



The Church Bell
The Federated Church of Christ
Brooklyn, CT



Sunday
Worship &
Sunday School
10:00am

July 2015

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

Notes from Pastor Mary

Sabbath as Resistance

Starting this Sunday, July 5th, we will spend 6 weeks thinking about Sabbath as resistance. How can we as Christians claim the practice of Sabbath as part of our religious heritage from Judaism in order to cultivate a way of living and being in the world that is peaceful, more simple, and aware of God's presence in every moment. As the 4th of the 10 Commandments, the charge to "remember the Sabbath and keep it holy" is more than just prohibition on activity and a command to be pious and still until the sun goes down. Rather, the Sabbath as God intended it, is an active practice of resistance and alternative, valuing rest, balance, and the ability to say "no" in a culture that expects us to always say "yes!" "More!" "NOW!"

If you are interested in learning more about Sabbath keeping and ways of practicing an alternative to the rushed and "stuff-driven" pressures of society, or if you need some good books to take with you on vacation, here are some excellent resources:

- *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying NO to the Culture of Now*, W. Brueggemann
- *Receiving the Day: Christian Practices for Opening the Gift of Time*, D. C. Bass
- *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*, W. Muller
- *Groundhog Day* (1993 film). Not only an excellent movie because of Bill Murray, but also an interesting take on how we might spend our days if we had all the time in the world.

I hope you will come and be part of the conversation, sharing your stories of what Sabbath means to you, or what you hope it will mean for you, and what you hope to gain from a closer look at Sabbath in a world that desperately needs more people who embody the non-anxious presence of Jesus.

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*Articles due the 18th of each month:
ChurchBell@FCCBrooklynCT.org*

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

Worship Accompanist: David Gonzalez
Secretary: Linda Huber

Prayers for Emanuel AME Church, for Charleston SC, and for all of us:

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you. (Ps 9:9-10); that you are near to the broken-hearted and save the crushed in spirit (Ps 34:18).

We pray for and with our sisters and brothers in the faith at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, mourning the loss of their pastor, seasoned saints and mothers of the church, as well as reverends and leaders whose life's work was to show God's love to their community.

We pray for the city of Charleston, the state of South Carolina, this country of ours, that maybe, just maybe this time we as a nation will repent of the sins of racism, white supremacy, and the belief that violence will bring an end to violence.

Help us not be cynical, Oh God. Help us to keep looking for hope; for a light in the darkness that seems to gather round. Give us courage to continue to gather together for prayer and song, for teaching and preaching, and for studying your Word, which reminds us that in times of great trouble and sorrow, you incline your ear to us and grant us peace.

We pray for the loved ones and families of those whose earthly lives were cut short by an act of brutal violence. May we remember and celebrate

their lives, their legacies, and strive to continue to worship, pray, and honor the God unto whom their praises ascended, even to the end:

Cynthia Hurd, Rev. Clementa Pinckney, Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Tywanza Sanders, Ethel Lance, Rev. Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Susie Jackson, Rev. Daniel Simmons, Sr., and Myra Thompson

And in obedience to your hard command to love the enemy and pray for those who persecute us, we remember in our prayer Dylann Roof. God, grant us the courage and strength to forgive our enemies as those who are mourning loss because of this man are forgiving, because they recognize that somewhere inside of Dylann is Jesus. May we recognize the face of Jesus in everyone we meet, even those who seek to do us harm.

Oh God, your love is stronger than death, its passion as fierce as the grave.

Open us up to this transforming, cleansing love that knows no boundaries.

Free us to live joyfully, fearlessly, and passionately, for you are our light and our salvation, and we have no reason to be afraid.

We pray in the name of the One who faced death and overcame the grave, Amen.

~ Pastor Mary

Women's Group

The Women's Group will not meet in July or August. We will of course be working on bazaar projects i.e. sorting through our old Christmas ornaments and costume jewelry, creating a basket for the basket raffle and probably doing some reading on the beach!

We will be back at work in September. Though we usually meet on the second Monday of the month, our next meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, September 21st.

~ Kathryn Stellitano

Deacons

Ministry happens when two or more are gathered together carrying the spirit of God. Sharing happens in ministry. Communication happens in ministry. To aid our ministry of sharing in worship the deacon's are once again encouraging the use of name tags. We are welcoming a number of new folks to worship and one of the most personal gifts is to share our names. Some of us share our selves with a welcoming hug and chatting to get to know you.

Some share with a smile and a hand shake. The spirit works through us in different ways. So if some Sundays you would like to assist in name sharing, sticky tags and markers are available.

The ministry of nature will enhance our 10 am worship service July 26, 2015.

Peg Wasstrom has once again invited us to use her pond and picnic area, first opening on the right, on Stetson road, off route 6. Burgers, hotdogs and drinks will be provided. If you are able please bring a salad or dessert. There is always extra food so don't hesitate to join us. There are chairs but bring your favorite lawn chair for your comfort. If it is raining (a few drops will not stop us) we will meet at the church.

The Deacons continue to be mindful to assist the ministry of prayer and visitation. Both depend on being informed. So please let us know.

Children's Sunday was held June 14th. We are grateful for the love of the children's spirits that teacher Cindy Rollins and Christian Ed. Director, Theresa Carpentier have shown through the year.

~ Mary Ann Thomen

Federated Church of Christ

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Partyline

It is so nice to see Debbie Chabot is back in church. Her return was delayed by Henry's operation while they were in Florida. Henry is doing very well at this point.

Earl and Pam McWilliams celebrated the wedding of their daughter, Molly in June. The wedding took place at their home in Burrville. Happily it was a beautiful day.

At this time, Shirley Leach is recuperating at Colonial Rehabilitation in Plainfield (off 14A near Gus's). She is hoping to get home soon. Maggie, her daughter is staying until July and then her son will be coming from Oklahoma to help out. Shirley would love a card or a a visit.

Lucy Stuyanski is slowly getting back to normal. She is still unable to enjoy her early morning walks through the center of town or sit in church. Hopefully that will come soon.

Congratulations to Garrett Downs who graduated from Marianapolis. He will be attending Bryant University in the fall.

And a big congratulations and hugs to Alec Clark and Avery Rollins who graduated from Woodstock Academy. Alec will be attending UConn in the fall and Avery is looking forward to joining the Air Force.

~ Kathryn Stellitano

Loving God, Hear Our Prayers...

- We extend prayers of Christian love and sympathy to Betsy and Dave B. upon the passing of Betsy's brother, Larry, after a long struggle with pancreatic cancer.
- We pray for the congregation of Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC and for our nation still in need of healing from racism, prejudice, and violence.
- We pray for Herb H., who is sick and in the hospital.
- We pray for friends whose friendships are strained and for reconciliation and understanding.
- We pray with Trey for the health of his father.
- We pray with Jean B. and her family for her grandniece, Nicki, who is dealing with health issues.
- We pray with the Collins family for the health of Don and Kyle.
- For the Phillips family as a member recovers from a serious motorcycle accident.
- For the Biden family on the death of Beau Biden.
- We pray with Mo for the health of her newborn grandson, Gabriel.
- For Kailie, that her stitches heal quickly.
- We pray for smooth recovery for Keith E. after a leg amputation.
- We pray for Peter B., who will be undergoing treatment for kidney cancer.

Prayers (continued)

- For Kim B., who lost her longtime sweetheart to a heart attack.
- We pray for Ellen, and for mending the relationship with her daughter.
- We pray for the family and friends of Jared Pechie, who died on Friday, 5/8/2015.
- We pray for Diane, a 38 year old who was recently diagnosed with kidney cancer.
- We pray with Sandy C., for the health of her grandson, Jude, and for the family of her friend Liz, who recently passed away.
- We continue to pray for and with all those who are fighting cancer, especially for Luke, Paul, Barbara, Brian, Billy, Dee Dee, Enddie, and Leah.
- We pray 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 leadership of Therese Carpentier and the volunteers who teach Sunday School.
- For successful surgery and recovery of Emalyn Doris, 4 month old great-niece of Carolyn O.
- For Mary Ann's new canine companion, Willow.
- With Sandy and Kyle C. on the birth of their grandson, Conrad.

- With Ann and Lee L. as they celebrate the birth of their first grandchild.
- 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.

Survey from Clark University

The Bell received an email request for anonymous participation in a survey of religion and politics from Maggie Campbell Obaid, a social psychology graduate student at Clark University, working with Professor Johanna Ray Vollhardt.

*She wrote: "I would like to invite you to take part in a survey concerning your religious beliefs and your political opinions. *Please only take part in this survey if you are 18 years of age or older and identify as Christian. Participation is completely voluntary. It will take roughly 15 minutes to complete this study and you will be entered into a raffle for a \$25 Amazon.com gift card. This survey is anonymous and none of your answers can be traced back to you. Email me (MaCampbell@clarku.edu) with any questions or concerns."*

Use this link to access the survey:
https://clarku.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_5ySMerr8UHcygQJ
or use **<https://goo.gl/Obv43I>**

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

Today		July 2015							Print
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Service 6:30pm Trustee meeting		Bernice C - birthday 9am Office Hours	Lee L - birthday 9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	Alex A - birthday 9am Office hours	Independence Day obse	Leland L - birthday Independence Day			
Hannah M - birthday 9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Service 11:30am Deacons meeting			9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	9am Office hours					
9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Service	7pm Executive Board met	9am Office Hours	Bell articles due 9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	9am Office hours			6pm Bell articles due		
9am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship Service		9am Office Hours	9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	9am Office hours			Laura T. - birthday Susan M. - birthday		
9am Choir Rehearsal 10am @Wassstrom's Pond 10am Worship Service	Jonathan B. - birthday	9am Office Hours	9am Office hours 7pm Choir Practice	9am Office hours			James S - birthday	Aug 1	

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