

Tolland's Food Pantry Needs Our Missions Committee is asking the congregation to consider bringing in specific items each week to help keep the shelves here in Tolland full. For the month of February the Food Pantry is in extra need of **personal hygiene items (toothpaste, soap, shampoo etc.), snacks, canned stew & Chef Boyardee.** Thank you!

This week's calendar... February 23 through March 1

Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast
	9:30 a.m.	Joyful Voices/Children's Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Jazz Sunday Worship
Monday	11:00 a.m.	Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast
	3:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
	8:00 a.m.	Adult Exercise (Fellowship Hall)
	10:00 a.m.	Coffee with Rev. Jeff (Dunkin Donuts)
Tuesday	3:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting (Classroom)
	9:00 a.m.	Hallelujah Hikers (Riverside Trail, Dimmock Rd)
	5:45 p.m.	Confirmation Class (Classroom)
	6:00 p.m.	TGLC Advisory Board (Barbara Phelps Building)
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Rev. Jeff's Bible Study (Classroom)
	8:00 a.m.	Adult Exercise
	9:30 a.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
	10:00 a.m.	Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Classroom)
	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Boy Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Foodshare
Friday	6:30 p.m.	Mental Health Meeting (Glastonbury)
	5:30 p.m.	AA Annual Potluck Dinner
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	AA (Fellowship Hall)
	10:00 a.m.	AA (Fellowship Hall)
Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall)
	6:00 p.m.	Youth Fellowship Lock-In
	8:30 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	9:30 a.m.	Joyful Voices/Children's Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Youth Lenten Series (Youth Room)
	11:30 a.m.	White Fragility Lenten Series (Classroom)

Faith in Action
February 23, 2020

Welcome to UCCT! We hope you find today's service inspiring and the information below helpful:

- Infants and children are welcome in our worship. But, if it should occur that the worship is too confining for your child(ren), childcare is provided for infants and toddlers up through two years of age in the Nursery located right down the hall during the service. "Activity bags" and children's bulletins are available for your child(ren) to borrow by the front doors.
- We have prayer request cards available in the pew racks for anyone wishing the community to hold their joys and/or concerns in our prayers. Deacons and caregivers will wander up and down the aisles during the first hymn.
- Our Worship Service is televised Tues., 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon, on cable Channel 1070. Please check the Community Voice Channel 1070 or www.cvcct.org for the schedule listing or changes. Sermons are available on our website at www.ucctolland.org.
- Stay connected to us all week long at www.ucctolland.org, & Facebook at www.facebook.com/TollandCongregationalChurch. If you're interested in getting our weekly email newsletter, contact Rev. Jeff at jgallagher@ucctolland.org. Feel free to use our guest Wifi in church. Select UCCT_GUEST and type in the password "tollandchurch".
- Areas of Rescue Assistance: available at stairways during any emergency, especially for the differently abled. Emergency personnel attend these areas immediately upon their arrival. Please also notice that there are three exits from the sanctuary: one in the back and two in the front.

Caught without your wallet? There are many electronic ways to express your generosity!

- **UCCTolland.org** Go to the UCCTolland.org website. Click on About. Click Giving. Click either the PayPal Donate button or the button to Link to Online Giving button and follow the prompts.
- **GIVEPLUS+ Mobile** Download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. Then you can easily make one-time or recurring donations directly from your smartphone.
- **GIVEPLUS+ Text** Send a text message to 860-322-5295 with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.
- **PayPal Donate** (from the PayPal app) Go to the PayPal app on your smartphone. Click the Donate icon. Search "Tolland". Click on United Congregational Church of Tolland and follow the instructions. You won't need to enter all of your information as it will be sent to us by PayPal.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.–11:15 a.m. Please join us during Lent for a new study published by Thoughtful Christian, “Jesus Sees Women.” No previous Bible study experience is necessary to participate – copies of a background sheet to read for each session will be available on the table in front of the church office. To receive a weekly email of the background sheet, or if you have any questions, please contact Molli or Pastor Ruth.

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has established \$100,000 in community funds for each of the towns in the Foundations’ region. This includes Tolland. Each town’s community fund will be handled by an advisory committee of town residents. If you are interested in identifying community needs in Tolland and desire more information about being a part of this committee, go to www.hfpg.org/tollandct or email us at hfpg4tolland@gmail.com

White Fragility Lenten Series A Lenten series will be held during March using the insightful NY Times Bestseller by Robin DiAngelo, *White Fragility: Why It’s So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. The series will help participants to examine how whites use defensive and coded language when a conversation turns to race, and how white fragility perpetuates racial inequality. Participants will learn how white people can develop their capacity to engage more constructively with issues of racism. The discussion group, led by Pastor Ruth, will meet on Sundays during Lent (March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29), 11:30am–1:00pm in the classroom. A light lunch will be provided. Please note that the sessions are all full at this time. If you would like to be placed on a waiting list please contact the church office or Pastor Ruth.

Youth Lenten Series In tandem with the adult sessions about the book *White Fragility* during Lent, Molli will be leading any interested youth (8th grade and up) in a series of deep conversations about race, whiteness, and why it’s so hard to talk about both of those things. Every Sunday in March, join her in the Youth room from 11:30–12:30. Lunch and blue cookies will be served! Please contact Molli at mmitchell@ucctolland.org if you have any questions.

The United Congregational Church of Tolland has received a generous gift to establish a fund for use in furthering our ministries toward peace and justice education, awareness and action with all ages in our church, community and beyond. The gift is to be used in keeping with the guidelines of UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, by responding to the call of Christ to build a more just, compassionate and inclusive world. If you would be interested in learning more, or in being part of a group that would explore some possibilities for using this fund, please reach out to Rev. Jeff. We will work to find a date that works for all who are interested, and all are welcome to join us!

Rev. Jeff’s Bible Study Have you been thinking about giving the Tuesday evening Bible Study a try? If so, now is the perfect time! Starting now—and continuing through May—the group will begin reading *Not in God’s Name* by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks. This book is a critical look at religious violence along all different faith traditions and promises to be a very interesting read. We meet every Tuesday night from 7-8pm in the classroom at the church. All are always welcome—whether you’ve finished the reading, or not! For more information contact Rev. Jeff!

Ash Wednesday Please join us on Wednesday, February 26th—the start to the season of Lent— as we will hold a very simple service at both 9:30 a.m. and 7pm (the services are identical). Each service will feature prayer, music, communion, and for those comfortable, the imposition of ashes. The service is a poignant beginning to this most penitential and prayerful season of the year. All are welcome.

Youth Fellowship Lock-in 8th–12th graders are invited to join us on Saturday, February 29th from 6pm – Sunday, March 1st at 8 am. This fun overnight event will include activities and preparation for Youth Sunday (March 22nd). Please contact Rebecca Vicki (rvicki07@gmail.com) or Alison Pires (alison.pires@yahoo.com) with any questions. The sign-up sheet and permission slips are available outside the church office.

Instant Church Directory Effective March 5th we will no longer be using instant church directory. All directory information can now be viewed in Realm. Information on how to register and use Realm can be found on the main page on our website or in the church office. Please contact Keri Condos with any questions.

Pancake Breakfast today we gather for one of the best Sundays of the year: Mardi Gras! And once again the Funky Dawgz are here to fill the sanctuary with jazz, singing, and dancing! We will be serving pancakes before and after worship—a great way to “fatten” up before Lent begins! Bring your beads and your dancing shoes and join us! The cost for the breakfast is: Adults – \$5, Youth under 12 – \$3, Children under 2 – Free. Maximum per family \$20. You can pay at the door!

The next Men’s Retired Luncheon will be held on **Monday, March 2nd at 11:30 am** at Willington Pizza (25 River Road, Willington). The guest speaker will be fire chief John Littell who will give an update on what is happening with fire departments and emergency management services here in town. Let’s have a great turnout! Please contact Don Miller with any questions.

The next Retired Women’s Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, March 10th at Casey’s Restaurant in Ellington. For those wanting to carpool, please meet in the church parking lot at 11:30. Please RSVP to Lyn McLeod at (860) 872-3055.

Hallelujah Hikers Please join us on Tuesday, February 25th when we hike the King Riverside trail on Dimmock Rd in Tolland. We will meet at 9:00 am at the Genealogy library. Please bring something to share for the tailgate brunch.

National Down Syndrome Day Please join the ONA Team in celebrating National Down Syndrome Day on **Sunday, March 22nd** by wearing crazy or mismatched socks. The crazier the better! We hope you will join us in support of raising awareness of Down Syndrome.