



Photo Courtesy of Debby Jagielow

Pastor's Reflection

Bubbles during the Closing Hymn? Rainbow skeletons on the lawn? Crashing cymbals during a sermon? A live organ soundtrack accompanying the original silent Dracula movie “Nosferatu” on Halloween night?

What in the name of God is going on at Spring Glen Church?!

At the point in the Bible where we are told humanity is made in God’s image, the only thing we know about God is that She created the universe. When we read about imago dei, the only quality we know about God is that He is creative. Therefore, it would be logical to claim that when we lovingly tap into our joy-filled creativity, we are tapping into the divine spirit within us.

This past Sunday, November 3, we celebrated the 90th Anniversary to the day of our first Sunday School class. After noting what a significant statement about our values it is that our church held its first Sunday School class months before it held its first worship service, I lifted up a story about when former CE Director and current SGC member Muriel Smith brought a live baby lamb to the Sunday School to help the kids better connect with all the sheep and shepherd imagery in the Bible. The recent burst of creativity for me is simply tapping into a long history of using the arts to build community and worship God at Spring Glen Church.

Three years ago when I was discerning where God was calling me to serve as pastor, the thing that stood out to me about Spring Glen Church was your willingness to be creative; to try new wild experiments like the farmer’s market and let it go when it became clear it’s time had passed; to use multiple forms of music from Mendelssohn oratorios to modern pop rock to bluegrass classics; to think about theater as more than just a community activity but as an actual form of ministry. That creative spirit is the thing that has carried us through 90 years and will carry us through another 90. That way we embody theology through art rather than just talking about God is why our ministries are so transformative and life-giving.

As we launch into our Stewardship Pledge Campaign, I am also very aware that doing ministry in this way, creating ministry that matters, building church that is relevant, expanding faith in a way that actually transforms lives takes money. I want to thank everyone who is able to participate in the 90 for 90 challenge, to be one of the 90 to increase or start pledging in honor of our 90th Anniversary. I also want to thank people who can’t increase because of life circumstance. Even if you have to decrease your pledge, remember Jesus preached that the poor widow’s 2 cents were in some ways more powerful than the wealthy man’s hundreds. Together, with all of our gifts united, we are creatively sustaining, growing, and reimagining the church that God needs us to be.

SGC Initiative on Aging—Coming Events

Discussion Group:

Continuing the Conversation on Aging as a Spiritual Journey

If you are interested in exploring the various gifts and challenges of Aging, come join the conversation, **Monday December 2nd at 4 pm, Fellowship Room.**

We will focus on how we can grow spiritually as we grow older. For a copy of the upcoming reading, please email clare@springglenchurch.org

The readings are only a jumping off point: the most important text is your life experience and story.

Our discussions have been stimulating and enjoyable. Please join in!

Tasks of the Second Half of Life

**Saturday morning -- February 1, 2020—
9:30am —12:30pm**

“Each of us has a soul and ...there is a buried treasure in the field.” C.G. Jung

Our journey at this second half of life often invites us to leave the familiar and search God’s call to us as new horizons open. What are those treasures yet to be revealed? What shall we let go as we face the future? We will gather for a morning of reflection and discussion on what awaits us and what we can create, in this season of our life.

Led by Lorraine La Vigne RSM a Sister of Mercy, licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and presenter of programs focused on the journey through the second half of life.

Resources:

Aging At Home—Information and Support for Elders in our wider community

Elderly persons who need help to continue living happily in their own homes have been served by the Interfaith Volunteer Care Givers of Greater New Haven since 1984. The program brings people together into supportive relationships with caring volunteers.

The monthly Aging at Home - Open Door meeting is held at Spring Glen Church on the first Thursday of the month, at NOON with lunch and a presentation.

Call **203 -230 -8994** for more information or click on the links below: [Mae’s Closet](#)- a durable medical equipment lending bank

[Aging at Home/Open Door](#)—Held here at SGC

[Friendly Visiting](#)—Elders who are growing old at home can have freedom, but it often comes at the price of isolation.

[Special Help](#)—Need some help around the yard or with a special project?

[Are you looking for something meaningful to do? Click to learn about volunteer opportunities with IVCG.](#)

Sermon Soundbite:

“Communion is the opposite of coveting. When we covet, we are not content. We want more than we have and we want to hold onto what we have. Communion demands something else of us—a willingness to be humble and grateful for who we are and what we have and the ability to say, we have enough and we are enough.”

- Pastor Clare

SGC Initiative on Aging—Coming in the Spring!

Workshops for Elders and their Families—Date TBA

The 4 Documents Everyone Needs

There are 4 legal documents which enable you to have self determination, protect your assets provide for your family and create a legacy. Learn what they are, what they do and why you needs them.

Helping Seniors Stay at Home

CT seniors my be eligible for help with prescription drug costs, and other medical expenses, home health care, housing and other assistance. Learn what is available and how to quality

Our presenter is Marilyn Toland, elder care attorney in Hamden. Her mission is to protect assets for you and your loved ones including through wills and legacy planning. Marilyn has a JD from Yale Law School.

Dementia Friends Information Session

Date—TBA

This one hour session will give some tools to help us develop a more humane and compassionate view of persons with dementia and to learn how such a diagnosis is felt from the inside. By helping everyone in a community understand what dementia is and how it affects people, each of us can make a difference for people touched by dementia. If you could not attend last spring, we are repeating the session so that more of us at SGC and in the wider community can begin to become Dementia Friends.

Sermon Soundbite:

“The commandment not to covet recapitulates all the others and leads us back to the first commandment, that there is one God. How does this works? If we are divided in our heart’s allegiance we will always have trouble with others. Other gods, other people. Other things. If we are not settled on the One true God, and devoting ourselves to fully loving and serving, it will be very hard to obey the other commandments but almost impossible to obey this final one.”

-Pastor Clare

Leaving a Legacy

There are not many opportunities in today’s world to sit and talk about our lives and our past. And to review what has been satisfying, challenging, confounding.

What do you want your family to know about you, and what you would love to share with your grandchildren and family members?

Some church members have begun to share their precious memories. You can do it, too. If you are interested, please let Chuck Paul or Pastor Clare know. We will gladly arrange a time to get together for a conversation which can help you delve into your memory bank for future generations. And leave a legacy gift to your family and to our church. You will receive a copy and one will be kept at the church.

Seminarian Sunday!

I am writing invite each of you to Seminarian Sunday on November 17th! This worship service will be led by the Yale Divinity School seminarians and we would love to minister with you. We are curating a service – from the Words of Welcome to the Benediction – inspired by the vision of the prophet, Isaiah. We will be investigating questions of how we discern when to start anew, where we find our hope and how we cope with change. We look forward to seeing you there!

Three of those seminarians – Karis Slattery, Jack Mahoney and I – will be traveling with Andover Newton and IMP (International Partners in Mission) to Kenya this Winter Recess! Of course, we each have our own personal reasons for going on this learning journey. Immersion programs are one of the greatest ways to discover how minuscule we are in God's great loving creation. We look forward to the challenge(s) of being a guest in one's homeland and the opportunity to continue seeing God in more people and places. Ultimately, we hope to encounter the sacred on this journey. In order to go on this vocationally transformative pilgrimage, the three of us need to raise \$3000 by December 8th!

If you would like to help us become the globally minded ministers that the church needs, make your check out to Spring Glen Church and place "YDS Kenya" in the memo line. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to me at: JaQuan@springglenchurch.org. We thank you in advance for your support!

It has been such a pleasure serving as your Ministerial Intern thus far and I am thrilled to see what God has in store!

Blessings, JaQuan

New Member Sunday

There will be New Member Joining Opportunity on **Sunday Dec. 8**. Jack@SpringGlenChurch.org for more details, questions, or other discernment.

Fellowship Hour Hosting Schedule

Below is the Fellowship Hour hosting schedule for November. If you are not able to host on your assigned date, we ask that you try to help find a replacement, perhaps swapping with an individual/family scheduled later in the months ahead. Please notify [Courtney K Mason](#) of any changes. She will update the master calendar and the church office. To find the phone numbers or email addresses of other members, be sure to log in as a member on this website, and then you may access a downloadable church directory from the right-hand navigation menu. Alternatively, email Melissa in the office to request a PDF of the directory be emailed to you.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Ambassador</u>	<u>Host(s)</u>	<u>Host(s)</u>
11/3/19	Connie Rogers	Amy Baker	Rhonda & James Voos
11/10/19	Liz Wootton	Phil Notaro & Pamela Sletten	Peg Limbacher
11/17/19	Liz Wootton	Sheila Brantley & Jim Maturo	Betsy Lucker & Adam McDonald
11/24/19	Amy Baker	Marilyn Kendrix	Ted & Amy Lynn

Thanksgiving Food Collection

The Christian Action Committee (CAC) is busy making plans to provide Thanksgiving dinner to our neighbors in need. There are two ways you can contribute: (1) purchase nonperishable food items (detailed list and reusable grocery bags provided) and/or (2) make a cash or check donation for the purchase of Shop Rite gift cards to allow families to purchase fresh food to supplement the nonperishable food items in their bags. (Please note that cash or check is preferred in lieu of gift cards so that the CAC may purchase the gift cards using the church's non-profit tax-exempt status.) If you are interested in participating in this long-standing tradition at Spring Glen Church, please sign up during fellowship hour on October 20, 27, or November 3 to collect your shopping list and bags. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Cecala at 860-933-2941 or AmandaGCecala@gmail.com. All donations of food and cash are due by **Sunday, November 10**. We thank you for your continued support!

Save the Date! Women's Retreat March 27-29, 2020

As in past years we will gather for a time of reflection and prayer, song and community connections. The Rev. Donna Mannocho will lead us and we will enjoy the natural setting of Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, about a 45 minute drive from church.

There will be a Saturday Day Option like last year!

The Retreat Leadership Team is forming ! If you would like to contribute to picking a theme and helping on some practical aspects of the retreat, please contact clare@springglenchurch.org. We will decide on a mutually convenient time in late November or early December and then meet 2 more times before the retreat.

Sermon Soundbite:

"Sometimes God needs us to create giant spectacles of love, not to prove the existence of God, but to expose the lies that give power to a violent and oppressive system." - Pastor Jack

GYMM Group Re-Convening

The GYMM group and friends will be joining together on Nov. 17 from 4-6 p.m. for games and pizza in the Fellowship Room. Children are invited to join the games, and childcare will be provided. For questions and to RSVP, please email Marty.Callinan@gmail.com. If you want to join the email list for the GYMM group, please email Marty. GYMM is open to anyone interested. The group is targeted at Gen Y and Millennials-ish and their partners. Those with or without kids are equally welcome. Some group activities can include children while others are adults-only.

Sermon Soundbite:

"It's important to remember that sometimes the wide chasms that divide us today were actually begun as tiny cracks many generations ago." - Pastor Jack

Advent Craft Fair Sunday December 8, 2019

Our Spring Glen Church Craft Fair is coming soon! What is the fair, you ask? Our community gathers together with a few people from the wider community to share our creations, fun and joy with you. Vendors set up in the Great Hall that morning either before or during worship. After worship we share the space with Fellowship Hour and it really is a lot of fun for vendors, for appreciators and for buyers. Almost all goods are handmade and make great gifts. And - a percentage of the proceeds go to a scholarship fund for the annual Women's Retreat. Last year, our hall was full to almost bursting. So.... If you would like to reserve a table, or if you have questions, please let me know soon. Ruth LeBar rlebar@sbcglobal.net

Sermon Soundbite:

"Sometimes you need clashing cymbals and sometimes you need quiet stillness. Some people praise God through loud clanging gongs and other through gentle harp. That's the beauty of church, we put our literal and metaphorical instruments together to make a giant orchestra for God."

- Pastor Jack

Peer Support for Caregivers

Schedule of upcoming meeting dates

Please join us for informal conversation about our challenges and joys of helping care for our loved ones - and for ourselves - as caregivers. If you are seeking emotional support, practical tips, or insights into the future, you're likely to find some or all of that in this peer-led group discussion. Come chat, once or as often as you'd like. Next gatherings are at 7:30 in the Fellowship Room at **Spring Glen Church on: Wednesday, Nov. 20 & Monday, Dec. 16**

Please contact Nancy Dittes (ndittes@sbcglobal.net) or Anne Harris (aharris@virginiaabrasives.com) for more information, and to let us know of your interest. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors who may be interested.

A photograph of a church interior. In the foreground, several people are seated in wooden pews. A woman in a maroon top has a name tag that says "Dorothy Hall". Next to her, a woman in a dark jacket has a name tag that says "Barbara Libby". The church has high ceilings with large chandeliers and tall windows on the right side. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

Continuing the Narrative Lectionary

Whether you're in worship or not, you're invited to follow the story.

November 10 – Wider Church Sunday; Guest Preacher Kent Saladi

Hosea 11:1-9

November 17 - Stewardship Collection and Seminarian Sunday

Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5

November 24 –(Pre) Thanksgiving Sunday

2 Kings 22:1-10 [11-20]; 23:1-3



Starting in January, the Springboard will be published quarterly instead of monthly. You can keep up with our regularly programming by subscribing to our weekly email.

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