

*The North Branford Congregational Church*  
*April Parish Visitor 2022*  
*Newsletter*



Blessed be the  
*God and Father*  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Who according to His great  
**mercy** has caused us to  
**be born again**  
*to a living hope*  
through the resurrection of  
**Jesus Christ**  
from the dead **1 Peter 1:3**

***A MESSAGE FROM  
THE WORSHIP LEADER***



**Thoughts from Your Worship Leader:**

Poet Anne Bradstreet once observed, “If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.” At Easter, we celebrate the greatest Spring after Winter moment that ever occurred: the Resurrection. The despair of the crucifixion on Good Friday yielded to the unrivaled joy of Jesus’ Resurrection on that first Easter Sunday. In that extraordinary transformation, we find a hope strong enough for the darkest of days, proof that, in God, life triumphs over death.

I hope that this Spring will find our world emerging from our two-year pandemic “winter”, ready to embrace the growth and warmth that comes with this new season. As much as we may long to move past the tough times, however, the difficulties of the past don’t need to be forgotten. They can actually remind us to be grateful in the good times, giving us a reason to cherish even more the things we can safely do again, the gatherings we can participate in, the friendships we can renew. I imagine the disciples felt even more passionately devoted to Jesus after thinking that they had almost lost him on Good Friday.

I think North Branford Congregational Church can look back over these past two years and give thanks for how God continued to work in our lives and our community throughout the pandemic days. Whether it was drive-through ashes for Ash Wednesday, an outdoor Christmas Pageant, livestreamed services, facebook messages, decorating an outdoor flower cross or holding indoor services with safeguards, our church family managed to stay connected in a time of distance. And God walked with us through it all.

I am grateful to everyone who jumped in to tackle a range of tasks from building plexiglass barriers to operating a mevo camera to teaching outdoor Sunday school to recording choir pieces to erecting tents so we could safely be in community. Creativity and flexibility were definitely on display! As we move into the next phase of our church life, gathering more often, enjoying seeing each others’ faces again, returning to more and more of our normal activities, let’s do so with a sense of celebration and a prayer of thanks for the sweetness of normal life. And the next time we face a challenge, let’s remember all we learned during covid19 about overcoming obstacles, drawing strength from God’s love and from the memory of what was accomplished in the last two years.

In this Spring-time at NBCC, can I ask you a favor? Can you make an extra effort to reach out to those who haven’t made it back to our pews yet? Let them know we’d love to see them again! It’s amazing to think that just like that first Easter Sunday, every Sunday when we gather, we can encounter the Resurrected Jesus. For Jesus told us, “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20). Happy Spring, Happy New Season, Happy Easter!

In Christ,  
Wendy Tarry



# LENTEN CALENDAR

NORTH BRANFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## APRIL

**April 10 – Palm Sunday** - 10am - Worship Service followed by Sunday School  
Easter Egg Hunt

**April 14 – Maundy Thursday** - 7pm - Traditional Service with Readings by 6  
of the Deacons.

**April 17 – Easter Sunday** - 10am - Traditional Easter Service with Decorating  
of the Flower Cross - members are asked to bring a  
of bouquet of flowers to the service to decorate  
the Flower Cross in the Sanctuary during the Service.



### PLEASE NOTE:

**Zion Episcopal Church** (326 Notch Hill Rd) invites us to join them on:

- \* Good Friday, April 15th- 10:00 am -Stations of the Cross
- \* Good Friday, 7:00 pm. 'Were You There'- Chancel Readings, Prayers, and Veneration of the Cross

**Shoreline Community Church of Branford** welcomes us to join them for their  
Easter Sunrise Service

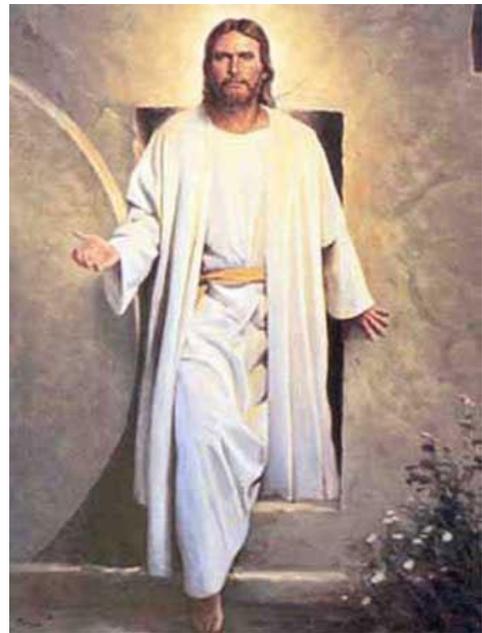
- \* Easter Sunday, April 17, Sunrise (around 6:00 am) Branford Point Beach, by the flagpole

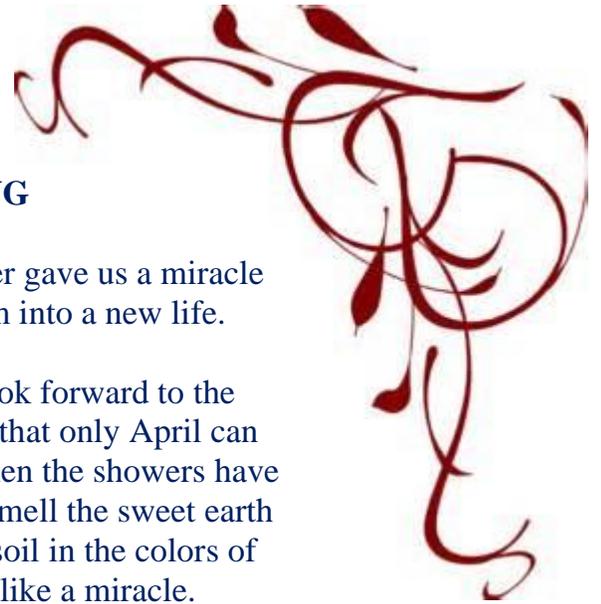


The sun is starting to warm the earth as color starts to bloom all around us. We have the love of our Father and His Risen Son. Do we need anything more as we walk through this season of Spring?

*~fran v. giambalvo*

**CHRIST IS RISEN**





## SEASON OF SPRING

April is the month of Easter when our Father gave us a miracle by resurrecting His Son, which brought Him into a new life.

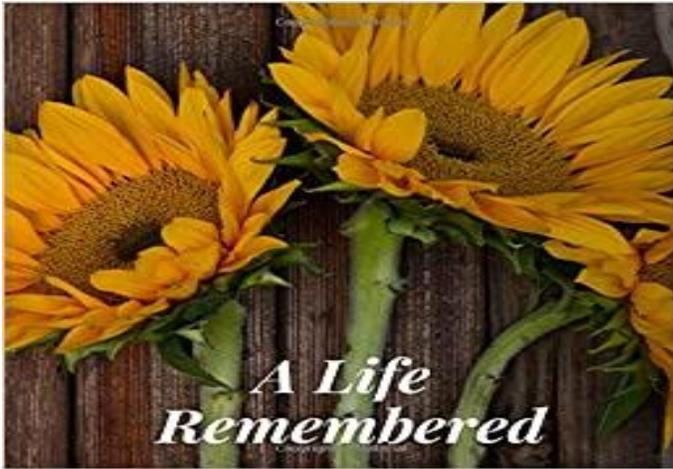
Now, as Winter starts to ebb away, let us look forward to the weather getting warmer and to the showers that only April can bring to nourish this season of new life. When the showers have ended, and you go outside you can almost smell the sweet earth as new beginning starts to pop through the soil in the colors of daffodils and crocuses which almost seems like a miracle. Yesterday, the ground was hard with cold soil, but as you walk through today the earth has suddenly filled with color and warmth which seems to surround us letting us know another Spring season has arrived.

Every year our Father gives us this season called Spring, not just to chase Winter away, but to also give us the beauty of new growth telling us to never be afraid to change. Perhaps He is saying that if you were not able to fix something that was broken in your life this past Winter, could it be it is now time to leave it behind while you breathe in the growth of Spring and start to rebuild something new in your life. All it takes is believing that you can change by taking our Father's guiding hand to move forward.

Just like His son Jesus who kept moving forward on that terrible road His Father led him on to save us, His children. He never faltered for He knew that His Father loved Him so much that there would be a new life awaiting Him. So, if we leave behind that broken part of our life, we just need to believe and have faith the way Jesus did. We must believe that our Father would give us a new path to follow, never allowing us to simply stand still, because long ago He had written our story. We just need to embrace each new Spring Day and listen for His voice to find it.

Spring! A beautiful season filled with glorious color that only our Father can give us! A season to move forward and renew our life. A season of faith!

*~ fran v. giambalvo*



*A Special Memory of  
Loren Charles Lehr  
Luella Eastwood  
Alberta Traub*

### **LOREN CHARLES LEHR**

**From Alice Lehr** – a dinner prayer my husband Loran wrote for us...

2-16-91

As we sit down to dinner  
with those whom we love  
Let us give thanks for our  
blessings to God up above.  
We pray to be strong and to  
do what is good  
To be worthy of blessings  
like loved ones and food.

### **ALBERTA TRAUB**

**From Marcia Duenkel**

I have known the Traub family for over 50 years and Alberta's sons were my friends since I was a teen (they both passed away years ago). I had a lovely visit with her sister Gladys who lives around the corner from my house and who I would see almost every day as she drove up the street to go to her sister's house. Gladys is a lovely woman and was very pleased to have me attend and I sent my regards from our church family.

## From Gerry Borgerson

When I started the Parish Visiting Team both Christine Voos and I started visiting Alberta. She was in her 90's, lived alone, didn't drive so the visits she got were very appreciated. I learned along the way she had lived a very difficult life having lost her only two sons at very young ages. She loved a visit and she loved to talk and she always had a smile.

I felt so badly when COVID hit and I had to stop the home visits. She developed dementia during that time and I felt badly not to see her. Her sister who was nearby and 2 nieces were her salvation. I will always remember her and her gracious hospitality as she always offered me tea or coffee.

## LUELLA EASTWOOD

### From Gerry Borgerson

When I think of Luella, the very first thing I remember is our first time at NBCC. When we arrived this dear little lady with a big smile came up immediately and greeted us. This dear person was Luella Eastwood. She introduced us to several other people. What a welcoming introduction this was to a very special place.

After many years of being a part of the Ladies Sewing Society with Luella and seeing her regularly on Sunday mornings Luella took a fall and started having health problems. I visited her each week. She was always positive and grateful for our time together.

She was so positive and never complained. If she saw negativity she overlooked it focused on the good things going on. She was a joy to know and one of the most special people I have ever known.

**\*\*If you have a fond memory of a church member who has passed, please email it to Fran at the church office, [nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net). It will appear in the next monthly Parish Visitor.**





Some of us have been blessed with so much  
and it takes so little to reach out to say,  
*"I am here for you!"*

### MONTHLY MEETINGS for MAY

Deacons meet – Sunday, May 1 following service

Church Council meets – Tuesday, May 10 @ 6:30 pm

### CLOTHING SHED IS OPEN

The clothing donation shed is located in the parking lot of the church, it's designed to give our members and neighbors a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used clothing. St. Pauly Textile Inc., the company that has provided the shed, partners with businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they're ultimately re-worn by people who need them. NBCC receives funding for donated clothing, allowing us ways to maintain and expand our ministries.

### TOPS

TOPS exercise program meets every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

### GET TO KNOW OUR CHURCH

**Live Streaming Worship On-Line!** Are you are unable to attend Sunday Worship but would still like to feel the closeness of your church family? Just click on the following link below to watch our Worship Live on Sunday Morning at 10:00 AM. With this link you can also watch a recap of any past Sunday worships you might have missed. **Remember, your church family is never far away!** Click on this link - [www.Facebook.com/CTNBCC](http://www.Facebook.com/CTNBCC)



## *APRIL*

*6: Edna Hemstock*

*14: Wendy Tarry*

*23: Christine Voos*

*24: Nancy Allen &  
Caroline Mulligan &  
Fran Giambalvo*

*28: Madelyn Downer*

Forgotten anyone in our birthday list  
please call the church office  
and let Fran know!



# CHILDREN'S PAGE

## EASTER word search

J E A S T E R Q R B M A  
E K L O W N A B F U N P  
L C D E F G A X Z N X R  
L H E I S R I S E N J I  
Y P G O R Q T N M Y K L  
B N G G O O S E A L L A  
E C H O C O L A T E M B  
A D U D E F G L N P N C  
N Q N R G S P R I N G D  
S R T S R T B L N P O E  
E I E I A C A N D Y O F  
G A M E S Z S H R I N G  
K K I C S K K B A L L H  
R E S U R R E C T I O N  
S U N D A Y T M A R C H

Can you find these words?

|             |           |            |              |
|-------------|-----------|------------|--------------|
| EASTER      | EGG HUNT  | JELLYBEANS | RESURRECTION |
| BUNNY       | BASKET    | SPRING     | SUNDAY       |
| FUN         | CANDY     | GRASS      | MARCH        |
| HE IS RISEN | CHOCOLATE | GAMES      |              |



# APRIL 2022

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY          | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY         |
|--|---|---|--------------------|---|---|------------------|
|  |   |   |                    |   | 1   | 2                |
|  |   |   |                    |   | 7:00 pm AA  | 7:00 pm NA       |
| 3<br>10:00 am<br>Communion<br>Sunday<br><br><b>Deacons meeting<br/>follows Worship</b> | 4<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br>7:00 pm Womens<br>Group  | 5<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>   | 6<br>6:00 pm TOPS  | 7<br>7:00 pm AA   | 8<br>7:00 pm AA   | 9<br>7:00 pm NA  |
| 10 <b>Palm Sunday</b><br>10:00 am Worship  | 11<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br>7:00 pm Womens<br>Group | 12<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br>6:30 pm Church<br>Council Meets | 13<br>6:00 pm TOPS | 14<br><b>Maundy<br/>Thursday Service<br/>at 7:00 pm</b> | 15<br><b>Good Friday</b><br><b>10:00am &amp; 7:00pm<br/>Good Friday<br/>Service join us @<br/>Zion Church</b> | 16<br>7:00 pm NA |
| 17 <b>Easter Sunday</b><br><br>10:00 am Worship  | 18<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br>7:00 pm Womens<br>Group | 19<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  | 20<br>6:00 pm TOPS | 21<br>7:00 pm AA  | 22<br>7:00 pm AA  | 23<br>7:00 pm NA |
| 24<br>10:00 am Worship   | 25<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b><br><br>7:00 pm Womens<br>Group | 26<br><b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  | 27<br>6:00 pm TOPS | 28<br>7:00 pm AA  | 29<br>7:00 pm AA  | 30<br>7:00 pm NA |

*Everyday...*

*~ remember someone in your prayers ~*

# The North Branford Congregational Church, UCC

1680 Foxon Road, PO Box 410, North Branford, CT 06471

*The ministers of this parish are all of its members.*

*Assisting them in their ministries are:*

**Church Administrator** .....Fran Giambalvo

## CHURCH COUNCIL:

**Moderator** ..... Joanne Palmieri  
**Chair of Trustees** .....Jonathan Bodwell  
**Chair of Deacons**.....Arnie Palmieri  
**Chair of Outreach**.....DeeDee Bagley  
**Treasurer** .....Jennifer Ramsay  
**Clerk**.....Marcia Duenkel  
**Assistant Clerk/ Recording Secretary**..... Nancy Allen  
**Member at Large**.....Alice Lehr  
**Worship Leader**.....Wendy Tarry

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

**Moderator** ..... Joanne Palmieri  
**Chair of Trustees** .....Jonathan Bodwell  
**Chair of Deacons**.....Arnie Palmieri  
**Chair of Christian Ed** .....Laurie Vincent  
**Chair of Outreach**.....DeeDee Bagley

Church office hours are Wednesday—Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
phone: 203.488.8456  
e-mail: nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net,

No Matter Who You Are,  
No Matter Where You Are on Life's Journey,  
You are Welcome Here!