



The Church Bell

The Federated Church of Christ
Brooklyn, CT



June 2016

Sunday Worship
Sunday School
10:00 AM

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

Notes from Pastor Mary

Article is an abridged version of "The Future Isn't What It Used to Be," Pastor Mary's sermon for Pentecost Sunday, May 15, 2016

A recent week in the life of your pastor: Monday, attend a church board meeting via *FaceTime*; Tuesday, connect to a webinar on managing church finances; Wednesday, participate in a *Google* hangout with a network of other pastors around the state; Thursday, create another *Google* hangout for a committee I'm on to discuss camping and retreat ministry possibilities with the American Baptists in CT; Friday, *FaceTime* with one of my friends who lives in Texas.

The common thread (or power cord) between my daily activities is technology, specifically the ability to be in one place (my house or my office) while being seen and present in another. 30 years ago, the terms 'webinar,' 'Google hangout' and 'FaceTime' were unheard of. But today, I am able to save time, money, and gasoline using these valuable tools made possible by technology to attend meetings and connect with friends and family in new ways. No longer are we only able to hear each other, now we can see each other as well, as if we are in the same room,

though miles and sometimes time zones separate us. Even as I'm grateful for the ways my life is made easier, I don't know how it all works, and I catch myself saying, "the future isn't what it used to be!"

This thought must have certainly crossed the minds of the disciples and those first witnesses to the Pentecost that was unlike any other they had ever experienced. This Jewish festival marked 49 days, a week of weeks, since Passover, and was the time that the first fruits of the harvest would traditionally be gathered in and presented to God as a thanksgiving offering. It was a major holiday, and people again had come from all over the 1st century world to Jerusalem to mark the occasion.

The disciples and followers of Jesus meanwhile were still in the city, waiting for the promised Holy Spirit to give

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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

them “power” to be witnesses for Jesus throughout the world. When I think of power, I think of the ability to influence things, situations, and people. Well aware that people from all over the world were attending the Pentecost festival in Jerusalem, perhaps they were hoping for power that would finally put their small band of Jesus followers in control. Isn't that a future worth waiting for!

Whatever the disciples hoped this power would bring them, I bet it did not involve suddenly becoming multilingual. But that is exactly what happened. The promised power did put these disciples in control, but not in a way that placed them over others; rather, this power made it possible for them to be with others and share the Gospel with people from every nation and tongue, empowering them with the good news of Jesus in their own languages.

For the disciples, Pentecost was no longer simply another holy day in the Jewish calendar signifying the 49 days from Passover; Pentecost would now come to mark 49 days since the power of love over death and the resurrection of Jesus early on the first day of the week. Pentecost would stand not just for the ingathering of the first fruits of harvest crops, but also their sending forth to be witnesses to the Good News, planting seeds of the gospel and tending the new growth of communities that would blossom and produce more seed-bearing fruit.

The expected became unexpected with the arrival of the Holy Spirit –

everything changed. The Spirit propelled them out into the streets to declare the good news: that the future isn't what it used to be.

The story tells us that crowds gathered because they heard their native languages being spoken in a foreign place. Bewildered and amazed, they asked, “What does this mean?” Peter answered the crowd by telling a “future story,” a story that we tell ourselves about the future that helps to mold us into who we are in the present.

Peter quotes the prophet Joel, who also told a “future story” to the Israelites hundreds of years earlier who were also living under occupation, as a way to confirm the identities and credentials of the multilingual disciples in the present moment: “in those days, God declares, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young ones will see visions, your old ones will dream dreams” (Joel 2:28-32).

For Peter, this scripture was both an answer to the question, “what does this mean?” as well as grounds for further questions, questions that are for us to answer in our present moment: What are the visions the young ones in our midst see? Are we willing to ask them and take them seriously – are the old ones willing to step back so the young ones step up? From the wisdom gained by experience and age, what are the dreams of our elders that have yet to come true? Might the visions of the young be the fulfillment of dreams of the old?

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Notes from Pastor Mary, from previous page

them In our own place and time, responding to the question, “what does it mean to be church on this Pentecost Sunday in Brooklyn, CT” means telling our future story – the story we tell about what we want to be when we grow up, and what we need to do in the present moment in order to achieve it.

We tell this story each week on the cover of our bulletin: “We are a Generous, Respectful, Accepting, Compassionate, Enthusiastic community of Christians at the Crossroads.” And it is still a future story because we are still learning what it means to be GRACE at the Crossroads; because God is not done with us – with you – with me.

Thanks be to God that our future isn't what it used to be. Amen!

WBPotFCoCMtM

What Being Part of the Federated Church of Christ Means to Me

"My favorite memory when I started here at Federated Church of Christ was the warmth and welcoming feeling all the congregation gave me. But most of all I remember Ruth reaching out to me to make sure I was feeling welcomed. She had a very nice copy of the recipe book for me that the members had made. Whenever I use that recipe book, I think of Ruth and the warmth I felt and still feel."

~ Therese Carpentier, Director of Christian Education 08 '10

Coffee Hour

The Coffee Hour Signup Sheet looks very good for the rest of May and most of June.

We are in need of hosts for June 5th and June 19th. See Kathryn or Earl if you would be will to help out on one of those days.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with Coffee Hour recently!

W.C.G.C.S.

Despite the absolutely horrendous weather on May 7th, the Women's Group made a profit of almost \$1,200 at the Plant and Bake Sale. It was the first time we were happy to have winter gloves at a May event! Many thanks to everyone who baked, purchased plants or baked goods and helped out during the sale.

In May the Women's Group made the following donations: \$100 White Cross Overland, \$550 White Cross Overseas, \$115 American Baptist Women, \$100 DKH Hospice, \$100 DKH Pastoral Care Program, \$100 Relay for Life, and \$200 Aspire Program, Westfield Church.

Due to scheduling issues, our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 7th, 1 PM in the chapel. Please join us!

~ Kathryn Stellitano

KBIC

The Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council held its May meeting at the new St. John's Lutheran on May 18th. Thirteen members from eleven faith communities were in attendance.

Pastor Lisa Anderson welcomed us to the new home of St. John's Lutheran on Route 12th south of Danielson, a successful conclusion to a three year effort. There will be a dedication of the building on Sunday, May 22nd at 2:00pm. The community is invited. (Too late for this Bell but it will be mentioned in church that morning)

If there is to be a "tour of the historic churches of Brooklyn, it would probably be Saturday, Sept 24th.

The Fuel Bank will hold its second annual Roast Pork Supper on October 22nd at St Joseph's Dayville. Dragonfly Diversion will again serenade us through the evening.

Pastor Lisa recommends we apply for a Thrivent Grant. If we apply for a \$20 membership we are able to apply for three \$250 grants over the next three years for this event or the CROP Walk. (which will take place on the first Sunday in October along the River Trail south of Danielson)

The Fuel Bank has been busy the past month with fourteen more households assisted. Last month's donations totaled \$416 including \$300 from the Danielson Lion's.

The Fuel Bank spent \$2,241 last month, with a balance of \$ 5,318.62.

Deacon Barb Schriere reported that The Fuel Bank has been approached to become the Salvation Army's representative in the area. The effort would include responding to local needs, encouraging youth and senior camp sponsorships at their Camp ConnRi in Ashford, helping with the local Kettle Campaign at Christmas. Most of the money raised here stays here in the community. It was noted that the Salvation Army has not been supportive of LGBT rights. The Fuel Bank staff will discuss the proposal with them further. A report on the fire in Danielson a couple of days before was given. Info is being gathered on the needs of the families burned out who lost everything. We have called in to the Red Cross with an offer of help.

The Learning in Retirement organization is proposing to host a program on Islam at QVCC in September. (LIR conducts a series of lectures for older adults at the college) The presenter will be Dr. Jennifer Sanborn who is a scholar on Islam at Hartford Seminary. A motion was made and passed to offer a \$100 honorarium from KBIC's "Shalom Fund" created to encourage communications among different cultures. Pastor Jon noted that it's important to have these conversations in our community.

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KBIC, from previous page

Officers were elected: Barb Schriere, President, Pastor Jon Chapman, vice-president, Maggie Weaver, secretary, and Ann Barry, Treasurer.

Pastor Gary Sturmi from St Alban's proposed we honor our police and fire on September 29th, St Michael's day, the patron saint of firemen and police. We'll develop plans for this. Pastor Sturmi also encouraged another "tomato challenge" as part of Danielson's Tomato Festival. He suggested we talk to our youth groups. There were no takers.

Upcoming events include:

St Joseph's indoor and outdoor yard sale in Dayville, Saturday, June 11th from 9:00 to 1:00.

The Unitarians will hold their annual open house on Saturday, June 11th.

Westfield and St John's yard sale on June 4th from 8:00 to 1:00.

St James bazar will be in June rather than August. (didn't get the date)

Westfield hosts the first of a series of "Fifth Sundays Ecumenical Hymn Sings" on Sunday, July 31st. Pot Luck at 5:30 followed by a hymn sing in the sanctuary.

On February 21st, 2017, Pastor Jon Chapman will lead a ten day trip to Israel. The price will be \$ 300 per person. (See Earl If interested!)

The Council's next meet is June 15th at the Unitarian Meeting House at 1:30. All faith community members are welcome at these meetings.

~ Earl McWilliams

Deacons

Red balloons, red streamers and decorations captured the spirit of Pentecost. The altar was adorned with dazzling red drapery and candles. Our songs lifted energy and praise to God for the mystery of the birthday of the church. Hope you were there to have been moved in unexplainable ways just as the early Christians had been. Mother's day was uniquely special as we joined with the Rob and Shana Heon in celebration of the adoption of Luna Sabrina. The Woman's Group donated plants that were passed out to the women in recognition of their hearts showing the mothering blessing of God.

The Deacon's continue to follow-up with the members of their care groups. We are hoping you will keep your deacon posted with important changes in your family's life. Ministry is a dynamic interaction and happens when sharing comes from those in need as well as those who have gifts to give. We also were reminded that each Deacon has differing strengths and gifts. Some of us are more natural at visiting than others. Perhaps you are unable to be a Deacon but you are willing to do visiting. Please let us know so you can minister with your gift of visiting.

Coming up is the ministry of our children on their day of Celebration on June 12. Sometime folks take that Sunday off.

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Deacons, from previous page

We hope you will make an effort to be a minister by just being present. So much of what makes good things happen is just showing up. Thank you to all who are able to.

We are grateful to those who have said yes to help with Deacon duties; be it serving communion, greeting, leading as liturgist, or sweeping the floor after coffee hour. Thank you, as many hands lighten our journey.

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

~ Mary Ann Thomen

Loving God, Hear Our Prayers...

- For Clair and Barbara.
- For Lori, continued healing from surgeries and return to good health.
- For Ruth, Don's sister, who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- For Mo, who is recovering from neck surgery this week.
- 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 Robin and Ellen's health and well-being.

- For Shirley L., in Westview Rehabilitation and Nursing Home.
- For Barbara R., who is suffering from cancer, for Sherron F., 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...

- With Dee and Jeremiah who get to see their grandchild.
- For Mo's successful neck surgery and improving health.
- That in Jesus Christ we have strength for today and hope for tomorrow.
- 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 on May 15th.

Plans were made for the Children's Service on June 12th. The Sunday School will be participating during the worship service, the Christian Education Committee will be providing refreshments during Coffee Hour and the following graduates will be recognized at that time:

Sterling Community School
Timothy Carpentier

Ellis Tech
Luna Sabrina-Michelle Heon-Zahn
Andrew Carpentier
Matthew Carpentier

ECSU
Elena DeLuca
Heather DeLuca
Nichole Ellsworth

UConn- Nursing Program
Tristan Burdick-Drake

If you have the name of any other graduates to add to this list, please see Therese Carpentier, Cindy Rollins or Kathryn Stellitano

~ *Kathryn Stellitano*

Federated Church of Christ

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Find us on **FaceBook**:
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ABC of Connecticut Executive Minister:
Rev. Judy Allbee 888-236-5421
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June Calendar - www.federatedchurchbrooklynct.org/calendar.html

Today		June 2016		Print		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10am Worship Service	30 Memorial Day	31 10am Office Hours	Jun 1 7pm Choir Practice	2 Ruby B. - birthday	3 Ruby B. - birthday	4
5 10am Worship Service	6 Gerry B. - birthday	7 10am Office Hours	8 7pm Choir Practice	9 1pm Office Hours	10	11
12 10am Worship Service	13 10am Office Hours	14 7pm Choir Practice	15 1pm Office Hours	16	17	18 6pm Bell articles due
19 Father's Day	20 10am Office Hours	21 7pm Choir Practice	22 Charles E. - birthday	23 1pm Office Hours	24	25
26 10am Worship Service	27 10am Office Hours	28 7pm Choir Practice	29 Bernice C. - birthday	30 1pm Office Hours	Jul 1 Lee L. - birthday	2 Alex A. - birthday

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