

Dear Members and Friends,

November 2022

The following is an excerpt from a speech made by Brian Dyson, CEO of Coca Cola Enterprises. “Imagine life as a game in which you are juggling some five balls in the air. You name them – work, family, health, friends, and spirit – and you’re keeping all these in the air. You will soon understand that work is a rubber ball. If you drop it, it will bounce back. But the other four balls – family, health, friends, and spirit are made of glass. If you drop one of these, they will be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged, or even shattered. They will never be the same. You must understand that and strive for balance in your life. How?”

Don’t undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. It is because we are different that each of us is special. Don’t set goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you. Don’t take for granted the things closest to your heart. Cling to them as you would your life, for without them, life is meaningless. Don’t let life slip through your fingers by living in the past or for the future. By living your life one day at a time, you live ALL the days of your life.

Don’t give up when you still have something to give. Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying. Don’t be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect. It is this fragile thread that binds us to each other. Don’t be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave. Don’t shut love out of your life by saying it’s impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give; the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly; and the best way to keep love is to give it wings.

Don’t run through life so fast that you forget not only where you’ve been, but also where you are going. Don’t be afraid to learn. Knowledge is weightless, a treasure you can carry easily. Don’t forget that a person’s greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated. Don’t use time or words carelessly. Neither can be retrieved. Life is not a race, but a journey to be savored each step of the way. Yesterday is History; Tomorrow is a Mystery and Today is a gift: that’s why we call it “The Present”.”

As I read this article, I began to realize that even though he pointed out that the game of life is like juggling balls and the most important things are family, friends, health, and spirit, most of what he talked about in the remainder of the article was work oriented. My question to each of us, especially as we approach the holidays is, “How much time and energy are you giving to those elements that are made of glass?” I would also suggest that the order in which he placed them be rearranged. How about – Spirit (our personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ); Family (Wife, Children, Extended family); Friends (Church family as well as others); and Health (our body is the temple of God, are we taking good care of it?).

In regard to the glass balls that may be irrevocably scuffed, marked, nicked, damaged or even shattered the good news is that God forgives, heals, makes new, and restores: He is the God of 2nd, 3rd and 4th chances. There is a real need for all of us to step back, take some inventory, clean out those things that are causing us to drop the glass balls and create some new behaviors that will deepen our walk with God, strengthen our marriages and families, build long lasting relationships with friends, and maintain a healthy body.

This means discipline in our lives, where we begin to take control of our schedules, making time for the things that are important and letting go of the busy work. I hope that, you will discover the joy of the upcoming holidays as you prioritize your life according to the things that are important.

This Thanksgiving make it a point to give thanks to God for His bountiful blessings and take the time to be with family and friends

Pastor Doug

An “Apple Spice and Everything Nice” Thank You!



I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our team of 20+ workers – men and women – who volunteered time and energy to this year’s apple pie fundraiser for the church. Everyone split up to accomplish the washing & peeling of ‘never-ending’ apples, rolling crusts, assembling the pies and adding “sweet spice and everything nice,” and those finishing the pies with special touches, bagging them, adding the baking instructions, organizing and calling people for the finished product pick up. A total of 98 pies were made. Everyone had a “we can do” attitude and we also shared lots of great fellowship from behind our masks and gloves!

We certainly appreciate all who ordered pies and supported this effort. We hope you enjoy your pies for the holidays, unless of course, you already ate them! My heartfelt thanks you to all!

Sue Van Veldhuisen

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021

7:00 p.m.

For the first time in 3 years, we will be joining with the other Cromwell Churches for our annual Community Thanksgiving Service at St. John R. C. Church. Our guest speaker is Rev. David Guertin who is one of the chaplains at Covenant Living.

If there was ever a need for the family of God, the Body of Christ to gather together, it is now. Despite all that is going on, the war in Ukraine, the devastation in Florida, the political turmoil in our own nation, we as God’s people can be thankful that God is still God, He is still sovereign, and he is in control. This is a wonderful opportunity to take the time and give Him praise. There will be a special offering received that will go towards helping the needy families in our community.

We will also be collecting non-perishable food for the food bank. Come and bring the whole family for this time of thanksgiving.

COLONIAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 9:30 a.m.

Over the last few years, fewer and fewer people have been dressing up for the Colonial Service. So, this year, the service will be a little bit different. We will still do some of the colonial service, but we want the focus to really be on giving thanks to God for everything. We will not be dressing up this year.

SAVE THESE DATES – Upcoming 2022 CHURCH EVENTS

Weds. 11/02/22 (12:00 PM) Women's Daytime Fellowship luncheon

Saturday 11/05/22 (9:00 - 3:00) Church Fair: Bake Sale, Basket Raffle, Lunch Counter, Vendors



Saturday 11/12/22 (8:00 AM) Men's breakfast at Mitchell's

Sunday 11/20/22 (9:30 AM) Colonial Sunday Church Service
(No need to dress in colonial attire)



Tuesday 11/22/22 (7:00 PM) Cromwell Community Thanksgiving Service at St. John's

Saturday 11/26/22 (8:30 AM) Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas

Sunday 11/27/22 (9:30 AM) Angel Tree tags can be picked up



Sunday 11/27/22 (4:00 PM) Serve dinner at St. Vincent DePaul soup kitchen, Middletown

Saturday 12/10/22 (9:00 AM – 1 PM) Second Annual Holiday Bake Sale/Cookie Walk

Sunday 12/11/22 (9:30 AM) Angel Tree gifts due



Saturday 12/24/22 (4:00 PM) Christmas Eve service



(No 11 PM Service)

Sunday 12/25/22 (9:30 AM) Christmas Day - Regular Sunday Service

GIFT CARDS
FOR
THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

One of the things that we are able to do as a church is bless others through special gifts that have been donated by individuals and groups to help those in need. In the past during the holidays, we have been able to provide gift cards to families and individuals who have either been struggling financially or are in dire need of help. It is not our intention to duplicate what the town is able to provide, but to give to those who may not qualify, but are in need. All names are held in confidence. If you know of someone who could benefit from this, please call Pastor Doug in the next couple weeks. They do not need to be a member of our church.

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022

9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

First Congregational Church

355 Main Street, Cromwell

Hundreds of favorite cookies sold by the pound

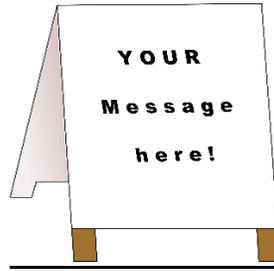
Pies, Breads, Brownies, Cakes, Muffins, too

Gluten-Free and Sugar-Free items available

Parking available in lot 2 houses north of the church

LET US DO YOUR HOLIDAY BAKING FOR YOU





How do you find out what's going on in town? It used to be that there was an article in the paper, there were signs in store windows, or an announcement appeared in a newsletter. This year, we handed out small 'upcoming events' flyers to people who stopped by the antique and tag sales as well as those who attended our October Military Whist. Our social hall bulletin boards also had flyers posted. Thanks to Nancy Clayton and the other helpers who made this happen!

Our Publicity team is still looking for help for these roles:



1) We need someone to handle the items going to the newspapers (Rare Reminder, Middletown Press, Chronicle, Cromwell Life, etc.).

2) Help is needed with creating flyers and with making/reviewing updates to the website. No technical experience required; we have a company which does the actual site work.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or to volunteer.

Elaine Jones

Publicity Chair/Website Coordinator/Member at Large

Board of Christian Education

The CE Board and Sunday School teachers planned and presented a Free Spaghetti supper on October 15th. This was not just for the congregation, but for the public. Even though publicizing was limited, there was over fifty people in attendance, and we handled six take out orders. It was noted that congregation members were greeting and socializing with the several people attending that were not members of our congregation. It was and was meant to be simply a social event.

The CE Board and Sunday School teachers would like to express their deep appreciation to who helped with finger food desserts and those who pitched in to help serve and cleanup. God has blessed this church with a congregation full of team players who so many times help keep us going.



Thank You! Thank You!

Joyce Norman and Nancy Clayton wish to thank all who supplied raffle prizes, door prizes, sandwiches, and baked goods for the October 6th Military Whist.

News from the Basement

Our tag sale on October 1 was a great success. Thanks to all of you who donated, volunteered, and cleaned up! We couldn't have done it without all of you.

The donation bins are ready to receive items again, please read the NEW guidelines before you bring in your donations. Taking stock on what sold (and what DIDN'T) we are no longer accepting these: clothing (except vintage), CD's, DVD's, VHS tapes, cassettes, electronic equipment, furniture, **NON-fiction** adult books. We are still taking all types of children's books.

There is a sign posted on the wall over the bins if you need a reminder.

Help is always needed for this committee, if you would like to join the fun, we will meet again in the beginning of 2023 and make plans for next year. We do sort, clean and price year round, so there's always something to do. Please give the office or Jean or Karen your email and we will add you to the list.

Missions

October was a 'missions' filled month here at the church. On October 9th over 25 men from Pivot Ministries shared with us both in song and testimony throughout the service followed by a potluck dinner. We were able to provide them with a love offering as well.

Carol Culbertson joined us during the October 16th service and shared a moving story of how one of the gatherings of the students which was held at their home miraculously changed the life of an attendee in a truly remarkable way. A love offering was collected which we asked her to use to help cover the costs of repairs needed to their home as a result of Hurricane Ian.

Servers and cooks are needed to help with our way of giving back at St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen on November 27th. Sign-up sheets will be found in the Fellowship Hall during the month of November. If you have questions, please see Keith/Jody Blanar or Nancy Clayton for details.

In His Service,

Rob Foberg & Jody Blanar



NUTMEG FAIR

NOVEMBER 5, 2022

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

VENDORS

BASKET RAFFLE

BAKE SALE

SNACK BAR W/TAKE OUT

Come join the fun and help make the Nutmeg Fair a success! Volunteers needed for set-up, take-down, and throughout the day of the fair. Sign up at coffee hour to offer your assistance.

Historical Bits



November 20, 2022 is Colonial Sunday. The photo above (Cromwell Grenadiers and Pastor Doug) is from 2009, one of many taken during a reenactment of our colonial services. We take time each year during November to remember our beginnings and hold a service that reflects portions of our history. It's interesting to see some of the ways our forefathers worshiped through the years. Please invite family and friends to join us for this special historical service. We can be thankful that Pastor Doug doesn't actually lead us in a 3-hour service, as they did during the 1700's. Feel free to bring a tithe from your farm's bountiful harvest, produce, livestock, etc. to help feed the pastor's family through the long New England winter. 😊

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

1. The church phone # is 860-635-4806.
2. The church fax # is 860-635-4246.
3. The Church E-mail address is fcchurch01@snet.net
4. The Pastor's day off is Wednesday.
5. Church website is www.fcccromwell.org
6. The office hours are:
Mon.-Thurs. 9-2 PM
The secretary is off on Friday.
7. The church address:
P.O. Box 156, Cromwell, CT 06416
8. Facebook, find us listed at [First Congregational Church Cromwell](#)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board will meet on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. to hear reports from the different boards, review the church budget, and discuss any new business of the church. The Board members are either the Chairman or alternate of each board, Church Treasurer, Church Clerk and two Members at Large. The Members at Large are to represent the church as a whole and are available to you, the congregation, to talk with about any concerns that you feel need to be addressed within the church, to express your opinion about any issues, or to share with them how you feel things are within the church, both the positive and negative.



Ladies Daytime Fellowship Luncheon

Ladies Daytime Fellowship Luncheon will meet on Wednesday, November 2nd at noon. All are welcome, bring your own lunch and drink. Please don't forget the baby items. Wearing masks and physical distancing is optional.

FLOWER SCHEDULE

- 11/06 – Cliff and Ginny Pierson
- 11/13 – Renate Varricchio
- 11/20 – RoseMary Frederick
- 11/27 – **Open Flower Date**

There are open flower dates on December 11th and 18th

**MEN'S BREAKFAST ON
NOVEMBER 12TH
8:00 A.M. AT MITCHELL'S
ON MAIN**



**REMEMBER TO TURN
BACK YOUR CLOCKS
ON SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 5TH!**



**DECORATING THE
SANCTUARY FOR CHRISTMAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26
8:30 a.m.**

We will be meeting in the church Sanctuary to put up the Christmas decorations. If you can help us, it would be greatly appreciated.



Christmas will be approaching us soon. This year when writing your cards; please take a moment to remember our Missionaries with a Christmas card and encourage them during this special time of the year. Below is a list of our Missionaries:

Alex and Laura Crum (Gabriel, Carolyn, Bethany, Micah and Peter)
706 Adams Drive
Duncanville TX 75137

Gary and Carol Culbertson (Roy)
13522 Lake Mary Jane Road
Orlando, FL 32832

Sjaan Waller
104 Skyline Circle
Heath, TX 75032-6612

Pivot Ministries
Rev. Richard Williams
485 Jane Street
Bridgeport, CT 06608

Hoving Home
P.O. Box 194
40 Walter Hoving Road
Garrison, NY 10524

Alpha Ministries
Larry Meyer
52 Martin Drive
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

CT Radio Fellowship (WIHS)
1933 South Main Street
Middletown, CT 060457

St. Vincent DePaul Place
617 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457



On November 27th we will again have an Angel Tree in our sanctuary, a Christmas tree filled with tags of people who could use a special blessing from you this Christmas. This year, there will be no names, just age and gender of each family member, and a suggestion of what they are wishing for this year. We ask that you try to keep your gift(s) to about \$25.00 - \$30, so they will be equal in value among family members. Children do notice if their sibling receives a bicycle, and they get a pair of mittens. The tag **MUST** be returned with your gift, in order that they are delivered to the right person.

The gifts will need to be brought to church on **Sunday, December 11th**. We hope you will participate in this opportunity to bless a less fortunate family in our community.



Cancellations Due to Storms!

In case of bad weather, Pastor Doug will contact NBC Connecticut and WFSB Channel 3 and inform them of a cancellation. Please watch your TV or check on their apps for closure info.

The following iHeartmedia radio stations will also broadcast closure info:

FM stations: 92.5, 95.7, 105.9
AM stations: 1410

Hopefully, we will have a mild winter and no cancellations.

God Bless,
The Church Office

Please return or mail your order to the church office or place it in the offering plate in an envelope (with payment).

I would like to order:

- ___ Red poinsettia(s)
- ___ White poinsettia(s)
- ___ Pink poinsettia(s)

Given by:

In (memory or honor) of:

The cost is \$12.50 per plant. (The plants are in a wrapped 6-1/2" pot and are 12"-15" high with 5-7 flowers.)

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING IS Nov. 28, 2022

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For office use: Amount Paid \$____, Check #____/Cash _____ Envelope # _____

Deacons' Corner

The Deacons continue to work with Pastor Doug on the organization and structure of our Sunday worship service, including the technology involved in using Facebook and YouTube. We would like to thank the people who are assisting us in dealing with the technological issues that have arisen. When we have established stability, we will be surveying the congregation for their input on our service structure.

Colonial Sunday is November 20th, and the Deacons are looking at some ideas for that service. The ecumenical Community Thanksgiving service will be at St. John's church on November 22nd.

The Deacons have decided to continue with the tradition of only one service on Christmas Eve when Christmas day falls on a Sunday. Therefore, the Christmas Eve service will be at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and the Christmas Sunday service will be at the usual time, 9:30 a.m.

The Deacons would like to wish each and every one of you a blessed Thanksgiving as you pause to reflect on the many things for which we are grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

RoseMary Frederick

PLEASE CHECK ALL DOORS WHEN LEAVING THE BUILDING

Over the last few months, we have been having a problem of exterior doors being left ajar and unlocked, leaving the church open for anyone to walk in without us being aware that they're inside.

Because of this we are asking all members and friends when they are here at the church for any reason, to take an extra two minutes and check all the church doors when they leave. Even if you have not been in the basement of the church, please take a moment to make sure that those doors are also securely closed and locked.

Also, all inside doors between different sections of the building should be shut to keep our heating costs down and to prevent the spread of fire, in the unlikely event that a fire starts.

Thank you for your willingness to help us secure the building.



November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Coffee and Fellowship 11:00am All Board Meeting	31  10:00am Bible Study	1 3:00pm Zoom Bible Study	2 12:00pm Ladies Daytime Fellowship Luncheon 6:30pm Prayer Time	3	4 Set up for Nutmeg Fair	5 9:00am Nutmeg Fair
6 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Coffee and Fellowship	7 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Deacon Board Meeting	8 3:00pm Zoom Bible Study	9 6:30pm Prayer Time	10	11 	12 8:00am Men's Breakfast at Mitchell's on Main
13 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Coffee and Fellowship	14 10:00am Bible Study 11:15am Finance and Property Board	15 3:00pm Zoom Bible Study	16 6:30pm Prayer Time	17 7:00pm Executive Board Meeting	18	19
20 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Coffee and Fellowship	21 10:00am Bible Study	22  3:00pm Zoom Bible Study 7:00pm Community Thanksgiving Service at St. John	23 6:30pm Prayer Time	24 	25	26  8:30am Decorating the Sanctuary
27 9:30am Worship Service 10:30am Coffee and Fellowship 4:00pm St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen	28 10:00am Bible Study	29 3:00pm Zoom Bible Study	30 6:30pm Prayer Time	1	2	3

Monday 6:30 p.m. Overeaters Anonymous

Monday – Friday Noon AA Meeting

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday – 7:00 a.m. AA Meeting