

# 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
Rally Day Thanks	2
Deacon's Notes	2
Christian Ed.	2
Women's Group	3
Party Line	3
Announcements	4
Ad Hoc Update	5
KBIC Notes	6
Contact Us	7



European Copper Beech Tree

## Newsletter for October 2014

### Notes from Pastor Mary

*"Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'" – Matthew 18:21-22, Contemporary English Version.*

Forgiveness: troubling the church since its very beginning. Peter asks Jesus the timeless question: *how often should I forgive?* And Jesus gives his answer that raised the bar for Peter, and for all those with a Peter-like desire to keep a count of forgiveness. Jesus seems to be saying to Peter – and to all disciples – if forgiveness becomes a game where we keep “score” with our neighbors, friends, and family on the number of times each side forgives, we have missed the point. The point is that God’s forgiveness, like God’s love, is unconditional. All any of us have to do is pray with sincerity for forgiveness and God immediately forgives. And as God forgives us, always and forever no matter what, we are called to forgive others in like manner.

Yet in our modern-day world, “forgiveness” has some baggage attached -- like unclaimed suitcases at an airport baggage claim someone has forgotten to pick up.

- What does it mean to forgive our neighbor when our neighbors are not people we like, and who do not particularly like us?
- What if the person is not sincere in their apology, or won't/can't apologize for the ways s/he has wronged me?
- Isn't forgiveness the “easy” way out for someone to get out of being punished and letting justice be served?
- Is forgiveness even worth talking about when, on the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks, the headlines were again about bombs being dropped and military action being planned in the same regions of the world?
- How do we know forgiveness even works?

You are not alone if any of the above questions resonated with you. These are some of the “bags” thinkers and writers have identified and wondered about for centuries. While we may not figure out an ultimate solution to what it means to ask for forgiveness, to receive forgiveness, or to grant forgiveness, we do know that Jesus said a few other things about the subject and demonstrated that even in his own excruciating circumstances, Jesus forgave his oppressors and all who deserted him in his last hours saying “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do.” And in that pronouncement, God’s forgiveness, like God’s love, remains unconditional.

On Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, I encourage you to attend our “Sunday Conversation” about forgiveness. Matthew 18:21-35 will be the focus text, particularly Jesus’ parable in vs. 23-35. I encourage you to read Jesus’ parable, then read it again, and then at least one more time for good measure. Wrestle with it; agree with it; let it challenge you and teach you, and come ready to talk about what you’ve learned, what you’re still not sure about, and what you want to know more about.

*“To work for forgiveness is to want to realize God’s dream for humanity – when we will know that we are indeed members of one family, bound together in a delicate network of interdependence.” – Desmond Tutu*

## Rally Day Backpack Drive Thank You



A tremendous “Thank You” to all who brought backpacks and school supplies to church for our Rally Day Service last Sunday. In all, 18 backpacks were collected and filled with the tools for learning that all students will need to increase knowledge and to be prepared to complete the tasks of the school year. All the backpacks and students going back to school were blessed and encouraged to head the words of Wisdom, to "hear instruction and be wise, listening, watching and waiting by my doors, for whoever finds me finds life." (Prov. 8:32-35. May all of us, as life-long learners, be blessed, ever blessed by the love of our Good Teacher, at whose knee we are all students.

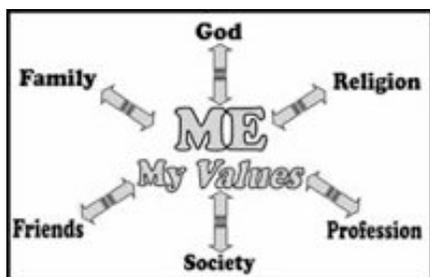
## Notes from the Deacons



- Deacon for October is Ruth Stetson.
- Deacons had a meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and the church signs for Rt.6 and Rt.169 will be approved soon. Cost will be around \$1500.
- This month’s communion offering will be for Crop Walk. Come Join us on October 5<sup>th</sup> for **Crop Walk Day!** See Earl McWilliams for more information.

## Christian Education

The Sunday School year is off to a great start!  
We are focusing on morals and values. We have some great things planned and look forward to showing the congregation all of the wonderful things we will be doing.



Our first focus is on the importance of family and friends, then we will move onto faith and will be have Lee Lambert come and share his talents with us on how to use prayer beads.

The children will get to take some home to show their families.  
Sunday, October 26th we will be celebrating Halloween in the chapel during our classes.  
November 2nd we will focus on All Saint's Day & All Soul's Day.  
We hope your children will be able to join us every week!

God bless,  
Therese H. Carpentier (CRE)

## Women's Group

After what seemed like a very quick summer, the Women's Group is back at work, raising funds and making donations to various agencies.

At the September meeting, the Women's Group voted to contribute \$500 toward the cost of proposed new signs for Routes 6 and 169. \$250 is also being sent to help with the Ebola crisis in Africa.

**The Fall Take Out Lasagna Supper** will be held on Saturday, October 25 from 4:30 to 6:30. The price this year will be \$10 for a generous portion of meat or vegetarian lasagna, salad, bread and cake. We will be soliciting 9x 13" cakes from the bakers in our congregation.

We also discussed the **Christmas Bazaar** (we talk about the bazaar at every meeting). This year the bazaar will take place on Saturday, December 6 from 8 AM to 1 PM. Remember this is our major fund raiser for the year and there are several ways that you can help:

Bake a few batches of your favorite Christmas cookies for the Cookies by the Pound Table or make pies, breads, etc for the Baked Sale Table. Go through your jewelry and donate those necklaces, earring, pins etc that you no longer wear to Gerry Babbitt or Jan Geer. Hannah McNally is seeking donations of old and new Christmas items for her Gently Used Table. We always delighted to receive donations of knit, crocheted or sewn items.

The Basket Raffle Table is always popular. Last year we were very happy to receive several donations of baskets. Creating a themed basket is a fun project to complete and contribute to the bazaar. Choose an idea that you find interesting and have fun with it. The baskets are labeled with the donor names. See Ruth Stetson if you need an idea or more information.

---

## Party Line

It is with great sadness that we note the death of Derwin Anthony, David Kettelle's longtime partner. Tony had been ill for the past year or so and passed away quietly at home.

We are also sorry to hear of the death of Roy Baker, Lois's brother, who died of cancer in September. Roy had been living in Florida for many years but grew up in Brooklyn and was a familiar face to many.

Congratulations to Ian and Kiku McDonald on the birth of their son, Rupert Mantta McDonald who was born on September 2. This is Ida Berris's third grandson and Evalin Berris's 10<sup>th</sup> great grandchild (3 great granddaughters and 7 great grandsons if you are keeping track!)

With the help of her granddaughter, Shirley Leach was able to travel to Montpelier, Vermont recently for her 70<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. Shirley also reports that her daughter, Margie's husband, Hiller is undergoing treatment for a brain tumor.

Peg Wasstrom's grandson, Michael Krause will be marrying Laura Engberg on October 10<sup>th</sup> in Spencer, Mass. Let's hope for a beautiful fall day!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

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

- We pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially for David Kettelle on the death of his partner, Tony; and for the Alters family upon the death of their father, Harry.
- We pray for Doris H., who is recuperating after a fall a few weeks ago.
- We pray for all who experience depression, and for their families and loved ones.
- We pray for Jesse and Danielle, who are dealing with fertility issues.
- We pray for those who are struggling with illness; for Larry, Betsy B's brother, undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer; for Hillar, who had brain surgery on Tuesday, 9/23; for Diane S.'s daughter who will have surgery in the fall, and for her brother-in-law's mother; for Enddie and Leah as they go through treatment for cancer.
- We continue to offer special prayers for 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.
- We pray for peace in our world, particularly in Ferguson, Missouri, between Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, in Syria, Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran; we pray for all those impacted by the flooding in the Southwest; we pray continually 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.

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

- for the marriage of Melissa and Matt Schwab, daughter of Sue and Jerry Hemig
- for a loving and supportive church family.
- for the people in our lives who remind us of God's love and presence, even in the midst of struggle.
- for teachers and all those who care for and instruct our children in the ways of knowledge, respect for others, and compassion for the world.



## Ad Hoc Group Update

The Ad Hoc group's sign project is ongoing with plans to bring the application and pictures to the Brooklyn Planning and Zoning meeting for approval on Wednesday, October 1st.

We will be holding informal information sessions at the coffee hour about possible additions to the Memorial Garden in memory of Lois Baker, at the request of Lois' family.

---

### October Birthdays and Anniversaries



10/4 Sue Oleksy

10/26 Kathleen Burdick-LaChance

10/31 Diane Schreiner

#### **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 Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council had its September meeting on the Wednesday the 17th at Cornerstone Baptist. Pastor Jon Chapman called the meeting to order. Nine faith communities were in attendance.

The "Be Our Guest" suppers at St. Alban's need more individual churches to sign up to sponsor 2nd Fridays. St. Alban's is covering first and Cornerstone Baptist is covering the third Wednesdays.

Danielson will be the site for a New England Christmas celebration on Sunday December 14th from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Park and Rec will have a huge bonfire in Davis Park, the Chamber of Commerce has arranged for all downtown shops to be open, with holiday snacks offered, and downtown streets will be lit by 4,000 luminaries. Tables will be set up for family and children projects in the park. Westfield will be hosting its remarkable Victorian Christmas feast beginning at 5:00 that evening. (Tickets are limited) There will also be horse drawn carriage rides. Each church is invited to participate by contributing \$100.00 which will purchase 500 luminaries, filled and lit and placed in our name. We can also have a table at the Park. Roasted chestnuts anyone?

Naomi Weiner reported that the Temple congregation would be meeting with the Federated Church of Christ congregation to celebrate, worship and give thanks to God on Tuesday evening November 25th at 7:00 for the 59th consecutive year. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this beautiful and historic service. Refreshments will be served.

Pastor Jim, from the Danielson Methodist Church, announced a Christmas Play to be held on Saturday December 13th at 6:30 at the church. He invites other churches to involve their youth groups in the production.

This year's Warm Hearts - Warm Homes Concert to fund the Fuel Bank will be held on Saturday November 8th at 7:00 at the Bradley Playhouse in Putnam. Three or four bands will be featured including a final set by the Great Garage Band. There will be a silent auction for baskets and gift certificates as in past years.

The fund raiser announcement comes in the wake of a troubling Fuel Bank report. Last winter was long and cold. The Fuel Fund spent \$ 12,492 last year helping keep 55 homes in our communities warm. Unlike past years, we start the new heating season with less than \$ 200. A dozen or more requests for fuel aid have had to be "put on hold" until more funds can be raised. The state and federal programs don't begin fuel deliveries until November 12th. Donations to refund the Fuel Bank will be solicited before the concert this year. (Donations can be made to "KBIC" memo, "fuel fund").

Operation Fuel's summer program for gas and electric also operated out of the Fuel Bank office, has granted just under \$ 20,000 in assistance from the state fund out of a \$ 35,000 state allocation to our area.

The following events were noted:

- The Diaper Bank will be open the last Friday of the month from 10:00 until 1:00 at the Methodist Church in Danielson. Donations are needed. (They can be left in the Narthex).
- Blessing of the Animals, 5:00pm Sunday, Sept. 28th at David Park
- Dinner and Magic Show at Cornerstone Baptist on Sept. 27th at 5:00pm. (Free)
- The CROP Walk (27th Annual) will be held on Sunday, October 5th at 1:15 at the River Trail in Danielson rain or shine. In twenty years, this Church World Services effort has raised almost \$ 300,000,000 to help the poor around the world and around the corner. 25% of what we raise locally comes back to us and pays for the 350 turkeys in the Thanksgiving baskets given out every fall by St. James Church.
- On October 18th LaSalette Church will have a Polish dinner take out.
- On October 18th St Joseph's Church in Dayville will have a spaghetti supper.
- The Temple will be observing the High Holy Days September 24th, 25th and 26th. October 4th will be Yom Kippur. The community is welcome to visit the temple for the two and a half hour services. People are free to come and go.

The next KBIC meeting will be Wednesday, October 15th at 1:30pm at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Danielson. All are welcome.

**The Federated Church  
of Christ, Brooklyn, CT**

15 Hartford Road  
PO Box 204  
Brooklyn, CT 06234

OFFICE PHONE:  
(860) 774-9817

PASTOR'S PHONE:  
(860) 774-3761

CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL:  
federated.church@snet.net

PASTOR'S EMAIL:  
minster@federatedchurchbrooklynct.org

WEBSITE:  
<http://www.federatedchurchbrooklynct.org>

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:  
[www.facebook.com/  
federatedchurchbrooklynct](http://www.facebook.com/federatedchurchbrooklynct)

**Committee Contacts**

**Moderator:** Mark Rollins 860-779-1784  
moderator@federatedchurchbrooklynct.org

**Clerk:** Kathryn Stellitano 860-774-9210  
flowers@federatedchurchbrooklynct.org

**Deacon Contact:**  
deacons@federatedchurchbrooklynct.org

**Head Trustee:** Russ Parker  
trustees@federatedchurchbrooklynct.org

**Treasurer:** Lori Bailey 860-774-4418  
treasurer@federatedchurchbrooklynct.org

**Pastor/Parish Relations:** Cindy Rollins  
860-779-1784

**Christian Education Director:**  
Therese Carpentier 860-230-2284  
christianed@federatedchurchbrooklynct.org

**Woman's Group (WCGCS):** Kathryn  
Stellitano

**Worship Committee:** Sandy Motasky  
860-974- 1302  
music@federatedchurchbrooklynct.org

**Church Bell:** Linda Huber 860-774-9817  
churchbell@federatedchurchbrooklynct.org

**United Church of Christ Interim Eastern  
Regional Minister:**  
Rev. Tom Clough 860-928-0765  
toms@ctucc.org <mailto:tomc@ctucc.org>

**American Baptist Churches of Connecticut  
Executive Minister:**  
Rev. Judy Allbee 888-236-5421  
jallbee@abconn.org

*Federated Church of Christ,  
Brooklyn, CT  
15 Hartford Road  
PO Box 204  
Brooklyn, CT 06234*

October 2014

FEDERATED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	2 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	3 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	4 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2
5 <b>Crop Walk</b> World Communion Sunday <u>Choir Rehearsal 9am</u> <u>Deacons Meeting</u>	6	7	8 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	9 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	10 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	11 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
12 Choir Rehearsal 9am	13 Women's Group Meeting 1pm	14	15 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	16 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	17 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	18 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
Christian Education	Executive Board Meeting @7pm					
19 Choir Rehearsal 9am Book Discussion 11:30 – 12:30pm	20	21	22 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	23 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm Trustees Meeting 6:30pm	24 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	25 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm <b>Lasagna Take-Out 4:30 – 6:30pm</b>
26 Choir Rehearsal 9am Care & Share Sunday	27	28	29 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	30 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	31 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	