

The Clerical Caller

A monthly publication of Covenant Congregational Church of West Hartford

JUNE 2010

“Lost”

One of the few TV shows that Mary and I watch is “Lost.” Or, maybe I should say, used to watch. The finale of the show was aired on Sunday, May 23rd. The finale of a long running, popular TV show is always of great interest to its loyal fans. Will the writers wrap up the show in a fitting way or will it leave you hanging? Will the viewers be pleased or angered by the final episode? Will questions raised by the show be answered at the end? Those questions were magnified by this series.

I don’t know of any other show that had more twists and turns—more complicated time changes (forward, backward, and sideways) - and more complicated characters than this one did. A character you thought was a bad guy turned out to be good. Someone you thought was dead turned out to be alive. People moved in and out of time faster than you could possibly keep track of. You were never quite sure who was in love with whom and where any relationship was headed.

But this exceptionally complicated show had a surprisingly satisfying ending. We didn’t get all the questions answered (maybe this sets us up for a sequel), but there was a good resolution. All the main characters were brought together and those that once loved each other were reunited. The importance of friendship was emphasized. Relationships were emphasized as the most important aspect of life.

These were all people who were lost on an island where no one could find them. But the deeper meaning of the title was the fact that each of these characters were lost in their personal lives before the plane crash. They were alone. They had no one to love them. They each were bruised and broken in different ways. Some were angry. Some were without hope. Some were running from the law. But all of them were lost.

The final episode was about the redemption of these lost people. They had found love—caring re-

lationships that transformed their lives. And that’s what made it a satisfying end to an extremely complicated show.

I love the basic themes of this show. They are the deep themes of life. For aren’t we all lost in some way? You will probably argue with me on that point. Most of the time we don’t feel lost. We think we are doing the best we can and doing pretty well in most areas of life.

But the Bible makes it very clear that we are all lost. We wander away from what is most important. We go our own way, instead of the way we were created to go. We leave home for a distant country where disaster and heartache are inevitable.

We were created to live in relationship with God. But we have such a hard time doing that. We are consumed with our own life and our own will. We think about our weight, our money, our pleasures, our plans, our careers, our families, and God gets set aside.

We are all lost. The good news is that Jesus came to find us and He promises to leave no stone unturned until He does. Our God is the seeker of the lost. And His greatest joy is to find the lost and bring them home.

If you don’t have a living, dynamic relationship with God—you are lost. It doesn’t matter how good you are or how much you have accomplished, acquired, or attained. Life is all about our relationships and primarily our relationship with God. If that relationship doesn’t exist or isn’t the most important thing in our life, we are indeed lost.

The great news is that God has found us in Jesus. We need to wake up and realize that He is already with us and He has already saved us. In Jesus, the lost have been found.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Tom

Summer Worship Schedule:

June 20th—the last Sunday of Sunday School.

June 27th—our Summer Schedule begins: there will be no Sunday School, and worship will begin at 9:30 am.



Sunday, June 20th is Children's Sunday in our church. There will be a special puppet show produced and performed by our young people. Please don't miss this special event. This is also the end of our program year. There will be no Sunday School for the summer months.

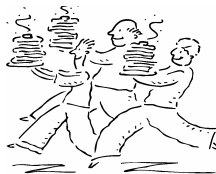
Children's Day : June 20th



Summer Schedule Begins

June 27th—9:30 am worship

This will be our last Sunday brunch until the fall, so please join us. We also have Youth Challenge for Men as our special guests. This is a Christian ministry to men with addiction problems. They will share some testimonies and special music with us.

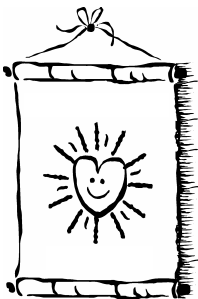


Put these words of mine in
your heart and soul
Teach them to your children

Deuteronomy 11:18-19, NRSV



Swedish Relief Society



If you know of anyone of Scandinavian descent (one or both parents) who is in need of financial assistance, the Swedish Relief Society might be able to help. Please contact Pastor Tom for more information.



Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Daniel Fry graduates from Conard High School and will attend Penn State to major in business.

Ben Sundman graduates from East Hartford High and will attend Manchester Community College. His major is uncertain.

Kristen Skelly receives a teaching certificate this month from Central Connecticut State College to teach math on the middle and high school level.



Suburban Woman

Suburban Woman's Club of West Hartford would like to thank the church for using the facility for its Pasta Dinner. Our profit was about \$1,200 which will be applied to two scholarships to graduates of Conard and Hall High School.



June

- 11 Sue Nilson
- 10 Rodney Sundman
- 18 Dave Peterson
- Joyce Berman
- 19 Ethel Ogden
- 25 Debra Hein

Congratulations!
Anyone for a picnic?



Bring your own berries!



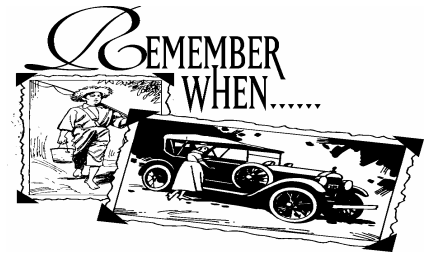
Food Pantry Needs

Items can be placed in the wicker basket near the back entrance or on the table in the narthex. The following are suggested for June though any donations are appreciated.

- Sun June 6 Cereal
- Sun June 13 Fruit Juice
- Sun June 20 Canned Fruit
- Sun June 27 Tea and Coffee

TIME CAPSULE

The following are selections from Sunday Bulletins of years past...



Sunday, June 16, 1936 – Friday, June 26th – 8:00 p.m. The church choir will give a Midsummer Song Festival. Our former pastor, Rev. Carl G. Charn will be the speaker. Free Admission. Wednesday, June 24th – Covenant Women's Auxiliary Annual Meeting in Worcester. Our ladies are planning to hire a private bus and round trip tickets will be only \$1.50. Notify Mrs. Hawkinson before Wednesday, June 17th if you wish to attend this meeting. (Mrs. Hawkinson was the wife of Bernard Hawkinson who served our church from 1935 through 1942.)

Sunday, June 21, 1936 – Saturday – our Sunday School Outing will be held at Swanson's Grove in Plainville. Everybody invited! Come for a good time at this beautiful spot.

Sunday, June 17, 1945 – Summer Session of the Sunday School – Remember that there will be classes right through the summer months again this year. We would be happy to see you there each Sunday that you are in the city during the season.

Sunday, June 25, 1950 – The Cromwell Youth Camp began yesterday, June 24 and continues through next Saturday. This Camp is for young people age 15 – 18. The Pastor is present as Counselor and Instructor. A number of our young people are present. Mr. Krohn is chairman of the Camp Committee. (The Pastor was Carl G. Lugn)

Sunday, June 10, 1951 – SATURDAY Church School Picnic at McLean's Grove, Granby. Fun for all. If transportation is necessary, call Ted Sundman or meet at church at 1:00 P.M. The Men's Brotherhood will hold a brief business session at the Grove.

Sunday, June 19, 1955 – Tuesday 8:00 – 10:00 The family of Mr. and Mrs. Gustaf A. Lindell extend an invitation to everyone to attend an Open House in honor of their 50th Wedding Anniversary at the church. Our sincere congratulations to these friends on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary!

Sunday, June 1, 1958 – 7:00 – Vesper Service sponsored by the Hi-League. Billy Graham film "Sunday on the Range" will be shown. Refreshments will be served. EVERYONE is cordially invited.

Sunday, June 8, 1958 – Thursday 8:00 P.M. Swedish Service – Rev. Lund. Let us all notify our many friends who would enjoy listening to a service in their mother tongue. This will be the final mid-week service until Fall.

Sunday, June 5, 1960 – Final Midweek Service of the season. There will be special music, hymn singing, and a brief devotional period. Pastor Sands will give a preview of our anticipated ministry in the fall as we occupy our new church. This is a subject of vital interest to us all. Please be present. Coffee Hour follows.



Sunday, June 22, 1975 – Tues. An informal open house observing John Sundkvist's 90th birthday will be offered at 20 Montclair, 2-6 p.m. by his daughters.



June 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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		1	2	3	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Thanks DAD! 	 Children's Day	28	29	30		
Summer Schedule Worship 9:30 Youth Challenge For Men Brunch!						