



Higher Ground

Some Assembly Required

Winchester Center Congregational Church, P.O. Box 200,
Winchester Center, CT 06094

September/October 2020

Staff

Pastor
Jackie Hall

Church Secretary
Holly Martin

Church Sexton
Bill Wellnitz

Choir Director
Gretchen Gowen

Sept/Oct



In This Issue

Note from the Pastor	1&2
Outdoor Service Policy	2&3
Missions	4
Thank you's	5
Events & Happenings	6

A Note From Your Pastor

Hi Everyone,

How are you all doing? It has been a crazy year. Nothing is like it used to be and some of that might be a good thing. Good loving white folk are listening and learning about the different experiences and lives that our sisters and brothers of color have been living here in the United States. We are seeing climate change wreak havoc with wildfires in the west and amazing storms and flooding on our Gulf Coast. All of that in an election year like no other in the midst of a global pandemic (the likes of which have not been seen in over 100 years). I am thankful that Connecticut has been generally cautious during all of this but it sure is a lot to take in and process over and above the usual ups and downs of life.

I am glad that we have been able to worship on the Green and online together this summer. But as fall approaches I just wanted to let you all know what has been happening behind the scenes. We have continued to take groceries down to the Salvation Army Food Bank EVERY week since the pandemic began. We got a little light mid-August (only one bag) but I am still finding food by the church door on Fridays which is so wonderful when it is so needed.

Our Treasurer, Jody Pillar, as some of you may know, has resigned, retired, and she and Marty plan to live in Florida full time. Both of their children live there as well as all their grandchildren so we wish them the best. We will miss them terribly. They have been such an integral part of our church family volunteering at our events, keeping the finances straight, and Marty volunteering and keeping our old furnace going for as long as he did. One of my favorite memories was Marty power washing the front portico, "Because it needed it." Jody's position will be taken over by Pam Stenman as bookkeeper and Evan Vold as Treasurer. I am certain that they will keep us straight.

Our team met last week to discuss bringing worship inside. At this point, most of the group want to stay outside as long as we can. We are looking toward the end of October for coming back inside. We will be sending out a very short survey to hear your views on coming inside. We are also watching and listening to our neighboring churches experiences and to the schools. If the schools close again...we will also.

Lastly, we hope to put together Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. They will be used to help with the disasters mentioned earlier. We will do it safely with two items per table, out on the green, and everyone wearing masks and taking turns 6 feet apart.

Like I said, It is a crazy year but our faith in Jesus tells us that even in this crazy time (maybe even especially in this crazy time), we need to take care of each other—those we know and those we don't know.

Blessings,

Jackie

Come Join us for Worship on the Green



If you are comfortable, please come,
Bring your own blanket, chair, food, coffee
We will worship (physically distant) together.

If you are uncomfortable, don't worry,
We will still bring you worship online.

WCCC Outdoor Services Policy

Our team has come together, using CDC, State, and Denominational guidelines to establish our own guidelines for a no-contact, touch-free worship service for Winchester Center Congregational Church. Depending on the number of cases in our town, we may have to go back online only for a time. As mentioned before, your safety and the safety of your loved ones is our first priority. As we progress by adding outdoor worship in addition to our online service, and moving forward to service in the sanctuary in the future, we ask that you please follow the CDC guidelines of washing hands often for 20 seconds, social distancing 6 feet, and staying home if you are sick or in a high risk category. We will continue to record and have available worship to those not able or ready to attend in person service.

For questionable weather, check our Facebook page or call the church directly at (860) 379-8900.

To be as touch-free as possible, we are advocating a "Bring Your Own" policy. We ask that you please bring your own chair, water, hand sanitizer, snacks and Bible. (Please let us know if you do not have a Bible. We will furnish you with a Bible to take home) Communion will also have to be "Bring Your Own".

- Masks will be required. A limited number of masks will be available if you need one. Pastor Jackie Hall may remove her mask for worship if distanced more than 12 feet from parishioners.
- Families may sit together distanced a minimum of 8 feet from other families or parishioners. Distance and spacing guidelines will be provided.
- Children must sit with parent or guardian at all times. There will be no Sunday School but a children's message for all children of God will continue to be a part of the service. (children will remain seated with family)
- Bulletins will be provided via email prior to the worship service. A limited number of bulletins will be available in a basket for those with no internet access.
- There will be no singing due to the spread of droplets. Music will be provided by organist Gretchen Gowen, and/or solo musicians.
- Offerings should be inserted in the collection jar or mailed to WCCC, PO Box 200, Winchester Center, Ct 06094
- The bathrooms will not be open to the public (CDC requires cleaning between each use) so we ask that you use your home facilities prior to coming to the church.
- Please do not enter the church building unless absolutely necessary.

By attending worship on the Green, you are agreeing to these guidelines and to notifying us in the event that you contract the Covid-19 virus.

The Church is not the building. It is the people who come together to be the body of Christ.

For more safety information here is a link - <https://www.sneucc.org/phasingforward>

MISSIONS

We will continue to collect items for the Salvation Army please bring to church on Friday's by noon. Items needed are: Personal care products such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste, etc... They also could use laundry detergent, softener and dish soap. Thank you for being so generous each week.



Personal Hygiene kits

For the month of September we are gathering supplies for hygiene kits for the world church service. These are distributed to those in need after natural disasters and hardships. We will be putting them together at the Sept. 27th service.

Items needed are:

- One hand towel approximately 15"x28"
 - One washcloth
 - One wide-tooth comb
 - One nail clipper
- One bath size bar of soap
- One toothbrush in package
- Ten standard band-Aids



- To the team members who continue to work together to make the reopening of our church as safe as it can be.
- Kyle for letting us use his hotspot.
- Holly for taking out the trash.
- To all who have bought items for the Salvation Army Food Bank and personal care items for the Gathering place.
- Todd and Isaiah for planting flowers in the urns out front
- Al Royer for mowing the lawn and weed wacking
- Chris Battista for always helping to set up on the green for church service
- To all those who help set up and put away the service equipment
- To all who bring tents to shade us when the weather was very hot

