

Dear Friends,

Historian Daniel Boorstin documents a momentous shift that occurred in North America in the nineteenth century: we stopped calling people who went on trips travelers and started calling them tourists. I have always been interested in words and their origins and how they evolve. So when I read this I must ask myself, "What is the difference between the word 'traveler' and 'tourist'?"

Traveler literally means "one who travails." A traveler - a travailer - labors, suffers and endures to immerse himself in a culture different than his own. A traveler learns the language and customs of this foreign land, lives with the locals, imitates the dress, eats what everyone else eats. There are risks and sacrifices, some small and some big. But above all, the traveler allows the culture to change him forever. Someone who travels is a disciple; a student.

A *tourist*, not so. Tourist means, literally, "one who goes in circles." The tourist is just taking an exotic detour home. The tourist only passes through, sampling wares, acquiring souvenirs. He tastes more than eats what's put before him. The tourist retreats each night to what's safe and familiar. The tourist picks up a word here, a phrase there, but the language, and the world it's embedded in, remains opaque and cryptic, and vaguely menacing. The tourist spectates and consumes. The tourist returns to where he comes from with an album of photos, a few mementos, a cheap hat. He is happy to be back. He declares there's no place like home.

This is a distinction we can make in the Christian Church and I am referring to the world-wide church universal. There are two types of Christian; the disciple and the believer.

The disciple is one who follows and imitates Jesus. She loses her life in order to find it. She steepes in the language and culture of Christ until his Word and his world reshapes hers, redefines her, changes inside and out how she sees and thinks and dreams and, finally, lives.

The believer holds certain beliefs, but how deep down these go depends on the weather or her mood. She can get defensive about her beliefs, but in her honest moments she realizes they are more rationales for how she has lived than what she truly is.

You can't be a disciple without being a believer. But—here's the rub—you can be a believer and not a disciple. The kingdom of God is made up of travelers, but our churches are largely populated with tourists. The kingdom is full of disciples, but our churches are filled with believers.

We open our hearts and our lives to God.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bart



UCC Annual Fellowship Dues

Fellowship dues consist of two parts:

- **Association dues** - cover the cost of Association programs and services. Each Association sets its own dues.
- **Conference dues** - contribute to the cost of Conference services and programs, including the regionally deployed ministers and staff. Fellowship dues accounts for approximately ½ of the total financial support for the Conference. The Conference portion of the fellowship dues is set by the annual meeting of the Conference.

This year the UCC fellowship dues have gone up to \$20 per member for calendar year 2017. We ask that you help defray the cost that the UCC bills the church by paying the membership fee.

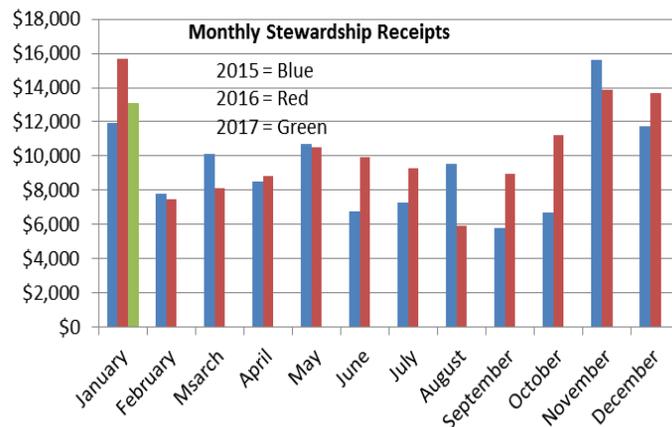
Stewardship Update

Perhaps you have wondered how Stewardship receipts fare during the year. The answer is shown on the chart below. Note that November, December and January dominate with receipts during this three-month period averaging \$13,100 (2015) and \$14,400 (2016).

One contributor to the disparity of monthly receipts is the annual pledge drive that opens in November and brings a smattering of paid-up pledges.

December and January bring a renewed focus on fulfillment of Stewardship pledges. The doldrums of Stewardship occur from February through October where monthly receipts rarely exceed \$10,000.

On an annual basis, the average monthly Stewardship receipt was nearly \$9400 for 2015 and \$10,300 for 2016. With Stewardship, fundraisers, rentals and other contributors added to the budget, results show net deficits for 2015 and 2016 of \$20,900 and \$14,700, respectively.



Youth Group Valentine's Bake Sale



The Youth Group had their annual Valentine's bake sale on Sunday, February 12th at coffee hour. There was a wide variety of treats for sale—including fresh bread from the Putnams! Even though there was a snow storm going on the youth group still made over \$200! Their plan is to help the local animal shelter with the money that they raised. Thank you to everyone who made the bake sale possible!

Prayer Shawls

Baystate Noble Hospital is looking for donations of prayer shawls for their patients. If you are interested in donating a shawl please contact the church office. If you do not knit or crochet we are looking for donations of yarn. Please drop off any yarn at the church office.



Southwick Congregational Church's

Historical corner

Happy Valentine's Day fellow members,

In our church, there are quite a few treasures in the building all the way down the pews we sit in each Sunday. One of my earliest memories from when I would visit my grandma is the choir member's robes! The physical objects that make up the church today are much different than the furniture the church started out with back in the 1700's.

On July 1, 1794 during Reverend Clinton's tenure (after he had instituted many of the new traditions to the worship service) the town agreed to purchase the used pieces from another Meetinghouse in Windsor, CT. These pieces consisted of a pulpit, canopy and deacon seat, 23 pews and 2 seats, 6 pillars, 2 pairs of gallery stairs, a pulpit window, and gallery breastwork. The total cost of these pieces was 17 pounds (£) 10 shillings. This equates to approximately \$60.00. The Southwick Congregational Church History notes that this purchase of updated furniture was the only renovation the first meetinghouse (at the corner of Bugbee road) would see for 30 years.

At the time of these renovations the church and its members had a very prosperous time. Reverend Clinton would see great success for several years. At the turn of the century (1800) the church and its members would start to endure many struggles. That'll be the focus of my next article.



Lent Bible Study

Join Pastor Bart for this year's annual Lenten Bible Study. Evening classes will take place on Sunday evening from 7-8 PM beginning on Sunday, March 5th. Morning classes will take place on Tuesdays from 11 AM till 12 PM beginning on Tuesday, March 7th. If you are interested in attending either class please contact the church office to sign up.

Happy March Birthday

Lynn Coach

March 7

Florence Warriner

March 19

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Open 9-1 Cub Scouts 6:30 Voice 7 PM <i>Ash Wednesday Service 6:30</i>	2 Office Open 9-1 Midweek Service 6:30 PM	3 Office Open 9-1 Henrietta's Open OA Meeting 6-7 AA Meeting 7:30 Girl Scouts Sock Hop 6-9	4 Henrietta's Open Police Assoc. Dinner 4-7 PM
5 Communion Service 10 AM Coffee Hour 11 OA 3:30 PM <i>Lent Bible Study Begins 7-8 PM</i>	6 Office Open 9-1 Music Together 10 AM	7 Office Open 9-1 <i>Morning Lent Bible Study Begins 11-12 AM</i> Boy Scouts 6:30 Bells 6:30 PM	8 Office Open 9-1 Cub Scouts 6:30 Voice Rehearsal 7 PM	9 Office Open 9-1 Midweek Service 6:30 PM All-Church Mtg. 8 PM (Deacons)	10 Office Open 9-1 Henrietta's Open OA Meeting 6-7 AA Meeting 7:30	11 <i>Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner 6 PM</i>
12 Worship Service 10 AM Yth. Group 10:15 Coffee Hour 11 OA 3:30 PM <i>Bible Study 7-8</i>	13 Office Open 9-1 Music Together 10 AM	14 Office Open 9-1 <i>Bible Study 11-12 AM</i> Boy Scouts 6:30 Bells 6:30 PM	15 Office Open 9-1 Cub Scouts 6:30 Voice Rehearsal 7 PM	16 Office Open 9-1 Midweek Service 6:30 PM	17 Office Open 9-1 Henrietta's Open OA Meeting 6-7 AA Meeting 7:30	18 Henrietta's Open
19 Worship Service 10 AM Coffee Hour 11 OA 3:30 PM <i>Bible Study 7-8</i>	20 Office Open 9-1	21 Office Open <i>Bible Study 11-12 AM</i> Boy Scout 6:30 Bells 6:30 PM American Inn Service 6:30 PM	22 Office Open 9-1 Cub Scouts 6:30 Voice Rehearsal 7 PM	23 Office Open 9-1 Midweek Service 6:30 PM	24 Office Open 9-1 Henrietta's Open OA Meeting 6-7 AA Meeting 7:30	25 Henrietta's Open
26 Worship Service 10 AM Yth. Group 10:15 Coffee Hour 11 OA 3:30 PM <i>Bible Study 7-8</i>	27 Office Open 9-1	28 Office Open 9-1 <i>Bible Study 11-12 AM</i> Boy Scouts 6:30 Bells 6:30 PM	29 Office Open 9-1 Cub Scouts 6:30 Voice Rehearsal 7 PM	30 Office Open 9-1 Midweek Service 6:30 PM	31 Office Open 9-1 Henrietta's Open OA Meeting 6-7 AA Meeting 7:30	

Easter Flowers

If you would like to have an Easter Plant placed in the Church for the Easter Service, please fill in the order form below and return it to the church office by Wednesday, April 12th. Plant prices are as follows:

Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils & Hyacinths - \$10 each
Hydrangeas - \$20 each

Committee Chairs

Memorial Gifts: Karen Brzezinski, 569-6816

Mission Outreach: Patty Banasik, preciousbana@aol.com.

Music: Melanie Nitsch, emnitsch@gmail.com

Nominating & Fundraising: Patti Wood,
pattiperusse@yahoo.com

Church Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Church Office Phone & Fax: 413-569-6362; Pastor's Study: 569-5630

Website: southwickucc.org

Office e-mail: southwickucc@gmail.com

Look for us on Facebook: Southwick Congregational Church UCC

Staff: Minister	Reverend Bart Cochran
Choir Director/Organist	Roberta Kowal
Bell Choir Director	Patti P. Wood
Office Administrator	Lyn Casey
Custodians	Matthew Kowal & Maria Lempke

VOLUME MMXVII No.

Name _____

In memory of _____

Kind of Flower(s) _____

Amount \$ _____

If you prefer to purchase your own flowers, check below and use this form for your memorial information. It must be in the church office by April 12th to appear in the bulletin. Also, if you bring your own flowers, they should be in the sanctuary by April 14th, 2017.

() I prefer to purchase my own flowers.