



The Church Bell
The Federated Church of Christ
Brooklyn, CT



November 2015

Sunday
Worship &
Sunday School
10:00am

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

Notes from Pastor Mary

A tremendous "Thank You!" to Todd Clark and the 75th Anniversary committee for putting together a program celebrating our congregation's 75 years as a Federated church. In addition to Todd, Theresa Carpentier, Sandy Motasky, Mark and Cindy Rollins, Mary Ann Thomen, and myself made up the committee.

But our work couldn't have been done without the invaluable input of members who readily shared memories, stories, and participated in the events of the day. As the apostle Paul prayed for all the churches in his time, so our prayer is also "that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love" (Eph. 3:17).

One of the elements of our celebration was to answer the question, "what does being part of the Federated Church of Christ mean to me?" So many wonderful responses came in, and for the next few issues of the Bell, a few will be shared so that all of you can read what others shared.

Thank you to all who participated!

Pastor Mary

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

Christmastime is (Almost) Here

As the song goes from a *Charlie Brown Christmas*, "Christmastime is here, we'll be drawing near, oh, that we could always see, such spirit through the year, oh, that we could always see such spirit through the year..."

The season of Advent begins on November 29th, signaling 4 weeks of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus. This year we will again decorate our sanctuary through a gradual "Hanging of the Greens" so that we can slow down and take our time to reflect on preparing our worship space, and our hearts, for the Christ Child.

Finally, after last year's inaugural Christmas Lovefeast in the Moravian Tradition, the response was overwhelmingly positive so we will hold our 2nd Annual Christmas Moravian Lovefeast on Saturday, December 12th, at 7:00pm.

continues

Worship Accompanist: David Gonzalez
Secretary: Linda Huber

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<i>Articles 18th each month to:</i>	
ChurchBell@	
FCCBrooklynCT.org	

Christmastime (continued)

This year's service will feature the congregational favorite pulla bread for our buns, and warm cider, giving our service a distinctly "FCC" and New England flavor. Make sure you get the service on your calendar and tell your friends!

Pastor Mary

KBIC

On Wednesday, October 21st, the Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council (KBIC) held its monthly meeting at the Temple. Sixteen members and guests representing ten faith communities attended.

Sam Chang, with the Thrivent Foundation, made a presentation about its work with faith communities across the state to support local good works and to assist with financial planning and investing. Locally St John's has worked closely with Thrivent on many local projects. Thrivent had worked exclusively with Lutherans but has broadened its reach.

Ann Barry reported the results of this year's CROP Walk. Brooklyn Federated won the traveling "Hole in the Shoe" trophy again this year with the most funds raised. Brooklyn Federated raised \$1,457 to date. Cornerstone raised \$970, Westfield raised \$631, Danielson Methodist raised \$400, the Unitarians raised \$225, and St. James raised \$182. The total, \$3,880 is a little less than the

\$4,000 needed to purchase the 400 turkeys for next year's Thanksgiving baskets distributed through St. James. Typically the totals go up a little before the final accounting.

Pastor Lisa Anderson reported on the final service at St. John's Lutheran earlier in the month. She indicated that the congregation had determined to do the "faithful thing" so that St. John's could continue to serve the community. A collection was taken at the service raising \$367 for the Fuel Bank.

Pastor Jon Chapman reported that Westfield's 300th anniversary celebration went well. As part of the celebration, the church bell was rung 300 times.

Pastor Gregg Thomas related how a ton of clothes had come in and gone out at their annual clothing exchange. Westfield noted that they have a "Matterhorn" of blankets and sleeping bags available for those who need them especially for the homeless, some of whom are sleeping outside.

Naomi Weiner reported on the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Temple as major rehab work begins.

The subcommittee on the Roast Pork Dinner Fuel Bank Fund Raiser on Saturday, November 7th at St Joseph's parish hall discussed progress on the event. Tickets and flyers were passed out. Kat and Rob Voght from Westfield will be in charge of the kitchen. They will be cooking for an expected 125 guests.

KBIC (continued)

Ann Barry was able to get "Dragonfly Diversion" to entertain during the event. Barb Schreier volunteered to make applesauce. Thirteen volunteers will be needed from faith communities, and each is being asked to provide assorted desserts. Initial costs will be met by Pastor Lisa and her Thrivent action teams. Any additional costs will be met by a loan from KBIC which will be repaid from the proceeds.

Jean Cyr, Director of the St Francis of Assisi Food Bank, told us that they will be celebrating their 25th anniversary. They are planning on distributing 400 turkey dinners to local families. Sign ups will be on Nov 21st, the 22nd and the 23rd.

Pastor Jon noted that "Luminary Night" will be held on December 13th. All area faith groups are invited to participate that late afternoon in Davis Park. Each will bring its own table and created an activity for children.

Sue Cory from Trinity reported that on Halloween Night, they will be holding a vigil from 5:00pm to 9:00pm at the old Trinity Church on Church Street.

In closing Sam Chang told us that he had been aware of and a part of many interfaith efforts around the state that were not always successful. He found our work to be inspiring and shocking.

The next meeting will be on November 18th. These meetings are open to the public.

~ Earl McWilliams

Deacons

We are updating our contact list in preparation for weather induced cancellations. That is code for the white stuff that blanketed our world last winter. Please check the list to be sure your preferred contact number is correct. We are also checking on emails so the Bell and other updates are getting to you. We want to know who prefers a paper copy of the bell instead of receiving it online.

We need your input for decisions such as participating in the Killingly Brooklyn Interfaith Creation Care Day worship held at Davis park on Labor Day Sunday. The music was lead by our own David Gonzales, Sandy and Randy Motasky. Since we had a small group represented we are wondering would our folks prefer to worship in our own church or is it just a busy weekend. Let a deacon know your opinion.

Did you know the the likes of Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan showed up this September at the Federated Church? Their creations were beautifully sung and played by Real Carpentier. Flute and keyboard by David Gonzales tunes floated through air while folks joined in the Federated's Falltastic Jubilee. The energetic played horseshoes and moon bounced. The contemplative made prayer beads with Lee or had their faces painted. God's beautiful creation showed in the faces of all. See you there next year!

continued

Another fun gathering of sharing stories and revisiting old memories happened Sunday October 18th at the celebration of the 75th year of the federation. Thanks to Todd Clark for the hours of research and presentation of how we got to be our unique federated blend of American Baptist and Congregationalist (who became United Church of Christ). Thank you to all who shared their stories about what the Federated Church means to them. Copies of those stories went into the time capsule along with amazing variety of stuff including our Red Book of songs, a coffee cup, books from study groups and ???

We hold the families of Val Craig and Marilyn Leopold in our prayers as they transition in their lives with the loss of their loved one. The Deacon's continue their on going care about our church family members. Please let us know of folks that need a call, visit and or prayers.

Mary Ann Thomen

What the
Federated Church of Christ
Means to Me...

"All are welcome!"
Ruby Babcock

"Being a member of the
Federated Church of Christ
makes me feel closer to God
and Jesus. I like coffee hour."
Samuel Clark

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

Basket Raffle

Hard to believe it, but the Sugar Plum Fair is just a little over 1 month away! It's now time to start thinking about the Basket Raffle. We are grateful to those who have helped out in the past by creating a basket. We hope that you will be willing to once again create themed baskets for this table. This is actually a fun project - the key is to choose a theme that you enjoy. We hope that more people will get inspired and create something fun. See Ruth Stetson if you have questions or ideas.

~ Kathryn Stellitno

WCGCS

The Women's Christian Group for Community Service is finalizing the Take Out Lasagna Dinner which will be held on November 7th from 4:30 to 6:30 or "until it's gone." In March we sold out by 5:15, so we are increasing the number of serving from 100 to 120. We will need 9 cakes – 9 x13 work the best. There will be a sign up sheet in church on the next two Sundays.

For the past few years this biannual event earns approximate \$1,500 each year for the WCGCS budget. If you would be willing to help out, please speak to Kathryn or Mo Girard.

And the Sugar Plum Fair is 5 weeks away! We hope there are bakers planning on a few batches of holiday cookies for the Cookie Table or some other baked goodie for the Bake Sale Table. Jewelry and white elephant items are also greatly appreciated.

~ Kathryn Stellitno

Partyline

With great sadness we note the passing of two good friends of our church family.

Marilyn Leupold died in September, aged of 91. Marilyn had been active in the Women's Group and on many church committees for many years. She had moved to Creamery Brook a few years ago and become increasingly more fragile. Despite her health issues, her good humor and curiosity were always evident.

Peg and Ralph Seguire's daughter, Valerie, died in September after a valiant battle with cancer. Val and Del regularly brought Peg to services and other church events. She also helped out at the Thrift Shop. Her quiet friendly spirit will be missed.

Congratulations to George and Jan Geer on their 4th grandson. Eli John Murphy is Amy and John's first baby. He was born on September 3rd and weighed in at 7 lbs 6 oz.

On Sept 8th, Sue and Lou Oleksy welcomed their first grandson, Caiden Jacob Robidoux, who was born to Christine and Derrick Robidoux . Caiden weighed in at 8 lbs 12 oz.

Betsy and David Burgess spent a few weeks in September traveling on the west coast. They enjoyed touring Seattle and San Francisco.

Mark and Cindy Rollins, and son Evan, traveled to Toronto for a family wedding over Columbus Day Weekend. Of course we must wonder if Mark found any new and exciting Canadian Beer while on this trip? [editor - I believe so]

Linda Huber, our church Office Secretary for 14 years, is retiring, partially for health reasons. Although some did not meet her, she was the reason things like the Bulletin got printed and bills paid! Wish her the best, and a gift was provided on behalf of the church.

~ Kathryn Stellitno

Coffee Hour

Coffee and fellowship after the service are an important part of our Sunday mornings. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered to do coffee hour in the last few months.

We are all set through October but we will need some volunteers for November 1, 8th, 15th and 29th. Coffee hour does not need to be lavish: a box of donut holes, some sliced apples and juice would work very nicely. The hosts also need to bring milk for coffee. Coffee and paper goods are provided.

The sign up sheet is on the side table in the church entryway. If you have questions, see Kathryn Stellitano.

Loving God, Hear Our Prayers...

- For all those grieving loss: for the Alman family, the Halbach family, the Carabello family, the Hill family, and the Timberman family.
- We continue to pray for and with all those who are fighting cancer, especially for Lisa's mother, Micah, Ethel, Erma, Diane, Luke, Paul, Brian, Billy, Dee Dee and Leah.
- For Linda, our former Secretary, who is dealing with health issues.
- For Barbara, who is recovering from back pain after a recent fall.
- For Jan, that her vision will be restored.
- For Shaelyn.
- For all struggling with addiction.
- For new places to live and fulfilling jobs.
- For the millions of people displaced and fleeing as refugees from the violence in Syria and other countries in the Middle East, and for the nations around the world receiving them.
- For Barbara, who is having a hard time with persistent illness.
- For grace and peace as families go through life transitions.
- For our nation still in need of healing from racism, prejudice, and violence.
- For peace in our world, particularly in Hartford, Baltimore, 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 marriage of Lori Bailey and Paul Rajchel on Saturday, 10/24/15
- Linda Huber, on her retirement after 14 years as our church secretary.
- Our Federated church celebrating 75 years of GRACE at the crossroads.
- For the births of children and the joy they bring to our lives.
- For the return of familiar, beloved faces in worship.
- For companionship and joy of pets.
- 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 people in our lives who remind us of God's love and presence, even in the midst of struggle.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 1 Daylight Saving Time ends 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship Service		2 9am Office Hours	3 9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	4 Ha M - birthday 9am Office hours	5 9am Office hours	6 5pm Dinner - Fuel Fund 5pm Lasagna Dinner
8 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship Service		9 9am Office Hours	10 Veterans Day 9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	11 9am Office hours	12 Paulette & Craig H. anniversary	13 9am Office hours
15 Nicole E. birthday Robert L. birthday 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship Service		16 9am Office Hours	17 Bell articles due Erin F. birthday 9am Office hours 6pm Bell articles due 7pm Choir Practice	18 Taylor D. birthday 9am Office hours	19 Feast of Christ the King Nicole & Elliott E. anniversary	20 9am Office hours
22 Wendy & Dennis T anniversary 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship Service		23 Christine C. birthday 9am Office Hours 7pm Service - Thanksgiving	24 9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	25 Thanksgiving Day 9am Office hours		
29 Melinda B birthday 9am Choir rehearsal 10am Worship Service		30 Joseph M. birthday 9am Office Hours	Dec 1 9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	2 9am Office hours		

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 Christian Education Director: Therese Carpentier

Worship Accompanist: David Gonzalez
 Secretary: Linda Huber