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Find us on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc



August 1, 2021

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."—John 13:35

I grew up at Silver Lake and in my church's youth group singing the song, "*They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love."* Written by a Catholic Priest from the 1960's and inspired by the text from John cited above, the tune is familiar and the lyrics simple.

I'm regularly reminded (usually during a children's sermon) that we should do better at unpacking the churchy jargon in our theological language. The church (and her leaders) shouldn't try to skate by using words like "*faith, love and compassion,*" without really explaining what those words actually mean or look like in the world today. HOW does God's presence within lead us in our relationships with each other? WHAT does it mean to love one another, as the song says, in a way that reveals Christ?

1Crabtree Land Trust Work Team, photo by Anna Delaney

In a day and age where it seems like we are having a hard time being nice to one another, our tendency may be to think that all

we need to do is regain a sense of politeness. And on some level, I do believe that being polite to your neighbor, and fellow creatures, is a good thing to do. But politeness doesn't go far enough. Politeness can be a mask that hides who we really are, in light of how we wish to be seen.

When we live with compassion as our center, our politeness becomes more than just doing our neighborly duty and being kind. Because compassion is connected to grace, we can remember all the places we have been given the gift of grace, which can help lead us in practicing compassion for others.

One of the ways that I think we recapture the name of Church in the world today, is to be a place where the congregation uplifts compassion above other ways of measurement. If we mistakenly uphold things like deservedness, the church will not grow into its calling for the world; to be a place where we are equipped and sent to be the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ.

God didn't send us Christ because we deserved him, or even because we needed him. God sent Jesus because God loved us and was compassionate towards us. So yes, they will know we are Christians by our love, but only when our love is centered in God and not in us. *In peace, Pastor Jenn*

Elisha's Corner By Gary Thompson, Church Historian

Our First Prudentialist, Henry Hawley

The minutes of the first meeting of the New Stratford Ecclesiastical Society recorded; "At a Meeting Lawfully warned By the Authority and warrant afore sd and held by the Inhabitants of New Stratford at ye house of Mr. Henry Hawley on ye 21st Day of June 1762 Said Inhabitants Meet – according to Sd warning and opened the Meeting." "Voted also that Messrs. Henry Hawley Sam Beardslee And -w [William] Hubbel Nathan Booth and Timothy Willcockson to be a Society Comit-ee to take care of ye Prudentials of Sd Society for ye year Ensuing." By definition these were to be the gentlemen that would provide and care for the physical assets, the "prudentials", of the Society. Today we call them Trustees, because we put the physical assets of our congregation in their "trust". Henry Hawley hosted the meeting at his home. He may not have been selected the moderator, but he was the first listed "trustee". It is reasonable to speculate that he and the other four gentlemen were selected in the order recorded. It was an important and prominent position and one that he might have made known that he preferred at the time. In November he and Daniel Willcockson and a few others were appointed to form a "School Committee". In December he replaced Daniel Willcockson as moderator until the following December 1763, when Nathan Booth was elected to the position. In February, 1763, Daniel, along with others, was elected to seek Joseph White to settle as our first minister, which we know did not happen.

Henry Hawley, Jr. was from a very large and prominent Stratford family. In Rev. Samuel Occutt's second volume of his A History of Old Town Stratford and the City of Bridgeport (1886), there are over 240 Hawleys listed in the family genealogy. As names were so frequently repeated in the family, it is easy to get genealogical relationships mixed up. Henry himself had nine siblings; six sisters and four brothers. At age twenty-seven he married Mary Nichols; age twenty-five, of the Trumbull Parish of Stratford. They had a son, Elijah, born in 1752, while living in Trumbull, and possibly a daughter, Mary. Elijah married Phoebe Curtis and they had a son, John Somers Hawley. Both Henry, Jr. and his older brother, David, born in 1715, were Memorialists for the establishment of New Stratford Parish. At the time of this first meeting of the Ecclesiastical Society Henry, Jr. was age thirty-nine, and David was age forty-seven. The exact location of Henry, Jr.'s dwelling for this meeting is not known. However, the saltbox house at the corner of Old Newtown Road and Purdy Hill Road was part of a 123 acre farm of his uncle Thomas Hawley (1678 – 1722). Since it was deeded to him through his grandfather Joseph Hawley, Jr., who owned a substantial portion of Monroe in 1755 and which he deeded to his family descendants, the meeting was most probably held on that side of town. In May of 1765, when the General Assembly established the New Stratford train band [military company], Henry Jr. was commissioned Captain of the unit of about one hundred ablebodied men. The new company became the 14th company of the 4th Regiment Connecticut Militia.

Henry Hawley, Jr.'s father was Henry Hawley, Sr., Esq., who was born in Stratford on January 26, 1687. He had three brothers and four sisters. On June 18, 1713, at the age of twenty-eight, he married Mary K. Picket of Stratford. In his will Henry Sr. left Henry Jr. his entire track of land adjoining his son's farm [in North Stratford]. To sons David and Pierson he equally divided all his other land beyond the six miles from Stratford center; plus to David £60 to finish his barn, and to Pierson his dwelling were his mother would still reside. To his son Daniel he gave £200 to finish his house. To his son Enos he gave £60 to finish his house, plus £60 to repay a loan from John Judson. His first born, Hannah, married Daniel Thompson, his daughter Mary married Memorialist Peter Curtis, his daughter Desire married Abel Hawley (2nd cousin), his daughter Comfort married Nehemiah Hawley (2nd cousin), and daughter Eunice married Memorialist Jonathan Curtis.

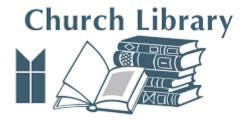
They all lived in what would become New Stratford in 1762. Daughter Abigail was only fourteen when Henry, Sr. died in Stratford [where the New Stratford Parish would be established] on February 18, 1752. She would inherit a ten or eleven acre sand lot near Oronoke (somewhere between the Housatonic River and Trumbull north of the Merritt Parkway) when she turned eighteen or got married. His wife Mary died exactly one year later on February 18, 1753.

Henry Hawley Sr.'s father was Captain John S. Hawley, Esq.; Henry Jr.'s grandfather. Captain John was born in Stratford on June 14, 1661; the youngest of five sons and had three sisters. At the age of twenty-four he married nineteen years old Deborah Pierson of Stratford on April 23, 1686. They raised four sons and five daughters to maturity. His second son, John, lived to the age of one hundred. In 1704 he was commissioned a Lieutenant and commanded a small company of soldiers assigned to defend the Fairfield county residence against hostile Indians. In May of 1709, he was assigned to a militia company of Stratford, with whom he earned the rank of Captain in October of the same year. He served as a Stratford Representative to the General Assembly from 1702 until 1724 (nineteen terms). He was also appointed Justice of the Peace for Fairfield County from 1720 until his death (ergo the Esq. after his name). Both Captain John and his wife are buried in the Congregational Burial Grounds in Stratford. He died at the age of sixty-eight on July 27, 1729 and she died ten years later at the age of seventy-three on December 3, 1739.

Henry Hawley, Jr.'s great-grandfather, and Captain John's father was the Joseph Hawley, Esq. who settled with his wife, Catherine Birdseye in the original settlement of Stratford (Cupheag Plantation). The Society for the Hawley Family, established in 1923 and incorporated in 1927, in Trumbull, CT credits Joseph Hawley of being the founder of the Connecticut branch of the Hawley family. He sailed to the Massachusetts Bay colony in 1635 on the ship *Planter*, an appropriate name, with the Rev. Adam Blakeman and his flock, which also included William Willcockson and William Beardsley. There are no records to indicate if he came alone or with other members of his family. However, there is indication that both he and his brother, Thomas Hawley, settled in the Roxbury neighborhood of South Boston. Thomas was subsequently killed by Native Americans in Sudbury, Massachusetts on April 21, 1676. Joseph may have also had two sisters, Hannah, who married a Captain John Beard and settled in Milford, and Elizabeth, who married Richard Booth and settled in Stratford. Joseph Hawley came to Stratford with the eighteen family congregation of Rev. Adam Blakeman in 1639 to settle on the plantation of Cupheag. He stopped off in Wethersfield long enough to meet Katherine Birdseye. They married in 1646 in Wethersfield when she was barely twenty and he was age forty-three. It was a common and practical practice of the time for a father to marry off his daughter at a young age to a substantially established older man who could easily care for and support her. Joseph was substantially established, being considered "a more than usually energetic businessman". He was apparently well educated and The Society of the Hawley Family speculates that he may have been a governmental functionary in London at one time. He became a deputy to the General Assembly in Hartford from 1658 to 1687, and was the first Town Clerk of Stratford. From May of 1682 until his death he was consecutively appointed Justice of the Peace by the General Assembly. He and Katherine raised five sons and three daughters. Their first child was Samuel, born a year after their marriage. It is not known if Joseph was previously married, there is no record, but in his will he referred the her as his "now" wife.

In his will, too, Joseph Hawley, Esq. bequeathed to his first born and son, Samuel, all of the land and buildings he still owned and left behind in Parwich, Derbyshire, England. This was in addition to his land holdings in Stratford, Derby, and Monroe, which he divided equally among his five sons. He died May 20, 1690 in Stratford at the age of eightyseven. His wife, Katherine, who was born in Reading Borough, Berkshire, England, died two years later on June, 25, 1692, at the age of sixty-six. They are both buried in the Old Congregational Burying Ground in Stratford.

Parwich is a quant village and parish of Derby, Derbyshire, seven miles north of Ashbourne and about fifteen miles northwest of Derby. Population in 2011 was under five hundred residents. It is about fifty mile west of Scooby. Reading Borough is in the <u>Thames Valley</u> at the <u>confluence</u> of the <u>River Thames</u> and <u>Kennet</u> twenty-five miles south of <u>Oxford</u>. It lies between London forty miles to the east and <u>Newbury</u> fifteen miles to the west. No wonder that they had to meet in Wethersfield.



Historian's Notebook: We have received two new books that are ready to go into our Library. Both are about people of our congregation.

The Notorious Mary Long, by Richard P. Plumber is a historical novel about the exploits of Mary Long in London, England and the newly settled Australia. She is the great-great-greatgreat grandmother of our 40th Minister, Rev.

Joseph Vectis Harrison and details some family history of the Rev. Harrison. It was the subject of an Elisha's Corner article "A Tale of Two Pictures".

The Tanzanian Pressure Cooker, by M. Virginia (LaPointe) Southworth. For those who remember Mark Day, our "haystack" missionary to Tanzania, 1980 to 1984, this book is a collection of his letters to the author while he was there and her commentaries. Mark was the son of Sue Day, then our choir director, and Burt Day. He was a PF alumnus and his memorial weeping cherry tree stands between our Meeting House and Rexford Hall. Reserve either or both of these books for your reading in the church office.

Music Director Search Update: The seven member committee has met twice. At our first meeting, we brainstormed what characteristics we were looking for in a candidate and discussed our hopes and dreams for the music program. At our second, we focused on some of the finer points of the job so that we could write a "help wanted" ad.

We've placed that ad with the Greater Bridgeport American Guild of Organists, SNEUCC Job Opportunities (our denomination's website) and the Institute of Sacred Music at Yale. We will keep the congregation informed as we get closer to calling a candidate.

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Michael Pfalzgraf, chair Rev. Jennifer Gingras, scribe Emma Campbell Bethany Dupuis

David Walker Michael Pellegrino Bill Stadler

Christian Education Coordinator & Jr PF Youth Leader Update: As of 7/27, we've had one qualified applicant interested in the position. Once the Board of Christian Education and Pastor Jenn make their decision, an announcement will be made.



Flowers for Worship



Would you like to honor or remember a loved one, or celebrate a milestone? You can do so, while also helping Monroe Congregational Church continue its tradition of fresh **flowers** on the communion table. Please review the available slots on Sign Up Genius and click on the button to sign up. If you do not have access to a computer, call Diane in the office 203-268-9327, and she will help you sign up!

You may choose to arrange flowers from your garden, purchase an arrangement, or send a check to Monroe

Congregational Church (memo: "flowers" & the date) or use our website to pay online, and we will order for you. If you are suppling the flowers yourself, please set them up between 9:30am and 9:45am, before worship. Thank you!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers



Summer Guest Preachers

We have some gifted guest preachers scheduled to fill the pulpit at MCC this summer, so that Pastor Jenn can take vacation and attend the Senior PF mission trip. Join us, in person or online, to hear them lead worship on these dates:

- August 8th: Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith
- August 29th: Emma Rae Carroll, YDS second year MDIV student



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: TAG SALE'S COMING! **Saturday, October 2**, the famous MCC tag sale returns. So, start putting aside your "gently used, good stuff" so we can sell it to people who can use it. **All items must be clean and in good condition.** There are some things that we **cannot** accept:

- electronics including old computers, monitors, boom boxes or phones (of any type),
 - coffee mugs,
 - cribs, car seats or pack and plays,
 - encyclopedias, textbooks or VHS tapes,
- bicycles that are not complete and rideable,
- blankets, comforters, or linens that have holes or are not clean,
- Tupperware or kitchen storage items without lids,
- Anything broken or chipped,
- large or heavy items such as dining room sets, particle board furniture, bookcases or upholstered chairs or couches. We ask that you email Julie McClenathan (juliemcclenathan@gmail.com) pictures of furniture items before deciding to bring them to the tag sale.

Also, we will not be able to do pickups, so bring your stuff to Wilton Hall at times that will be announced.



Slay Hunger! The next St. George's supper is Monday, August 16th Please contact Stacy Andrejczyk markandstacy2005@yahoo.com



The **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe** is looking for volunteers to help with sorting, tagging and hanging on Mondays at 9AM and manning the counter when the Shoppe reopens on Aug 13th. Volunteers working at the counter can work on Fridays (10-12:30 or 12:30-3) and/or Saturdays (10-12 or 12-2). We are also trying to see if we can have helpers willing to work on Thursdays from 12-3. It's easy to open or close the Shoppe. Come visit a sales associate during business hours and get a tutorial or you can read the list of instructions that can be emailed to you. Please contact Susie Cuseo at <u>thecuseos@yahoo.com</u> or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.

Senior PF's Mission Trip to Hancock County, Maine

In July, a team of 6 adult advisors, 9 college age advisors, and 28 high school students (all of whom were vaccinated!) travelled in four vans and a truck 411 miles to Hancock, Maine. Our host church was Union Congregational, UCC – Pastor Jenn's parent's church. We spent our days volunteering at various non-profit entities, and our nights bonding over meals, activities and worship. For fun, we took a half day to visit the top of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia and had dinner at Jordan's Drive In. We also visited a local watering hole for an afternoon of swimming away from the vacationing crowds.

When we returned, we were sad to say goodbye to long term adult advisors Kelsey Kaminski and Kiersten Rooney – we are so grateful for their 16 years as PF'ers and Advisors and we will miss them very much. And we are happy to add Audra Logan as an adult PF advisor.

Here are some photos, enjoy!



















Dear Church family, Senior PF would like to thank all of you for the generous donations. We filled half a truck bed with new items for children entering emergency foster care in Hancock County, Maine!



ORT CASES.

Prayer Partners are wanted for 2021-2022. Sign-ups will be posted on the bulletin board in Wilton Hall starting in September. Please leave completed forms in the slot provided by the end of the month. It's easy to do: you'll get a letter in the mail with the information of the person you'll be praying for, keep them in your thoughts, send them a note or card in the mail using the church's address as the

return (don't forget to sign them "Prayer Partner", continue to pray for them until May 29, 2022 when we will hold the "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon in Wilton Hall. We'll dine, converse and find out who's been praying for whom. I look forward to contacting you and speaking with you. Here's a testimonial from one of last year's prayer partners:

"I appreciated knowing prayers were being said for me throughout the year. I liked praying for someone that knew they were in the thoughts and prayers from a member of our church community."

Please contact Susie Cuseo at <u>thecuseos@yahoo.com</u> or 203-268-0280 with any questions.

Heifer International is an organization where your pocket change helps to send animals to families. These animals are like a small business where wool, eggs, milk and more can sustain a family and the offspring that come from those animals can be given to other families giving them a hand up, increase access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood.

The collection jar will be on the serving table during coffee hour. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions or comments at <u>thecuseos@yahoo.com</u> or 203-268-0280. Your spare change will support the lives of families in need.



Fellowship



MCC Summertime Coffee Hour Hosts

Are you interested in providing refreshments for our church members and friends following Sunday worship! All you need to do is arrive at the kitchen by 9:45 to get the coffee going (instructions found on kitchen wall). Providing baked goods or other snacks are always welcome (but not mandatory). Please review the available slots on our SignUpGenius website link below and click on the date you would like to sign up for. There are slots for 2 people per Sunday (although one can do it, it's fun to serve with a friend). If you don't have access to a computer just call Diane in the office and she will help you get signed up -Thank you!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-mccsummertime



Morning Circle will not meet in August. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 8 at 11AM in Wilton Hall. We plan on having Ray Giovanni from Union Savings Bank to discuss the local scams affecting the community and also collecting pet supplies for the Food Pantry. Please bring a sandwich while we hold a brief business meeting. We are

scheduled to meet on Wednesdays on Oct 13 (Trick-or-Treat Bags), Nov 10 (Bean Soup Jars) and Dec 8 (Christmas luncheon). Contact Jackie Bleakney at 203-268-5275 with any questions or comments.

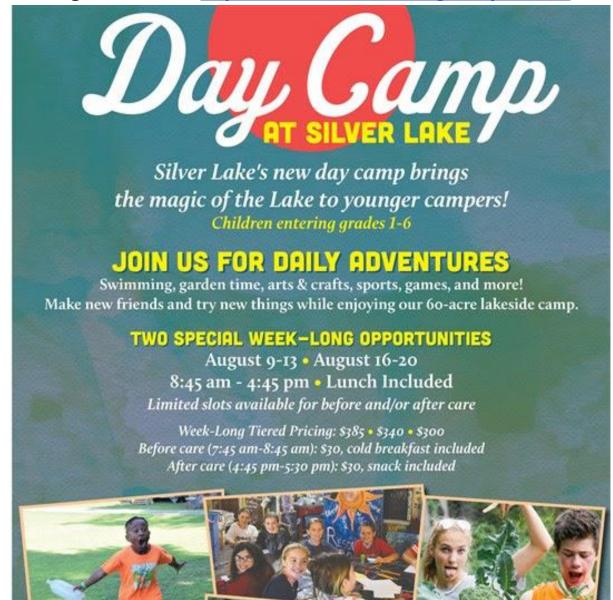


MCC Book Club

All meetings will continue to be via Zoom for now. Questions -contact Mary Unger (203) 268-5754

August 11th - Evvie Drake Starts Over by Linda Holmes September 8th - American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins October 13th - A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith November 10th - Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann Come back to the Lake and join us for one or two weeks of **Day Camp!** Open to children entering grades 1-6.

Join us for daily adventures: swimming, garden time, arts & crafts, sports, games, and more! Make new friends and try new things while enjoying our 60-acre lakeside camp. **Register online at https://www.silverlakect.org/campsessions**



Week 1: August 9-13 - register now!

Week 2: August 16-20 - register now!

Monday-Friday, 8:45 am - 4:45 pm • Lunch Included Limited slots available for before and/or after care

Week-Long Tiered Pricing: $$385 \cdot $340 \cdot 300 Before care (7:45 am-8:45 am): \$30, cold breakfast included After care (4:45 pm-5:30 pm): \$30, snack included

All the magic of Silver Lake, now for younger campers!

Register online at https://www.silverlakect.org/campsessions



Happy August Birthday to the following people and to anyone we may have missed we will keep you in our prayers.

Brian	Campbell	08/02
Karen	Coffey	08/02
Margery	Fox	08/02
Beverly	Shaffer	08/02
Kate	Briggs	08/04
Nick	Caballero	08/04
James	Halloran	08/04
Jessica	Nivison	08/04
Tyler	Zalenski	08/05
Jeff	Vargovchik	08/07
Jenn	Nealon	08/08
Anthony	Prall	08/08
Sophina	Gingras	08/09
Haley	Brown	08/11
Bella	Pinto	08/11
Wendy	Colegrove	08/12

Amy	O'Rourke	08/12
Danielle	Rooney	08/12
Donna	Konkol	08/13
Franklin	Renz	08/13
Kelsey	Kaminski	08/14
Mary	Renz	08/15
Alex	Grundt	08/16
Donald	Whiteley	08/16
Mary	Unger	08/19
Dianne	Griffiths	08/23
George	Cunningham	08/24
Richard	Draus	08/24
Jennifer	Wissink	08/25
Nicole	Malia	08/28
Sue	Waters	08/28
Kelsey	Kaminski	08/14



Happy August Wedding Anniversary the following couples and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is anniversary date)

Romeo & Sue Crea⁽⁰⁴⁾ Jack & Linda Fracassini ⁽⁰⁵⁾ Tom & Carol Kelly⁽⁰⁵⁾ Cliff & Susie Cuseo⁽⁰⁵⁾ Eric & Daniela Gerhard ⁽⁰⁷⁾ Joe & Betsy Gilberti⁽⁰⁹⁾ Manuel & Michelle Cardentey⁽²¹⁾ Kenneth & Nancy Olofson⁽²²⁾ and Rob & Kelsey Kaminski⁽²⁴⁾



Best wishes to Marissa Maiolo and Connor Ryan who were married July 24, 2021

Best wishes to Kristen Prall and Nicholas Boronski who will be married August 29, 2021

MCC August Community Calendar

Week of August 1th 10:00 am Worship with Communion

Mon. August 2nd 9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Tue. August 3rd 8:00 pm Outreach Zoom

Pastor Jenn will be on vacation from 8/5 – 8/14

Fri. August 6th Office Closed –Diane on vacation

<u>Week of August 8th</u> Guest Preacher –Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith 10:00 am Worship

Mon. August 9th 9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. August 11th Book Club Zoom

Week of August 15th

Outdoor Worship! 9:30 am DOD setup for Outdoor Worship 10:00 am Worship 11:30 Trustees Zoom

Mon. August 16th St George's Supper 9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag Week of August 22nd 10:00 am Worship 1:00 pm Deacons Planning (Sampson's)

Mon. August 23rd 9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag 5:00 pm Council Planning (J. Cardentey's)

Fri. August 27th Office Closed –Diane on vacation

Pastor Jenn will be on vacation from 8/26 – 9/4

<u>Week of August 29th</u> Guest Preacher –Emma Rae Carroll 10:00 am Worship

Mon. August 30th Office Closed –Diane on vacation 9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Week of September 5th 10:00 am Worship

Mon. September 6th 9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Tue. September 7th 8:00 pm Outreach Zoom

Wed. September 8th 11:00 Morning Circle

Week of September 12th 10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. September 13th 9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thur. September 16th 7:30 pm CE Zoom