



# The Church Bell

The Federated Church of Christ  
Brooklyn, CT



## April 2016

**Sunday Worship**  
**Sunday School**  
10:00 AM

**Office Hours**  
Tue 10 AM - 3 PM  
Thu 1 PM - 4 PM

### *Notes from Pastor Mary*

#### **Meet Your Deacons**

*Meet Your Deacon for 2016-2017  
Sunday, April 17 and Sunday April 24  
Immediately following Worship.*

At the Federated Church, we want to be family to one another, supporting and encouraging each other in good times and bad. Our Deacon Family Ministry program is one way we seek to be intentional about the care of one another. Each FCC family is assigned a Deacon each year who is available to support you and your family. Deacons, according to scripture and the literal meaning of the name, are "servants." Therefore, these 6 women and men are called to serve the church in general and their assigned families in particular.

On the last two Sundays in April after worship, your Deacon for the 2016-2017 Church Year wants to greet you and give you a new church directory. The Deacons will be stationed in the Fellowship Hall as you come down for Coffee Hour.

Plan to stay just a few minutes after worship to make this important connection and begin nurturing this key relationship in the life of the Federated Church.

#### **Holy Week**

The Interfaith Council will host the annual Procession of the Cross, March 25th, Good Friday, at 11:30 AM in Davis Park in Danielson. The observance will conclude at Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Easter Sunday's Sunrise Service will take place at 6:30 Sunday morning, March 27th at Allen Hill Tree Farm on Allen Hill Road, Brooklyn. Service will be signed for the hearing impaired. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided.

#### **Community Seder:**

We are again invited to attend Temple Beth Israel's annual Community Passover Seder, Sunday afternoon, April 10th, from 2:00 to 5:00. A provocative afternoon of storytelling, ritual, sharing, singing and celebration!" Please RSVP no later than April 3rd to Naomi Weiner 860-455-3039. Coffee/tea and Passover desserts will be served.

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*Articles 18th  
each month to:  
ChurchBell@FCCBrooklynCT.org*

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

Worship Accompanist: David Gonzalez  
Secretary: Carrie Taylor

## Missions

The Missions Committee hosted the annual Haitian Benefit Luncheon by which, for thirty years, we have supported the Haitian Health Foundation's "Save A Family" program. Marilyn Lowney, daughter of founders Dr. and Ms. Lowney, gave an energetic presentation of the Foundation's work in the remote Haitian western peninsula. Marilyn told us how her father was convinced to open the clinic at the insistence of Mother Theresa. As a child, Marilyn remembers being told to get off the phone with her friends because Mother Theresa was going to be calling. The luncheon included plantains, traditional rice and beans and two rum cakes. We raised \$300 for the family we support.

Much of our mission work is being done collaboratively with other faith communities through KBIC. Our part in the Warm Hearts Warm Concert helped to raise \$1872 for the Fuel Bank at a recent Saturday night concert/silent auction at Westfield Church. David, our choir and Real Carpentier were well appreciated.

The Thrift Shoppe is inviting more volunteers to help the effort that expands our mission while supporting the bottom line. Looking forward to the Spring yard sale on May 7th, we need volunteers to help sort through the accumulating items in the Thrift Shoppe garage. If you've been part of the Federated Church for a while,

you learn that when we lose certain, key people, we come to realize how significant their role was. Some crucial piece isn't handled because Ruth, or Sue or Roland wasn't there to take care of it. Val Craig was one of those people, and her role, regularly sorting through and repurposing donations is really missed. Speak to Diane or Earl if you can help sort between now and the yard sale in May.

Twice a year the Haitian Health Foundation sends a trailer full of needed items to Haiti. The next shipment heads down on April 16th. Between now and then we will be collecting cans of tuna fish (packed in oil) peanut butter (smooth) bar soap and toiletries and suitcases to include in the shipment.

## Kid's Care Project

St. John's Lutheran will host the Kids' Care meal packaging project On Sunday, April 3rd at St. John's new home on Route 12 south of Danielson at 190 Wauregan Road. Beginning at 11:00 am, five processing lines will package tens of thousands of meals for Eastern Connecticut food pantries and shelters.

Our Joyous Noise collection through Lent is helping to purchase the product (pasta and tomato basil). At 25 cents a meal, enough has been raised to package over 37,000 meals.

## **W.C.G.C.S.**

The Women's Group met on March 7th to finalize plans for the March 19th Lasagna Take Out Dinner. As usual we will be making 120 vegetarian and meat lasagna dinners. Many thanks to our bakers who supply the cakes and to our patrons who faithfully show up to buy lasagna.

The Department of Health has inspected the church kitchen and given it a grade of 98%. (One cupboard needs cleaning and a new receptacle for silverware). Thanks to the staff of the Village Green and the Coffee Hour helpers for keeping the kitchen in good order. Our Approved Kitchen certificate for 2016 has been posted.

Hannah reported that in the past month, W.C.G.C.S has contributed \$100 each to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Project Access, Community Kitchen, Silver Lake, Camp Wightman and the UCC Wider Church Mission. In March we will be contributing to the Discretionary Fund and making our quarterly pledge to the church budget.

Our next meeting will be on April 11th at 1 PM in the Chapel meeting room and we will be organizing the Mother's Day Plant Sale on May 7th.

## ***Coffee Hour***

The April Coffee Hour sheet is beginning to fill up. April 3rd and April 10th are open however for any generous and kind soul who feels like feeding the flock. The sign up sheet is downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

## ***Partyline***

Jean's great grandson, Levi, is still at UMass recovering from RSV, a virus that affects infants under 2 .

Lori has returned to the hospital. She is suffering from complications from her previous surgery. What a long hard last few months she has had.

Melissa and Don Wilson had a nice visit to Florida in mid March. They saw their daughter and some friends.

Jan and George Geer spent a week in North Carolina visiting daughter Susan and her family. They had a great time with their three grandsons except for the tornado scare.

Shana and Rob Heon enjoyed a cruise and did some island hopping in mid March. They were able to take their grandson along also.

Lucy Stuyinski's granddaughter Paige is continuing her outstanding gymnastics career at Woodstock Academy. Paige, a junior, competed at the CT Open Gymnastics Championships recently. She won a gold medal for her performance on the beam, and bronzes for the floor exercise and vault. She went on to win gold in the all around. The following week Woodstock Academy competed at the New England Championships, where the team placed second for the second year in a row. Paige won a silver medal for the all-around competition. Congratulations to Paige and the Centaurs!

So good to have Peggy Wasstrom back after her Florida vacation.

*continues...*

*Partyline* (continued from previous page)

Lincoln Kamau left for Kenya in mid-March. Lincoln has not been home in 16 years and this will be a surprise visit to his family! We look forward to hearing about that!

It was also great to have Paul and Maria Fitze back after their nasty winter of convalescence. It would be perfect when Evalin joined us too.

~ Kathryn Stellitano

## **Deacons**

Lent began at the Federated Church as we gathered in warm community to share the delicious pancake supper prepared by Betsy and Dave Burgess, the Deacons and the *Kohl's* Kid's Care team. We appreciated the numerous helping hands. Pastor Mary lead us in an Ash Wednesday meditation to help us focus on the path of Lent leading to Passion week. Maundy Thursday was commemorated with the Last Supper and a Hand/Footwashing ritual.

With Alan Nichols, Ruby Babcock, Ruth Stetson, and Earl McWilliams leaving in Jan 2015 and 4 deacons leaving in Jan 2016, there is only 1 Deacon with more than one recent year of serving. The continuity of Carolyn Otto is greatly appreciated. Last year's new deacons Missy Ennis, Sandy Motasky and Mary Ann Thomen will be missing the service of Steve Stellitano, Mo Girard, Betsy Burgess and Diane Shriner. Mo and her husband, David, will continue to make cards that we send as a congregation.

We have been grateful for Diane's welcoming smile as she has passed the bulletins. Betsy has been preparing and serving our spiritual communion, as well the numerous meals we coordinate. Steve Stellitano has provided leadership of the Deacons through the changes in pastors. Besides these gifts each have given in innumerable ways behind the scenes. Thank you all for your God's guiding hearts, hands and spirits. It is a time of Sabbath for each of these Deacons, although each continues to fill in the spaces as needed even as they are no longer officially on the Board of Deacon's. Their ongoing sharing of talent is particularly important with the change in the bylaws - number of Deacon's reduced from 9 to 7. This year we welcome Lee Lambert and Melissa Wilson.

A challenge for the Deacons is to help reduce Pastor Mary's hours. She routinely spends more time than what we pay for. She would like to work more hours but we are unable to pay for more hours. Good stewardship does not allow the Federated Church to take advantage of our Pastor. With fewer and mostly new Deacons, Pastor Mary lead us in a retreat at her home February 28th. It strengthened the spirit among us. To strengthen the connections between the Deacon's and the Federated Family we have divided the congregation into Care Groups. Each Deacon has a care group of about 10 families.

continued...

*Deacons (continued from previous page)*

Invitations will be sent to the congregation to a Meet and Greet your Deacon during coffee hour April 17 & 24. Let us know if you do not get one by April 10th. For the Deacons, (Missy Ennis, Lee Lambert, Sandy Motasky, Carolyn Otto, Melissa Wilson)

~ Mary Ann Thomen

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

- Elizabeth's family and friends as they grieve her passing and celebrate her life.
- For Levi, 3 month old great-grandson of Jean B., who is hospitalized for an upper respiratory virus, and Levi's family and team of folks caring for him.
- For Lori, that her body will accept new antibiotics prescribed for her healing after back surgery, and for her healing to begin and continue smoothly.
- For Evalin B., and her family.
- For Richard W., whose cancer diagnosis is terminal.
- For Esther and Toni, husband and wife both recovering from illness and surgeries.
- For Melissa, Robin and Ellen's health and wellbeing.
- For Samson's smooth recovery from hip replacement.
- For traveling mercies for Lincoln K., traveling to Kenya to visit with family.
- For the family and friends of Jacinda Morrissette, grieving her passing.

- For Shirley L., for complications from a foot infection and a fall, and her family as they make transition decisions about how best to care for Shirley.
- For Barbara R., who is suffering from cancer, for Sherron F., and all those who are fighting cancer and other illness.
- For our families to be guided and comforted by the God's presence in transition and in all situations.
- 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 all who are struggling with addiction and drugs, that they would find and receive help and find reconciliation in relationships.
- For our nation still in need of healing from racism, prejudice, and violence.
- For peace in our world.

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

- With Mary Ann for improved health and well-being.
- For the joys of music and the leadership of David and our glorious choir.
- 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.

## *Christian Education*

The Christian Education Committee met after church on March 13th. So far \$232 has been collected for the Joyous Noise. Easter Sunday will be the last day of the Joyous Noise Collection.

Sunday School will be enjoying an egg hunt during Sunday School and other special activities on Easter Sunday.

There is still an opening on the Christian Education Committee- this does not mean that you become a Sunday School teacher. The CE committee helps Therese to plan and implement projects and activities for our Sunday School. Speak to Pastor Mary or Therese Carpentier if you might be interested.

~ Kathryn Stellitano

### **Federated Church of Christ**

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## *Hymn Deconstruction*

Next time you sing a hymn, look at the footnotes. What may surprise you is that often the lyrics and music come from two different sources. Let's look at "**Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee**," also known as "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts."

Based on "Jesu Dulcis Memoria" it is believed this was written by Saint Bernard of Clairvaux. He lived from 1090 to 1153 in Clairvaux, France; and was canonized as a Saint 1/18/1174, by Pope Alexander III.

You might think, he must've spoken French, or Latin; how did that translate so perfectly to rhyme? In Latin the original reads as follows:

*The sweet memory of Jesus  
Giving true joy to the heart,  
But more than honey and all things  
His sweet presence.  
Nothing more delightful is sung,  
Nothing more pleasing heard,  
Nothing sweeter thought,  
Than Jesus, the Son of God.  
O Jesus, hope of the penitent,  
How gracious you are to those who ask  
How good to those who see you;  
But what [are you] to those who find?  
No tongue may tell,  
No letter express;  
He who has experience of it can believe  
What it is to love Jesus.  
O Jesus, may you be our joy,  
You who are our future reward.  
May our glory be in you  
Throughout all eternity.*

...but talented translators like Edward Caswall did it in 1849.

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

Today		Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat	
		27		28		29		30		31		Apr 1		2	
		Easter Sunday 6:30am Easter Sunrise 10am Worship Service		Michael B - birthday Michael D. - birthday		10am Office Hours 7pm Choir Practice		1pm Office Hours							
		3		4		5		6		7		8		9	
		10am Worship Service 11am Kids Care - St John		Betsy B - Birthday		10am Office Hours 7pm Choir Practice		Jeffrey W - birthday 1pm Office Hours						Kathleen H - birthday	
		10		11		12		13		14		15		16	
		Zachary B-C - birthday 10am Worship Service 2pm Beth Israel Seder		Emily B - birthday Kathryn S - birthday 1pm WCGCS - chapel 7pm Executive Board		10am Office Hours 7pm Choir Practice		Thomas Jefferson's Birth 1pm Office Hours						Haiti shipment	
		17		18		19		20		21		22		23	
		10am Worship Service 11am Meet Deacons		6pm Bell articles due 10am Office Hours		7pm Choir Practice		1pm Office Hours							
		24		25		26		27		28		29		30	
		10am Worship Service 11am Meet Deacons		10am Office Hours		7pm Choir Practice		1pm Office Hours							

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