



# The Church Bell

## The Federated Church of Christ, Brooklyn, CT



United Church of Christ and American Baptist Churches U.S.A.



Sunday Worship &  
Sunday School  
10:00am

Church Office Hours:  
Tuesday – Thursday  
9:00am – 1:00pm

Pastor:  
Rev. Mary L. Apicella

Worship Accompanist:  
David Gonzalez

Christian Education  
Director:  
Therese Carpentier

Secretary:  
Linda Huber

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## Newsletter for November 2014

### Notes from Pastor Mary

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks, to the Holy One.*

On **Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held at our church**, with Temple Beth Israel Preservation Society co-hosting. Since I began as your pastor in March, many people have placed this service on my horizon as something treasured, beloved, and much anticipated by both our FCC congregation as well as at Temple Beth Israel. In fact, this long-standing tradition going back 59 years (or thereabouts) was one of the “pluses” for me as I learned more about the Federated Church of Christ when I was being interviewed by the pastoral search committee. The relationships created, sustained, and strengthened by this service are a testament to the ease with which common ground can be attained and cultivated between people of differing backgrounds when everyone is seeking a greater goal of worshiping the Source of all our gratitude and blessings.

I look forward to sharing this time of reflecting on what it means to be thankful and sharing in the fellowship between our two faith communities, as well as with those in our wider community who will be participating. I hope you will place this service on your own respective horizons to attend as our calendars quickly fill up with holiday engagements.

And speaking of holiday engagements, our church has a number of Advent events and unique services that you will not want to miss. This year, we are going to experiment with a gradual “Hanging of the Greens” in our sanctuary. The goal is to decorate the sanctuary in stages during each of the four Sundays in Advent, rather than all at once on the first Sunday in Advent, so that we can slow down and take our time to reflect on preparing our worship space, and our hearts, for the Christ Child.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, and for the following three Sundays, our sanctuary will be transformed into the sights, smells, and sounds of anticipating Christmas. Watch your bulletins and the *December Bell* for more details on what each Sunday in Advent's decoration focus will be.

Finally, an introduction to a service that is likely brand new to many of you, but is a North Carolina Christmas tradition for me. On **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, a Christmas Lovefeast in the Moravian Tradition will be held at our church**. The Moravians are Protestant Christians who immigrated to the United States in the early 1700s from Bavaria, Moravia, and Saxony (located today in parts of Germany and Austria).

The Lovefeast meal originated as a simple meal before receiving Holy Communion, so that the spiritual and symbolic meaning of Communion would be in the forefront when the communicants ate of the bread and wine. Though these meals of the church family are associated with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, the Lovefeast neither supplants the Holy Communion nor is considered of equal importance with it.

Lovefeasts happen at anytime during the year, but at Christmas, the meaning of Christ as the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, and Emanuel (God with us) takes on extra significance. More information will come as the date gets closer, but it is something to put on your calendars now.

## Pastor's Discretionary Fund



The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is the way that we as a congregation are able to help our neighbors meet their needs for food, transportation, paying bills, and rent. In this small but meaningful way, our church is living out Jesus' call in Matthew 25 to care for "the least of these who are members of my family," recognizing that all people are beloved to God.

Any donations made to the discretionary fund come directly to the pastor and go into an account reserved only for requests for assistance. Donations made to the fund are not part of your yearly pledge, but are a freely given offering. Please prayerfully consider the discretionary fund as you make your plans for giving to the ministry of our church. ~ Pastor Mary

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*"Because God is the  
God of the darkness  
as well as the light,  
I shall be unafraid of  
the darkness.  
I will keep my heart  
open to truth and  
light."*

*~ Howard Thurman*

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## Deacons Notes

It's that time of the year again to order our Christmas Poinsettias! You can choose from red, white, and pink poinsettias. They are \$10 per plant. The deadline for ordering is November 30<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent!) so be sure to get your order in before then.

You can also call the church office and place your order with Linda. Her office hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00-1:00pm. Drop off or mail a check to the church by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Contact Ruth Stetson at 860-774-2012 for ordering or for questions.

## Christian Education Notes

Our Halloween celebration was enjoyed by our little ghosts and goblins. November will be a fun-filled month where we will focus on being thankful for all that we have. Important dates to remember:

**November 2nd:** All Saint's and All Soul's lesson

**November 16th:** Veggie Tales Video on Thankfulness

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Thanksgiving celebration, and the children will be hosting the coffee hour

**November 30th** is the beginning of Advent and we will have an intergenerational service. At this service we will be decorating the wreath and window boxes in the church.

The holidays are quickly approaching and we will be busy in Sunday School. Please bring the children for these wonderful lessons in our faith. Please feel free to bring friends to our classes too.

A special thank you goes out to Lee Lambert who taught the children how to make prayer beads and how to use them. There was fun had by all.

If you have any crafts or other talents you want to share with our children please let me know and I would be glad to schedule you into our classes. I will be glad to provide the supplies that are needed for whatever craft you want to do. As always have a very blessed month and keep Jesus in your hearts.

Therese H. Carpentier



## Women's Group

Our next meeting will be on November 10 at 1pm in the Conference Room. We would love you to join us. We will be planning for the reception after the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. We will also be finalizing plans for other December events and finalizing the details for the Sugarplum Fair on December 6<sup>th</sup>. Start thinking about bringing cookies, baked goods, raffle baskets, old jewelry and gently used items to go in the fair.

### ***SUGARPLUM FAIR WREATH BOOTH -- HELPERS NEEDED***

The proceeds from the wreath booth will go directly to the church general fund again this year. Anyone interested in helping make evergreen wreaths and sprays, or working at the booth during the fair, please contact Sandy Motasky: sandym253@aol.com (860-974-1302), or see her after church.



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## Party Line

Carolyn Otto's mom, Doris Heimall fell recently and suffered a lumbar injury. After some time in the hospital and a few weeks at Westview she is home and hoping to be on her feet and back in church soon.

Shirley Leach also fell and was hospitalized. She is now recuperating at Westview and hopes to get home soon. She would love a visit or a card. Her son in law, Hiller is making slow but steady progress after his surgery for a brain tumor.

Lucy Stuyanski's sister, Doris Champagne was also hospitalized recently for a surgical procedure but is now home recuperating.

Sue and Jerry Hemig's daughter Melissa was married recently to Matthew Schwab, another Brooklyn native. Best wishes to everyone and we hope to see pictures soon!

Sandy Collins's niece, Rochelle Graveline left for Africa a few weeks ago on a medical mission trip. Her arrival and first few days were not well organized and somewhat scary. Hopefully she will be settled soon and working hard.

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## November Birthdays and Anniversaries



11/01 Shirley Wing Leach  
11/05 Hal Malstrom

11/20 Nichole & Elliot Ellsworth Anniversary  
11/23 Christine Clark

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

### *Loving God, hear our prayers...*

- We pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially for the family of Vyto Lugaukas; for David Kettelle on the death of his partner, Tony; for the family of Roy Baker; and for the Alters family upon the death of their father, Harry.
- We pray for Billy, Sue O's brother, whose cancer has returned, but he is responding well to chemo.
- We pray for Eva, Ruth S's granddaughter, for courage, strength, and her triumph over life's challenges.
- We pray for Carolyn O.'s nephew and his wife, who are expecting a baby in January.
- We pray for those in our church family who are or have been in the hospital, and who are working through physical rehabilitation.
- We pray for our children to have strength, courage, and perseverance to endure struggles and difficulties, and for parents who love them to find their own strength and inner peace.
- We pray for Jeannette Gieb, and all those who are in the hospital for treatment and a return to good health.
- We pray for those who are struggling with illness: a brother-in-law who is having eye sight issues; Judy who is struggling with lymphedema; for Larry, Betsy B's brother, undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer; for Diane S. and her daughter, both of whom are facing upcoming surgery; for Eddie and Leah as they go through treatment for cancer.
- We pray for peace in our world, particularly in Canada, in Ferguson, Missouri, between Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, in Syria, Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran.
- We pray continually for the girls who were kidnapped in Nigeria in April, for their families and their communities and swift action for international efforts to bring the girls back home safely.
- We pray for the families who are grieving the loss of loved ones because of the Ebola virus, as well as for the health workers, doctors, and nurses who are risking their lives to save and comfort the lives of others in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and around the world.

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

- for a loving and supportive church family.
- for the people in our lives who remind us of God's love and presence, even in the midst of struggle.
- for successful brain surgery for Hillar and his continued recovery as he undergoes further treatment for cancer.



## Ad Hoc Committee Notes

### Fall Clean Up Time

Saturday, November 1st, (rain/snow date, next Saturday, the eighth) all those free and able, are called to assemble at 9:00 am (more or less) for the fall clean up. Rakes, tarps, blowers, chain saws, etc, are welcome. Coffee, hot cider, and fall treats will be provided.

### Church Signs

On October 1st, the Brooklyn Planning and Zoning Board approved (with a minor change) our plans for new Church signs on Route 6 and on Route 169. The signs are now under construction and will hopefully be installed before the ground freezes. About \$850 has been pledged so far, but close to another thousand will be needed. The Executive Board will be approached about conducting a special collection for this purpose on November 9th.

### Lois Baker Memorial

Immediately after the service on Sunday, November 2nd, we will dedicate the newest part of the Memorial Garden, which consists of new plantings in the front of the Chapel. This addition, supported by the Women's Group and the Ad Hoc Group, has been created in the memory of Lois Baker, long time, dedicated member and friend of our Church. Please join us immediately following the service before the coffee hour as we honor and remember our sister, Lois.

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## CROP Walk 2014



Seventeen members of our church stepped out on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, October 5th, to raise funds for the poor "around the corner and around the world". We believe that this number was enough to win the Interfaith Council's traveling trophy, which was to go to the congregation who brought out the most walkers.

Last year this "Hole in the Shoe" award went to our church because we raised the most in donations. Our winning total last year was \$672. This year we have raised almost \$1,450, and the total is still growing.

Thanks to all who walked and all who contributed. We did well for the people who need us.

*FCC representing at the CROP Walk on Oct. 5th*

## Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council Notes

Nine faith communities were represented at KBIC's October meeting.

- The “*Warm Hearts - Warm Homes Concert*” will be held on Saturday night, November 8th at 7:00pm at the Bradley Playhouse in Putnam. Tickets will be \$10.00 and will be available through all the local churches and that night at the door.
  - This is the largest fundraiser for the local Fuel Fund. Last year dozens of homes in our community received fuel deliveries from the fund thanks to over \$12,000 raised by the concert and other fundraisers and through private donations.
- Naomi Weiner reported that the Temple and the Federated Church of Christ will hold their 59<sup>th</sup> annual joint Thanksgiving worship service at the Federated Church on Tuesday evening, November 25th at 7:00pm. An offering will be taken with all proceeds going to the Fuel Fund. Participants are asked to bring a canned good for the Food Bank.
- On Sunday, December 14th, Danielson will be the site of "A New England Christmas in Killingly." The Parks and Rec Dept. and Chamber are joining with local faith communities to host a series of holiday events throughout the afternoon from 4:00 to 7:00pm. Four thousand luminaries will encircle Davis Park, where there will be a petting zoo and a large bonfire.
  - All faith communities are invited to "purchase" 500 luminaries and a table at the park, which will feature child friendly activities. The cost per group will be \$100 and will help defray costs.
  - All local businesses will remain open, Santa and characters from the movie, "Frozen" will participate.
  - Westfield Congregational Church will again present its Victorian Christmas dinner at the church from 5:00 to 9:00pm. The dinner will be followed by a carol sing in the parlor. Tickets are \$40.
- Pastor Jon Chapman also announced that a "Victorian Christmas" will be celebrated the three Sunday evenings before Christmas in December at Westfield Congregational Church. The half hour services will begin at 7:00pm.
- Pastor Gary, the new pastor at St. Alban's announced that the "Be Our Guest" suppers will no longer be offered at St. Alban's. Cornerstone Baptist will host the suppers on the second Friday of the month. The Methodists will host on the last Friday of the month. Pastor Gary also reported that efforts to initiate a food bank at St. Alban's are on hold until a federal number can be obtained.
- Cornerstone will hold a concert by the Phoenix String Quarter at 3:00pm on November 2nd in honor of Reverend Ray Sickle, past pastor at Cornerstone. The concert is free.
- The Federated Church, St Joseph's in Dayville, and St. John's Lutheran will all hold their Christmas bazaars on Saturday, December 6th. Our Lady of LaSallette Catholic Church will hold its annual "Fancy Christmas Cookie" sale on Saturday December 20th.
- KBIC will hold its November meeting on Wednesday the 19th, at 1:30pm at Temple Beth Israel. All are welcome.

**The Federated Church  
of Christ, Brooklyn, CT**

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**November 2014 FEDERATED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
						1 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2
2 Choir Rehearsal 9am Deacons Meeting 11:30am	3	4	5 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	6 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	7 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	8 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
9 Choir Rehearsal 9am Christian Education Meeting	10 Women's Group Meeting 1pm Executive Board Meeting @7pm	11	12 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	13 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	14 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	15 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
16 Choir Rehearsal 9am Book Discussion 11:30 – 12:30pm	17	18	19 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	20 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm Trustees Meeting 6:30pm	21 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	22 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
23 Choir Rehearsal 9am <u>30</u> Choir Rehearsal 9am Hanging of the Greens	24	25 Thanksgiving Interfaith Service 7pm - FCC	26 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	27 	28 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	29 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm