



CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, NEWINGTON, CT

# Belfry Echoes

## EASTER 2024



**WE ARE AN OPEN AND  
AFFIRMING CONGREGATION**

**Worship Service |**  
Every Sunday at 10:00 am

**Communion Service |**  
1st Sunday each month



**Like us on Facebook**



**The Youth along with Tobey making pancakes at our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner.**

Rev. Melanie Enfield, **Senior Pastor**  
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Tobey Aubert, **Program & Outreach Coordinator**  
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# A MESSAGE FROM TOBEY

*"My beloved speaks and says to me:  
"Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away,  
for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come  
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."  
Song of Songs 2:10-12*



March brings with it a hope-filled change. The holding pattern of winter with cold gray skies, bare trees, and the occasional snow day slowly gives way to sunshine, splashes of green, and bulbs raising their first shoots promising future flowers. The stillness of winter is replaced with the ever-increasing number of melodies from songbirds and the cooing of doves. On my windowsill there are mourning doves bringing their own soft, steady, wakeup call with the dawn. Hope springs again in tired hearts.

But how does hope spring up again in a world filled with ongoing disappointments and pain? Song of Songs is not an often-quoted passage of Scripture. In it, we read the words spoken to one who is loved dearly. The call is to move...to "come away" from winter rains to flowers and singing. It is the call to find hope as one who is loved completely. Hope springs from loving acceptance. Paul Tillich refers to faith as the courage to accept acceptance. Hope can feel risky in the face of a winter of sadness and instability. What if the voice of God is calling to each of us in this new season saying, "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." Will we risk accepting the loving acceptance of the God who is love? Will we trust in God's love to accept us as we are, with our fears, our pride, and our doubts? Will we allow God's bountiful love to wake us up with its soft, steady call to our hearts? "Hope again" ...for your family. "Hope again" ... for your community. "Hope again" ...for your heart to find rest and strength. A pause may be all it takes for hope to begin to grow. Perhaps a breath in and out, opening our hearts to the God who is still speaking. "Arise, my love... Hope again..."

All is Grace,

Tobey Aubert  
Program and Outreach Coordinator  
He/Him

## FAMILY FIRST FRIDAY

Would you like to experience active faith and community with your children in a setting that is both sacred and fun? How about getting to know other families in a relaxed setting without the rush of Sunday morning? Our Family First Friday service is on **April 5th, 2024, at 6:00 pm**. It is a worship service designed to be easy and accessible for families. We will sing songs, read stories, say prayers and learn a lesson from Scripture all in a fun kid-oriented way - hand motions and percussion instruments included!



## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY



Sunday, **April 28th** | 10AM

## THE FOOD THAT BUILT NEWINGTON

*An Evening of History*  
by Jon Tinkham



**Thursday, April 25, 2024 | 7PM**  
All are welcome!

# Holy Week SERVICES



## PALM SUNDAY

Service featuring a Palm Parade  
(Meet in Fellowship Hall at  
9:55am to join the parade.)

**Sunday, March 24th | 10AM**



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

A dramatic presentation of the Passion  
along with Communion.

**Thursday, March 28th | 7PM**



## GOOD FRIDAY

A reflective service to give  
pause to remember the events  
around the crucifixion.

**Friday, March 29th | 7PM**



## SUNRISE SERVICE

Indian Hill Golf Course  
111 Golf Street, Newington, CT

**Sunday, March 31st | 6:30AM**



## EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE

Two services filled with glorious music with trumpet, trombones & timpani.  
Sermon: *"The Promise of Easter: New Life"* by Rev. Melanie Enfield

**Sunday, March 31st | 6:30AM**



## CAMP HISPANIOLA MISSION FUNDRAISERS



### BAKE SALE

Calling all Bakers and those who love baked goods - Bake Sale Sunday March 24 in Fellowship Hall after worship. Please sign up to bake in the narthex or email [jniedz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jniedz@sbcglobal.net). Please come and shop on Sunday March 24.

### WANTED! THE BEST CHILI

If you love making chili and you would like to compete in the Church Chili Cookoff on Sunday, April 14th Please contact Liz Palaia at [ekpalaia@att.net](mailto:ekpalaia@att.net) or sign-up in the church narthex no later than Sunday April 7th.

### CHURCH CHILI COOKOFF

**Sunday, April 14th | 4:00pm | Fellowship Hall**

\$10.00 Suggested Donation

Please join us for a Chili Cookoff on Sunday, April 14th at 4:00pm in Fellowship Hall. One of the Hottest events of the year! Whether you want to cook and compete or just want to eat, you're gonna have a whole lot of fun! All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support Camp Hispaniola in Haiti.

