



**Saugatuck**  
Congregational Church  
*An open & affirming congregation*

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST** 



## **Water in the Desert**

**April 28, 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*“The faith a movement proclaims doesn't count: what counts is the hope it offers. All heresies are the banner of a reality, an exclusion. Scratch the heresy and you will find the leper. Every battle against heresy wants only this: to keep the leper as he is.” – Umberto Eco, The Name of the Rose*

**PRELUDE** – *Prelude in G Major, BWV 902a* – J.S. Bach

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME** – Rev. Kari Nicewander

**SCOUT SUNDAY AMERICAN FLAG PRESENTATION** – Andy O'Brien

**SUNG SUMMONS** – *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* – Akers

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP** – Alice Callen

One: Who made this beautiful day?

**All: We believe God, the Creator, made this day –**

*\*Please rise, on your feet or in your heart*

One: God made this day so we can rest, and reflect, and enjoy;

**All: God made this day so we can open our eyes and see beauty,**

One: And see pain, and see opportunity,

**All: And see hope.**

One: So let us go into this day with our eyes and hearts wide open,

**All: And let us worship God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN – *In Christ There Is No East or West***

No. 687

## **UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy One, You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not want to see. You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved. Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you—only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. Holy One, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross, as I come to you in a time of silent prayer...**

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

### **\* PASSING THE PEACE**

We invite you to join in a practice of the ancient church by greeting those around you, saying or signaling, “Peace” or “The peace of Christ be with you.”

## **SUNG RESPONSE – *We Are An Easter People* – Light**

**We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song!**

**We are an Easter people and alleluia, alleluia, alleluia is our song!**

## **NEW MEMBER WELCOME**

Josh Berkowsky  
Liang-Fang Chang  
Lindsey Clarke  
Ruby Shih

Sponsor: Michael Hendricks  
Sponsor: John Canning  
Sponsor: Leslie Hand  
Sponsor: Joan Cavanaugh

One: Let us, the members and friends of Saugatuck Congregational Church, express our welcome:

**All: We welcome you with joy in the common life of the church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses to that love in the world.**

**SCRIPTURE** – Acts 8:26-40 – Lindsey Clarke

**SERMON** – *Water in the Desert* – Rev. Kari Nicewander

**ANTHEM** – *We Are the Hands of Christ* – Parker/Raney

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (\*Choosing the name that speaks to you)

**Our Father [\*or Creator or God] who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING\*\***

To make a secure online contribution to Saugatuck Church, text the word “give” to: **860-200-0103**. *Thank you!*

**MUSICAL RESPONSE** – *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* – Medema

**\* CLOSING HYMN** – *Help Us Accept Each Other*

No. 487 (v. 1, 2, 4)

**\* BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** – *God, When I Came into This Life* – Folk Hymns of America, 1938



## **Worship Leaders:**

Rev. Kari Nicewander (she/her)<sup>†</sup>, Interim Pastor  
Liang-Fang Chang (she/her), Director of Music  
Alice Callen (she/her), Liturgist  
Susie Benton (she/her), Song Leader  
Anthony DeLuco (they/them), Song Leader  
Art Schoeller (he/him), Song Leader  
Em Squatrito (they/them), Song Leader

<sup>†</sup> Including pronouns is a way of recognizing and honoring a person's full identity. Pronouns have been added here after consulting with each worship leader.

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**Livecast Production:** Stefan Baer and Mark Mathias

## **Special thanks to:**

- **Boy Scout Troop 36**, for replacing our American flag, which was torn by the wind this winter, and for assisting with ushering and coffee hour today.
- **Art Schoeller**, for serving as our Scout liaison, and helping to plan Scout Sunday, and **Holly Betts**, for helping to organize New Member Sunday.
- The **Welcome & Membership Board**, for hosting coffee hour today, and **Lisa Tantillo**, for providing the cake (and **Katie Phillis**, for taking the picture that's on the cake)!
- **Liang-Fang Chang**, for bringing another wonderful concert to our church and community this afternoon, and the **Community Life Board**, for hosting the reception for the singers and audience to follow the concert.
- **Ilee** and **Vera Rhimes**, for their generous donation to fund catering for Coffee Hour on Sundays after worship.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Saugatuck Sunday Afternoon Concert Series: When Music Connects Us TODAY, April 28, 3:00 p.m., in the sanctuary**

Join us for Saugatuck's next (and last) concert of the season, featuring the CT State Naugatuck Valley Chorale and Western Connecticut State University Chamber Singers. The concert will be followed by a reception in Hoskins Hall. Free and open to all! No registration required.

### **BINGO and Pasta Dinner Youth Group Mission Trip Fundraiser Friday, May 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Hoskins Hall**

Eat well! Have fun with friends and family! Feel good knowing you are helping the youth on their way to Vermont!

### **Beginner Tai Qi Class by Ruby Shih, Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m., SCC Room 109, first floor**

The focus of this class is on relaxation, circulation of internal energy, balance, and flexibility to strengthen our body and soothe our mind. Please contact Ruby Shih if you're interested: 917-816-6661 or RubyPalace88@gmail.com.

### **High School Youth Group, Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room** Led by Kim Mathias, Sydney Cusson, and Michael Hendricks. Evenings of fun and connection for youth in grades 9-12. All are welcome—bring a friend!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Emails from Church**

We send out regular eblasts and church information to those on our mailing list. If you are not receiving these emails, please either contact Office Manager Jill, [jill@saugatuckchurch.org](mailto:jill@saugatuckchurch.org), or fill out a welcome card and leave it in the offering plate. We want to make sure you get all the news from the church!

### **Large-Print Bulletins Now Available**



If you would benefit from a large-print copy of the bulletin, please request one from an usher. A limited number will be available at each service.

# OUTREACH AT SAUGATUCK

## 2024 Youth Mission Trip

Our youth are traveling to Vermont, June 23–29, 2024! The group will partner with long-term recovery groups to do flood relief and related work. To learn more or to register, contact Kim Mathias at [kim@mathias.org](mailto:kim@mathias.org).

## Food Pantry Donations

Gillespie Center can always use non-perishable food items to fill the pantry. All donations can be dropped off in the donation box located in the church's welcome center. Thanks for your generosity in sharing with our neighbors!

## Serving for Homes with Hope

Saugatuck Church volunteers serve dinner the fourth Wednesday of every month on behalf of Homes with Hope.

## UPDATE

Beginning on May 1, the Gillespie Center will be closed for renovations until early 2025. Until it reopens, meals will need to be dropped off at Linxweiler House (655 Post Road East, Westport) and will be needed for fewer people. Dinners should be prepared for eight people and only need to be dropped off, not served.

Please provide a family-style meal for 8 people, to include a main dish, side dish, vegetables, and dessert. No nuts or shellfish, please. Meals may be cooked at home or purchased. This can be a very powerful community outreach experience helping fill a real need! Thank you!

**The next dates to serve are May 22, June 26, and July 24.**

There are three simple ways to sign up to serve a meal:

1. Scan the QR code with your phone camera.
2. Contact Alexandra Walsh at [alexandrawalsh9@gmail.com](mailto:alexandrawalsh9@gmail.com)
3. Go to <http://saugatuckchurch.org/working-with-others/volunteer-now/> and click "Sign up to help."

*Thank you to **Nancy Wargo**, who served in April!*



**Stay in touch! For up-to-date news, events, and photos:**

- Download the Saugatuck Church app – Go to [www.saugatuckchurch.org](http://www.saugatuckchurch.org) and scroll down to “Get the App”
- Check out our Instagram feed @ *Saugatuckchurch*
- Find us on YouTube @ *SaugatuckCongregationalChurch*
- Follow us on Facebook at *Saugatuck Congregational Church, UCC*



## **Environmental Justice RESOURCE CORNER**

### **Tips for Sustainable Living: Spring Cleaning, Part 3**

While you're spring cleaning, remember that the Westport Transfer Station takes a lot of specialty items, so you don't have to send them to the landfill. We'll review a few of them here over the coming weeks.

#### **Appliances**

You can recycle air conditioners, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, dryers, freezers, microwaves, ovens, refrigerators, stoves, washers, and water heaters at the dump. There's a \$15 recycling fee per appliance.

*Tip courtesy of Sustainable Westport.*



# Pasta Dinner & BINGO

Youth Group Mission Trip Fundraiser

Friday, May 3, 6-8 pm

Suggested Donation: \$10 per person  
\$25 per family



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203-227-1261 [WWW.SAUGATUCKCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.SAUGATUCKCHURCH.ORG)

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