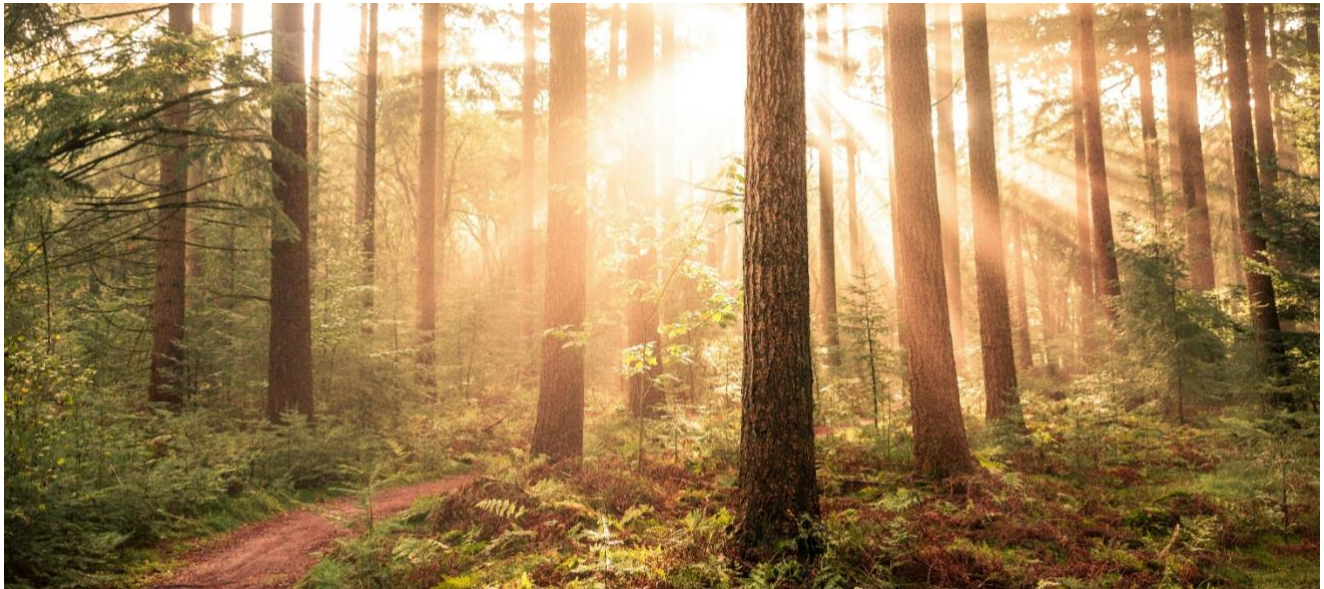




Saugatuck
Congregational Church
An open & affirming congregation

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST 



Light of the World

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

"The Light is in every one of us. And so our task in the world – our calling in the world – is to seek that of God in all." – Alastair MacIntosh

PRELUDE – *The Swan* – Saint-Saens
Em Squatrito, Violin

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME – Michael Hendricks

SUNG SUMMONS – *Sweet, Sweet Spirit* – Akers

* **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Holy One, you are the one that lights the way.

All: You give us the lights of sun and moon.

One: You give us the lights of stars in the sky.

All: You give us the lights of those who came before and those with us now.

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

One: You even give us the lights of our own mistakes.

All: That we may learn from them.

One: Lead us to be the lights you call us to be.

All: And help us to join our lights to yours so the light continues to grow ever brighter. Amen.

OPENING HYMN – *I Am the Light of the World

No. 469 (v. 2, 3, 4)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, you created us to be light and love. And we are. Every one of your children. Sometimes. But there are also other times. When we close our eyes to your light and the light you placed within others - and the light you placed within us. Too often, we withhold our love from where your world needs it most. Forgive us. Help us always to keep our eyes and hearts open. And when we close them again ... and we will ... remind us that you are always still there, waiting patiently, inviting us to re-open them. Amen.

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

TIME FOR ALL AGES – Kim Mathias

SCRIPTURE – 1 John 1:1-2:2 – The Cancro Family

MEDITATION – *Light of the World* – Michael Hendricks

ANTHEM – *Light of the World* – Schwartz

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** – *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

No. 557 (v. 1, 2)

* **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE – *This Little Light* – African-American spiritual

First time song leaders; second time congregation

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Worship Leaders:

Rev. Kari Nicewander (she/her)[†], Interim Pastor

Liang-Fang Chang (she/her), Director of Music

Anthony DeLuco (they/them), Song Leader

Em Squatrito (they/them), Song Leader

Phil Callen (he/him), Song Leader

[†] 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.

Livecast Production: Stefan Baer and Mark Mathias

Special thanks to:

- **Everyone who donated to the Easter Special Offering!** We collected \$2,764 that will be distributed to our Missions Partners!
- **Susie Benton**, for her continued support of the music team. She will be on vacation for the next three weeks taking a much-deserved break. We wish her the best!
- **Allison Cancro**, for her beautiful contribution of the *Pie Jesu* at the 2024 Maundy Thursday service.
- **Everyone who helped coordinate the Annual Meeting**, and **all who volunteered to serve on a board or committee this year.**
- **Everyone who helped coordinate a wonderful Easter last Sunday**, including:
 - **Kathy Griffin and Anne Patterson**, for arranging the delivery of the Easter lilies
 - **Kim Mathias**, for preparing the egg hunt and leading the youth to decorate the cross
 - **Alex Walsh**, for organizing the Easter Special Offering on behalf of the Missions board
 - **The Five Cent Brass Quintet**, for bringing beautiful Easter music to the sanctuary

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

- Download the Saugatuck Church app – Go to 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*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saugatuck Sunday Afternoon Concert Series: When Music Connects Us 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.

BINGO and Pasta Dinner Youth Group Mission Trip Fundraiser 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.

Spring VOICES, Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., via Zoom

This spring we gather each Thursday on Zoom to listen and respond to a different chapter of Rainn Wilson's *Soul Boom: Why We Need a Spiritual Revolution*. Each chapter stands on its own, so come when you can. For a Zoom link, email Michael Hendricks at michaelkhendricks@yahoo.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!

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.

THANK YOU for your support of the Mission Trip!

Because of your generosity, scholarships will be available so that any teen who wants to participate will be able to do so. Be sure to mark your calendars for the All-Ages BINGO and Pasta Dinner fundraiser the youth will host on Friday, May 3 (details in the Upcoming Events above)!

OUTREACH AT SAUGATUCK

Serving at Gillespie Center – Homes with Hope

Saugatuck Church volunteers serve dinner the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Gillespie Center. Homes with Hope welcomes volunteers, including families, to serve the meal in Gillespie's community kitchen.

Please provide a family style meal for 25 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
3. Go to <http://saugatuckchurch.org/working-with-others/volunteer-now/> and click "Sign up to help."

*Thank you to **Joan Cavanaugh**, who served in March, and **Nancy Wargo**, who will be serving in April!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer to help with coffee hour!

Help is always needed at coffee hour after worship. To volunteer to help on one or more Sundays, please sign up at bit.ly/3NndXqs.



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, 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.

2024 Boards and Committees

Executive Committee

Moderator: Bob Mitchell
Vice Moderator: Lisa Tantillo
Treasurer: Judy Puchalski
Clerk: Susie Benton

Members at Large

Joanne Leamann
Paul Betts

UCC Delegates

Janet Canning
Vera Rhimes

Board of Deacons

Doug Johnston
Anne Patterson
Kathy Griffin
Joan Cavanaugh
Mark Meyer
Phil DeVries
Nancy Wargo
Bob Yingling
Lucas Baer

Trustees

David Cross
Carl Leaman
Preston Koster
AeRhee Lee
Ilee Rhimes

Board of Missions

Alex Walsh
Holly Betts
Liz-Ann Koos
Mary Jean Koster
[Open position](#)
[Open position – Youth Leader](#)

Stewardship

Mark Mathias
Cynthia Wallace
[Open position](#)
[Open position – Youth Leader](#)

Welcome & Membership

Lindsey Clarke

Jackson Dembski
Anneliese Van Breems (Youth Leader)
[Open position](#)
[Open position](#)

Christian Education

Laurie Callen
Art Schoeller
Martin Van Breems, Jr.
Mary Bazile (Youth Leader)

Community Life

Josh Berkowsky
Isabel Bogdan
Christa Panny
Katherine Ross
Martin Van Breems
Allison Cancro (Youth Leader)

Personnel

Colette Van Breems
[Open position](#)
[Open position](#)
[Open position](#)

Pastoral Support

John Canning
Phil DeVries
Erin Gensel Cancro
Priscilla Long

Leadership Development

Leslie Hand
Vera Rhimes
Jim Langham
Anne Patterson

Pastoral Search Committee

Leslie Hand
Paul Betts
Kim Mathias
Laurie Callen
Erin Gensel Cancro
Anne Patterson
Arvind Chandramohan
Vera Rhimes
Phil DeVries
Martin Van Breems

Easter Lily Dedications



Thank you to all who purchased Easter lilies to adorn our sanctuary last Sunday. A few of our donors and honorees were not included in last week's bulletin:

The Goodenough Family: In Memory of **Jim Goodenough**

James and Dana Langham: In Memory of **Annie Langham**



Environmental Justice RESOURCE CORNER **Tips for Sustainable Living: Plastic**

When you're recycling plastic, remember: 1) all items should be empty, rinsed, clean, and open; 2) don't put recycling in plastic bags or garbage bags. Here's what can – and can't – be recycled:

In:

- Plastic bottles, with or without caps attached
- Plastic containers & lids
- Plastic single-use cups – no lids, no straws

Out:

- Loose bottle caps
- Plastic bags & wrap (plastic bags can be recycled at Stop & Shop in the bottle return area)
- Plastic plates, bowls & utensils
- Prescription bottles
- Single-use coffee containers, like Keurig pods
- Styrofoam cups, containers & packing peanuts



245 POST ROAD EAST, WESTPORT CT 06880
203-227-1261 WWW.SAUGATUCKCHURCH.ORG