

# The Clerical Caller

A monthly publication of Covenant Congregational Church of West Hartford

NOVEMBER 2018

## *“This is the Day!”*

***“This is the Day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118:24***

How easy it is to get stuck in the past. How often we are filled with regret for mistakes made and opportunities lost. How easy it is to get into the “if only” trap. If only I had done this instead of that. If only I had decided differently. How much better my life would have been today if only I had made better choices. And some of us want to just turn back the clock and relive a certain time in our life. Those were our best years, and we long to have them back. “If only I could have my children young again, how I miss those days.”

How easy it is to live only for the future. Children want nothing more than to grow up and be adults. Teenagers want to be independent and on their own. Young adults think things will be better when they have a better job or a newer car. Parents think life will be better when their children aren’t depriving them of sleep every night. Some of us long for the empty nest or the free time of retirement. We can so easily fall into the trap of thinking that our future will somehow be better than today.

But the past is gone, and the future is uncertain – today is all we really have. Remembering the past can certainly be a blessing and we need to hope for a better future, but we can’t relive the past and our future is largely beyond our control. What we do have is today.

Today is God’s great gift to each of us.

Today He allowed you to wake up (never a given) and gave you the gift of another day of living. We may never be given another day of life – but we have today.

Today you can be thankful for the blessings of life: a good cup of coffee and food to eat, loved ones to share your life with, work to do, challenges to meet, and joys to be savored.

Today is the day our Lord has made, and we can rejoice and be glad in it. I write these words at the height of the fall foliage in New England. What an amazing display of beauty this is! It never grows old

and always reminds me of the glory of God. It does indeed cause the heart to rejoice. That beauty and glory is always there if we look for it. On the cloudiest, gloomiest day, there is always the glory of God to behold if we have eyes to see it.

Today is the day God has given us to enjoy—to enjoy His presence in my life, to enjoy the love of family and friends who enjoy even the difficulties and problems that each day presents and the challenge of working through them with grace and humor.

This is the day God has given us. Too often we are stuck in the past or we are hurtling through our days rushing toward an uncertain future. Today is the day God wants us to live fully.

Listen to this poem written by an anonymous young Jewish girl. She was living in a Nazi concentration camp when she wrote these words. Imagine the immense gratitude and maturity she must have had to write these words while surrounded by the unspeakable horrors of that place. She wrote:

*From tomorrow on  
I shall be sad  
From tomorrow on  
Not today.  
Today I will be glad,  
And every day  
No matter how bitter it may be  
I shall say  
From tomorrow on I shall be sad  
Not today*

How it would change our living if we, who are so safe and blessed, could choose to be glad today.

*Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Tom*



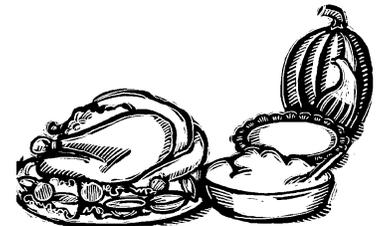
**Harvest Offering  
Sunday, November 18th**



Please bring a food offering for South Park Inn, your World Relief Offering, and your regular church offering to help us celebrate the abundant love of our Lord. When we give, we offer a special gift of praise to our God.

**Congregational Business Meeting  
Sunday, November 18th**

All members are urged to join us for this important meeting after church. We will be voting on proposed changes to the bylaws of our constitution. We will also vote on our budget for next year and have elections. Please join us!



**Christmas Events**

Please mark in your calendar the following dates:

- Saturday, December 1—Church decorating 10-12noon**
- Saturday, December 15—Dress Rehearsal for our Christmas Pageant, 7 pm.**
- Sunday, December 16—Christmas Pageant and Party, 4 pm.**
- Monday, December 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.**



**Operation Christmas Child**

A reminder that shoeboxes are due at church no later than November 18th. This is a wonderful way to share God's love with a needy child. Extra brochures are available in Fellowship Hall.



**Missions**

The Mitten Tree will be set up after Thanksgiving in Fellowship Hall. Please bring hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves to be placed on the tree. All sizes can be used. They will be donated to South Park Inn before Christmas.

**TIME CAPSULE**



Last month it was briefly explained why October 25th is our anniversary. On that day in 1889 our church was recognized as a Congregational church and soon afterwards joined the Hartford Association. The Congregationalists were very helpful to immigrant churches that had limited resources but also hoped they would join the American denomination. The Congregational Church supported missionaries to preach to immigrants in their own languages and provided financial assistance as well. Our church in Hartford was started by missionaries called and supported by the Missionary Society of Connecticut around 1883 to preach to Swedish immigrants.

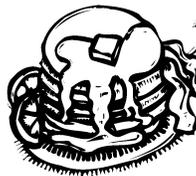
The history of our church would be very different and probably short-lived, if not for the Congregational churches. In the early years, they provided half of our first pastor's salary, were of great assistance in the building of our first church, and gave us a grant of \$300 each year. Another important factor in our decision to join the Congregationalists was their policy of local independence and authority. We would still manage our own affairs.

Today, our affiliation is mostly with the Evangelical Covenant Church and the East Coast Conferences, but we still have membership in local Congregational organizations and support the Missionary Society of Connecticut.



**Romans Bible Study  
Tuesday nights, 7 pm.**

Pastor Harold will be leading a study on the book of Romans. We start at 7 pm with refreshments and fellowship and the Bible Study goes from 7:30 pm till 8:30pm. You are welcome to join us any Tuesday night.



**Breakfast and Fellowship  
Saturday, Nov 10th, 8 am**

All are invited! Peter Spungin will cook a hot breakfast for us, and Pastor Tom will share a devotion. We would love to have you join us!



**November Birthdays**

- 18 Taryn Miller-Stevens
- 30 Craig Robinson



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

- Sun Nov 4 Cereal
- Sun Nov 11 Fruit Juice
- Sun Nov 18 Canned Fruit
- Sun Nov 25 Tea and Coffee





# November 2018



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

**1**

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

**9**

**10**

Sunday School  
9:30  
Worship 10:30  
Exec. Mtg.

Bible Study  
7:00 PM



Breakfast &  
Fellowship  
8 AM

**11**

**12**

**13**

**14**

**15**

**16**

**17**

Sunday School  
9:30  
Worship 10:30

Bible Study  
7:00 PM

**18**

**19**

**20**

**21**

**22**

**23**

**24**



Sunday School  
9:30  
Worship 10:30  
Cong. Business Mtg.  
Harvest Offering.

Bible Study  
7:00 PM



Safe traveling & have a  
joyous Thanksgiving!

**25**

**26**

**27**

**28**

**29**

**30**

Sunday School  
9:30  
Worship 10:30  
Brunch!

Bible Study  
7:00 PM