



**THE CHURCH BELL**  
 The Federated Church of Christ  
 Brooklyn, CT



Sunday  
 Worship &  
 Sunday School  
 10:00am

**May 2015**

Office Hours:  
 Tue - Thu  
 9:00 - 1:00

*Notes from Pastor Mary*

A dear friend of mine sent me an email recently of a poem she had come across and found a sense of resonance with. She sent it to me because she felt so drawn to the imagery of the words, and she knew that I would find something meaningful as well. She was right.

I wanted to share it with you as well, and to think with me what it means to believe in our own renewing as Easter people. It's an idea that I'll be pondering for awhile, and if that idea or another stirs something in you, I welcome conversations about what you're thinking about and what "renewing" looks/feels/sounds like to you.

Peace,  
 Pastor Mary

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<b>Articles due the 18th of each month:</b>	
<b><a href="mailto:ChurchBell@FCCBrooklynCT.org">ChurchBell@FCCBrooklynCT.org</a></b>	

Credo  
 Seeds under the ground on a mid-winter's night  
 sleep with their dreams of Spring.  
 They are dancing, tunneling, settling in,  
 finding just the right place to begin their sprouting. But first, they must rest,  
 gather to themselves the vision of what they will be.  
 Is it faith—this survival spirit, this willingness to abide, to seek darkness, even revel in it, to be willingly unnoticed for long months of the year?  
 I want to believe in my own renewing, let body and spirit rest, refuse to exhaust myself  
 in someone else's expectations, grow old  
 before my time, cast off, disposed of. I want to be recycled endlessly, and flower again  
 and yet again unexpectedly, bloom into  
 a surprising color for an old woman, ripe  
 with wrinkled youth and vigorous beauty,  
 with twinkling eyes in deep sockets, making them wonder just how I do it.

~ Victoria Millar in "Pietisten: A Herald of Awakening and Spiritual Edification"

Pastor: Rev. Mary L. Apicella  
 Christian Education Director: Therese Carpentier

Worship Accompanist: David Gonzalez  
 Secretary: Linda Huber

## *Deacons*

On April 18th at 4:30 a memorial service for Pam Smith was held in the sanctuary. Pam was the daughter of Daisy Baker.

On April 19th Lee and Annie Lambert hosted a baby shower for their first grandchild in the fellowship hall. Congratulation to the Lambert family on this very happy occasion.

On April 25th from 1:00 - 3:00 pm Lincoln Kamu will be presenting a seminar on Autism Awareness. This will be held in the chapel. Lincoln will explain what autism is, and review its causes, diagnosis and treatment. He will also provide information on available support for families and children with autism. Parents will be invited to share their experiences and ask questions. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

On May 17th, Pastor Mary will be in North Carolina for the burial of her grandfather's ashes. The Deacons will be planning the service for that day.

At the May meeting, the Deacons will be completing Pastor Mary's yearly evaluation. They will also be updating church membership lists, and the Deacon contact lists. The congregation will be asked to double check our membership list after it has been updated to make sure that phone numbers and emails are current. The Deacons will also be discussing replacements for Lee

Lambert who resigned from the Deaconate due to health issues.

Liturgists have been scheduled until the end of June. If you have not been asked to be a liturgist and would like to volunteer, please speak with Melisa Ennis or Steven Stellitano.

~ Steve Stellitano

## *Spring Cleaning*

Spring is finally here, and it's time to get the Church grounds ready for summer! We did a good job on the Fall clean-up, so we're in pretty good shape for the Spring clean-up.

We are scheduling the project for Saturday, April 25th from 9:00am to Noon. Saturday, May 2nd will be our rain date.

We'll need rakes, tarps, hoes, shovels, push brooms and **People...** Hope to see you there!

## *Care and Share Sundays*

Every fourth Sunday, the Missions Committee will be collecting items for the St. Francis of Assisi Food Bank. There is a particular need for toiletries which are always in short supply. We are also collecting diapers for the area Diaper Bank. Food items are also always welcome.

Thanks for helping to meet the needs in our community!

~ Earl McWilliams

## Women's Group

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make our March Lasagna dinner such a success. We were completely sold out by 5:30 and realized a profit of \$1,020.

We can do this because our Women's Group members donate a good portion of the ingredients and our church family helps in the kitchen, donates all those delicious cakes and lines up at 4:20 to buy lasagna. Thanks to you all!

In April the Women Group contributed \$1,100 to the following agencies: Silver Lake Camp, Camp Wightman, Pastoral Care, Hospice, KBIF, Access, Community Kitchen, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Caring Families and the Haitian Health Fund.

We also made our \$550 quarterly pledge to the church and contributed \$400 to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. So that's where the Lasagna Supper profits went!

~ Kathryn Stellitano

### Federated Church of Christ

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United Church of Christ Interim Eastern  
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Rev. Tom Clough 860-928-0765  
[toms@ctucc.org](mailto:toms@ctucc.org)

## Yard Sailing for Thrift Shoppe

The Missions Committee is looking for volunteers to help restock the shelves at the Thrift Shoppe. With regular advertising we are beginning to see an increase in customers. So now we need more "stuff" to sell to these folks.

We are particularly interested in bringing in more "Vintage" items, which are household items from the 1930s, '40s, '50s and '60s. (People like to buy what they remember...) If you have any such items in the closet or up in the attic, we would like to feature them in the Shoppe.

But with the start of "Yard Sale Season", we also invite members to go "Yard Sailing" for the Thrift Shoppe. We're asking folks to look for anything that catches your eye as different, unusual or "vintage".

The Thrift Shoppe can't reimburse you for your donations but we're grateful for whatever you bring in, as you will be helping our church and it's mission efforts. Items that don't sell will be included in a Church Yard Sale scheduled for a Saturday in June. Happy hunting!

~ Earl McWilliams

## PayPal is Available

The Federated Church can now take PayPal as a tithing option.

[www.federatedchurchbrooklynct.org/about.html](http://www.federatedchurchbrooklynct.org/about.html)

[Donate](#)



## *Partyline*

It was so nice to have both Shirley Leach and Doris Heimall in church recently.

We have all been missing Mo lately. She has been suffering with a respiratory issue.

Evalin Berris is coming along and hopes to be home, in church and sitting by the pool soon!

Lucy Stuyanski is still recuperating after surgery on her leg. We miss her and hope to see her back in church soon. On the brighter side, Lucy's granddaughter completed a very successful year in gymnastics for Woodstock Academy. Paige, a sophomore, won the all-around New England Individual Gymnasts title, and was named the Player of the Year in Gymnastics by the Connecticut High School Coaches Association. Quite an accomplishment!

Betsy and David Burgess' grandson, Brady Zadora won a trophy for wrestling at the New England Classic in Portland, Maine. He is in the 49 lb. class!

Jean Burdick's grandson, Zachary installed a new vacuum system for collecting sap and had a very successful season producing maple syrup.

Charlie Ennis visited friends outside of Salt Lake City recently. He was able to do a lot of sightseeing.

MaryAnn Thomen and family traveled to Ireland after Easter for the baptism of their newest granddaughter and Scotia's little sister, Niamh Thomen- O'Brien. Niamh was born last June.

~ Kathryn Stellitano

## *A Big Thank-You*

Many thanks to all for a very successful *Joyous Noise Collection*. We raised \$434.00 for the Kids Care program at St. John's Lutheran Church. They are able to feed over 55 thousand families.

Another big thank you goes to Ann Lambert who donated such lovely stuffed animals for our children to enjoy and snuggle with.

The remainder of this Sunday School year will focus on obedience, Mother's Day and then we will start preparing for our Children's Sunday in June. I encourage you to bring your children to be able to prepare for this end of the year celebration.

If you know of someone who is graduating from Pre-K through college, please let me know their names so they can be honored during the Children's Sunday service.

As always it is a pleasure to be part of this wonderful church community. God bless.

~ Therese Carpentier

### ***Loving God, Hear Our Prayers...***

- We pray for healing for Donna S.
- We pray for Linda H., whose hand is recovering from a large splinter.
- We pray for Mo, who is dealing with recurring health issues.
- We pray for Freddy G.
- We pray for our spouses and partners on life's journey, especially for Ruby's husband.
- We pray for Shirley L., and her family on the passing of her brother, Francis "Tyke" on 3/26/2015.
- We pray with the family of Pam S., who are mourning her passing.
- We pray for Robin B. and family, that they would experience God's peace.
- For the ability to make correct decisions in upcoming life challenges.
- We pray for Lucy S., who recently had leg surgery, and is recovering at home.
- We pray for all people dealing with employment issues, harassment and discrimination, and layoffs, especially for Deena and Kristen.
- We pray with Sandy C., for the health of her grandson, Jude, and the family of her friend Liz, who recently passed away.
- We continue to pray for and with all those who are fighting cancer, especially for Luke, Paul, Barbara, Brian, Billy, Dee Dee, Enddie, Leah, and Larry.
- We pray for those in our church family who are or have been in the hospital, who are working through physical rehabilitation, and for those in special need of God's healing presence, especially for Marilyn, Mo, Lee, and Ann.
- We pray with Jean B. for her friend, Donnie, hurt in a farming accident, and is currently still in the hospital.

- We pray for all those displaced by recent fires in Hartford.
- We pray for peace in our world, particularly in New York City, Ferguson, Missouri, between Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, in Syria, Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran.

### ***Gracious God, we give you thanks...***

- For the good health of Shirley L. and Evalin B., and for the loving care and support of their families.
- For this loving and supportive church family who blesses others with the power of prayer.
- For the service, bravery and courage of our military veterans.
- For the people in our lives who remind us of God's love and presence, even in the midst of struggle.

### ***May 9th Plant & Bake Sale***

As usual we would appreciate help during the sale any time from 7:30 to 12:00 on Saturday morning. We are always appreciative of any donations of baked goods.

Since it's Mother's Day weekend, customers are always looking for cakes, pies etc. that will be a nice dessert for their family's special Mother's Day get together. There will be *pulla* thanks to Jean Burdick and Kathryn Stellitano.

If you want to get the best plant selection, stop by the Stellitano garage on Friday from 2:00 PM -6:00 PM. Jean Burdick will be taking leftover plants home on Sunday after church. She would appreciate any help loading up and cleaning up at that time.

## *Music / Worship Survey*

Thank you to the 25 participants in the Music / Worship Survey.

On the question of the importance that hymns sung during worship be familiar:

*18 out of 25 felt it was important.*

On the question of the importance that the music, scripture, and sermon be thematic:

*19 out of 25 felt it was important.*

On the question of the importance of hymns using traditional / formal language:

*11/25 were in the middle,  
7/25 thought it unimportant,  
6/25 felt it was important.*

On the question of contemporary VS traditional music:

*11/25 were in the middle,  
6/25 important,  
4/25 unimportant.*

On the question of lively hymns:

*11/25 answered important  
10/25 in the middle.*

On the question of stately hymns:

*14/25 in the middle,  
5/25 important,  
4/25 unimportant.*

The comments indicated that balance is important. Consideration should be given to context, mood, emotion.

The numbers indicate that we are pleasing **all** of the people **some** of the time.

*8/25 are happy to sing a new hymn, 7 are ambivalent, 5 uncomfortable.*

16 out of 25 said they enjoy changing the tempo or style of a familiar, traditional hymn; 5 dislike, 4 had no opinion.

25/25 said it is helpful when the choir leads a new hymn. The comment was made that we should repeat new hymns for several weeks.

On the question of the importance of various aspects of worship: Most of the *Fellowship* numbers were in the *somewhat important* range. Most of the *Prayers* numbers were in the *very important* range. Most of the *Scripture* numbers were in the *very important* range. Most of the *Sermon* numbers were in the *very important* range (21/25 indicated it as #1 in importance). Most of the *music* number were in the *very important* range (15/25). Unfortunately many people did not answer the questions about the Children's Message, Children's Participation, and Silence.

The question about the preference for Organ VS Piano was split 13 (piano) to 12 (organ). Questions and comments and *new members* to the Choir are always welcome. We thank all for their compliments and suggestions.

~ Sandy Motasky

## *Bylaws Updated*

By a unanimous vote, the revised bylaws were accepted by a quorum on April 19, 2015. These are available (**BIG PRINT VERSION TOO**) at [www.federatedchurchbrooklynct.org/documents.html](http://www.federatedchurchbrooklynct.org/documents.html) (under "Other").

# May Calendar - [www.federatedchurchbrooklynct.org / calendar.html](http://www.federatedchurchbrooklynct.org/calendar.html)

Today		Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat	
		26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2							
		9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Service	9am Office Hours	9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	9am Office hours	9am Office hours	9am Office hours	9am Cleanup rain date							
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9							
		9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Service 11:30am Deacons	9am Office Hours	Donald P - birthday 9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	9am Office hours	Tyler M - birthday	Paula F - birthday 9am Plant & Bake sale								
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16							
		Mothers' Day 9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Service	1pm WCGCS 9am Office Hours	Paul S. Sr. - birthday 9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	9am Office hours										
		17	18	19	20										
		9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Service	9am Office Hours	Bell articles due Jesse M - birthday 9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	9am Office hours										
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
		9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Service	Memorial Day 9am Office Hours	9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	9am Office hours										
		31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6							
		9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Service	Ruby B - birthday 9am Office Hours	9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	Peg W. - birthday 9am Office hours		Gerry B. - birthday								

*You can't pay Him back for what  
He did for you on the cross,  
but you can pay it forward.*  
Rev. Cal Lord,  
Central Baptist Church of Westerly, RI