



The Scroll



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BOO-BOO BUNNIES

Message from Pastor Linda

During the children’s message in our Easter morning worship, I showed the children some boo-boo bunnies I had made for them and asked if someone would tell us what a ‘boo-boo’ is. One little girl bravely raised her hand and described them as red marks you get on your body. Another piped in they sometimes bleed. Several commented that they hurt! When I asked if any of them had a boo-boo right now, the response was overwhelming. They all began talking at once, with half of them starting to roll up their sleeves or pull down their socks to show me! These youngsters were well-acquainted with boo-boos! It goes without saying: pain and stings, tears and sadness afflict all of us from our earliest years. There is no minimum age requirement.



In these past weeks, I’ve been thinking quite a bit about tears and pain and sadness, and in particular: **the sting of death**. I’m sure it has a lot to do with officiating four memorial services in this short span - three of them for long-time, beloved members of Salem. Then two weeks ago, I learned a dear friend of mine suddenly lost her husband of 47 years. I think too, of my mom whose Alzheimer’s advances relentlessly. And of course, through Holy Week, my focus was upon Jesus’ own suffering and death.

Unfortunately, boo-boo bunnies don’t cut it in soothing the sting of death. Death is raw and hard and oh-so-final. And though we all wish it didn’t happen, Death is inevitable. Everybody experiences it. The first part of 1 Corinthians 15:22 puts it bluntly: “In Adam all die.” It *seems* death has the final word. It *seems*, but not so!

Yesterday we celebrated Easter - that miraculous day when Jesus rose from the dead – smashing the gates of hell to Life again. I love the powerful words of the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:55-57, The Message):

Death swallowed by triumphant Life!
Who got the last word, oh, Death?
Oh, Death, who’s afraid of you now?

It was sin that made death so frightening and law-code guilt that gave sin its leverage, its destructive power. But now in a single victorious stroke of Life, all three—sin, guilt, death—are gone, the gift of our Master, Jesus Christ. Thank God!

Yes, we grieve for our world in all its suffering. We grieve for the loss of loved ones dear to us. But we “do not grieve like the rest of humankind, who have no hope.” (1 Thess. 4:13) Because He lives today, now and forever, we have the promise and the hope of heaven where in Revelation 21, we are promised there will be no more tears, suffering, pain. One day there will be no need for boo-boo bunnies!

The beauty and goodness of Easter is **Jesus**. He is the Victor over our greatest enemy: death itself. On this April Fool’s Day, it is the Lord Himself who has the last laugh, the final word and it is LIFE for us.

Happy Eastertide!

This month’s issue of the Scroll is dedicated in honor of our radiant sister-in-Christ, Diane Arlene Hansen, Mar 10, 1956 – Mar 13, 2024. Diane was a long-time member of Salem, serving and loving the church in a multitude of ways. May she rest in peace.



LENTEN LUNCHESES SERVED WITH LOVE

Throughout the six weeks of Lent, our Wednesday Lenten Lunches had a high turnout of guests. It was a welcomed resurrection for our much-loved annual tradition (which, during the pandemic, was on hiatus). Our guests reflected the ecumenical nature and community-mindedness of this special gathering with members of other churches, and our town offices joining us. The last three weeks of our luncheons, we welcomed Rev. Stephanie Nelson, pastor of our neighboring Covenant church, Covenant Church of Thomaston; Rev. David Peters of Roxbury's 1st Congregational Church, and Pastor Linda to lead us in our devotionals. They brought nourishing words for the soul as they spoke to Jesus and this holy season of Lent.



Rev. Stephanie Nelson, Covenant Church of Thomaston
Rev. David Peters, 1st Congregational Church of Roxbury

Robin McHan prepared the soups for all six weeks with others in the church contributing bread and cookies. Diane Swanson and Holly Camp served as Robin's right-and-left handed support crew. Many thanks to the three and to those who helped with the clean-up after.

A Special Bonus: The extra soup, bread and goodies were shared with those in our church who are shut-in or had recent surgery. Nothing so wonderful as sharing the Love!

YOUTH PROGRAM GAINING TRACTION

Slowly but surely, we are seeing our outreach to the youth grow. Our Hangout Haven now has a strong, steadfast core of 6-8 teens coming regularly. What really stands out is they are starting to invite their friends to come join in as well. The past month we added a couple of activities to spice up the afternoon together: making homemade playdoh (who doesn't like warm, supple playdoh in hand!?), dying Easter Eggs, and enjoying our own Easter Egg Hunt.

Saturday Soul Talk has had between 10-20 kids showing up for dinner, games and some 'soul talk.' Last weekend at Soul Talk & Supper, kids enjoyed breakfast burritos/pancakes, had a Snowball Fight (using large marshmallows), and learned about the Passion of Jesus and more.

In addition to Hangout Haven and Soul Talk, a group of us went to Shepaug's recent Talent show to cheer on Paige Palumbo, Tyler Palumbo and Penny Becker. Paige and Tyler both played guitar and sang a solo! Penny led the audience in a cheer song. Talk about confidence! All three did a terrific job performing in front of their peers (whom we all know can be a tough group of critics at times). Bravo to all three!





EASTER SURPRISES



Who doesn't like to be surprised with an Easter treat? It doesn't matter how old you are! This year 11 bags were stuffed full with "Love". We asked and you all responded in abundance! Thank you to everyone who contributed candy, activity books, tissues, baked goods, hand lotion and more for our members who are 'shut-in' at home due to limited mobility or recent surgery/illness. They were thrilled to receive them!

They weren't the only ones who got blessed by the generosity of this church. Candy galore came pouring in for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Over 200 eggs were filled and even then, we had more candy than we knew what to do with!

We shared the overflow of candy with others, giving a large bucket of candy to the Shepaug students who were in SAT testing all day last week, and giving a gargantuan bag of mixed chocolates to the Washington Gang's Care packages for our Troops. It was an especially sweet Easter for young and old alike, and for our troops!

HOLY WEEK IN PICTURES

MAUNDY THURSDAY



GOOD FRIDAY – TENEBRAE SERVICE



EASTER SUNRISE



EASTER



OUR BREAD BOARD FOR COMMUNION



Did you know ... that the Bread Board we use for Communion Bread each month was hand-carved by Sarah Straub's great-grandfather, Henry Baldwin. Henry was a local, well-known farmer who oversaw the Long Mountain farm that had been in the family for over 150 years. This beautiful cutting board was carved as a gift for Sarah's great-great-grandfather, Andrew Baldwin, in the very early 1900's! Imagine the work that went into carving each letter and stippling the border. It is truly a piece of art!

THANK YOU!

Dear Salem Church,

Thank you for the chimes. I appreciate your kindness. Thank you for Pastor Linda spending such great time with Muriel when she needed it.

Muriel only thought the best of everyone.

Sincerely,

Edith C. Johnson

Dear Salem Family ~

Thank you for all of the support that you showed upon the passing of my mother, Muriel. All of the cards and expressions of sympathy were greatly appreciated during this difficult time.

Special thanks to all that were able to attend the wake and/or funeral services. Also, we appreciate all that was done to organize/execute the funeral service on behalf of the church.

Sincerely,

David Golembeski and family

To the "Salem Church,"

Thank you for the two containers of soup and the crystal ornament, and chimes. The service was a great memory for Muriel.

Sincerely,

Edith C Johnson

APRIL CALENDAR

April 5 – Loaves and Fishes, 3:30 pm

April 7 – Worship & Communion, 10:30 – NO Family and Fellowship this month.
- **Congregational Business Meeting**, immediately after Worship

April 1/8/22/29 - Hangout Haven, 2:45-5:30 pm

April 13 – Salem Coffee House, 7:00 pm

April 14/28– Soul Talk & Supper, 5:30 pm

April 17 – Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

April 20 – All-Church Earth Clean-Up, 4:00 pm with pizza following

April 24 – Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Amy Julia Becker	2
Suzanne Drapeau	8
Steve Haas	14
Mary Ann Lundberg	16
Emily Anderson	17
Jaxon Butts	19
Sara Taylor	19
Holly Haas	22
Stephanie Shaw	24
Dawn Belanger	29
Rowan Cannavaro	29
Gavin Dowling	29

APRIL REMEMBRANCES

April 11, 2011 – Pete Locke (Diane Locke's husband)
April 15, 2008 – Rick Rowe (Sue Rowes' husband, and Heather, Beth and Carrie's father)
April 15, 2022 – David Gewanter (Suzanne Drapeau's husband)
April 16, 2017 – Paul Babiyan (Elaine Babiyan's husband)
April 19, 2018 – Allen Butler (Lois Butler's son and Robin McHan's brother)
April 19, 2003 – Ernest Swanson (Diane Swanson's father)
April 27, 2020 – Charlotte Fleet (Jeff and Willy Fleet's mother)
April 28, 2017 – Frank Totten (Alma Fleet's brother)
April 29, 2012 – Danny Straub (Sarah Straub's husband)
April 29, 2020 – David Purcell (Heather Rowe's husband)

Watch for the Monthly Budget Report in our weekly e-newsletter.