

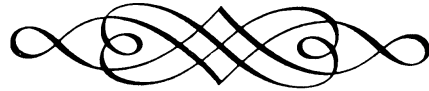


The Church Bell
The Federated Church of Christ
American Baptist Churches and
United Church of Christ
January 2014

Worship and Sunday School on Sunday at 10:00
Office Hours: Tues–Thurs, 9:00 AM to 1:00PM
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The Church Bell is a forum for the church, and input from you is always welcome. Articles may be e-mailed to the Pastor or to the secretary Linda Huber - federated.church@snet.net



Dear Friends,

A new year is upon and it hardly seems possible that I have been with you almost two years. The interim time now grows short. Soon I will be leaving and you will be welcoming your new settled pastor. You have done some good work these past two years, staying the course, looking at your history, renovating and organizing the Chapel building, looking closely at your organizational structure, making some decisions, and healing some old wounds. It will be an exciting time now as you begin the next part of your journey together.

I wish for you many things in the years ahead, and especially in the New Year:

May you be blessed with the warmth of friendship and be supported by your loved ones

May you be a source of strength to those around you

May you be blessed with the courage to make amends when needed and forgive those who hurt you

May you be engaged with the world around you, and respond to injustice both in mind and deed

May the way of loving-kindness lighten your load and light your path

May you be blessed with quiet moments of simplicity and reflection

May you be blessed with hugs from parents, children, and long-lost friends

May you travel to new places within you

May you be blessed with good health – physically, emotionally, and spiritually

May you be blessed with the music of this beautiful planet and magnificent universe in which we live

May you – and may we all – be blessed with peace.

From my heart to yours,

Pastor Barbara

Dear Friends,

We wish to thank you for the generous Christmas gifts which will be greatly enjoyed.

We wish you a very happy New Year filled with many blessings.

Pastor Barbara, Linda Huber, Therese Carpentier, David Gonzalez.

The Holy Cow

The Holy cow has closed for the year 2013 as of December 21st. We will reopen on February 8, 2014 along with the Sweetheart Chocolate sale. Hope to see everyone in the New Year.

THE WOMEN'S GROUP (WCGCS)

Bazaar Follow up

The Bazaar is over for this year but it's not too soon to start planning for next year.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the 2013 Sugar Plum Fair. The Women's Group really appreciates your donations of food, jewelry and Christmas items. They make all the difference to the success of our bazaar each year.

The breakfast and wreath table raised over \$600. This will go directly to the church's general budget. The Women's Group raised over \$3400. This money is a major portion of our yearly budget and is used to support church programs and other local charities.

After the holidays as you pack away the Christmas décor, is a good time to start a "Bazaar Box" for next year's Gently Used Christmas Table. Fill it with all of those decorations that you no longer need or love. Store it until the bazaar or we will happily take your Bazaar Box at any time and store it ourselves. Questions? Call Kathryn Stellitano 860 774 9210.

The Jewelry Table organized by Gerry Babbitt and Jan Geer did very well as usual. They would love any small cardboard jewelry boxes to put their wares in. They also reported that customers were asking for Christmas pins. Someone out there might have a treasure trove they would like to share!

We would like to add more sewn items to the Knit and Sew Table next year. Please talk to Mo or Kathryn if you have any ideas. We are toying with the idea of having a few sewing afternoons this winter. Please share any ideas or patterns you might have.

The Women's Group will take a break in January and February. (We will be working on Bazaar projects of course). Our next meeting will be Monday, March 10 at 1 PM in the chapel. We will be helping Mo finalize plans for the Be Our Guest Supper on Friday, March 14 and organizing our next Lasagna Supper on Saturday, March 29th. We hope you will join us.

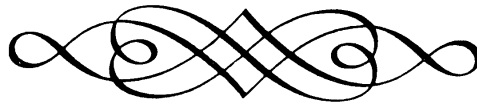
Christian Education

We were very busy during the month of December, we sold kettle popcorn at the Sugar Plum Fair and made \$62.50 so that we could provide our adopt a family with a food card. I want to thank everyone for all their help providing such wonderful gifts for our adopt a family. Your generosity is such a blessing.

Also, please save this date, on Sunday January 26th 2014 our children will be doing the coffee hour and presenting what they have been working on since September.

On behalf of myself and the Christian education Committee, I want to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year!

Many Blessings, Therese H. Carpentier (CEC)



DEACONS

It is the end of the year and the Deacons would like to thank all those who help to make our church service so meaningful:

Pastor Barbara for leading us through the Sunday services.

Randy and Sandy Motasky, Earl McWilliams, Betsy Burgess, Carolyn Otto, Russ Parker, and Mary Ann Thomen, Cindy Rollins and David Gonzalez who provide beautiful music.

Sandy Collins for signing as the hymns are sung.

Linda Huber, our church secretary, for having the church bulletins ready every Sunday.

Therese Carpentier for giving the children message and coordinating Christian Education.

Cindy Rollins, Earl McWilliams, Christine Clark, Sandy Motasky, Tammy Gordon, Carolyn Otto and Katlynn Morrison who help out with Sunday Schools

The liturgists and other people who have done various readings throughout the year: Alan Nichols, Alec Clark, Andrew Clark, Audrey Grayson, Betsy Burgess, Carolyn Otto, Cindy Rollins, David Burgess, Diane Schreiner, Earl McWilliams, Evan Grayson, Joyce Grayson, Kaitlyn Grayson, Katlynn Morrison, Kathryn Stelitano, Lori

Bailey, Mark Rollins, Mary Ann Thomen, Mo Girard, Norine Nichols, Ruby Babcock, , Russ Parker, Ruth Stetson, Sean Grayson, Maria Fitze, Paul Fitze, Sandy Collins, Kyle Collins, Hal Malstrom, Lee and Annie Lambert and Therese Carpentier, all who have done such a spectacular job reading.

Ruth Stetson, Lynne Papa and Gerry Babbit, the Flower Committee members provide the weekly floral arrangements and other decorations.

Pastor Barbara, Ruth Stetson and Sandy Matosky who serve on the Worship Committee and coordinate all of the components of our Sunday services.

Peg Waastrom who lets us use her pond for our summer picnic.

Jean Burdick for donating the Christmas tree every year and Earl McWilliams for setting it up.

Ruby Babcock, Ruth Stetson and Alan Nichols for helping with communion each month.

Mark Rollins and Avery Rollins for running the sound system.

KBIC NEWS

Nine congregations were represented at the November meeting of the Killingly-Brooklyn Interfaith Council held on November 21st at Westfield. These minutes were not ready in time for last month's Bell...

Pastor Jon Chapman delivered a power point presentation illustrating effective ways and whys of churches maintaining an effective on line presence. He advised us to think about what kind of a community we look like on line. He offered a lot of good advice about being authentic, concise, and keeping our facebook page up to date and interesting by scheduling updates ahead of time. Administrators should be limited to three or four to avoid confusion. He recommends that we be linked to other related organizations. He emphasized getting to know the people who "like" us on facebook, and engaging them by commenting on their posts. Pastor Jon sees real growth potential in "digital ministry".

Pastor Harry from St Alban has reported that his church's food pantry should be up and running by January 1st. The process has been slowed by some foot dragging by the town. St Alban's food pantry seeks to augment the service provided by the Friends of Assisi by expanding the hours to include evenings and Saturdays. Deacon Barb noted that existing daytime hours provide by Friends of Assisi do not always accommodate the working poor whose work schedules require night time or weekend hours of availability.

The Unitarians will be having their pre Thanksgiving celebration on Sunday the 24th over at Brooklyn Federated Church in the chapel.

Brooklyn Federated won the coveted CROP Walk "Hole in the Shoe" traveling trophy this year by raising the largest amount of funds - a total of \$ 647.00.

The annual "Warm Hearts, Warm Homes" concert featuring the Great Garage Band and Gifts to Follow, was held on November 17th. The Killingly Recreation Center Theater provides an intimate setting for performers and audience. The crowd, less than a hundred, was smaller than past years, but the gift baskets/gift certificates silent auction raised almost a thousand dollars. The annual solicitation effort has also raised close to a thousand dollars so far. The Council discussed possible changes in the format of the concert next year and the possible creation of an ad book to take advantage of the strong area merchant support the Fuel Fund has garnered.

Deacon Barb reported that Operation Fuel would begin taking applications on December 2nd to assist households with fuel requests. All requesting households must first have applied to ACCESS for the federal LIEAP program. Barb also noted that both the federal program and the Operation Fuel funds would be at least \$1,000,000 less this year because of the sequestration cuts. The initial Operation Fuel allocation to our office is \$25,000. Last year's total allocation was \$100,000. Typically, the local Fuel Fund is not heavily utilized until later in the winter when both state and federal monies have been used up. Donations to the Fuel Fund can be made by writing a check to KBIC (memo fuel fund) at Box 844, Danielson, Ct. 06239.

The Fuel Fund office is now located in the basement of the Methodist Church in Danielson.

The Council's "prescription assistance fund" at Big Y pharmacy was discussed. Generation Family Health Service, the fund's gatekeeper, had raised a question as to whether the fund could be used to help pay co pays

for clients in need. It was decided to include co pays.

Pastor Jon proposed holding another Kid Oriented Movie afternoon some Saturday in February with the proceeds going to the Fuel Fund. This summer's Sound of Music sing along raised over \$ 700 for the Fund. The idea was supported unanimously.

The Killingly Lions have offered to hold a "Breakfast Fund Raiser" for the Fuel Fund on a Saturday morning in late January or February. St Joe's has agreed to host the event. St Joe's in Dayville has excellent parking and handicapped accessibility.

Sister Eleanor, who directs Project Northeast in Putnam, has asked to attend our meetings. Her work with the poor in this area has helped many over the last thirty years. It was voted to welcome her to our meetings as a non-voting member.

The next KBIC meeting will be held at Cornerstone Baptist Church on Broad Street in Danielson on Wednesday, December 11th at 1:30. All are welcome to attend.

