurer at year end to finalize the year.

Since this is the last report by the Trustees for 2011, we would like to thank all of our members, Jack Coulter, Chairman, Don Grohs, Richard Higgins, Jayne Mather, Peter Rozowski, Bill Spitzschuh and Jane Syme for their dedication and hard work during the year. You will read about our many accomplishments in the Annual Report. We want to especially thank Jack Coulter and Jane Syme who will be leaving our Board. Jack as Chairman of the Trustees and Jane as a member and Chairman of Church Street Child Care have given many hours of their time and worked tirelessly for the betterment of the Church. Thank you! We look forward to having you rejoin our Board in the years to come.

We send our Best Wishes for a very Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

Delegates' Report

On November 21, Katie Russell and Heidi Lee attended the Fall Meeting of the Middlesex Association, Connecticut Conference of the UCC at the First Church of Christ in Middletown. We enjoyed a delicious dinner, followed by a brief worship service and a slide presentation by Rev. Jane Hawken of her recent trip to the Holy Land.

The latter part of the evening consisted of focus groups led by the Connecticut Conference Search Committee. This group has been formed to identify candidates to fill the position of Conference Minister, vacant since the departure of The Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree. You can help the search committee in their mission by participating in a short on-line survey. The current status of the committee's progress, as well as the link to the survey, can be found at www.ctucc.org/cmsearch.

ATTENTION! All Christmas Faire Booth Chairs!

Special meeting after church on Sunday, January 8 at 11:30 a.m. In upper room (Teen Issues room). This is the one to come to with anything you need to discuss, while the faire is still fresh in our minds.

- The Faire Committee



Come add your 2 cents

Adult Fellowship

The next meeting of Adult Fellowship will be the first Friday in March.

New officers were elected at the December meeting. Joyce and Jeff Winterstein, Presidents, Pat Wilson, Vice President, and re-elected were Carol Sheridan, Treasurer, and Evie Grohs, Secretary. The club meets six times a year. Meetings start with a pot-luck supper and after a brief business meeting a program planned by the committee in charge that month is enjoyed.

We welcome all adults who enjoy fellowship in a Christian setting.



Adult Fellowship

Call 860-526-5215 for more information.

Scout Sunday at DRCC

Scout Sunday will be held on February 12. All current Scouts are welcome to attend worship in uniform! If you are an Eagle Scout or earned the highest rank for Girl Scouts (Gold Award, 1st Class, Eaglet), contact the church office with award earned and year so you can be recognized in the bulletin.



GIRL SCOUTS



Note: We do have the list from last year, please call to confirm or to add your name for this year.

Bring a Friend to Church

Everyone is invited to Bring a Friend to Church on Sunday, February 5. Share our wonderful church with your friends, neighbors and relatives. Show them our beautiful Sanctuary and inspire them with Rev. Tim's wonderful sermons. The children can join the excitement in our Sunday School program. Let's challenge ourselves to lead at least one person into worship on February 5!



One contribution to the Queen's Attic -



One very happy boy!!!

Friend to Friend Ministry

January is when new assignments are made in the Friend-to-Friend ministry which links a member of the congregation with a senior/and or shut-in who might appreciate receiving mail.....a card...an inspirational message....something other than an advertising flyer or a bill. In 2011, we had 22 persons connected with 22 others. This ministry is open to anyone who would like to reach out to another, it involves communicating once or more a month through cards or messages...it can include a visit or a phone call. The commitment is for one year. Contact Evie Grohs, Coordinator 860-526-5215 to participate.

UNICEF - The final tally for our UNICEF collection came to \$162.55. Thank you to all who participated in this important mission.

HAT & MITTEN COLLECTIONS - Thank you to all who were able to contribute hat & mitten mission this year. Due to your support, the Sunday School was able to give the Old Lyme Soup Kitchen 29 pairs of mittens/gloves and 23 hats. Your generosity to give a child the gift of warmth during the holiday season is appreciated.



THIRD GRADE BIBLES - The parents of the third graders received letters regarding the importance of their child's attendance at Sunday School. They are studying the Bible and will have an opportunity to earn their own by attending class on a regular basis from now until the end of the Sunday School year. These Bibles will be award to them on Children's Sunday in June. If you have any questions, please see Sybil.



SOUPER BOWL - Not a typo; just a great mission! The Sunday School Teen Issues class will be outside the Sanctuary on Super Bowl Sunday, February 5, for the annual collection of coins to benefit the Soup Kitchen. Please be sure to clean out those spare change areas to help fill our soup pot!



COMMUNION SUNDAY ~ Grades 5 - 12
Youth Communion Services will take place at 10:00 am on the first Sunday of the month in the Upper Fellowship Hall. Music, readings and partaking of the elements are all part of this 15 minute service done largely in part by the youth of our Church. This service is for the 5th through 12th grade and the teachers of our Sunday School.



Youth Communion Service

BECOME A FAN OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL BY JOINING OUR FACEBOOK PAGE;
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DEEP RIVER SUNDAY SCHOOL



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ July 9-13 **SAVE THE DATE!**

All children 4 years old through entering 5th grade are welcome to attend VBS. Bible stories, crafts, games and snacks are all part of this special week. Registration forms will be available soon!



Save the date for VBS!

Volunteers needed for the following positions:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| VBS teachers | Guides |
| Snack Coordinator | Decorating Team |
| Registration | Safe Church |

All questions can be directed to Chelsea Chiappa at vbs.drcc@yahoo.com

CARDS FOR OUR SOLDIERS - Our Sunday School children made cards to be included in a package that Abby Visel was sending to Afghanistan. Three of our classes participated and 40 cards were sent overseas. Thank you to our 1st, 2nd & 5th/6th grade classes!

Cards for those



we care about

CARDS FOR ALEX - Our 5th/6th Grade Sunday School class made 20 cards to send to Alex, a young boy suffering from cancer. Thanks to this class for making a difference and sending some inspirational messages to our friend Alex!

PARENT HELP NEEDED!

Thank you to parents who have already volunteered to be Class Aides. If you haven't signed up yet, please check the list in each classroom to see which date(s) would work for you. It's a wonderful opportunity to support your child's teacher by being a helper in the classroom and you'll gain a new respect for the people who work with our children! We also are encouraging anyone and everyone in our church to sign up to be a classroom volunteer. It's a great way to show the students that we are interested in their Sunday School experience, not just their parents! Consider being a helper a few times this year.



SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT SUPPORT NEEDED

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

DRCC IS "GOING GREEN"ER!!!

"Help us care for God's World!"

DRCC is ONE STEP CLOSER to achieving Level 1 Green Church Recognition!



With the start of a New Year; many of us have made a resolution to Get Healthy. We'll try and eat better, and prepare health conscious meals. We also are going to try and get ourselves in shape. Here are some ideas to keep our workouts green.

Try and skip the gym! Take a walk or run outside, bike, hike in the woods...it's free and you will appreciate this fabulous place we live! Think outside the box... exercise can be shoveling snow, or ice skating, vacuuming the house or dancing with your kids!



If you are heading to the gym; carpool with a friend - you'll save some energy, and it's a lot more fun to exercise with someone else!



Be sure to:

**Choose reusable containers for water!
No disposable plastic water bottles!**

January Green Tip: Recycle your sneakers! Once your shoes are worn out...don't just throw them away! Check out Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe Program. All those used shoes can be used to build new running tracks, basketball and tennis courts!



Visit our Board of Christian Education page on the church website at for more information on the UCC action steps and other articles regarding "Going Green"; www.deepriverchurch.org.

Lets be better stewards of creation!

Deep River Spread Your Light for Rice on www.freerice.com.

In November the 5th/6th Grade introduced a way you can fight hunger. Free Rice allows you to participate in computer generated quizzes to earn rice for the World Food Program. And, just like it's name, it's free! It only take a little bit of time to make a difference. It's an excellent way to study up on geography, foreign language, math facts, vocabulary, literature, and chemistry. You work at your own level, and advance as your knowledge expands. It's a win, win! It takes 2,000 grains of rice to feed one person, so we need your help. And by joining our **Deep River Spread Your Light for Rice** group, we can keep track of how much food we collectively raise for the world food program.

Sign up today @ www.freerice.com and join our group! Please don't make your user name your real name and those under 18 need to sign up with their parents.

Contact one of our DRCC 5th/6th Graders on how to join our Sunday School group or Sybil @ christianed.drcc@snet.net.

UPDATED TOTALS:

TOTAL RICE GRAINS: 34,780

PEOPLE FED: 17

TOP RICE EARNER: MA KETTLE

TOTAL GROUP MEMBERS: 7



JOIN OUR GROUP!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER FORUM

Our Annual Teacher Forum will be held on Sunday, January 22 following the Church service at 11:30 am for all current Sunday School teachers.

Teachers will be able to share ideas and have an open discussion about curriculum and classroom needs. All teachers are encouraged to attend and as always, lots of delicious food will be served! Please R.S.V.P. to Sybil at ChristianEd.drcc@snet.net.



Joy Fellowship

Thanks to all who joined us at the Ray of Light Farm to read the Christmas Story among all the animals. It was a fun way to get in the true spirit of Christmas at the beginning of the Advent season!

A special thanks also goes out to all who participated in our Christmas Caroling activity at Aaron Manor. We had a wonderful time singing to all of the residents and spreading the joy of Christmas.

We are so blessed to have Bess Ensinger, Liz Tracy and Heather Mudge taking charge of the Joy Fellowship this year. If you haven't yet signed up but are interested in joining Joy Fellowship you can see one of these talented ladies or email Emily at yandfm.drcc@snet.net. Our next event is on February 5th. Let us know if you have any questions!

February 5th – “Bring a Friend to Pizza and Movie Night” at 5:00pm in the Upper Room. All Joy Fellowship participants are invited to bring a friend to our movie night. Friends do not need to be associated with the DRCC to come enjoy this activity.

Junior PF

Many thanks for Kelley Frazier and Ally Glass for leading this year's Junior PF group. On December 11th the Junior PF had their second activity, which was a big success! They met during Sunday school hours to begin making Christmas cookies and then followed that with pizza and ornament making. It was a lot of fun for all who participated.

In 2012 the Junior PF is hoping to take a trip to “extreme bowling” in Old Saybrook. Our goal is to build on the excitement of our last activity so that we can get a large and consistent group! If you are interested in joining the Junior PF as a participant or you are a parent willing to help, please see Kelly, Ally or Emily.

Mark Your Calendars— Here are Upcoming Junior and Senior High PC Activities”

Thank you to all who participated in the Las Posadas parade down Main Street. It was very well attended and we all had a wonderful time! The following activities are open to both Junior and Senior PF members. As always, if you have questions, please email Emily or speak with one of our leaders.

January 22nd—The Annual Medieval Dinner.

This is a very fun tradition where we ask members of the congregation to eat without any utensils while they enjoy some very medieval-style entertainment. Proceeds will go to the Youth Mission Fund. Please plan to come and help out, or simply support us by buying a ticket.

January 28th—Homeless Sleep Out.

This year we will again be meeting other churches in Middletown for a program about homelessness in our county. We will then return to the DRCC to spend the night sleeping outside in solidarity with the homeless. This has become a very eye-opening annual tradition. Junior PFers are free to join us for the activities in Middletown, but sleeping outside in boxes is reserved for the Senior High PF participants. If you have any questions, please see Emily.

February 18th—Midnight Run. This year's

Midnight Run date has been solidified. Mark your calendars now. We will leave the church by 7 pm on February 18th. The night before (February 17th), will be reserved for making the food and sorting clothing. All activities on the 17th are open to both Junior and Senior PF participants, but the Run itself is reserved for Senior High kids. Please see the following article concerning donations for the Midnight Run.



Midnight Run

On February 18th the DRCC will do its 4th Annual Midnight Run.

Midnight Run is a volunteer organization located in New York City and many other cities throughout the world. It is dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless.

In over 1,000 relief missions per year, Midnight Run volunteers distribute food, clothing, blankets and toiletries to the homeless poor on the streets of New York City. As it states on their website, Midnight Run is not a solution to homelessness. Their goal is to forge a bond between housed and homeless people by establishing a foundation of sharing and caring from which solutions may evolve. Through Midnight Run, volunteers come to see the homeless as real people, not a commodity. And homeless men and women learn that many mainstream adults and teenagers have commitments and concerns that go beyond their own lives and families.

Currently we are still collecting items for the Midnight Run. We can take and sort any food and toiletries, but below is a specific list of items we need:

- Warm clothing: jackets, hats, mittens, gloves
- Nice clothing: dress shirts, khakis, things you would wear to a job interview
- Socks, underwear, belts
- BAGS – anything that can help them carry their belongings

On the Midnight Run we see all kinds of men and women, but we do not typically see children. If we get kids' clothing donated we will bring it to the Hallie House in New London. Any adult clothing we cannot take on the Run will be donated to the Eddy Shelter.

Along with clothing, we distribute 5 gallons of hot coffee, three gallons of chili, 200 sandwiches and a hundred bags that contain fruit, chips and juice. If you would like to contribute to our food efforts here is a list of the non-perishable items we STILL need:

- 2 jars of Mayo, 2 jars mustard, 1 large can of ground coffee, creamer
- 100 juice boxes, 10 big bags of chips
- 100 brown paper lunch bags, 200 “fold over” sandwich bags, 200 Ziploc bags for chips and cookies, 200 Hot drink cups
- For the 3 Gallons of Chili: Beans, Corn, Tomato Sauce

If you have any questions please email Emily at yandfm.drcc@snet.net

2012 Youth Mission Trip To Appalachia

One of the 2012 DRCC Youth Mission Trips will head to Appalachia from July 15th until July 21st. The work we will do is mainly focused on home rehabilitations for people in need, but also may include other community development work such as stream clean-up, helping other nonprofits and working around the center supporting on-going work in the community.

Participants include Bobby Hamblett, Shelby and Dillon Eriksson, Hannah Brown, Amy, Melissa and Brian Winchell, Danielle and Ethan Thompson, Deb, Anthony and Nick VanWyngaarden, Andrea, Chris, Chelsea and Tori Chiappa, Leah Sopneski, Simone Nelson, Peter and Sam Jones, Emily Bjornberg, Emma Godi, Erin Scionti, Hunter and Jessi Wilcox and Jake and Jill Cayer. It is going to be a very exciting trip!

So far we have taken deposits from all participants. The next payment of \$200 is due on January 15th and the final payment of \$200 is due on February 26th. Please see Emily if you have any questions.





Confirmands and mentors light the candles on the Advent Wreath



Children's sermon — Advent— Preparing for Christmas



Teen Issues—joyful Christmas Caroling



Las Posadas Dec. 2011



Junior Choir



Is someone confused here how shall we ride?



CWS Hygiene and School Kits

The 7th/8th grade is taking on the mission of hygiene and school kits again this year. They are very excited to be involved with such a great project. Check the list below and see where you can help!

School Kit Bags

***** HELP NEEDED ***** We need school bags made for the kits that we will be assembling. A total of 60 bags are needed this year, which are simple to make; a 12"x14" finished bag with two 10" handles. We can't assemble these kits without the bags, so please see Sybil if you can help! Material is available.

School Kits

After our fall collection of school kits we are still in the need of the following items to complete them:

- 30 cm (12") rulers
- 2" pink pencil erasers (no pencil top or ink erasers)
- Blunt tip scissors
- Crayons ~ 24 count only
- Pencil sharpeners ~ hand held

Hygiene Kits

It's also time for the annual collection of hygiene kits for Church World Service. These kits are distributed throughout the United States and abroad to those in need. Please place all items in the Donation Station across from Sybil's office. A container has been labeled for these items listed below that you might be able to contribute.

- New hand towels
- Washcloth
- New wide tooth combs (with or without handle)
- New nail clippers (not emery boards or nail files)
- Toothbrushes (in original single packaging)
- Soap bar of bath size
- Band-Aids (1" x 3" only)

CWS is specific in the items they include with the kits. Please purchase only items as noted above otherwise we can not use them.

Please have items in no later than February 12.

If you have questions or if you wish to donate money to help defray the cost of processing & shipping, please contact Sybil at ChristianEd.drcc@snet.net.
Thank you in advance for your continued support!

MEDIEVAL DINNER



SUNDAY, January 22
5:30 pm

6th Annual Medieval Dinner
Presented by the Youth of the Church

- * **Entertainment - Music & Laughter**
- * **Authentic Cuisine**
- * **Period Costumes**

Take-a-chance table!
Come eat and take a chance on some great gift items!!!!

Tickets: \$14 Adults
\$8 Children (3-12) ~ Under 3 free

Tickets available in the church office or during Fellowship Hour

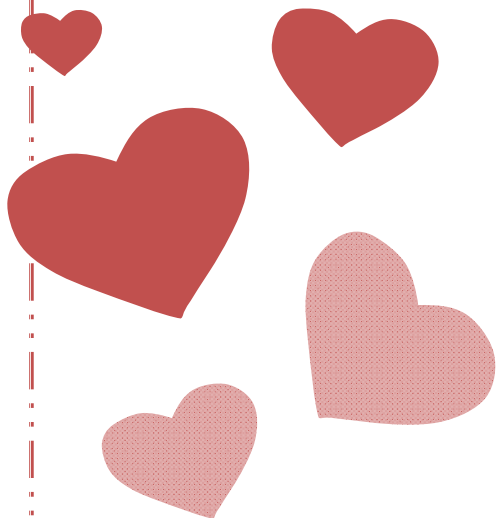
Dinner proceeds benefit
Youth Mission Fund



Missions

Cookies for the Eddy Shelter with Pizza afterwards





Women's Fellowship

Cordially invites women 21+ to
Our 2nd Meeting.

Sweetheart Night for Sisters

We'll be making Valentine's and care packages for our shut-in members as well as Gay Sherman, an author and writer, will share journaling techniques.

Make your calendar for

Friday, February 3rd from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Upper Room

Please R.S.V.P. to Deb Van Wyngaarden at 860-767-3285 or Emily Bjornberg at yandfm.drcc@snet.net.

We'll be sending out a list of items to bring for the care packages.
Don't forget to bring munchies to share and a journaling book and pen!

Olde English Christmas Faire 2011 Tally of all income and expenses as of 12/22/11

\$16,485.92 !! Great job everyone!

This report is from the booth cash reports (including monies received before and after the day of the Faire) and Faire expenses taken from the general fund and charged to the Faire revenue. Claudia Hardy

Attention!

All Christmas Faire Booth Chairs!

Special meeting after church on Sunday, **January 8th at 11:30 a.m. In the Upper Room** (Teen Issues room). **This is the one to come to with anything you need to discuss**, while the Faire is still fresh in our minds...

The Faire Committee

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE COLLECTOR

Due to an error by the printing company of our 2012 offering envelopes, the first envelope is dated December 8, 2011 and continues through November 2012. The first date in January is the 5th. All printed dates reflect Thursdays not Sundays. Please use these envelopes despite the incorrect dates so that we may continue our church's "Green Mission" and not discard all 160 boxes just to have them reprinted with the correct dates. You will have to place the December envelopes found in the front of the box toward the back so you will have next December covered. Thank you for your understanding.

Board of Christian Service

The Board of Christian Service would like to thank all those who contributed to the Giving Tree this holiday season. During these difficult economic times, Deep River has many people who need a little cheer during the holidays. Our church provided gifts, toys, clothing and food for more than 30 people. Thank you for sharing the true meaning of Christmas.

GHS Teacher Joe Peluso Receives 'Local Hero' Award

By Pam Johnson

Publication: Shore Publishing

Published 12/13/2011



Guilford High School (GHS) history teacher Joe Peluso has been named a 2011 Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Local Hero for his hard work, dedication, and commitment to his students. While Joe is honored and flattered by the surprise recognition, he is quick to point out that, in his opinion, "heroes are all around us."

"They're our parents, our grandparents...the kids that we see who have to overcome difficulties every day; the honest, hardworking person...There are a lot of heroes around us," says Joe, who has been teaching history at GHS since 1979.

There is no application or nomination process for the award, which RMHC bestowed upon 10 teachers from Connecticut and western Massachusetts. The teachers, from elementary through high school level, were identified for the honor through RMHC's partnering organizations, including the Connecticut Association of Schools and Connecticut State Department of Education.

GHS Principal Rick Misenti says it's no surprise to him that Joe was selected for the honor. "Joe represents all the good things about public education and teaching," says Misenti.

Misenti says there's a quote by short story author Jesse Stuart that "mirrors" Joe, which is, "Good teaching lasts forever. The good teacher is immortal."

Joe is humble in his discussion of contributions he's helped his students make to the GHS community, and in turn enrich their lives, in the past three decades.

"I've been here 32 years and I think some people think I made some contributions," says Joe. "In fact, many of the teachers here were once my students! I love my subject, I love history, and hopefully that comes across."

Joe knows actively engaged and interested students are going to learn more readily and that's why he encourages practices like creating family oral histories. In fact, Joe plans to use the \$1,000 RMHC Local Hero award he received on Nov. 16 during a special ceremony at the governor's mansion as seed money to begin a Guilford veterans oral history project at GHS, to be digitally stored and made available at the school.

"I would like to start a way of compiling oral histories of veterans in Guilford-I look every day and see World War II veterans passing away. I want to work with members of the community and students here at Guilford High School to develop a strategy to compile their oral histories and those of Korean and Vietnam veterans and our other veterans. I've wanted to do it for a long time," says Joe, who still has some cassette tapes of a few local veteran oral history projects his students completed decades ago.

"I think kids have a fascination with these oral histories and I think we need to strengthen those ties with the community and veterans," Joe adds. "For kids, there's a value to it, not only as an appreciation of our history and the men and women who've served, but in developing skills of compiling oral histories, doing research, and writing papers."

This year, Joe's teaching five history classes, including two Advanced Placement level classes as well as Level I and Level II history classes. One of the things he encourages across all classes is community involvement, even if it's as simple as asking kids to bring in canned food to help another GHS teacher with a collection for the Guilford Food Bank (which took place last week).

As a teacher, Joe adds, "I enjoy teaching kids not just history, but the skills for them to succeed in life, such as the ability to discern different ideas and biases and organize their response, which is what you do every time you vote."

Joe has served as a past president and vice president of the Region Four District Supervision Board of Education and is active in his church in his hometown of Newington. On behalf of GHS last year, he and fellow faculty member Mike Regan (who was a student in Joe's very first GHS classroom in 1979) served on the New England Association of Schools and Colleges' annual 10-year report committee (which Joe co-chaired).

"I've been blessed to be teaching here and I am honored by this award. This is a great place to teach," says Joe.

What's Happening? Faire 2011





Birthdays

- 1 Sarah Munsell
Elizabeth Root
- 2 Paul Knudsen
Kelsey Lane
Tiffany Lisle
- 3 Lynn Beemer
Emme Landry
Judy Potter
- 4 James Ryan Fremut
Fran Pitts
- 5 Caitlyn Bouchard
Eric Knudsen
Kaitlin Kruszewski
Candi Turner
Anthony Van Wyngaarden
- 6 Megan Bartlett
Brett Ives
Fred Stempel
- 7 Cheryl McDonald
- 8 Leslie Campos
Haley Griffith
- 9 Sam Jones
Mary Kelly Beaudoin
Larry Taylor
- 10 Charles Melton
- 11 Amanda Calamari
Cameron Frazier
- 12 Donald Dione
- 13 Jen Garner
- 14 Faith Rose Edwards
Sandy Freudenstein
Lisa McNeely
Annetta Sekula
- 15 Audrey Taber
- 16 George Martin, II
- 17 Nicholas Van Wyngaarden
- 18 Larry Graves, Jr.
Shelby Olson

- 19 Charles Johnston
Wendy White
- 20 Joe Campos
Melanie Norris
Logan Whaley
Donna Zanardi
- 21 Matthew Nastri
Kelly Hyatt
- 22 Carly Callahan
Timothy McDonald
Nathan Zirlen
John Kollmer, Sr.
- 23 Elmira Daniel
Renee Curry
Travis Gahren
- 24 Janna Moen
Karen Taber
Chuck Tower
- 25 Sheila Carlson
Sue Knirsch
- 26 John Ely
Barbara Fountain
Spencer Hagen
Bev Medlin
Sara Tirrell
- 27 Jayna Ziobron
Miriam Chintall
- 28 Jana Whaley
- 29 John Bengston
Kathleen Bengston
Tyler Hunter
Tammy Olson
Andrew Turner
- 30 Jacob Cayer
Walker Milton
Neil Nastri
- 31 Joan Anderson
Alyssa Lucarelli
Briana Lucarelli
Betty Munsell

- 1 Elizabeth Root
- 15 Audrey Taber
- 18 Charles Johnston
- 23 Elmira Daniel
- 26 John Ely
Barbara Fountain
- 27 Miriam Chintall

Baptisms

Jacob Jeffrey Rowland, born June 8, 2011, son of Jeffrey and Susan Rowland of Deep River, Baptized in the Deep River Congregational Church December 18, 2011.

In Memoriam (*) denotes church member

Louis E. Page of Deep River (December 5, 1923 – August 22, 2011), Committal Service at Winthrop Cemetery, December 3, 2011.

Ronald P. Scott (*) of Old Saybrook, (January 9, 1924 – December 12, 2011), Husband of Carol Scott. Memorial Service at Deep River Congregational Church, December 18, 2011.

Joel E. Beason of the Villages, Florida, Former Church Member, (October 29, 1941 – December 16, 2011), Memorial Service at Deep River Congregational Church, December 19, 2011.

Joy

Gilbert L'Italien and Dale Stefanick became engaged on Christmas Eve. **Our blessings to them for joy and peace, always**

New Committee formed

Per requests made by Tim and the Board of Trustees, the Church Council has formed a Hospitality Committee. This group is needed to continue to provide the receptions for which we have become noted, in a way that is kinder to the volunteers and more manageable by our Church family.

Anyone interested in helping to “host” receptions for members of our Church family and wider community should contact the Church office.

This group will help the interested parties decide whether to have their function catered or have small parties served by the Congregation. Either choice will involve a fee for the use of our facility.

If you are interested please call the office. More information will be shared as decisions are made.



Epiphany



January 2012



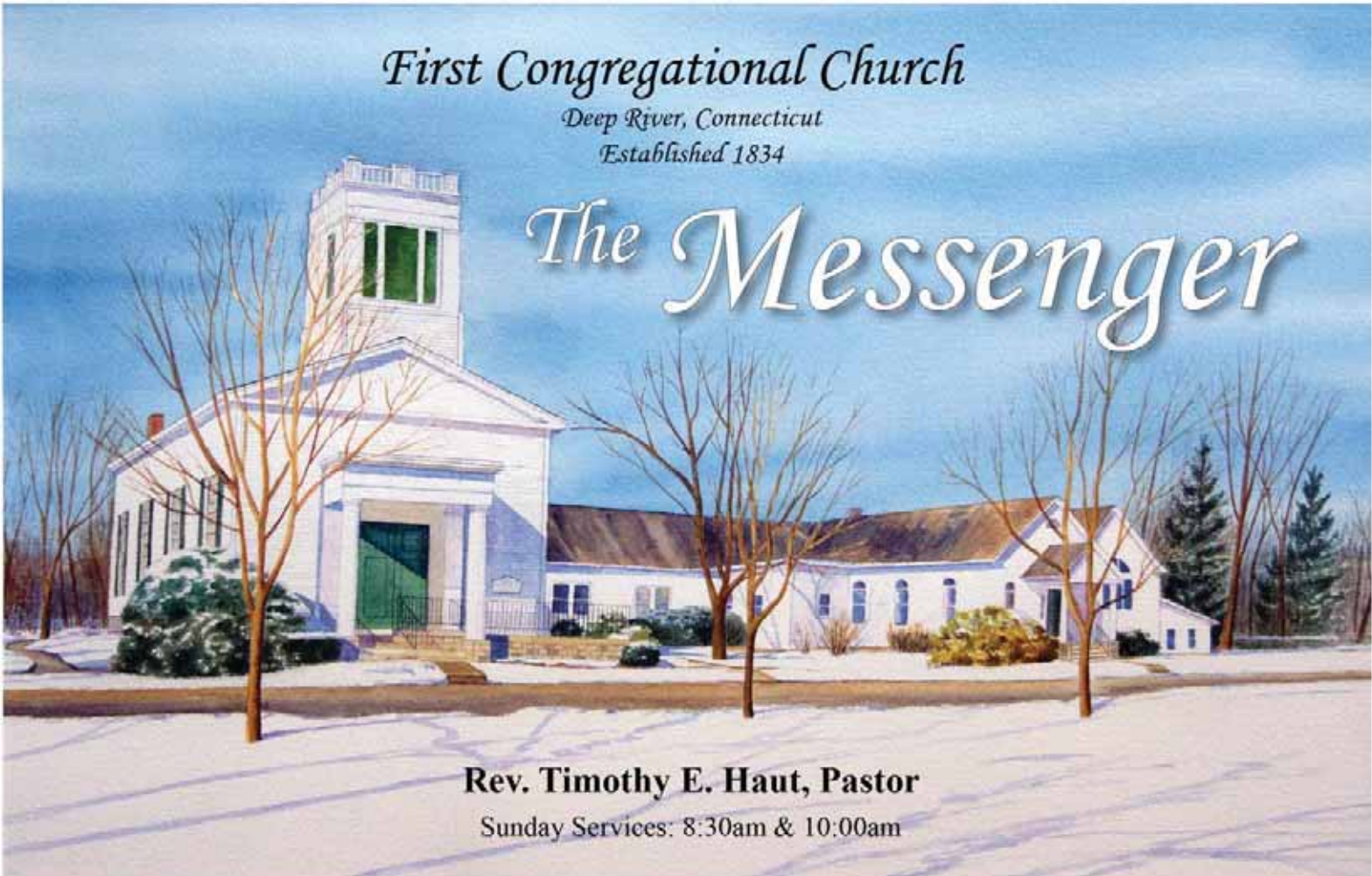
First Congregational Church
P.O. Box 246, Church Street
Deep River, CT 06417
Handicapped Accessible

First Congregational Church

Deep River, Connecticut

Established 1834

The Messenger








Rev. Timothy E. Haut, Pastor

Sunday Services: 8:30am & 10:00am



January 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service/ No Sunday School</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>6:00 PM Webelos I</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 PM Stephen Ministers 7:30 PM A.A.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 PM Sr. Bells 7:00 PM Trustees</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Chorale 7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7</p>  <p>8:00 AM Guiding Eyes for the Blind Puppy Training</p>
<p>8</p> <p>EPIPHANY SUNDAY Hygiene/School Kit Collection Starts 8:30 AM Early Worship Service 9:00 AM Jr. Bells 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Jr. Choir 11:30 AM Faire Booth Meeting 7:00 PM El Salvador Team Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 PM ALL BOARDS MEETING</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 PM Sr. Bells</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 PM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Women's Chorale 7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>13</p> <p><u>Messenger Articles Due</u></p>	<p>14</p>  <p>8:30 AM Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:30 AM Early Worship Service 9:00 AM Jr. Bells 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Jr. Choir 11:30 AM CONFIRMATION CLASS</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:15 PM CSCC Board 6:00 PM Webelos I 7:00 PM Christian Service</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 PM Sr. Bells</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00 PM Church & Ministry Committee 7:00 PM Women's Chorale 7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:30 AM Early Worship Service 9:00 AM Jr. Bells 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Jr. Choir 11:30 AM Sunday School Teacher Forum 5:30 PM Medieval Dinner</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 PM Deacons 7:00 PM Girl Scout Monthly Leader Meeting 7:00 PM Trustees</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:00 PM Sr. Bells</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM WIC 12:00 PM Middlesex Clergy 7:00 PM Women's Chorale 7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:00 PM Homeless Sleepout</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:30 AM Early Worship Service 9:00 AM Jr. Bells 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM Jr. Choir 11:30 AM CONFIRMATION CLASS</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:00 PM CSCC Spaghetti Dinner  7:30 PM A.A.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:00 PM Sr. Bells</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Chorale 7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>