

CHRIST COMMUNITY NEWS

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH IN COLLINSVILLE

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

VOLUME 6 #4 April 2024



WELCOME TO THE CHRIST COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER!

Here you will find news of events inside and outside of the church, articles, opinions, testimonies and other interesting tidbits to inspire and amuse.

From the Pastor



His resurrection was attested to—under penalty of death—by many. He appeared to many for a period of 40 days. Paul tells us He appeared to over 500 people! So we can say with utmost confidence that He is risen! He is risen indeed!

And what great hope that gives us. For it is our faith



that He is the Son of God and the belief that we hold that He indeed rose from the dead that we can trust that we too, by the same power, will be raised from the dead and that will happen on the last day (John 6:54). We also have the evidence of the indwelling Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent. His mere presence in our hearts also gives us reason for great hope that all the promised Jesus

made will come to pass.

We can now rejoice with Job who said, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God" (Job 19:25-26). And we can sing with the Psalmist "because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay" (Psalm 16:10).

So the celebration of His resurrection shouldn't end. We should celebrate it every day as we look forward with great hope knowing that our Lord died for our sins, was resurrected on the third day, and ascended into heaven to intercede on our behalf!



Rejoice, dear brothers and sisters, rejoice! Jesus is Lord and is alive and well on His throne!

\sim \sim \sim \sim \sim \sim \sim \sim \sim FAMILY GAMING DAY



Saturday, April 13 starting at 2:00 PM in Collins Hall. Invite your family and friends!

It's BYO - Bring your own snacks and games. Proclaim Team will provide drinks.



Ladies' potluck luncheon with speaker Karen Adajian. Plan to attend and bring family and friends! Stay tuned for details.

PASTOR'S ROUNDTABLE RECAP - 3/24

(Some items covered separately in this newsletter.)

- FINANCIAL We have replaced the \$20,000 previously borrowed from the investments account by the checking account during a lean time.
 - February income \$10,462; expenses \$20,745 (including snow removal and oil.) We changed companies for snow removal: 22-23 season \$18,600 vs. 23-24 season \$10,900. We also used 100 less gallons of heating oil vs. lastseason with our new furnace. .
 - Checking account balance is currently \$27,600. We will be moving more funds around shortly, per the approved items discussed at the Annual Meeting.
- MID-WEEK DEVOTIONS Videos accessible now online via Facebook and CCC website.
- TRACTS & CHURCH INVITE CARDS There is a variety of tracts available for outreach, as well as some Lee Strobel booklets. They have also been mailed to online folks and CCC shut-ins.
 - Passion Week readings are also available.
- SCRIPTURE MEMORY CARDS Laura Salch has made up some small Scripture Memory Cards with the verses that we are being encouraged to memorize. See her if you would like some.
- UPCOMING SUNDAY SPEAKERS Elder Kevin Salch will give the Sunday message on April 7. - Elder Rob Storm will give the message on April 14.

Pastor Chris and Patty will be in Philadelphia for a

special service at their previous church.

- ANOTHER SOFTWARE CHANGE We had switched from Faithlife to Servant Keeper after Faithlife dropped web hosting and related services. Now we've been having problems with Servant Keeper (such as gmail accounts not receiving CCC emails, etc.) and their Customer Support has not been helpful. We're now switching to ChurchTrac for church accounting and website hosting. It is designed by pastors and ministry leeaders. Pricing is half that of Servant Keeper, too. See Patty's article on pg. 5.
- UPCOMING EVENTS -
 - 4/13 @ 2:00 PM- **Family Gaming Day** see pg.1.
 - 4/20 @ 9:30 AM. Monthly Prayer Meeting.
 - 4/28 after the service **Pastor's Roundtable**.
 - 5/11 Ladies' Luncheon see pg. 1.
 - 5/11 Canton Neighbors Helping Neighbors.
- **EXALT TEAM-** Robb said they planned today's service which went well and next Sunday will be even better.
- PROCLAIM TEAM Dan said they've been busy planning events.
 - Set up Palm Sunday Breakfast.
 - 4/13 Family Gaming Day event
 - 5/11 Ladies Luncheon with speaker Karen Adajian. Stav tuned for details.
- 5/12 Teen Challenge will be here for Sunday service. We will have a lunch afterwards and get to talk to them.
- A CCC Tea is being planned for June 8. Stay tuned for details! Dan noted that guys like tea too!
- MAKE DISCIPLES TEAM Bob DuBois said that Linda Papertsian will facilitate a new women's bible study when she is ready.
 - Baptism 1 person is already signed up. If you desire

- a total immersion believer's baptism, speak to Bob. It will be planned for the end of summer.
- **DEACONS** See Debbie Laws' articles on pg. 3!
- MISSIONS Rachel Salch said the next meeting is on 4/21, after the service. They haven't picked a mission to support yet. Next meeting will present guidelines for choosing one.

MEN'S DINNER FELLOWSHIP

NEW LOCATION! At Good Friends Restaurant on

Main Street (Rt. 44) New Hartford, CT 06057. (Near the mini mall; formerly Portobello's.) We usually meet the last Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM. All Men's Fellowship are welcome!



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#### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



This group is taking a break and will hopefully restart in a few months. Thank you, Linda Papertsian, for all your efforts in facilitating this group

so far!

## **MORE THAN WEEDS!** A CLASS ON HERBALISM

Debbie will be holding her 5th "More Than Weeds" herbal class on Saturday. April 27 th. In this upcoming class, students will learn how to make an Herbal Drawing Salve using charcoal along with other herbal ingredients. Students will also learn about several "carrier oils". What they are, how they are used (percentages of oils used in different preparations) and what they are used for.

If you'd like to attend, please sign up soon. Debbie needs to know how many people will be attending so that she can provide enough materials for each student to take home a sample of the product we make. Additionally, each student receives a notebook with each week's class notes. Students will receive the botanical information, the historical use of the plants, some interesting folklore and recipes. So it is important to let Debbie know if you are coming. ~ Debbie Laws

#### **HEALING PRAYER MEETINGS**

Healing Prayer meetings are hosted at Buddy & Debbie Laws' house on Tuesdays from 7 - 8:30 PM. Please let Debbie or Buddy know if you are coming. You can also send Debbie a note through FB Messenger if you are on Facebook, or email

wallace.laws.jr@gmail.com or lawsdebbie81@gmail.com.

You are invited to join us beforehand at 6:30 PM when we gather to enjoy some light healthy snacks. It is our sincere hope that anyone who is in need of encouragement, hope, and prayer for yourself or your loved ones will come and allow us to minister to you.

#### "WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT?"

The sermon discussion group meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Room 4. If you cannot make it to the church, we can set up a Zoom Meeting for you to call in and join us! Just contact the church office to let us know by noon on Wednesday. All are very welcome!



#### **COFFEE VOLUNTEERS**

Thanks to all who volunteer to do the coffee service on Sunday mornings. We love you lots! And we need more of you!!! (Sign up sheet is in Collins Hall near the kitchen. Men can do this too! Ask and someone will show you how!)

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MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

Saturday, April 20
at 9:30 AM in Collins Hall
CCC has a Monthly Prayer Meeting on the third
Saturday of each month. All are welcome!

For the month of April, these Deacons will set up Communion:

Sunday April 7: Pat & Dorene Grace Sunday April 14: Victoria DuBoi

Sunday April 21: Buddy & Debbie Laws Sunday April 28: Buddy & Debbie Laws



Greeter Schedule for April:

Sunday April 7: Rev. Chuck & Nan Schleich

Sunday April 14: Robin Cmiel Sunday April 21: Sepp Markkanen Sunday April 28: Pat & Dorene Grace

GREETINGS!

It has been a few years since we had a dedicated group of folks who were stationed at the front door to greet you, our church family and our visitors.

But, over the last 2 years or so you may have noticed some friendly faces at our front door. To quote Pastor Chris Bauer, "They are the first impression of the church". These wonderful people have an important and often underappreciated responsibility. To give a welcoming smile and a warm handshake. You will find them stationed in the Narthex from about 9:20 A.M. when people begin coming in and until 10:00 A.M. when the service begins with another warm welcome from our music director Jay North. (No not *that Jay North).

I'd like to familiarize you with those folks. Our original team included Everett and Jennifer Hanley, and Patrick Grace. They are now retired from the team, and we are so grateful to have had their consistent service. Thank you, Everett, Jen and Pat!

Our current team members are Pastor Chuck and Nan Schleich, Dorene Grace, Sepp Markkanen, Buddy and Debbie Laws. Our newest team member is Robin Cmiel. A huge thanks to you one and all! You are noticed, appreciated and we are thankful for your service!

If you feel led to become part of this vital team please contact Debbie Laws, our team coordinator.







DEACONS CORNER

The Deacons have been busy working to meet needs this month whether physical, emotional, spiritual or financial.

This time of year can be especially difficult for those who are grieving, and your Deacons are ready to walk with you if you need help navigating through grief whether it is complicated or not. When there is a loss of a family member, friend or a change in a family member's health status it can seem overwhelming. People come to offer help and support in the few difficult, beginning weeks. But in the lonely months that follow, people who are grieving may feel as if their support has all but disappeared. That is where your Deacon can offer emotional and spiritual support. Please, if you are struggling, let your Deacon know, ask for help, call us. You don't have to navigate this by yourself. Additionally we have a list of resources for families and individuals who need emotional, and spiritual support.

And then there are some of the financial burdens we have been able to meet with the help of you, our church family. We recently received a short note of appreciation from a member of our congregation who received help with a \$1.050.00 medical need. The Deacons would like to thank you who helped make this possible.

DEACONS FINANCIAL REPORT

During the month of March the Deacons started with a checkbook balance of \$2,320.80. We paid out a total of \$1,150.00 to cover the costs of various medical and financial needs for different individuals. That left us with a checkbook balance of \$1,903.89. After a few donations, we have a current checkbook balance of \$2,003.89. We thank all who have given so generously! You have made a difference in the lives of many.

CARE AND SHARE MINISTRY

Once again, the Deacons have activated the Care and Share Ministry and have provided meals for various individuals in the church over the last several weeks. The Deacons would like to thank Patty, Victoria, Dorene, Debbie and Caryn for your time and talent that gives families who are struggling with difficulties some much appreciated help.



SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSES

Romans 1:16 – Witnessing
Romans 3:23 – All Have Sinned
Romans 6:23 – Sin's Penalty
Romans 5:18 – Christ Paid the Penalty

SCRIPTURE MEMORY CARDS

Laura Salch has made up some small Scripture Memory Cards with the verses spelled out that we are being encouraged to memorize. See her if you would like some.

HOW TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE: 5 EFFECTIVE TIPS

https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/effective-tips-for-scripture-memorization.html#google_vignette

Use the following steps to aid in memorizing Scripture. These methods are not the only way, or only order to utilize



them in, but simply methods meant to aid us in writing more of God's Word on our hearts than we ever thought possible. It's

amazing how, at just the right moment, a verse I forgot I had even internalized will rush to the front of my mind when I need it!

1. Read/Listen to the Bible

Start by reading a devotional plan, looking up popular verses to memorize ..., and pray daily for God to provide wisdom to know where to start. Reading the Bible can seem overwhelming at first, but when it becomes a daily habit, a supernatural spark is lit. We begin to experience how God connects the Bible to our daily lives, and personally connects with us through it.

Trying different translations of the Bible until a particular version resonates and relates specifically can be helpful. As can audio versions of the Bible and apps which read Scripture aloud to us.

When a passage or verse begins to stand out, or we find a piece of God's truth to help us through a specific struggle we are experiencing, start by reading it several times a day. Pull the complete sentence(s) rather than short fragments of Scripture. Read the text before and after the verse(s) chosen to memorize for context. Knowing who penned that particular piece of Scripture, what they were going through at the time, and who their audience was, can help us solidify the truth we are attempting to memorize.

2. Speak Scripture Aloud

For some it may be awkward to speak Scripture out loud, but it's worth the effort! Speaking God's Word has literal power! Isaiah wrote, "so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). And Paul wrote to the Philippians of the power in speaking Jesus' name!

Take a walk or a bike ride down a trail and repeat the Scripture over and over. Even on a quiet front porch morning, we can whisper or mouth the words, or close our eyes and visualize our voices speaking the verses. Having a small group of people to hold us accountable is very helpful! Even one friend, family member or neighbor who will listen and help hold us to the exact prose aids the process.

One of the ways we care for others is studying God's Word together. Galatians 6:2 reminds us to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

3. Write Out Bible Verses

Grab a journal, a notebook or piece of paper, and write down the specific verse or piece of text every day. If it's a long piece of Scripture, consider writing (and reading and reciting aloud) one verse or one section each day, or for a few days. For longer passages it takes me, personally, a week or so of writing one line or paragraph each day before I have a good handle on it to add more.

When the text is new, copy it word for word or line by line. Then, as the days go by, try to write as much from memory as possible. When finished, look back for mistakes, correct them and re-write them. God honors our daily efforts to internalize His Word, grow closer to Him, and learn more about His character. And the Holy Spirit, present in every believer as gifted to us by Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, aids us in recalling God's Truth.

4. Place Scripture Purposefully

Our daily lives are packed with full calendars and overflowing with busyness. Purposefully placing Biblical passages throughout our daily routines helps the memorization process. We can place these in the car, by the coffee, our bathroom mirrors, or the refrigerator door. Post it in the everyday places that our eyes naturally gaze upon.

Those of us who are creative may enjoy completing adult coloring cards of Bible verses or perhaps crafting our own. We can write out beautiful versions or find plenty of free printables online. Strategically placed reminders throughout our days help us to keep God's Word top of mind. As they become easier to remember, we can pause to recite the verses(s) aloud, eventually without gazing at the reminders. Small steps of obedience can make a big impact when memorizing Scripture.

5. Wear it

Every time my children sign up for an activity or reach a goal, there's a matching t-shirt or piece of memorabilia to commemorate it. Though just physical things, they represent accomplishment, fulfilled commitment, and hard work! The same idea can help us retain Scripture we either have or are attempting to internalize.

Hats, t-shirts, bracelets, bandannas, water bottle stickers — we can find Scripture written on just about anything and everything! If these reminders seem affordable, fun, and helpful, they can't hurt! However, they are not necessary to memorize God's Word. It's just one more way to remind ourselves of the truth we've worked so hard to write on our hearts.

15 SCRIPTURE MEMORY TIPS FROM AWANA CHRISTIAN YOUTH MINISTRY

https://www.awana.org/2015/09/21/15-scripture-memory-tips/

- 1. Create pictures to represent the words of the verse.
- 2. Put the verse to music.
- 3. Give the verse a title: The Good News Verse, The Heaven Verse: The Beginning Verse ...
- 4. Use your camera phone to video your child saying the verse.
- 5. Write out the verse. Cut into pieces (a word to each piece) and have the child put the pieces back together.
- 6. Give each clubber a different word of the Scripture (on a piece of paper) and have them get into order. You could do this with teams and see which team can get into order the quickest. 7. Give each clubber a card with each day of the week marked on the card. Each day that the clubber studies his/her verses for
- 10 minutes or more, the parent signs the card. Completed cards (at the next club meeting) earn a prize or extra points.
- 8. Write out (or enter into the computer) the verses every day for a week.
- 9. Say the verse and skip a word clubbers must tell you which word is missing.
- 10. Make dry-erase boards (old frames with glass work well). Clubbers can make the background picture and use the front of the glass as a dry-erase board.
- 11. Encourage the clubbers to enter their verses on their phones and look at them once an hour or at 4:00 or when a train goes through town or a plane flies overhead.
- 12. Read the verse, emphasizing different words. This works especially with younger children they will actually memorize your tone of voice and your word emphasis which makes it easier for them to memorize.
- 13. Assign a different word to each clubber. Go around the room with each clubber saying her word. Do it faster and faster. Change starting points so clubbers have different words.
- 14. Sit in a circle. Throw a bean bag to a clubber who says the first word of the verse and then throws it to someone else who says the second word, etc.
- 15. Challenge a clubber to teach the verse to an adult.

~ All web links provided by Laura Salch

LIVESTREAM COMMENTS VIA PATTY

Here are some quotes we have received (spelling/punctuation as they appeared):

3/24:

- (first song) I love the jewish tempo of this song.
- All our hope is in Him!!! Jesus Messiah Lord of all!!!
- Beautiful music!
- (Wonderous Cross): What a blessing this song is to me. My first encounter when thousands of men sang this at a Promise Keepers Conference
- Beautiful worship!!
- Praying for All!! (when Pastor Chris said all that need prayer)
- God bless them all! (when Pastor Chris said all of the people that need prayer)
- After sermon: They don't teach this stuff at the churches down the street or across town. Let everything that hath breath, praise the LORD. Ps 150:6
- ◆ Awesome!!!!

3/17:

- Beautiful worship team!!!
- Great harmony. Angels in heaven must sound like that
- May our country become 'Desperate for God"
- (beginning of Donna) WOW!!
- Christian Version of Danny Boy. What a blessing her and the entire worship team are
- Ditto that
- May God save us all from a slow agonizing death.
- May he take us in the twinkling of an eye.
- Crushed for us
- We are blessed by the service and the inspired preaching by Pastor Chris; and you, Patty, make it possible through live-streaming. Have a great week everyone.

3/10:

- (Days of Elijah): One of my favorites
- ME: After Mandy's story "How blessed you are Mandy!"
- ◆ AMEN Mandy
- God is Good
- mandy if you need any thing i can do for you let me know
- thank you
- This is so good!! A sermon to listen to again & pause, really listen & takes notes. As Pastor said in the beginning there is so much debate going on concerning these scriptures.
- DÎTTO
- Thank you Louise & Galen! It's been a great morning!
- Yes it has, Patty!
- ◆ Amen Pastor! "Live in a way that reflects you holy calling" & yes forgive us for being luke warm!
- Notice when we are being luke warm is the biggest thing at least for me
- Yes! Patty! Yes!
- Amen
- I often just don't feel worthy.
- Yes lord Jesus open our eyes and ears to your well
- I get it Galen! Only He is Worthy
- That's where my favorite verse comes into play: Mark 9:24 "I do believe, help my unbelief".
- It is at once a statement of faith and an admission that our faith is far from perfect

3/3:

- Good morning from California. So grateful to worship with all of you today.
- That was awesome with waving of the flag from the balcony.
- Nothing compares to the promise of the cross!!! Nothing!!!
- Praise God for WIHS and the Family Institute of Connecticut
- Fantastic mission statement for WIHS. We need more such Christian Broadcasting
- I do believe, help my unbelief, Mark 9:24
- So many Shepard's today not taking care of their flock. We are so blessed to have Pastor Chris whom is a true Shepard looking out for his flock in bringing us truth of Gods word! (I replied that I've been hearing this alot)
- Amen Patty!!! & preach the truth of the Bible & not take it out of context as Pastor has said
- God Doesn't Whisper by Jim Osman opened my eyes about the difference between exegetical and eisegetical preaching. It's a very informing book.
- Beautiful Rachel & Ashley! Such unison with this closing song!



For those that may have heard Pastor Chris, or if you missed the Roundtable, the Elders gave approval to switch from Servant Keeper to ChurchTrac. From what I've been able to see, it's much easier than Servant Keeper in many ways. The goal of ChurchTrac is to be everything a church needs in one software company. It was founded, maintained by pastors.

Some of the features are 3 different types of messaging: email, text, and voice. Voice messaging will allow us to leave a voice message on your landline phone for those that don't receive text messages. The online giving looks easier, and every time I've had a question their support has answered within 30 minutes.

As I learn more about this software, I will put more information in the newsletter. There is a member portal that will allow you to update any of your information and see your contribution statements also! When I am ready I will offer time to meet with anyone, or small groups at a time - features and how to use this new software. Let me know if you are interested to know more and we can set something up.

Oh yeah, it's almost half the price of Servant Keeper. ~ Patty Bauer







EVENTS

(NOTE: Please see weekly bulletins and church emails for cancellations or updates to date, time, and/or location.)

HEALING PRAYER WEEKLY MEETING

Tuesdays, 7:00 PM at Debbie & Buddy Laws' home. See pg. 2.

"WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT?"

Sermon discussion meeting - At CCC or via ZOOM Wednesdays, 7:00 PM. See pg. 2.

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#### **EXALT TEAM MEETING**

Sunday, April 7, after the service, in Conf. Room.

#### **FAMILY GAME DAY**

Saturday, April 13, after the service, in Collins Hall See pg. 1.

### **DEACONS MEETING**

Sunday, April 14, after the service, in Room 4.

#### MAKE DISCIPLES TEAM MEETING

Sunday, April 14, after the service.

#### MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING

Saturday, April 20 9:30 AM in Collins Hall. See pg. 3.

MISSIONS TEAM MEETING

Sunday, April 21, after the service. See Rachel Salch.

#### PROCLAIM TEAM MEETING

Sunday, April 21, after the service, in Room 4.

#### **MEN'S DINNER FELLOWSHIP**



Thursday, April 25, 6:00 PM. *NEW LOCATION!* See pg. 2.

## "MORE THAN WEEDS" CLASS

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 AM. in Collins Hall. See pg. 5.

#### PASTOR'S ROUNDTABLE



Sunday, April 28 after the service in Collins Hall **LADIES' LUNCHEON** 



Saturday, May 13, in Collins Hall. Info to follow.

## **CCC TEA PARTY**



Saturday, June 8, in Collins Hall. Info to follow.



Celebrating the day God blessed the world with YOU!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS
Annie Lord, April 4
Andrew Papacoda, April 10
Margaret Lavoie, April 16
Rex Manensmith April 26
Jennifer Hanley, April 27
John Kulick, April 29
Maureen Sand, April 29



MAY BIRTHDAYS
Brian Sikorski, May
Shirley Zimmerman, May 1
Buddy Laws, May 2
Laurie Crowley, May 5
Marylou Dickinson, May 6
Victoria Dubois, May 16
Bob Dubois, May 19

Birthday blessings to everyone!
Please let me know if your birthday is not
on this list or is incorrect and I'll fix it. You don't need to
be a CCC member to be celebrated! ~Rose

This newsletter is for the express purpose informing and edifying the church body.

We reserve the right to edit submissions.



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In case we need to cancel services or events at CCC, due to inclement weather or other wise, please check:

CCC BULK TEXT: If we have your cell number.

FACEBOOK: Christ Community Church CT

CCC WEBSITE: www.christcommunitychurchct.org

WTIC-AM Radio: 1080 on the AM dial.

You can also check online at wtic.radio.com/storm-centerschool-closings

WFSB-TV, channels 3 and 30: The information scrolls continuously at the bottom of the screen.

a can also check online: www.wfsb.com/weather/closing

You can also check online: www.wfsb.com/weather/closings/ Please do not call Pastor Chris or Patty Bauer at home to check on possible cancellations!