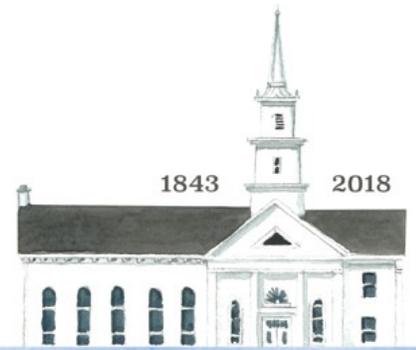




The NBC Anchor

Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT

860.536.7129 www.noankbaptistchurch.org



NOANK BAPTIST CHURCH

175th Anniversary

MAY 2018



Mother's Day

Mother's Day, May 13, is always a special Sunday at Noank Baptist, where we honor the role and influence of all who have been good mothers to us—guiding us, challenging us, nurturing us, blessing us with life and its best expressions of love. Flowers of appreciation will be given by the children. The music will feature **renowned tenor, Brian Cheney** and our choirs!

CELEBRATION WEEKEND

*For the 175th Anniversary of Noank Baptist Church
(1843-2018)*

Friday, May 18, 2018

7:00 p.m. **Concert of Masterful Music**, featuring the talented performers of all ages from the congregation, including choirs, ensembles, and solo artists. This will be a wonderful, memorable event not to be missed!

Saturday, May 19, 2018

4:30 pm **Social Hour in the Garden**
We will meet in the Memorial Garden and have a Social Hour to meet with old friends and share some memories before the buffet. This will be followed by a **Catered Dinner in the Church Vestry at 5:30 pm, where reservations are required.**

7:00 pm **Anniversary Program in the Vestry**
Our program will include greetings from The Rev. Dr. Harry Riggs, Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of Connecticut (ABCCONN) and our friends at Union Baptist Church and Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church. Ken Sehested will share a couple of his works of poetry and a special musical presentation will be performed. A short slide show of the history of Noank Baptist Church will round out our evening.

Sunday, May 20, 2018

10:00 am **Celebration Service**
We will be inspired on Pentecost Sunday by the preaching of Rev. Nancy Sehested (one of the best preachers you will ever hear!), the poetry of Ken Sehested, the



In a few weeks' time we will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of our church. Although we've already been doing this in 2018, the highlight of the year will occur over the third weekend of this month (May 18-20), with the Friday night musical concert, the Saturday evening dinner, and the Sunday morning worship, featuring our friends, Nancy and Ken Sehested, and Carole Collins representing the Alliance of Baptists. We will reminisce about the church's story and on Pentecost,

look to our future as a light upon this shore.

As I've read the history of Noank Baptist, I've imagined all the members and supporters who have been a part of this beloved place. The church records note several prominent names, of course, but this doesn't account for the entire cast of characters who have committed their lives and personal fortunes to ensure that the meetinghouse remains on Noank ledgerrock and the Spirit and presence of God is evident in and among our people. Noteworthy ones are remembered for each era and a few are known to all the generations since 1843. Palmer, Latham, Spicer, Wilbur, Anderson, Steel, Crossman are villagers whose names stand out, as do Weaver, Martin, Tobey, Abel, and Pratt among the pastors. These leaders shall be honored and cherished for their outstanding service and contributions during their life here.

However, there are many others in Noank's great cloud of witnesses for whom this church is indebted, yet who will remain unsung in this celebratory moment. It's not that they were unimportant; on the contrary, they are often the ones who serve as the backbone of the congregation or were inherently critical to the health and welfare of the ministry, but who are remembered best by a generation no longer present. They may not have recognizable names, but their personal mark will lie hidden within the larger spiritual legacy the present generation now inherits and cherishes.

Each of us over the course of time will do the same. A mark is like leaving footprints upon the ground one has tread—the impressions we've made that will provide the memories others have of us. The lasting effect varies, much as our literal footprints. Footprints akin to those in grass will be those who affect certain individuals, or "blades of grass," who remember them, but are otherwise invisible to the wider scene—much like walking on grass will leave only a hint that someone has, in fact, passed that way.



Others will be like footprints in sand—standing out in the moment they're made, but subject to the changing winds and surf which eventually erase the memories from sight. Then, some will be like footprints in snow—crisp and apparent to all when made, even seemingly frozen in time—until the seasons change and those deep impressions upon the landscape simply melt away.

Then, there are those who are remembered from generation to generation—footprints that are like being cast in cement or etched in stone. These are the ones who are never forgotten because they are leaders in extraordinary times, or they represent much of the nature of the church as it was or continues to be. Their footprints are enduring, molded into the collective memory of this sacred place. The footprints of all those who have been a part of this church are what make us who we are in the present—memories of those known and unknown.

Rollo May considered memories to be myths—recollections that are shaped by what brings meaning to us. Memories, like myths, are constructed to help us make sense of who we are or what we have experienced. They can or may not reflect accurate detail, yet serve to fill the content of our past. I believe this, since the sacred memories of Noank Baptist, carried as they are in the historical accounts of this church and the minds and hearts of the present generation, are what we celebrate, particularly on anniversaries such as this. We tell our story (and stories) and participate in the sacred myths of this church, characteristic of those who populated this village or identify with it, woven as they are into the larger narrative of Christianity. In so doing, we lift up our part of the Christian myth—the memories of those whose needs and responses to the Gospel created and sustained this congregation over the generations telling, in their own way, the story of Jesus.

Most of us shall be unnamed and unsung in the larger Christian story, too. No one will recall our life as anything more significant than any other. But celebrated or unsung, we still belong to this place and God's story which, without us, would be missing a vital part: the witness to the love and grace of God, just as important to the Gospel's mission as are the pillars and saints we honor and bless.

News from around the Church Family



Our prayers and thoughts are with those who have had recent surgery, been in the hospital, received treatment, in rehabilitative care, or are recuperating at home: **Janet Crossman, Joan Latham, Kim Johnson, Sherrie Neilson, Beverley Richardson, Fred Anderson, Nancy Pratt, Marilyn "Jim" Douglass, Bob Douglass, Gerry Jones, Val King, Sandy Mansfield, Russ Leonard, Kent LaGasse, Nancy Treadway, Brian McGlynn, Dianna Miller, Corey Atkinson, and Brian Thorp.**

Congratulations to **Barbara and Dave Williams**, who are the delighted grandparents of **Hans David Leopold Williams**, born on March 29 to **Antje and Ben Williams**. Hans and his parents live in Philadelphia; Ben and Antje were married here in Noank last summer.

Our condolences are expressed to **Sandy and Doug Mansfield and family**, upon the death of Sandy's father, **Ray Conard**, on April 12. A memorial service will be held in Noank later in the summer.

We also remember with sympathy, **Maddie and Lizzie Lewis**, upon the passing of **Porter Lewis**, Maddie's father and Lizzie's grandfather, who died April 17.

Congratulations to **Brooke Knobloch**, who was recognized for outstanding accomplishments as a first-year teacher! Brooke teaches Elementary Music in the Bridgeport school district. Since beginning last fall, Brooke has directed the school band and formed a 60-voice choir, as well as developed an after-school program using music to help improve the language skills of children, where English is a second language. In addition, Brooke goes around to area colleges to inspire and recruit new teachers into the Bridgeport system. Brooke's parents are **Lisa and Eric Knobloch**, and grandmother, **Maureen Block**. Brooke will be leading the music portion of our summer Vacation Bible School in August.

Congratulations are also in store for **Doug Jannusch**, who successfully completed the Boston Marathon in a respectable time of 3:47 on a miserable rainy, windy, and cold day in Boston. Doug is the spouse of **Meredith (nee Andrews)** and father of **Andrew and Arianna**.

Our Senior Choir Director, **Richard Wyman**, will be retiring as Assistant Conductor of the U.S. Coast Guard Band in May. Rick has served in this capacity for 20 years, with significant leadership responsibilities and roles during his tenure, including the Band's national and international tours, overseeing several CD recordings of the band, recruiting and auditioning outstanding musicians, and the refurbishment of the Leamy Concert Hall. Rick's final concert as conductor was held at Leamy on Sunday, April 15. His retirement ceremony will occur on Monday, May 14.

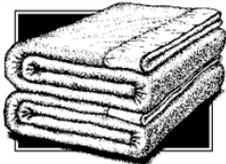
Kudos are expressed to **Susan MacKay**, who was featured in the Spring edition of *Aspire* magazine for her extraordinary landscape art. The feature article includes a two-page display of her "View from Snake Hill, Noank"—a familiar sight to many. Susan follows in the steps of her mother, **Eunice Schaub**, who is also a local artist. Susan also is well-known for her music as an accordion player, along with her spouse, **Chris**, in the local band, Chris MacKay and the Toneshifters. Susan and Chris's sons are **Skylar** and **Ellis**.

Please remember our homebound and those in rehab/nursing care: **Beverley Richardson** (Mystic Healthcare and Rehabilitation), **Errol and Alicia Crossman** (at home), **Ken Knobloch** (at home), **Betty Guhl** (Fairview), and **Cindy Booth** (Sunny Lodge, New London).

Graduates for 2018



High School and college graduations are almost here for another year. If you know of any graduates, please contact Gloria in the church office by email admin@noankbaptistchurch.org or at 860-536-7129. Please indicate which high school, college or other education program, as well as information pertaining to the degrees earned and employment.



**Church World Service
BLANKET SUNDAYS
April 29, May 6 & May 13**

Celebrate Mother's Day by purchasing a Mother's Day card for your mother, sister, aunt or friend that will also provide a blanket for families in the United States and around the world. There are two kinds of blankets that are sent; a wool one for colder climates and lightweight ones for warmer climates. Both will be on display in the Narthex. Please remember your loved ones by buying a Mother's Day card (and a blanket). Cards will be available on April 29, May 6 and May 13 before and after worship service.

Our congregation is actively involved with the Church World Service Blanket Program. For many years, our church has been helping to keep our neighbors warm by providing blankets to families here in the United States and around the world.

What difference can a blanket make? A blanket can provide warmth to a victim of a flood or fire or serve as bedding to a guest in a homeless shelter or be a gift of welcome to a newly arrived refugee or migrant worker.

Last year, blankets made a difference in the lives of families living in Colorado's rugged and rural San Luis Valley. In a remote area of the San Juan Mountains called "the flats" many homes do not have running water or electricity. During the winter when temperatures drop to life-threatening lows, many of these families heat their homes using only firewood. Often their firewood runs out before the winter ends. That's where our help comes in. Because of our support of the CWS Blankets Program, CWS provides blankets to many organizations and nonprofits, including La Puente, a mission that provides services to the families living in "the flats". At the beginning of last winter, blankets were delivered to these families.

For only \$10 you can give a blanket that can provide warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy and healing and hope wherever God's people may need care.

**Noank's First Memorial Day
Sunday, May 20 at 3:00 pm
Noank Fire Dept. Meeting Hall**

Join us at the Noank Fire Department Meeting Hall, 10 Ward Avenue, Noank for a presentation by Dr. Karen (Kim) Meister Willis regarding Noank's First Memorial Day. This May marks the 150th anniversary of Memorial Day "Noank hosts the longest-running continuous Memorial Day parade in the country", according to Wikipedia. Is this really true? Join us as the Noank Historical Society reveals the answer to this question along with surprising new information uncovered by an extensive research project. (1) explore the origins of Memorial Day (2) Relive Noank's first Memorial Day observance (3) Reflect on astonishing tales of villagers who gave the last full measure of devotion to the country they loved (3) Revisit Noank's past Memorial Day traditions through historic photographs. The public is cordially invited. Refreshments will be served.



**THINKING AHEAD!!!!
7 MONTHS AND COUNTING**

With spring (hopefully) here, we will be looking forward to plant vegetables and herbs for the Holiday Bazaar herb table. We are always looking for cucumbers to make pickles and also fruit to be made into jelly. When you pick fruit or vegetables for yourself, pick a little extra for the church bazaar.

Also, we are always looking for jelly and pint canning jars. All jar and produce donations help defray the cost of jellies and pickles. If you can help, please contact Jane Templeton at 860-691-2004. Thanks in advance.

Children and Family Ministries



Congratulations to Sophie Galouzis!

Sophie placed 1st for Olympic Trampoline at the State Championship and moves on to compete at the Regional Championship on May 12.

SAVE THE DATES

- May 6 Musical Instruments with Mr. Williams in Lighthouse Cove
- May 13 Mother's Day
- TBD Beach Day
- June 10 Children's Sunday
- August 6-10 Vacation Bible School "Rolling River Rampage"
Registration forms will be available May 15 in the Church Office or online at noankbaptistchurch.org



Palm Sunday worship began with the procession of the children waving their palms



Children and Youth on Easter Sunday



A big **THANK YOU** to Heather Harris, Emily Bell, Catherine Bates, Marge Murdock, Heather Galozis, Kelly Gordon Taylor, Shannon Weigle and the Youth Class for planning and hosting a wonderful Easter Celebration & Egg Hunt.



Earth Day

Earth Day was celebrated with a variety of activities: pots of pansies were prepared for the Congregate, Marti Bradshaw conducted a demonstration of water purification of dirty water to drinking water, there was an Earth Day magnet dart game and a story by Catherine Bates. Everyone had a wonderful time.



Fusion Youth Ministry

Hope everyone had an enjoyable spring break!

We are working hard to plan out the rest of our spring activities. We are currently having a logo designed for the group and are looking forward to unveiling that soon, along with social media like Facebook and Instagram.



Spring Youth Group Meeting

May 20 (we may participate in an ecumenical BBQ—stay tuned!)



Workday at Camp Wightman

Saturday, May 5
8:30 am—4:30 pm

Many of your surveys indicated that you would like to participate in a workday at Camp Wightman, so we will be attending their next workday on **May 5**. This is an all-day activity but it will be lots of fun and great to give back to our beloved summer home. **We will meet at UBC at 8:30 am to carpool**, or you can be dropped off at Camp Wightman at 9:00 am. Lunch will be provided by Camp Wightman and it is always delicious! **You MUST RSVP by Wednesday, May 2** so we can provide counts to the camp and arrange to have enough drivers.

Mystic River Chorale
Presents
Visions: Songs of Love & Hope

Sunday, May 6, 2018
At 4:00 pm

Mystic River Chorale & Chamber Singers
Featuring:
Frank Martignetti, Artistic Director
Frank Zilinyi & Leslie Merwin, Accompanists



Mystic Congregational Church
43 East Main Street, Mystic, CT
Purchase your tickets now at
www.mysticriverchorale.org or
860-460-1487

Thames River Community
Service, Inc.
25th Annual Luncheon/Auction
Groton Inn & Suites

Sunday, May 6
Silent Auction at 11:30 am
followed by:
Luncheon and Live Auction

Thames River Community Service, Inc. provides safe housing and support services for families experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse or mental wellness. They provide us residents for Church Street House.

Tickets are \$45. Meal choice: beef, fish, vegetarian. To purchase tickets and select your meal choice, go to www.trfp.orf or call 860-887-3288

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering June 2018

When you take a global view of our world, natural disasters occur every week. If you include disasters of human origin, the opportunity to respond to people in need is even more frequent. The larger disasters are captured by our news media, and word of these tragedies is brought into our homes. It is difficult to imagine the suffering of those whose lives are forever changed. However, many needs of our world, whether in a neighboring state or half the world away, remain uncovered by our news media. However, with out extensive network of international and domestic partners, American Baptist are able to make a difference wherever and whenever disaster strikes.



Now to God be the glory, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20)

2017 was a year of many natural disasters, extraordinary hurricanes, fires, mudslides, etc. Many man-made disasters—Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, Nigeria and South Sudan— continue unresolved, claiming new victims each day. Yes your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing brought relieve in many of these situations.

The offering will be received during communion on June 3. Offering envelopes will be sent with the June Newsletter and will also be available in the pew racks during the month of June.

Sunday Flowers

Remember to honor a loved one by purchasing flowers for the chancel on Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet in the outer office on the wall. Please indicate if it is in memory of/honor of/celebration of a person or persons and who the donor is. The cost of the flowers is \$25. When making out your check, please indicate "Sunday Flowers" on the memo line.



2018 Chili Cook-Off

The 2018 Chili Cook Off was a rousing success again this year. Five people attempted to de-throne last year's meat chili champ, Erin Wyman, with her Chicken Chili. There were two pots of Vegan chili, and six pots of fine meat chili, along with Taco Salad, crackers and cheeses, coleslaw and other amenities to compliment the festivities.

After everyone had their samplings of the various chili's, a vote determined the results, with last year's meat Chili Champ Erin Wyman winning the "Chili Champ" red apron again. The Vegan champ was Katie Straub, winning the "Vegetable Chili" Spoon.

Delicious food, and a lot of fun was had by all that attended. Many thanks to Steve and Deb Garmon for heading up the planning for this annual challenge!



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 30, 2018

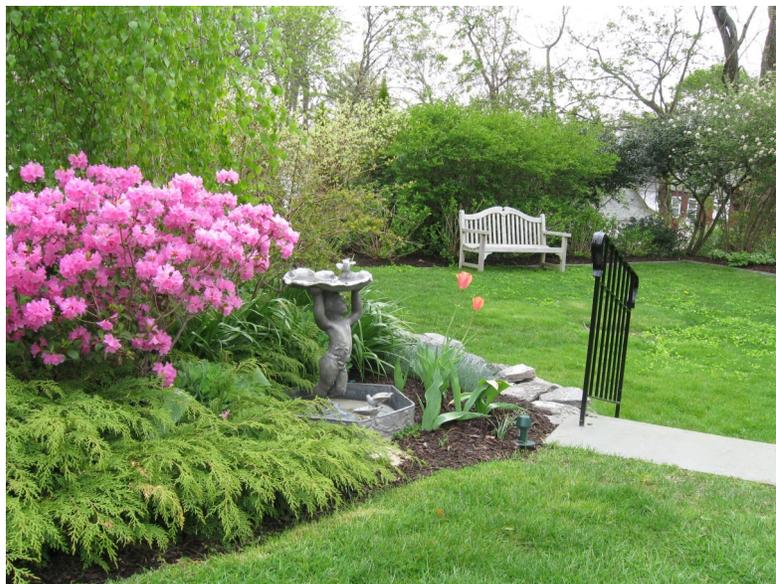
House & Garden Tour In Noank Village

There will be a “Noank Village House and Garden Tour” again this year, providing an opportunity for the public to visit a number of the most fascinating houses and beautiful gardens in our part of Connecticut.

It will be held on Saturday, June 30 from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm and will feature 14 houses and gardens, plus the Noank Baptist Church (celebrating its 175th Anniversary) and its gardens with a special exhibition of paintings of these sites being shown at the Main Street House (or Rob Anderson House). The previous evening, Friday, June 29, there will be a reception for “Sponsors” of the tour at 8 Front Street, with fine entertainment and refreshments, plus a preview of the paintings to be shown the next day on the tour.

The proceeds of the tour will be given to three local agencies, Noank Community Support Services, Mystic River Homes and Our Shoreline Community Association (OSCA).

More detailed information about tickets, sponsors and the sites to be visited will be available in the June Newsletter.





April Council News

Council Members

Moderator:	<i>Charles Anderson</i>
Clerk:	<i>Bonnie Banks</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Jane Templeton</i>
Asst Treas:	<i>Debbie Bates</i>
Finance:	<i>Jennifer Johnson</i> <i>Carol Spunar</i>
Property:	<i>Adrian Johnson</i> <i>Jonathan Lane</i>
Spiritual Life:	<i>Valerie King</i> <i>Shannon Weigle</i>
Comm. Life	<i>Deb Garmon</i> <i>Steve Gordon</i>
Staff Relations:	<i>Kim Johnson</i>
At Large:	<i>Sherrie Neilsen</i> <i>Deb Thompson</i> <i>Ed Johnson</i> <i>Oliver Porter</i>

The Council held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 with 14 members present. Pastor Paul Hayes offered an opening prayer.

The minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting were approved.

The church calendar was reviewed. The updated church directory was circulated for corrections to be made.

Pastor Hayes presented a written report highlighting his many activities during the month of March, including Lent and Holy Week, noting disappointment at the attendance at services, especially the Good Friday Service with only 25 people present. With the great efforts made by the choir members, musicians and staff to offer a high-quality experience at special services like these, it is disheartening to see so few people attending. He also noted delight in welcoming the Ruggeris as new members on Easter, sponsored by their daughter Ariaiah. Pastoral care has dominated much of his time over the past month. He conducted the funeral for Ruth Hodgson, as well as an interment for Harriet and Jim Hands in the Memorial Garden. He also met with the pastors and leaders of the Co-Op youth program, now known as Fusion Youth, to discuss some adjustments and additional efforts to be made to the program. He continues to work as co-chair of the planning group for the 2019 Global Peace Conference. A new phone system for the church has been installed. The security system has been installed and inadvertently tested. Pastor Hayes will be attending the

alliance of Baptists annual gathering at the end of the month.

Finance reported that the operating fund started off the year with a cushion of year-end income from 2017, plus pre-paid pledges for 2018. Although income for the first quarter is less than expenses, the cushion covers that shortfall which is typical for this time of the year. The checking account remains healthy, buoyed right now by the insurance check to cover the roof repair to be done at the end of the summer. Expenses were a slightly lower than budgeted.

Spiritual life activities included reports that lots of kids participated in the Procession on Palm Sunday and over 50 attended the Easter Celebration with a beautiful story told by Catherine Bates, an egg hunt and craft activities. Courtney Assad will visit during Sunday School to chat with 5th graders moving up to Middle School about the Fusion Youth program. Plans are in the works for an Earth Day Event in Lighthouse Cove on April 22nd with parents encouraged to participate with children in a village clean up after church. Although Vacation Bible School will not be combined with Union Baptist this year, they are discussing joint advertisements with posters newsletters and websites. Three more children have registered for Camp Wightman. The Fusion Youth Group prepared a banner and a few walked in the Irish parade in Mystic. They have other events planned including a night at St. John the Divine later this month. Letters were signed to be sent out to the two graduating high school seniors that we currently are aware of to invite them to apply for the church's scholarship.

Plans call for the roof repair work to be started on August 15th, after Vacation Bible School is over. There were no concerns that the work would be an issue for Nursery School starting up in late September.

Community Outreach reports that one new prayer shawl was presented this month; the Coastal Rompers Girl Scout troop will be sleeping in the vestry the weekend of April 13th and 14th; hospitality hosted a reception following Ruth Hodgson's funeral. Anyone wanting to contribute food for the Sunday Fellowship hour can put donations in the kitchen freezer. Thanks was expressed for continuing to provide meals for St. Francis House. The now annual Chili Cook-off will be held in the vestry following church on Sunday April 15. The Noank House and Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, June 30. Help will be needed soon to clean up the gardens for spring.

Preparations for the 175th Anniversary Celebration in May are progressing. A meaningful measuring tool, prepared by Meredith Jannusch, has been posted to measure progress on our goal visually.

The next Council Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 7 pm**. All are welcome to attend. Full council meeting minutes are available upon request. The First Quarter Business meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25 in the vestry with a Pot-Luck supper at 6 pm followed by the business meeting at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Banks, Clerk



Our Shoreline Community Association

P. O. Box 287
West Mystic, CT 06388-0287
(860) 271-1681 OSCAforSeniors@gmail.com

OSCA at Living Active Expo

Wednesday, May 23

From 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Groton Senior Center

102 Newtown Road in Groton

The Active Living Expo will showcase information about various services that area residents may find of interest.

Lunch will be available for purchase.

Be sure to visit the OSCA Booth!

OSCA, a member-driven organization for shoreline residents 55 and over, provides programs and services so members can lead vibrant, active and healthy lives while living in their own homes and neighborhoods.

A non-profit, membership association founded by Noank Baptist and community residents, OSCA is designed to enrich the lives of seniors in Mystic, Noank, Groton Long Point, Mumford Cove and Stonington. With guidance from a coordinator, neighbors help other neighbors stay in their homes.

The OSCA mission is to create a *community* dedicated to helping members *connect* to people, activities and services that enable them to *stay* in their own homes, *enjoy* their community and *find answers* to challenges that aging can bring.

Please consider joining this exciting organization. We invite you to call or email Stephanie Panagos, OSCA Coordinator, if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. Stephanie is at (860) 271-1681 or OSCAforSeniors@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted
Stephanie Panagos