



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

Contents:

Pastor's Notes	1
Discretionary Fund	2
Deacon's Notes	2
Christian Ed.	2
Women's Group	3
KBIC Notes	3
Ad Hoc Group	4
Party Line	4
Prayers	5
Announcements	5
Contact Us	6

Newsletter for July 2014

Notes from Pastor Mary

For the month of July during the sermon time, we will be having a congregational sermon series called **Sunday Conversations**.

For two of the four Sundays in July, the sermon will be a time when all of those in worship are invited to think and discuss together on topics that were put forward by some in the congregation who responded to my questions, "what are you thinking about these days?"; "What topics related to living in the Way of Jesus are most important to you right now?"; "What are you curious to learn more about when it comes to the Bible, Christianity, living in the world as a follower of Jesus?"

The responses I received covered a wide range of areas:

- the differences in "forgiveness" in the Old and New Testaments, and what does it mean to forgive someone who has hurt us or someone we love?
- biomedical ethics regarding how we care for our bodies in a way that honors the natural birth-life-death cycle in an age of medical

technology that prolongs a lifespan, and how to care for family members who must make difficult decisions regarding care for loved ones or themselves at the end of life

- an early church debate and split between James and Paul, some of the earliest church fathers.

Each topic is rich in meaning and significance, and I am grateful for these suggestions. Please keep your comments, questions, and suggestions coming!

Because it is particularly deep and multi-faceted, forgiveness will be a topic to be covered on future Sundays so that we are not limited to one day's time frame.

For each of the two *Sunday Conversations*, I will prepare some handouts (doing my best not to be come a professor) with some questions to reflect on and guide discussion, but the majority of content and information will be from you all as we talk and learn together.

Our "inaugural" *Sunday Conversations* schedule will look like this:

- July 6: Disagreeing in the Name of Jesus: Early Church Splits and Schisms
- July 13: All-Church Hymn Sing (Pastor is on vacation)
- July 20: The Body as God's Temple on Life Support: Biomedical ethics and end of life care
- July 27: Sunday Away worship at Peg Wasstrom's Pond

Please join us and contribute your voice and experience to our worship time together. The greater the number of voices and perspectives, the richer and more blessed we will be.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Did you know that the church is part of a network of congregations in the Brooklyn and Danielson area that work together to provide aid to individuals who need some help covering expenses?

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



Notes from the Deacons

- Deacon of the month is Earl McWilliams.
- Contact him if you have any special needs or wish information that you are not receiving.
- The Deacons offering for July (communion collection) will go to the Chaplaincy Fund.
- Would you like to know more about AD HOC and how they "get it done"? Ask Earl McWilliams! See the notes from the latest Ad Hoc group on page 4.

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs.

Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

~ Howard Thurman

Christian Education

The Sunday School year is coming to an end, how time flies. I want to thank everyone who has made this another successful school year for our children. I have many exciting plans for the summer activities for our children, the theme for this summer is "Fruit of the Spirit".

A big congratulations goes out to all of the graduates of 2014: Pete Barris (Rochester

University), James Parker (Ledyard High School), Katlynn Morrison (Woodstock Academy), Caylee Morrison (PRE-K), Calli Olesky (Woodstock Academy), Tristyn Marie Burdick Drake (Holy Cross), and Anna Carpentier (Sterling Community School). I would also like to extend a warm thank you to the Sunday School teachers who

give the gift of their time and their amazing talents to make our program a success: Cindy Rollins, Carolyn Otto, Sandy Motasky, and Earl McWilliams. Thank you for all you do! I want to wish all our families a safe journey on their travels they may be taking this summer. Enjoy the beautiful time of rest God is giving you and may he keep you safe. Yours In Christ, Therese H. Carpentier (CEC)



Graduate/Children's Sunday, 2014

Women's Group



Memorial Garden

In May the Women's Group made donations to the Relay for Life and the Haitian Health Fund.

The kitchen in the chapel has been cleaned and reorganized.

Lawn signs for Routes 6 and 169 to advertise our major fund raising events have been ordered from Staples.

The Women's Group will not meet in July or August, but we will continue to work on bazaar projects.

Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council

Eight congregations were represented at the June meeting of the Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council held on June 18th at Unitarian Universalist Society in Brooklyn.

The following highlights of the meeting are noted:

- Work on obtaining a 501c3 tax exemption continues.
- A statistical report on Project Fuel was given with the notation that 34 homes in our area were assisted leaving a balance in the private donor fund of slightly over \$3000.
- The possibility of sponsoring a talent night or an organ concert (St. Albans) in the fall was discussed (substitute for Warm Hearts, Warm Homes concert).
- Planning for the October 5th Crop Walk continues with a route yet to be determined.
- The Killingly United Methodist Church continues to provide a free light breakfast from 9-11 on Mondays.

- *Sound of Music* Sing-a-Long will be repeated this summer on August 3 at 2 p.m. at the Danielson Community Center. Admission will be \$10/adults, \$5/children.
- Blessing of the Animals is scheduled for September 28, 3 p.m. at Davis Park in Danielson.
- Vacation Bible Schools will be held July 7-11 at St. James, July 21-5 at Cornerstone Baptist and August 4-8 at St. John's.
- The United Methodist Church will be having a pot luck going-away dinner for Pastor Susan on June 21.

Pastor Chapman distributed brochures regarding Westfield Congregations Church's Capitol Campaign. They have set a goal of \$830,000 and have received to date, 20 pledges totaling \$92,000 (approximately 11%).

The campaign's goal is to address the need of the churches in stages which will include re-shingling the church roof, reconstruction of the steeple, elevator access to all floors/facilities and restoration of the building exterior and sanctuary. The congregation is enthused and optimistic about reaching their goal.

The Nominating Committee introduced a slate for next year which is as follows:

Chair Pastor Jon Chapman, Vice Chair Harry Denaker, Secretary Maggie Weaver, Treasurer Ann Barry. The slate was approved by those in attendance. Officers will take over their new duties in September as the KBIC will not be meeting in July or August.

Our next meeting will be held at the Lasalette Church in Brooklyn, September 17th at 1:30 p.m.

Ad Hoc Group

Overview of Ad Hoc projects completed and upcoming:

- Late April spring clean up went well. Fifteen to twenty members and some farm equipment broke new ground.

- Yard Sale on Mothers' Day weekend netted \$ 250 for the general fund. Purchased some permanent "Church Yard Sale" signs for \$ 30 from Staples.

- Pen Sale is now being overseen by Maria Fitze. Thirteen pens have sold so far, netting the Church \$130. All pens sold have had the copper hardware (over pewter, silver or gold) Hope Barton will be reaching out to the free media, and Hope, Earl McWilliams and Kathryn Stellitano will tie in the historical interest. (Villager, Bulletin and Historical Society.

- The Antiques Appraisal Fair has been postponed until September 17th or 18th. (a Wednesday or a Thursday late afternoon and evening) Participating appraisers have agreed to the change. Takes time to do it well. Discussed what it would take to turn it into a Brooklyn Antiques Road Show. The Appraisal Fair will be a good fund raiser for the new sign we need on the 169 entrance.

- The Trustees have asked the Ad Hoc Group to look into erecting a sign on 169. The Town Hall has been very helpful in explaining the quite strict historical district regs and providing the paperwork. Hope will approach Gagnons in Danielson looking for options on signs and prices. We want to hold a meeting for anyone interested after Church some Sunday to review options.

Brooklyn's Planning and Zoning Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month. A goal for a proposal might be the first Wednesday in August. (August 6th) Then we can figure out how to pay for it. It was proposed that we plan another yard sale to coordinate with the Library's plant sale on the second Saturday in September.

- Dedicating the Memorial Garden was a true kindness for the Briere family and a way ahead for all of us as we lose and grieve loved ones, and are able to do it here at Church.

The Ad Hoc Group will meet again as necessary. (Missy Ennis, Steve Stellitano, Hope Barton, Kathryn Stellitano, Earl McWilliams and Maria Fitze)

Party Line

David and Betsy Burgess enjoyed a trip to Nashville, TN recently. They were attending the Country Music Festival, an event that had been on Betsy's bucket list for some time. Good for them!

Congratulations to Randy and Sandy Motasky, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 6th.

Evalin Berris is a great grandmother yet again. Her grandson and his wife, Harley and Emily Hayden, have a new daughter, Willa Louise, born on June 2nd.

Peter Berris, another of Evalin's grandsons, will be attending Duke University Law School in the fall. He graduated *summa cum laude* last year from the University of Rochester. Congratulations to all of our local graduates:

Calli Oleksy, Alex Tedeschi, and Katlynn Morrison all graduated from Woodstock Academy on Father's Day (June 15th), a gorgeous day for celebrations. Calli will be attending Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

Katlynn will be attending Manchester Community College, and Alex (who was class valedictorian) will be at UConn this fall.

Jean Burdick's granddaughter, Tristyn Burdick Drake, graduated from Holy Cross recently. She will be attending the University School of Nursing.

It is so nice to see Shirley Leach's daughter, Maggie, in church. Shirley's son and daughter-in-law were here from Oklahoma.

Prayers of the People

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

We pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones; especially for the families in Bristol and North Windham who have tragically lost their parents in accidents.

- We pray for the Dufresne family, who recently lost their home to fire.
- We pray for those who are struggling with illness; for Gary, dealing with lung problems; for Sapphire as she manages lupus; for Diane S.'s daughter who is facing surgery in the fall, and for her brother-in-law's mother; for Tony, and for David who cares for him; for Debbie; for Gary, who suffers from asthma and has been diagnosed with lung cancer; for Lori B and her family as they make decisions about her mother's care who has Alzheimer's; for Sue O's brother and his continuing improvement; for Michael and Liz, Francis, Enddie and Leah as they go through treatment for cancer; for the families and friends who care for their loved ones who are sick, especially for Emily, Kiley's mother; for Dan and his family as they adjust to the reality of dementia; for Kelly's recovery, and answers as to why she collapsed and is in a coma.
- We continue to offer special prayers for 9 month old Billy, son of Josh and Aleah D., and great nephew of Jean B., whose prognosis is better, but still has a long way to go in recovering from seizures.
- We pray for those who are facing surgeries, are in pain, and for relief and freedom from all that makes life a struggle; for relief for Mo from a pinched nerve; for Brian and Kyle, for Mark B. and Adrienne, for Lee and Ann L.; for all for whom pain is a daily reality; for Hillar, and all those with blood pressure and circulation problems.
- We pray for peace in our world, particularly in Ukraine and Russia, in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran; we pray for all those impacted by natural disasters, especially for the families and communities of the people who perished on the ferry in South Korea; for the girls who have been kidnapped in Nigeria, for their families and their communities and swift action for international efforts to bring the girls back home safely; for the families and loved ones of those who are still missing from the disappearance of Malaysia Flight 370.

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

- for Jean Brennan's news that she is still cancer-free after test results came back negative.
- for the birth of Willa Hayden, granddaughter to Maria and Paul Fitze and great-granddaughter to Evalin Berris.
- for all the fathers and father figures who have loved and supported us throughout our lives.
- for all our students as they mark the important milestone of graduation and moving forward in their education.



Pentecost, 2014

PIANO, GUITAR, and FLUTE LESSONS

David Gonzalez is accepting new students.

David is most proficient in piano, guitar, and flute,
but he can teach almost all instruments.

For further information, see David in church or call
860-377-1287.

**The Federated Church
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July 2014

FEDERATED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	3 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	4 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	5 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
6 Deacons meeting after service Choir Rehearsal 9am	7	8	9 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	10 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	11 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	12 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
13 Choir Rehearsal 9am	14 Executive Board Meeting @7pm	15	16 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	17 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	18 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	19 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
20 Book Discussion 11:30 – 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal 9am	21	22	23 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	24 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm Trustees meeting @ 6:30pm	25 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	26 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
27 Worship at Wasstrom's Pond Care & Share Sunday	28	29	30 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	31 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm		