



The Church Bell

The Federated Church of Christ
Brooklyn, CT



July 2016

Sunday Worship
Sunday School
10:00 AM

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

Notes from Pastor Mary

A Blessing for Sanctuary

by Maria Swearingen, associate chaplain at Furman University

["If you can't wrap your head around a bar or club as a sanctuary, you've probably never been afraid to hold someone's hand in public."]

Jeramey Kraatz, Twitter]

O God of Life, God of Love, God of our Pulse, of our Heartbeat, of our Rhythm and our Restlessness. We come to you like the Psalmist. Worn out from our groaning, our beds soaked in tears.

We ask today, we ask again: Where can our queer brothers, sisters, and friends go to be cherished? Where can they go to dance, to love, to hold hands, to share life, to be human? Where can our Latino brothers, sisters, and friends go to be safe? Where can they go to laugh, to rest, to live without talk of walls and deportations?

"Sanctuary!" they cry out. "Where is my sanctuary?"

As our bodies and spirits reel and wrench and write and rage, we wait for words to conjure themselves, we wait for silence to soothe the ache, we wait for justice to roll down,

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

we wait for violence to die its final death, we wait for...what?

Do we even know what we wait for anymore?

Some of us do. Those of us who live afraid, who live uncertain, whose daily diet is the exhausting, demoralizing fear of violence. "Sanctuary."

Today, we sit in our sanctuaries with the names of the departed written on our hearts. We say them out loud, we say them to ourselves, we say them with our hands and pens and very souls. Though little solace, we imagine these dear ones spending their very last moments dancing in their sanctuary, finding freedom in their bodies and for their spirits.

And yet amidst that grief and solidarity, we also hear you asking us,

(continued)

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

Worship Accompanist: David Gonzalez
Secretary: Carrie Taylor

Notes from Pastor Mary, from page 1

God of Life, "Is this a sanctuary for all people? Is this community gathered here a sanctuary for those who need it most?"

If our answer is "yes," we ask for the courage to be that sanctuary no matter the cost.

And if our answer is no, then we call upon our friend Jesus to turn over our tables and proclaim to us in anger and anguish: "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples!" May it be so. Let it begin with us. Amen.

Deacons

'Tis the season of insects. Some of us know by personal experience what it must have been like to have endured the Biblical plague of locust. The munching of gypsy moth caterpillars has left bare trees and overly sun-baked yards in June*. They have begun to spin cocoons so there will soon be millions of moths. As much as the plague is disturbing there is an amazing throbbing of life to witness. In the protective web caterpillars turn into moths to continue the cycle. Our church family is a protective web for the possibility of the spirit to lead to our transformation. The Deacons by having the care groups are intentional in helping our church family feel the protective web of connection and transformation. We are attempting to be sure whom ever wishes can feel that protective web.

***Editor's Note:** BT (*bacillus thuringiensis*) is a completely safe biocide (does not harm birds, bees, cats, etc.) that will wipe out gypsy moth caterpillars as surely as the Red Sea decimated Pharo's troops!

Each person in the Federated Church family helps to weave the web with a smile, cards, phone calls, visits, praying, worshiping, baking, raking, or working on projects together. Each of us participates in forming that web. I wonder what visual web we could draw of our connections if we each added the names of the folks we interacted with in a week or a month. The web diagram may show us who inadvertently gets left out. Would you share your ministry of connection if we were to have a diagram of the Federated Folks web?

To be intentional about reaching out to new folks, Lee Lambert is putting together a welcome packet for visitors. If you have an idea to include please contact Lee.

Rev. Michael J. Ader lead us in worship on Father's Day while Pastor Mary traveled home. Watch for the date Pastor Mary will swap pulpits with Rev. Ron Baker of Spring Hill Baptist Church.

Our Summer picnic and worship is at Wasstrom Pond 10:00 AM July 31. If you forget to bring your favorite chair or dish to share we always have plenty of extra chairs and food. Hot dogs and burgers will be provided. From Route 6 west, left turn on Stetson Rd. The first opening in the trees on the right, leads to the pond. If it is raining we will meet in the church sanctuary.

Deacons: Missy Ennis, Lee Lambert, Sandy Motasky, Carolyn Otto, Melissa Wilson

~Mary Ann Thomen

Party Line

Sympathy is extended to the Ellsworth and Grayson families on the death of Bob Jordan, Joyce Grayson's father and Nichole Ellsworth's grandfather in law. He was a wonderful man: father of 13, grandfather of 36, great-grandfather of 43 and great-great-grandfather of 2. Mr. Jordan will be missed by many friends and family alike.

The Wasstrom clan is celebrating a new arrival; Aila Wasstrom Welz, Peg's granddaughter, gave birth to baby Oliver in May. Oliver is Susan Wasstrom's first grandchild and Peg's 4th great grandchild.

Jim Stuyniski is still recovering from surgery for spinal stenosis. He has been in rehab for the past few weeks and is now home, looking forward to life returning to normal.

Francis McNally was hospitalized for several days after a fall. He is in rehab now and slowly getting back on his feet.

Christine and Tim Clark enjoyed a week in Florida recently.

I expect that David and Betsy Burgess had a great time traveling out west. I think they were planning to ride donkeys down into the Grand Canyon? Need to check on that adventure soon!

~ Kathryn Stellitano

KBIC

The Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council held its June meeting at the Unitarian meeting house in Brooklyn. Nine members representing eight faith communities were in attendance.

Our share of the CROP Walk proceeds came in larger than in past years. The extra money will buy extra turkeys for St James Thanksgiving dinners. Since KBIC will not be meeting over the summer, a sub-committee was set up to meet this summer to prepare for this Fall's Crop Walk scheduled for Sunday, October 2nd.

The Fuel Bank has assisted eight more households since our last meeting, expending \$1724. The Fuel Bank has \$4,125 remaining for assisting households through the summer and into the Fall. State and Federal programs don't begin till November. Operation Fuel (the State Program) ended today. One hundred and eighteen households were assisted with \$54,402 of heating assistance out of our Fuel Bank office through Deacon Barb Schreier.

The annual Roast Pork Supper, which supports the Fuel Bank, will be held October 22nd at St Joseph's Church in Dayville. A sub committee was also established to coordinate plans over the summer. The plan is to do exactly what we did last year which was a success. *continued*

KBIC, from previous page

Brooklyn Federated will again be asked to supply the silverware and dishes. The Council authorized "seed money" of \$300 to purchase supplies for the event, which will be repaid from the proceeds. Dragonfly Diversion will again entertain.

Plans are underway to invite a speaker to lead a discussion of the Islam faith through the "Learning In Retirement" program which QVCC hosts. The address will be scheduled for September. Pastor Erica from Cornerstone Baptist is putting this together. Naomi Weiner spoke to the need for such discussions in our community at this time. One hundred dollars has been authorized from the Shalom Fund for travel expenses.

Yard Sales were reviewed. Several didn't go well this Spring due to weather, competition, and other factors. (So it wasn't just us)

The monthly collection of "story dollars" for the rest of this year will be donated to the Wyndham Association Council for Refugee Resettlement". Any funds received before June 30th will be matched. Connecticut is one of the states which allows Syrian Refugees to relocate. (Our Church has supported this effort this month.)

KBIC will resume responsibility for funding the "Be Our Guest" suppers on the fourth Friday of every month served in Danielson at St Alban's.

Our September meeting will be held at St Joseph Church in Dayville on Wednesday, September 21. Members from all participating faith communities are welcome to attend.

~ *Earl McWilliams*

Women's Retreat

Save the date

September 17, 2016

Spend the day with Ruth and Naomi



Ruth and Naomi, by Sandy Freckleton Gagon

Watch for more information in coming soon. See Melissa Wilson with questions

Loving God, Hear Our Prayers...

- For Orlando, FL, particularly the LGBTQ communities, and the families, friends, and loved ones who are grieving the loss of life and injuries from the shooting on June 12.
- For family and friends of Bob Jordan as they grieve his passing on May 30.
- For Jim S., recovering from back surgery, and for Lucy as she cares for him and takes care of her sister, as well as her own health. *continues*

Loving God, Hear Our Prayers... from previous page

- For Erin, Samson, Dee, that they would experience improved health and well-being.
- For Lori B, facing upcoming hip surgery, and that she would feel God's presence and comfort through the love and support of family and friends.
- For Evalin B.
- For Jesse, Clair, and Barbara.
- For Ruth, Don's sister, who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- For those whose choices and mindsets cause others pain.
- For all who are struggling with addiction and drugs, that they would find and receive help and find reconciliation in relationships with loved ones.
- For Graham, Steve and Mike, that they would experience God's saving presence and grace.
- For Shirley L., in Colonial Rehabilitation and Nursing Home.
- For Barbara R. now receiving hospice care, and all those who are fighting cancer and other illness.
- 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 our nation still in need of healing from racism, prejudice, and violence.
- For peace in our world.

Gracious God, we give you thanks...

For the leadership of Therese Carpentier and the Christian Education Committee (Cindy Rollins and Kathryn Stellitano) for teaching and loving the children of this congregation, and for those who have volunteered time and care.

For Barb S.' successful surgery and recovery so she is able to return to work that she loves and co-workers that love her.

For the service, bravery and courage of our military veterans.

With Dee and Jeremiah who get to see their grandchild.

That in Jesus Christ we have strength for today and hope for tomorrow.

For this loving and supportive church family who blesses others with the power of prayer.

For the people in our lives who remind us of God's love and presence, even in the midst of struggle.

Federated Church of Christ

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Find us on **FaceBook**:

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July Calendar - www.federatedchurchbrooklynct.org/calendar.html

| Today | Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------|--|--|---|--|--|------------------------|----------------------------|
| | 26 Barbara R - birthday 10am Worship Service | | 27 10am Office Hours | 28 7pm Choir Practice | 29 Bernice C - birthday 1pm Office Hours | 30 Lee L - birthday | Jul 1 Alex A - birthday |
| | 3 10am Worship Service | 4 Leland L - birthday Independence Day | 4 Hannah M - birthday 10am Office Hours | 5 7pm Choir Practice | 6 1pm Office Hours | 7 | 8 |
| | 10 10am Worship Service | 11 7pm Executive Board | 12 10am Office Hours | 13 7pm Choir Practice | 14 1pm Office Hours | 15 | 16 |
| | 17 10am Worship Service | 18 6pm Bell articles due | 19 10am Office Hours | 20 7pm Choir Practice | 21 1pm Office Hours | 22 | 23 |
| | 24 10am Worship Service | 25 Laura T. - birthday Susan M. - birthday | 26 10am Office Hours | 27 Jonathan B. - birthday 7pm Choir Practice | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | 31 10am Cookout Wasstroms | Aug 1 James S - birthday | 2 10am Office Hours | 3 Robert J - birthday Shaelyn B-D - birthday 7pm Choir Practice | 4 | 5 | 6 |

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