

Pastor's Letter of the Week



March 22, 2017

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Our Vision

Praising God and
meeting
the needs of people
through
worship, study,
outreach
and fellowship,
in the name of
Jesus Christ.

WHAT'S COMING UP

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY *MARCH 26*

Our annual Children's Sunday service is this Sunday at 10:00 AM. The Sunday School children will lead us in worship. Please join us for this special service.

LENTEN FISH DINNER *THIS FRIDAY*

During Lent, First Congregational Church has a fish dinner every Friday night from 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM. This has to be the most fun fundraiser the church does all year. It's a great place for new members to get to know older ones and vice-versa.

First and foremost, we need your support in coming out and eating. Don't worry if your kids don't like fish; they also serve hot dogs for the kids, as well as other dishes like shrimp or crab cakes. Also, there are special prices for children so a larger family doesn't break the bank. There is something for everyone.

Second of all, we need your help. We need help with waiters, servers, cooks, and counters. The more the merrier. Usually, you serve one shift or the other, from 4:30 PM-6:00 PM or 6:00 PM-7:30 PM. If you can volunteer, just respond to this email and we will get you in touch with the right person.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL!

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION *MAGIC SHOW*

[Magic Show March 31](#)

WEEKLY LENTEN PRAYER SERVICE

Every Tuesday during the season of Lent, we are going to have a brief time of prayer, scripture reading, and communion at 7:00 PM.

The service is for those who need a little boost during the week.

This service will run no longer than a half an hour and we will meet in the Pastor's Parlor to start. If you could use a little push in your spiritual life during the season of Lent, then please join us at 7:00 PM.

DAILY LENTEN DISCIPLINES

I hope all of you have received your yellow Lenten Envelopes. If you notice, there is a prayer written on the back of each envelope.

All these prayers were either compiled or written by Mr. Walt Dunbar. They are short, succinct, to the point, and are a wonderful way to point each day in a spiritual direction. My hope is that you will use these envelopes by daily saying the prayer found for each day of the week, and then placing an offering in the envelope. We hope to take up these envelopes on Easter.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING OUR ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY, MRS. SANDY O'NEILL

Sandy O'Neill, our church administrator, had surgery on March 1 for diverticulitis. She will be out of commission for the month of March. During that time, the office hours will be reduced and changed to 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM, Monday through Thursday. The office will continue to be closed on Fridays until the end of March.

Allison Fay has agreed to work in the office during that time. We are so grateful to have her joining us during those hours.

Our main concern is that Sandy has a successful surgery and can recuperate without any complications. Keep this wonderful person in your prayers.

VISITING SHIRLEY PORTER

As many of you know, Shirley Porter fell and broke her hip a couple of weeks ago. She had surgery and is now in rehabilitation at Lord Chamberlain. At first, she was in a lot of pain and wasn't up for visits. Shirley is now feeling much better and would welcome a visit or a call. If you do plan on visiting, please call first. Shirley's number is 203-375-5894, ext 291.

75TH ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY CONCERT

The 75th Annual Palm Sunday concert will be held on Sunday, April 9 at 4:00 PM in the sanctuary. Please join us for this wonderful afternoon of music.

[*Palm Sunday poster*](#)

COME TO FRANCE WITH US

If you would like to go with our group to France next September, this is the time to let Meg know!

We have a nice group going, but we do still have a few spots left.

This is a trip of a lifetime!

If you are interested, talk to Meg and give her the reservation form and deposit as soon as possible.

Paper copies of the brochure are available at church or

Meg can email you an electronic copy.

Invite your relatives, friends or neighbors!



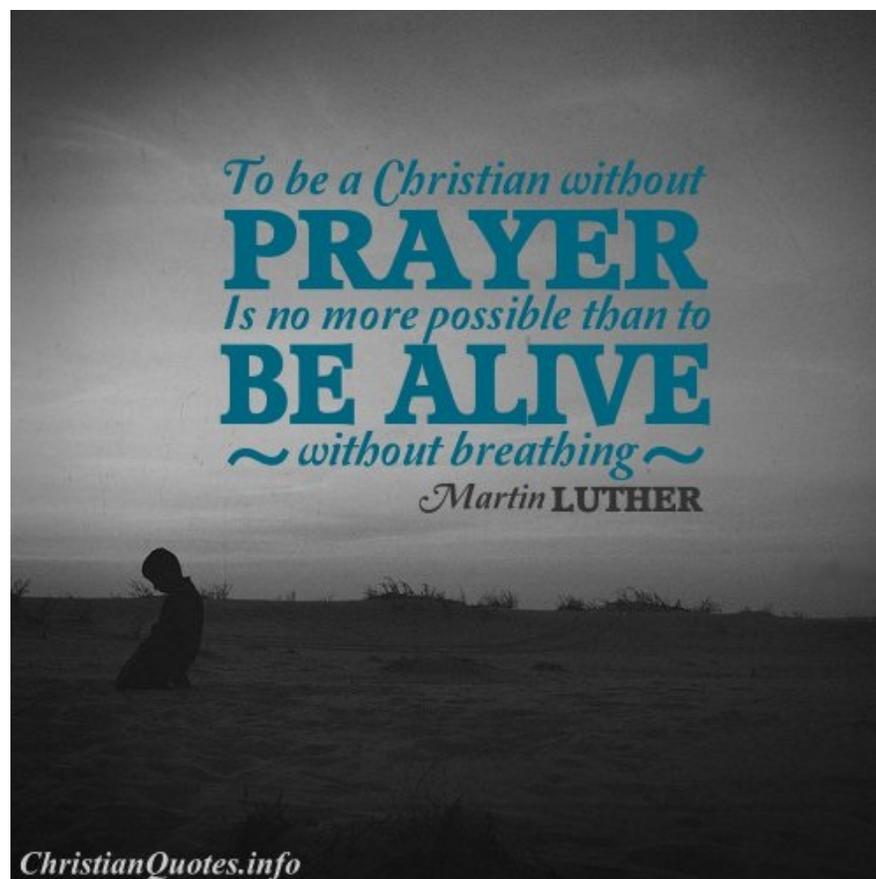
WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

LORD'S KITCHEN

As part of our participation with the Lord's Kitchen, we are accepting donations for toiletries to be distributed during our turn at serving meals. We are looking for things like shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, tissues, and toilet paper.

There will be a donation box in the Narthex. If you have any questions, you can call Jean Martire at 203-876-9390.

PONDERINGS



SERMONS ON OUR WEBSITE

If you're interested in hearing sermons from last week's service, or sermons from the last month, you can find them at our website, firstchurchstratford.org.

IN NEED OF PRAYER



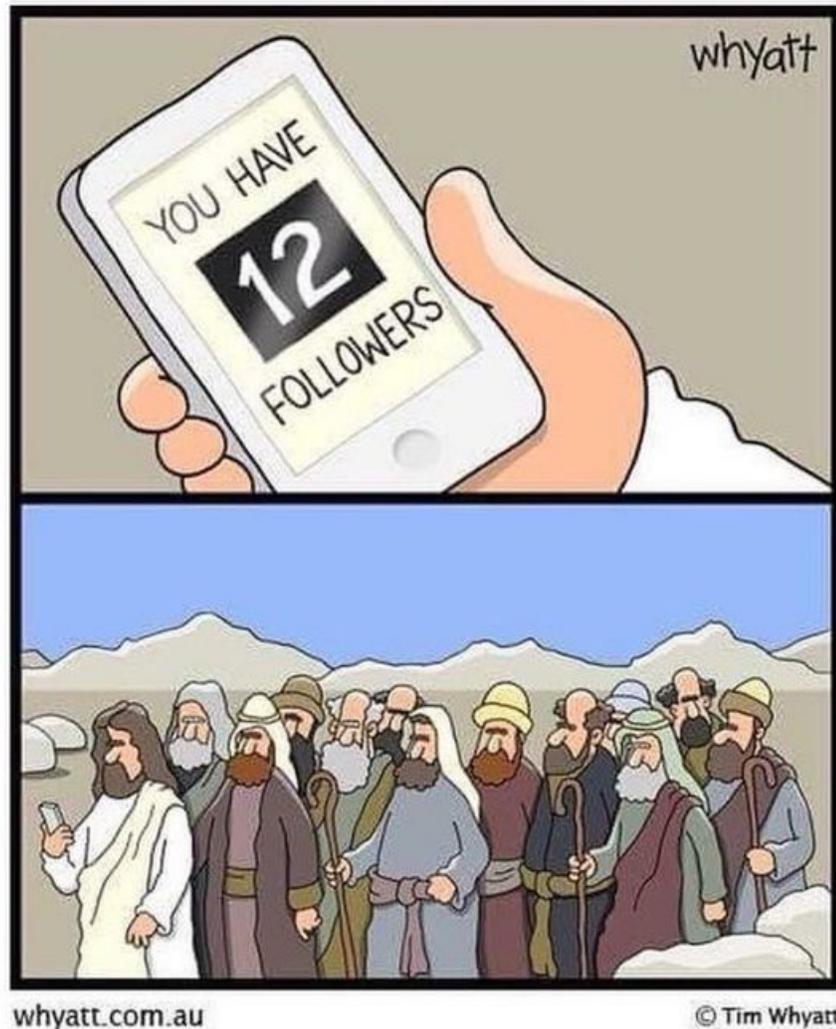
[March 26 Prayer List](#)

QUICK LINKS

Our website: www.firstchurchstratford.org

UCC website: www.ucc.org

JOKE OF THE WEEK



If Jesus were on social media

Calendar

March 24, 2017 Lenten Fish Fry 4:30 PM-7:00 PM

March 26, 2017 Children's Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 AM

Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:15 AM

Junior Pilgrim Fellowship 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

