



**A Reconciling in Christ
(Open and Affirming) congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Sunday Worship
and
Monthly Saturday
Inner-View Chat & Chew**

**The Reverend Marjo Anderson,
Pastor**
marjoanderson@aol.com
203-982-3441 (cell)

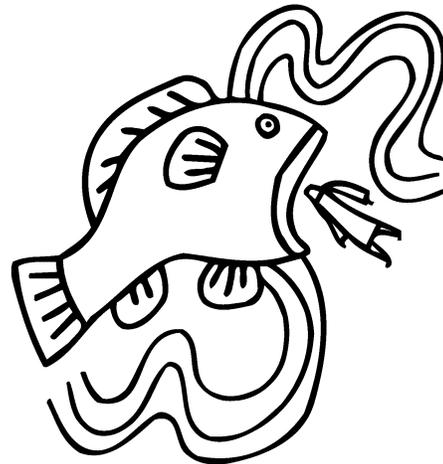
**Jeanette Harris,
Lay Licensed Minister**
jharris524@yahoo.com
203.336.6778 (cell)

Karl Kraft, Office Manager
salemsec123@sbcglobal.net

Parish Hall
1475 Noble Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06610

**Jennifer Reyes and Pablo Cruz,
Sextons**
jen92979@optimum.net
203-455-7583

3160 Park Avenue,
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Telephone: 203-336-3300;
Fax: 203-336-8813



www.salembridgeport.org

www.facebook.com/salembridgeport

**YouTube
Salem Lutheran Church,
Bridgeport CT**

**17th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM 20 September 2020
in the Salem Picnic Grove**

Gathering

As you prepare for worship, here are some additional readings for the day as well as commemorations for the week.

READING: Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

²Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

³Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

⁴One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

⁵On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

⁶The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

⁷They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996

Sunday, September 20, 2020

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Monday, September 21, 2020

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government.

Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers.

Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

GATHERING SONG

Lord, I Need You

as recorded by Chris Tomlin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rR_RdbICTE

Verse 1 **Lord, I come, I confess, bowing here, I find my rest.
Without You, I fall apart. You're the One that guides my heart.**

Refrain **Lord, I need You, oh, I need You, Ev'ry hour I need You.
My one defense, my righteousness, oh God, how I need You.**

Verse 2 **Where sin runs deep Your grace is more. Where grace is found is where You are.
Where you are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me. (Refrain)**

Bridge **So teach my song to rise to You when temptations come my way.
When I cannot stand, I'll fall on You. Jesus, You're my hope and stay. (Refrain)**

*by Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill & Matt Maher
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WELCOME

Marjo:

In the name of Jesus, welcome to worship!

We are glad to have those of you worshipping with us right here in the picnic grove and we are glad to have those of you out there in cyberspace worshipping with us via Facebook Live!

I'm Pastor Marjo Anderson of Salem Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT in the United States.

While our building here at 3160 Park Avenue is closed at present, you can find us at our website: www.SalemBridgeport.org , on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SalemBridgeport , and on our [YouTube Channel](#): Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT.

Over the early months of the pandemic Salem worshipped on Facebook and YouTube and Zoom, and had drive-in worship services, including one with Genesis and New Direction Ministries.

Since July, Genesis and Salem have had a wonderful time worshipping together here in the picnic grove and we are grateful to God for our partnership in ministry.

Next Sunday will be our last service together in the grove, as beginning in October, Salem will be having drive-in or zoom worship until CT enters Phase 3 of reopening. We'll also do our best to stream our worship over FBLive, no matter which way we gather.

Links to the worship bulletin with the order of service, to our donate page, and to other resources are included on our website at SalemBridgeport.org/Live and on our Facebook page.

Jeanette:

I'm Jeanette Harris, Lay Licensed Minister of Genesis Gospel Café at 1475 Noble Ave here in Bridgeport and in addition to Sunday worship we have resumed our Inner-view Chat'n'Chew the 3rd Saturday of the month.

We also have a weekly game night Thursdays from 6:00-7:00.

If you'd like to join us, we'll have a zoom links posted at SundayNightAlive.org as well as on the calendar on Salem's website.

Genesis and Salem and New Direction Ministries are also resuming our monthly Sunday Night Alive series normally the last Sunday of the month

and this month, on Sunday September 27th at 5 pm, we'll have a hymn sing, drive-in style!

So let us know your favorite hymns or Christian songs and sing-along in the privacy of your own car – kind of like singing in the shower!

Today as we gather in person, please remember that while you may not feel at risk for Covid-19, the person next to you may be very much at risk or may feel that they are but they may be uncomfortable telling you, so please, wear a mask and make sure it covers your nose and mouth, and maintain a minimum of 6' from anyone with whom you do not live.

We are so glad you have joined us for worship this day!

We are blessed by the presence of each and every one of you who is here with us physically and by the many more who are joining us online.

Will you pray with me?

Word

READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Word of God, Word of Life!

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

The Gripping Grasp of Grace

Jeanette Harris and Marjo Anderson

Thanksgiving



OFFERING

In response to God's grace,
it is our joy to return to God our tithes and offerings.

If you are watching and are part of another faith community,
we encourage you to give your tithes to your own church first,
and, if in addition to that, you would like to support our work here
at Genesis and at Salem, we would be most grateful.

For those of you here in person today,
there is an offering box to receive your checks made out to Genesis or Salem.
Loose cash may be designated by placing it in an envelope near the offering box.

To give online to Salem,
go to the menu on our website at SalemBridgeport.org and click "donate"
or scan the QR code here in our Sunday worship program
with a QR reader on your smart phone which will take you to that page.

To give to Genesis, find Genesis Gospel Café on your Venmo app.
Let us pray....

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Grace Flows Down

https://youtu.be/gZdmGVGGH_w

Amazing grace how sweet the sound! Amazing love now flowing down!
From hands and feet that were nailed to the tree Grace flows down and covers me.
It covers me. It covers me. It covers me. And covers me.

CCLI Song # 1223050

David E. Bell | Louie Giglio | Rod Padgett

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. (*a brief silence*)
God of all love and all power,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us —
ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.
Receive them for the sake of the One who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last.

Where this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service.

Strengthen those who suffer for Christ. We pray for our mission partners, especially today for Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's World Hunger Appeal; and for Salem and Genesis members & families, especially those celebrating birthdays this week:

Ashley Rosa, and Kyle DeWalt

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities —

nothing in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy, tend to it all.

Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all.

Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom.

Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing.

Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences.

Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously.

Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need, especially David, Barbara, Jerry, Andrea, Audry, Diane, Dolores, Dawn, Eron, Grace, Hazel, Jacob, Jana, Katherine, Liz, Maria, Martha, Ron, Sarah, Steve, and all we name in our hearts.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us.

Give us faithfulness to follow them,

living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Sending

BLESSING

May the abundance of God's grace transform your life, your relationships, and your world. **Amen**

SENDING SONG

Be Ye Glad

sung by Michael Kelly Blanchard and Noel Paul Stookey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5FsvIxHus9E>

Verse 1 **In these days of confused situations, in those nights of a restless remorse,
when the heart and the soul of the nation lay wounded and cold as a corpse,
from the grave of the innocent Adam comes a song bringing joy to the sad.
Oh, your cries have been heard and the ransom has been paid up in full. Be ye glad!**

Refrain **Oh, be ye glad! Oh, be ye glad! Ev'ry debt that you ever had
has been paid up in full by the grace of the Lord! Be ye glad! Be ye glad! Be ye glad!**

Verse 2 **From the dungeon a rumor is stirring. Now you have heard it again and again.
But this time the cell keys are turning, and outside there are faces of friends.
And though your body lay weary from wasting, and your eyes show the sorrow they've had,
the love that your heart is now tasting has opened the gate. Be ye glad! (Refrain)**

Verse 3 **So be like lights on the rim of the water, giving hope in a storm-sea of night.
Be a refuge amidst the slaughter for these fugitives in their flight,
for you are timeless and part of a puzzle, you are winsome and young as a lad,
and there is no disease or no struggle, that can pull you from God. Be ye glad! (Refrain)**

CCLI Song # 68285

Michael Kelly Blanchard © 1980 New Spring (Admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.)

Remaining portion is unaffiliated

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Meal

COMMUNION

God be with you!

Open your hearts!

Let us give thanks to the God of all!

And also with you!

We open them to God and one another!

It is right to give God thanks and praise!

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed.

Blessed be God, who is our Bread; may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in divine grace! **Amen!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, and live in grace. As God forgives and forgets your sins, so forgive and forget the sins of others.

Thanks be to God!

CREDITS

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Announcements

We are all so grateful! Genesis is grateful to be sharing space with Salem for worship this summer as their parking lot is no longer available during their worship time. Salem is grateful for the use of Genesis' portable sound system for our outdoor worship and for the technical help of Jeanette and her son, Lonnell Lawson, for running the system. Salem is also grateful for the use of sound equipment belonging to New Direction Ministries for our drive-in service and for our prerecorded services – and for Pastor Simmonds' continuing help in setting it up.

Summer Worship for Salem continues today and next Sunday at 9:30 in the Picnic Grove. In October we will begin having drive-in or zoom services until CT reaches Phase 3 of Reopening. No matter what format we use for worship in the future, we plan to stream via Facebook Live. On Sundays where the service is pre-recorded in the sanctuary it will also be streamed on YouTube. If you can't watch at 9:30 Sundays, video worship services will be saved to Facebook and posted on YouTube so you can watch them later. Closed Captioning will be provided when available. For help turning on Captioning contact Karl or Pastor Marjo.

Salem and Genesis members and friends, don't forget to join us for our virtual coffee hour on zoom! Even though we are having outdoor worship this summer please be aware that there is still online zoom coffee hour at 10:30ish. Pastor Marjo will join as soon as she can after worship but you needn't wait for her. Link is [HERE](#) and also on the calendar on our website, salembridgeport.org, under "Resources". Folks at home can join in of course, and those at worship can join in via the zoom app on their smart phone right from the picnic grove or even on their drive home (safe driving mode hides video but you can still talk and hear).

Lord, Teach Us to Pray! Want to know how to pray? Want to see how prayer can change your life? Need prayer? Then join us each **Wednesday** on zoom at **noon** for a half-hour as we delve more deeply into the Lord's Prayer, and pray for each other's needs. The zoom link will be on the calendar on Salem's website at Salembridgeport.org under the Resources Tab.

Game Night! Every Thursday from 6:00-7:00 we gather online to see what the "Gaming Commission" has planned for us. Sometimes we play Bingo or Scattergories. Sometimes we play Headbands or Trivial Pursuit. Sometimes we act out Charades. But ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS, we LAUGH! For more information, speak with Jeanette or her daughter, Lynnette Lawson. Zoom link is available on Salem's calendar.

Inner-View Chat'n'Chew meets the 3rd Saturday of the month, **11:00-1:00**. It's a time of fun and fellowship that gives us a chance to celebrate the gift that God has given us in one another. Evites are sent out to those on the Genesis mailing list but you can also find the Zoom link on Salem's calendar.

Health and Safety for those we love – and that means YOU! As we are working very hard to cooperate with city officials and health departments to keep Covid levels low in our state, please remember that unless there is a special need to meet in person, **coffee hour, Bible study, meetings and events will continue to be online only**. Safety protocols (in line with CDC, ELCA, government, health department, and insurance guidelines for all Salem groups and functions) will continue to be recommended by Salem's Health and Safety Team (Carol Lansing, Eileen Anderson, Dale Danowski, Liz Bales, Nancy Kidwell, and Pastor Marjo) and approved by Salem's Executive Committee or Council. Even though economic necessity has forced some reopening of businesses, we are in actual fact no safer from the virus now than we were back in March when everything shut down. PLEASE – no matter how safe YOU feel, out of love for one another, wear a mask and physically distance from one another. Thank you!

Summer Stewardship – Even though our building is closed, our ministries (and the expenses to fund those ministries) continue. We are grateful for everyone who continues to give their tithes and offerings to our work here at Salem. We are also grateful to those who have taken advantage of the opportunity to give online, especially to sign up for regular weekly or monthly donations. Every gift no matter how small is appreciated and will enable us to continue to do God's work in this place. If you'd like help signing up for online giving please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Marjo, Karl, Ray Anderson, Jean Larson, or Nancy Headford.

Ebony and Ivory? Wonder why some of your friends are saying “Black Lives Matter” when obviously all lives matter? Wonder why when we have anti-racism laws, people keep talking about “systemic” or “structural racism”? Wonder why the church is so focused on this issue? If you’re looking for answers to these and other questions, here are some great ways to learn:

1. **The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport invites its members to take the following steps to work for a more just and equitable society:**

*Starting on **September 17**, and going at least **through May 20, 2021** we will hold monthly zoom meetings, **the third Thursday of every month from 7:30 to 8:15 PM**. You can register on our [website](https://default.salsalabs.org/T4ca0bc4e-b5a6-457f-9432-5f3e459aaaa6/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab) – <https://default.salsalabs.org/T4ca0bc4e-b5a6-457f-9432-5f3e459aaaa6/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab> - & join these conversations to learn more, talk in small groups, & continue to engage in anti-racist work.

*You can take the 21 day [Racial Equity Challenge](https://default.salsalabs.org/T6ccaac28-05da-4baf-88a8-d1c2b9b86893/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab) - <https://default.salsalabs.org/T6ccaac28-05da-4baf-88a8-d1c2b9b86893/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab> - all by yourself, to continue to learn, reflect, and act. This is a great resource created by the Myers Park Presbyterian Church, in Charlotte, VA.

*Also, here is a [link](https://default.salsalabs.org/Tc340bebd-4d68-4800-b754-7c48a473cd23/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab) - <https://default.salsalabs.org/Tc340bebd-4d68-4800-b754-7c48a473cd23/464704ca-cfbd-4af1-9836-dc2cefbf86ab> - to a document which lists these resources and our recommendations for a number of local and national organizations doing excellent anti-racism and justice work.

2. **Read the 2019 Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent & its accompanying Explanation** at http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Slavery_Apology_Explanation.pdf?_ga=2.119362624.853575714.1565027421-1958052405.1536241629 or go to ELCA.org, scroll down to “Resources”, scroll down to “Racial Justice”, and click on the Declaration to read and/or download.

3. **Listen to this video lecture** by Tom Skinner: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvKQx4ycTmA> . It gives a much more detailed history of slavery in this country than we received in our history classes at school, & explains how it was the issue of slavery that created the divide between mainline & evangelical Christians.

4. **Read the book, [Dear Church: a Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US](#)** by Lenny Duncan. There have been many explanations for the church’s decline, but Duncan sees a direct correlation between the church’s lack of diversity and its lack of vitality. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, [Dear Church](#) offers a bold new vision for the future of the ELCA and the rest of mainline Protestant Christianity and calls everyone – leaders and laity alike – to the front lines of the church’s renewal through racial equality and justice. *Salem has a few copies of the book, so if you would like to borrow one, please speak with Pastor Marjo.*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, indoor in-person worship and meetings have been changed to outdoor or online formats. Pastor Marjo and Salem’s Office Manager, Karl, work primarily from their homes but generally come in once a week to take care of tasks that cannot be accomplished remotely. Even though our church buildings are closed, if we can help in any way, please know that you can still call Salem’s church office at 203-330-3300 and leave a message and your message will be picked up remotely and your call returned. Please also do not hesitate to call or text Pastor Marjo at 203-982-3441 or Jeanette at 203.336.6778.

Need help finding a Salem zoom meeting or need to set one up? Just go to our website at SalemBridgeport.org, click on the Resources tab, then on Calendar. On the calendar just find the day and click on the event and a zoom invitation will appear. Sometimes you may have to click on “(+2 more)” in order to see additional vents that don’t fit in the calendar square. If your Salem committee or group would like to meet via Zoom, please contact Karl by emailing him at salemsec123@sbcglobal.net or by leaving a message on the church phone, 203-336-3300.

Technology have you stumped? If you’d like some (VERY BASIC!) technology help – like accessing zoom on your iphone, tablet, or pc, or downloading and using the Venmo or Cash app, or anything else, please speak with Pastor Marjo or call or email Karl.

THE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

WHY DO WE ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE?

- [Why Advocacy - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

The Council of Churches and our member congregations have prioritized the issues listed below for our advocacy efforts. Policy changes in these areas will have an immediate, positive effect on our communities and the neighbors we serve.

Climate Change

learn about how addressing food insecurity and reducing our food waste can make a huge difference

- [Combatting Food Insecurity](#)
- [Ways to Reduce Food Waste](#)
- [Articles from Earth Day 2020](#)

Criminal Justice Reform

help us pass the Clean Slate bill and give people a real second chance

- [Clean Slate Bill - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

Education Equity

all children in Bridgeport and beyond deserve a quality education

- [Call to Action](#)
- [CCGB's Goals and Initiatives](#)
- [Education Reform - A Study Guide for Congregations](#)

Immigration Reform

how shall we “welcome the stranger” with respect and care?

Gun Violence Prevention

“do not stand idly by while your neighbor’s blood is shed” Leviticus 19:16

- [Overview of Resources](#)
- [Do Not Stand Idly By Campaign](#)
- [Congregational Toolkit \(PCUSA\)](#)

Resources on the CT Legislature

Here you can find basic guides, templates and resources for raising your voice and getting involved!

- [Guide to Written Testimony for a Public Hearing on CT Legislation.pdf](#)
- [How a CT Bill Becomes Law.pdf](#)