

*NORTH BRANFORD
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
MARCH PARISH VISITOR 2022*



Though I fall,
I will rise again.

Though I sit in
darkness, the Lord
will be my light

Micah 7:8



*From YOUR - MODERATOR
JOANNE PALMIERI*



Dear NBCC Church Family,

I would like to wish everyone a meaningful journey through the Lenten Season. It is the perfect time to reflect on our blessings at NBCC. A positive atmosphere guided by God's love continues to embrace our church. Meaningful services such as Veteran's Day Sunday Service, Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday Service, "Souper Bowl Sunday Service, and the long-anticipated kick off of in person Sunday School have brought us so much joy. It is my sincere prayer that we continue on this path with God's help and journey together through Lent toward the promise of Easter Sunday.

God Bless You,
Joanne Palmieri, Moderator



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



As a preacher, I love a good story. Jesus often taught using stories and I believe that they can be a powerful tool to help us engage with truth and come to moments of realization. Recently I came across a story, the author of which is unknown, that simply but brilliantly makes a point about our relationship with God. The following is a version of that story:

“A boy asked his father: how big is God? Then the father looked up to the sky and seeing an airplane asked the son: "What's the size of that airplane?" The boy answered: "It's very small. I can barely see it." So the father took him to the airport and as they approached an airplane he asked: "And now, what is the size of this one?" The boy answered: "Wow daddy, this is huge!" Then the father told him: "God, is like this, His size depends on the distance between you and Him. The closer you are to Him, the greater He will be in your life!"

How close are you to Him?”

(Adapted From <http://www.dailytenminutes.com/2018/09/story-how-big-is-god.html>)

Of course, God’s size never changes nor does his character or his love. As the story reminds us, however, what can alter is our perception of him. Imagine you have a friend or relative whom you love but you don’t feel very close to anymore. What would you do to repair and renew that relationship? Perhaps you would talk to the person, maybe ask forgiveness for any ways you had hurt him/her, start spending more time together and dive back into a shared hobby or activity. Chances are, with that kind of tending and watering, your relationship would start blooming. In a similar way, we can deliberately take time to draw nearer to God. We can engage in prayer, worship and Bible study, we can ask for forgiveness, guidance and renewal, we can volunteer to help others, we can share of our time and talents, and we can actively participate in the life of our church family. Do we have to do all this perfectly? Of course not! God is not looking for perfect people, he is looking for people with hearts that want to draw close to him. And remember, God took the initiative on loving us long before we loved him back. Scripture tells us, “We love because he first loved us”. (1 John 4:19) As we move through the Lenten and Easter seasons, may we be reminded once more of God’s love as shown in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and may that remembrance kindle in us a desire to grow closer to God each day. We may be amazed by just how big the airplane is up close!

God bless,
Wendy Tarry, M.Div.



*A MOMENT
TO PAUSE*

We believe in all things that we can touch and see. But we should never doubt what we cannot touch or see for those things may be the greatest gifts our Father has given us.

~ fran v. giambalvo



March 2, 2022



LENTEN CALENDAR

NORTH BRANFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MARCH

March 2 – Ash Wednesday - 7am to 8am in Church Parking Lot. Just Drive up and receive Ashes right inside your car.

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 bouquet of flowers to the service to decorate the Flower Cross in the Sanctuary during the Service.



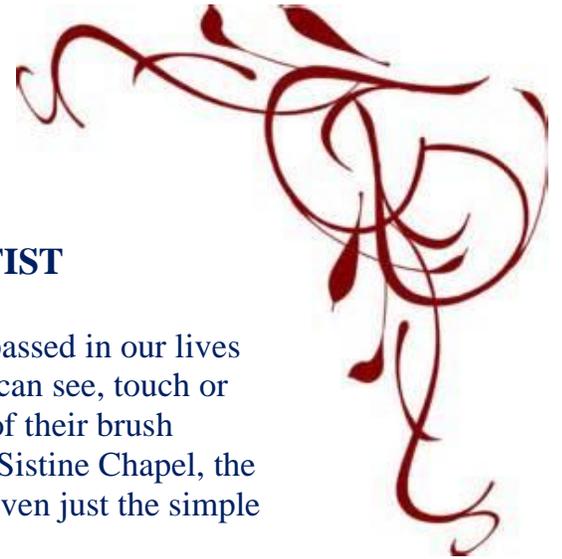
PLEASE NOTE:

Zion Episcopal Church (326 Notch Hill Rd) invites us to join them for their Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services:

- * Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, - liturgy of Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes at both 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. In addition, the community is also invited to receive ashes in the church's circular driveway from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- * 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



OUR FATHER, OUR ARTIST

There have been so many creative hands that have passed in our lives that have designed the most beautiful items that we can see, touch or possess. Such as the painters who with each stroke of their brush created the magnificent scenes on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the beautiful canvases that are hanging in museums or even just the simple painting hanging in your home.

There is also the chisel and hammer used by a sculptor to create such large and magnificent statues standing in galleries for all to see, or the smaller statue bought in a simple shop to give as a gift.

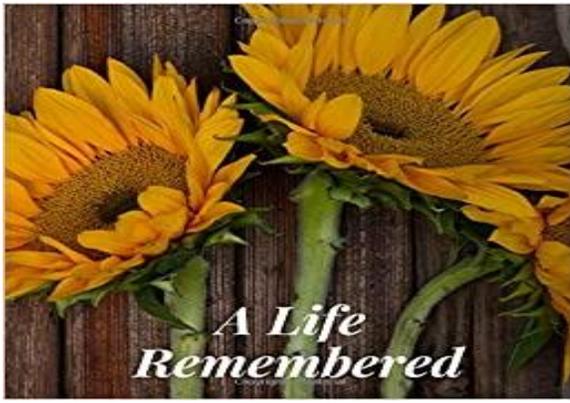
There are also the artists who worked with molten glass, forming each hot globe into an intricate design of a flowers or animal, or even a paperweight.

Then we have artists who we call composers, who have written symphonies that have lived through the centuries, and which are still heard in concert halls around the world today. Or those composers who write the “everyday” songs and music we love to sing or dance too.

Across the centuries, so many renowned artists from the Renaissance age through today have touched us not only with their creations, but they have also taught us how to see the beauty through someone else’s creative eye.

There is, however, one artist who stands out among all artists, for He is all of these artists and more; He is a painter, composer, and a sculptor. He has created this world for us and molded us each in His image. He entrusted this beautiful place to us, His children. He is the painter of the earth in all its bright colors to enrich everything around us. He is also the composer whose symphonies can be heard every day if we just take the time to sit quietly and listen. With each new day, you can hear the soft melody that is being played as a wind blows through the trees and the branches sway ever so gently to the music as if dancing, or the harsh and pounding music as the high winds gust over an ocean trying to reach the shore. We are presented with this beauty at no cost because this “Artist” has only wanted to please each and every one of us. For he is God, Our Father.

~fran v. giambalvo



A Special Memory of Loren Charles Lehr

Our Dad, Grandfather, and Great Grandfather:

There is not enough room nor adequate words to express the depth of Loren's life and the impact he had on those around him. But we can try. In addition to all that's been written, here are more thoughts. We (his children and grandchildren and many others) learned so much from him about civility, patience, tolerance and the joy of life's simple pleasures. He taught us the love of nature and the outdoors on countless hikes in the woods and along the shoreline. Identifying plants and animals, finding treasures in the fields and on the beach (praying mantis egg cases, robin's eggshells, horseshoe crabs, starfish...), and taking in the beauty of the world. He also passed on his love of literature, poetry, music and sports. He would often quote his favorite authors, recite a special poem, or break into a song. He attended as many games, races, matches and meets as possible to cheer on his children and grandchildren (basketball, track, cross-country, cheerleading, wrestling, football, lacrosse) often traveling quite a ways to make it. One thing we all loved and appreciated were his cards and notes. He never failed to send a heartfelt personal written message for each birthday, anniversary or holiday – or even just when one of us needed cheering up!! He knew what was needed and when, and always said the most encouraging thing. The same with Christmas cards...each one a personal handwritten message. Eating, especially with family, was one of his greatest pleasures, and he made each meal special by always setting the table. Whether a simple bowl of cereal for breakfast or a fabulous dinner cooked by Alice, the place settings had everything you might need, right down to the napkin. (At least one of us still does that!). And the most important thing – he always said grace. He gave the glory to God for all the blessings we had. And he was such a blessing to us. We thank God for the time we had with him and know he is at peace with our Father now.

Loren Charles Lehr of North Branford died Monday January 31, 2022 at Connecticut Hospice in Branford. He was the beloved husband of Alice Walston Lehr. Loren was born in New Haven April 1, 1930 a son of the late Herman A. and Hazel Blake Lehr. He served in the U. S. Air Force as a 1st Lieutenant during the Korean War. Loren had worked as a claims adjuster for Home Insurance Company and Zurich Insurance Company, and as a litigation specialist for Middlesex Mutual Assurance. He was a member of the North Branford Congregational Church and a very active member for more than 50 years of the Stony Creek Fife and Drum Corps. He was an avid runner, competing in many local road races. When running was no longer possible, he began cycling as a regular form of exercise. He enjoyed traveling with his grandchildren and children. He visited Ireland with the Drum Corps on several occasions, and once climbed to the top the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

He spent his childhood in Short Beach and loved the shoreline; he told many stories about his boyhood escapades around town; and later as a dad, he spent many happy hours fishing off the dock in Stony Creek with his children, bringing home loads of snapper blues for Alice to cook. (And the occasional eel or sea robin!)

Loren enjoyed snare drumming at local musters in Deep River and Westbrook, among others, and would jam late into the night with other fifers and drummers. He was as a longtime, dedicated and enthusiastic member of the Stony Creek Fife and Drum Corps – he loved marching, and most of all he enjoyed the comradery of fellow members and other corps.

Whenever he hiked with his children and grandchildren, he always found a 'walking stick' to take wherever we hiked – West Woods, Sleeping Giant, Supply Pond in Branford. As he got older the walking sticks became canes. The canes were his own handiwork, whittled until he felt they were comfortable in his hands. Carved into each

was a date, and sometimes initials. Over the years the canes became conversation starters as people admired them.

He was known to family and friends as a successful gardener, manually preparing the ground, planting and harvesting a wide variety of vegetables and herbs which Alice used in her cooking. He was very proud of this, and regularly shared his bounty with others.

For over 50 years he and Alice hosted an annual cookie and eggnog party with Alice baking the thousands of cookies and Loren making gallons of fresh eggnog. Together they hosted many Fourth of July picnics and even came up with the concept of a 'grandparents picnic' - only grandparents and grandchildren: parents were excused for the day.

Later in life, he enjoyed trips to the casino with Alice and socialized with players and dealers alike at the tables.

He was known to give sincere and meaningful hugs.

He spent as many hours as he could with his grandchildren, serving as a role model and mentor; and was thrilled to become a great-grandfather. He loved being a grandfather and a great-grandfather – there is too much to say about this – it is sufficient to say he adored each of them. This past summer all were together for a weekend, taking all the great grandchildren on a Thimble Island cruise, which was a joyful and meaningful day for him.

It is hard to describe Loren in a few sentences or even paragraphs...his interests and talents were many, and his kindness to and genuine interest in all people regardless of age, stature or position allowed him to have conversations virtually anywhere and anytime. He could quote poems and literature, enjoyed classical music and jazz, as well as fife and drum music. He read quite a bit, and always had a crossword puzzle handy. Regardless of a person's circumstance in life, Loren was always able to find conversation and provide support and encouragement. He was interested in people; kind and courteous to all he met.

Superlatives aside, the world was a better place wherever he was.

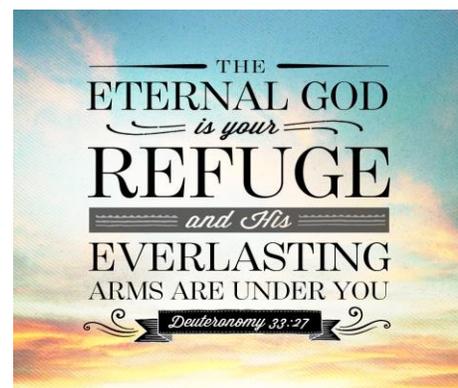
Two quotes speak clearly to the way he lived his life:

“If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music he hears, however measured or far away.” Thoreau

“I expect to pass this way but once; any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.” Etienne De Grellet

Loren, “Pop” to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, is also survived by his children, Douglas W (Amy) Lehr of Keene, NH and Jill Loren Lehr Cook of McLean, VA; his grandchildren, Brittany Catherine Lehr, Evan Douglas Lehr (Liz), Victoria Callie Cook Skinner (Tyler) and Myles Blake Cook; step-grandchildren Jen Beaudry, Melissa Greene, and Melanie Greene; great-grandchildren, Hazel Frances Skinner, Sara Fern Skinner, Henry Patrick Lehr and Brooke Elise Lehr, and his brother Blake Lyon Lehr (Lois) of Branford and many nieces and nephews.

****If you have a fond memory of Loren that you would like to share, or another church member who has passed, please email it to Fran at the church office, nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net. It will appear in the next monthly Parish Visitor.**





SCRIPTURE FOR the 40 DAYS of LENT

Let us remember the love that God has given us through His Son Jesus, and the love that Jesus has given us through His death and resurrection. Starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing for the next 40 days through Holy Saturday (except for Sundays), read a scripture verse every day as we walk the road with Jesus.

Day 1 Isaiah 6:1-7

Day 2 Psalm 139

Day 3 Revelation 4

Day 4 Psalm 19

Day 5 Isaiah 11:1-10

Day 6 Psalm 27

Day 7 Lamentations 3:19-26

Day 8 Psalm 30

Day 9 Isaiah 43:1-13

Day 10 Psalm 136

Day 11 Job 38:1-11

Day 12 Psalm 42

Day 13 Job 38:12-38

Day 14 Psalm 16

Day 15 1 Kings 19:11-13

Day 16 Psalm 34

Day 17 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Day 18 Psalm 121

Day 19 Exodus 15:1-21

Day 20 Psalm 103

Day 21 Malachi 4:6

Day 22 Psalm 122

Day 23 Isaiah 9:1-7

Day 24 Isaiah 7:10-16

Day 25 Luke 1:26-38

Day 26 Luke 1:46-55

Day 27 Luke 2:1-1

Day 28 Isaiah 61

Day 29 Luke 4:14-21

Day 30 Psalm 95

Day 31 John 10:11-18

Day 32 Psalm 23

Day 33 Zechariah 9:9-10

Day 34 John 12:12-19

Day 35 John 16:5-14

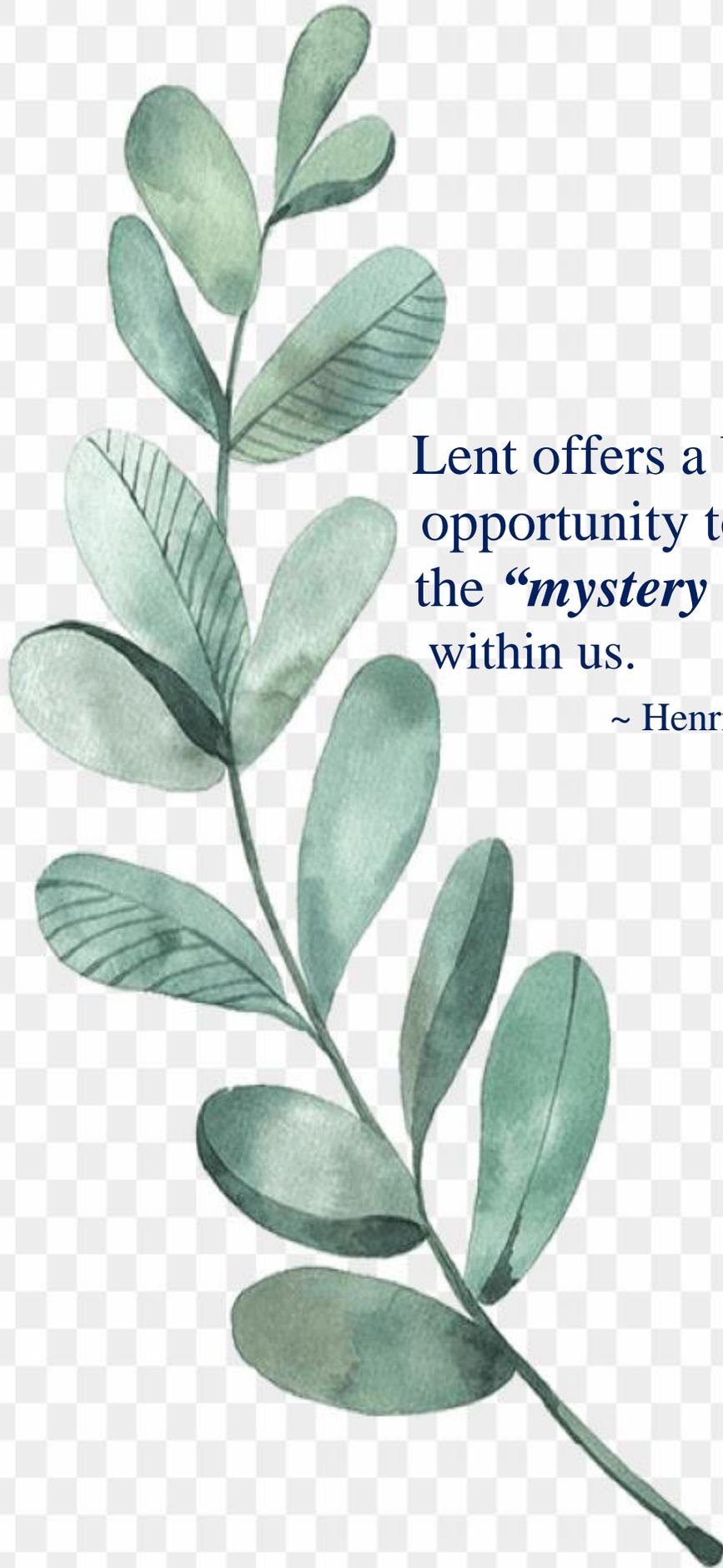
Day 36 Isaiah 53

Day 37 Matthew 27:33-54

Day 38 Psalm 22

Day 39 Mark 16

Day 40 Revelation 21:1-7



Lent offers a beautiful
opportunity to discover
the “*mystery of Christ*”
within us.

~ Henri Nouwen

A LENTEN PRAYER JOURNAL

Every day let us take a few minutes to write in a prayer journal as if you are talking directly to God and maybe tell Him today...



_____ Date

my morning prayer was about:

as I read Scripture it made my day seem brighter because:

I prayed for:

sitting quietly, I heard your voice speak these words:

I felt sad/happy because:

I am grateful for:

Tonight, in prayer I ask God, that He will guide me through another day tomorrow.

Tomorrow is a brand-new day! Let us start the day with prayer by thanking Our Heavenly Father for everything He gave us yesterday and the promise of what is yet to come.

You can make copies of this sheet to use every day, or you can start your own Prayer Journal. Either way, let us never forget to take time to talk to God.

~ fran v. giambalvo





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

Thank You
For Your
Prayers

I want to say thank you to my church family and friends for all their prayers as I waited for the birth of my granddaughter. She made it safely into the world even though she was 5 weeks early. Her mom and dad are now all safe at home. My granddaughters name is Audra Bean Britton. I am Laura McManus her very proud grandmother.

MONTHLY MEETINGS for FEBRUARY

Deacons meet – Sunday, March 6 following service

Church Council meets – Tuesday, March 8 @ 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



MARCH

7: Patricia Reid

8: Janyce Cattaruzza

13: Julia Palmieri

21: Marcia Duenkel

29: Cameron Jackowski

Forgotten anyone in our birthday list please call the church office and let Fran know! 203.488.8456



CHILDREN'S PUZZLE PAGE

CAKE
EGG
SAUSAGE
POTATO
BREAKFAST
PORRIDGE
SANDWICH
APPLE

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

↑ ↓ ← → ↘ ↙ ↗ ↖

Spring

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

egg
snail
bee
frog
caterpillar
lamb
ladybug
butterfly
owl
sun

MARCH 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Ash Wednesday	3	4	5
6 First Sunday of Lent 10:00 am Communion Sunday Deacons meeting follows Worship	7 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Women's Group	8 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Church Council Meets	9 6:00 pm TOPS	10 7:00 pm AA	11	12 7:00 pm NA
13 Second Sunday of Lent 10:00 am Worship	14 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Women's Group	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 6:00 pm TOPS	17 7:00 pm AA	18	19 7:00 pm NA
20 Third Sunday of Lent 10:00 am Worship	21 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Women's Group	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 6:00 pm TOPS	24 7:00 pm AA	25	26 7:00 pm NA
27 Fourth Sunday 10:00 am Worship	28 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Women's Group	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 6:00 pm TOPS	31 7:00 pm AA		

Everyday...

~ pray for someone who is alone ~

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 AdministratorFran Giambalvo

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Moderator Joanne Palmieri
Chair of TrusteesJonathan Bodwell
Chair of Deacons.....Arnie Palmieri
Chair of Outreach.....DeeDee Bagley
TreasurerJennifer 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 TrusteesJonathan Bodwell
Chair of Deacons.....Arnie Palmieri
Chair of Christian EdLaurie 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,

