



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

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Newsletter for September 2014

Notes from Pastor Mary

Believe it or not, September is now upon us! And with its arrival comes a return to school and the kick off of church activities that you will not want to miss.

Sunday, September 7th – Rally Day During worship we will be celebrating membership milestones in the congregation – from 5 years to 30 years and longer, our congregation is made up of fantastic people with gifts, talents, and stories to share that you will want to hear. But that is not all!

Also on Rally Day, students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks or other items they will use at school for a **back to school blessing**. There will also be a blessing of backpacks that will be taken to a local school so that students who need help getting all the supplies they need for school can have everything they need to start the year off right. Please remember to bring your backpacks and school supplies to church on Rally Day for the blessing.

Bless all students O God.

Give them inquiring minds and discerning hearts.

Give them courage to persevere in all they undertake.

Give them the gift of joy and wonder in all things.

Give them laughter and love to share with all.

Give them protection and safety as they move out of our embrace.

And give them sure and certain knowledge of your unfailing love.

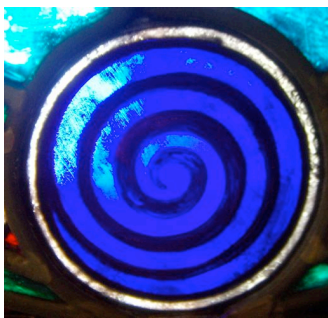
*We ask your blessing on teachers, principals, counselors and mentors,
and on all those who care for students.*

Strengthen them to surround our students

with encouragement, support, and love.

In the name of the great Teacher at whose knee we are all students, Amen.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund



Thank You for all your generosity towards the Pastor's Discretionary Fund!
Your gifts have helped many individuals in our community make ends meet and avoid crises.

May the face of Christ continue to shine through each one of you and through our church as we care for our neighbors.

~ Pastor Mary

Notes from the Deacons

"Justice is what love looks like when it speaks out loud."
- Dr. Cornell West,
professor, activist,
theologian

- Deacon for September is Steven Stellitano
- Deacon's Communion Offering for August went to our Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
- Deacon's Communion Offering for September will go toward "Neighbors in Need," a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.
- September 7 – Rally Day and Potluck lunch. Don't forget to bring a dish to share!
- Please wear your name tags the last Sunday of each month. If you need to make a name tag, markers and supplies are in the narthex.

Christian Education

It's that time of year again where we are looking forward to a very rewarding upcoming school year. I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer and is refreshed.

We are planning for Rally Day to be September 7th with a potluck afterwards. Our wonderful Deacons will be providing the burgers and hot dogs.

We have a lot in store for the new Sunday School year and looking forward to sharing the faith with our youth.

We are looking for people to volunteer to teach our youth or to be substitute teachers in the event of an absence.

Also, if you would like to occasionally teach let me know and we can sign you up as often as you would wish.

God's blessings be with all Teachers, students, and their families as we enter into our new school year.

Therese H. Carpentier (CRE)



Women' Group

After our summer break, the Women's Group is gearing up for the fall activities. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 1 PM in the chapel conference room. Our September meeting will be on September 8th. We will be starting to plan for the October 25th Lasagna Supper and getting serious about the bazaar. Can you believe the Sugar Plum Fair is only 3 months away?

Anyone is welcome to join us. Call Kathryn Stelitano (860 208 6088) if you need a ride.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Loving God, hear our prayers...

- We pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- 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 Evelyn C.; for Hillar, who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor; for Jane E, in the ICU in Boston; for Diane S.'s daughter who will have surgery in the fall, and for her brother-in-law's mother; for Tony, and for David who cares for him; for Michael and Liz, Francis, Enddie and Leah as they go through treatment for cancer.
- We continue to offer special prayers for 1 year 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 the people in Hawai'i in the recent aftermath of Hurricane Iselle and an earthquake.
- We pray for peace in our world, particularly in Ferguson, Missouri, between Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran; we pray for all those impacted by natural disasters, especially for the families of those who are grieving the loss of loved ones on Malaysia flight 17, and those who are still missing from the disappearance of Malaysia Flight 370; 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 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.

Party Line

It certainly doesn't seem possible that summer is just about over. It has certainly been a busy one for most of us.

- Ruth and Bob Stetson enjoyed a few weeks at a family reunion in Ohio.
- Steve and Kathryn Stellitano spent a week in Delaware visiting family.
- Mark, Cindy and Evan Rollins had a great vacation in Germany in early August.
- Jed Otto spent two weeks in August at the World Pipe Band Championship in Glasgow, Scotland. Jed plays with the Stuart Highlanders Band.
- Kaitlyn Grayson's plans to spend a week in Ocean City, Maryland were disrupted due to an emergency appendectomy.
- In August the whole Grayson tribe spent a week camping in Arcadia, Maine.
- Earl McWilliams no longer has a land line phone and would like you to know that his cell phone number is 401-477-6322.
- We also have some new grandbabies to celebrate!
 - Hope Barton has a new granddaughter. Blake Elisabeth Barton who was born on July 21st and weighed in at 6lbs 12 ozs. Hope's son, Josh and his wife, Lisa are living in DC. Josh works for the FDA and Lisa works for the Peace Corps.
 - MaryAnn and Garland Thomen also have a new granddaughter. Niamh Thomen-O'Brien was born to Marlies on June 24. (That's pronounced Neeve). Both mother and baby are doing very well.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries



9/1	Lee & Ann Marie Lambert Anniversary
9/4	Steven Stellitano
9/6	Ruth Stetson
9/7	David Burgess
9/22	Arlene Becker
9/24	Mary Apicella
9/24	Gerry & Marshall Babbitt Anniversary

Missions: Week of Compassion at FCC

Six of the missionaries who made the mission trip to rural Maine last year, reassembled for the week of July 21st through 25th for the Mission Committee's Week of Compassion.

This summer's team consisted of **Alec and Andrew Clark, Kaitlyn Morrison, Shawn Grayson, Hope Barton and Earl McWilliams.**

A recap of our week:

Monday and Tuesday we helped move a lady from Danielson to her new apartment in Moosup. For those two mornings we moved six carloads and ten pickup truck loads of her belongings to the new apartment. She was very grateful.

On Wednesday, our group spent the day at the Dayville Dog Pound clearing a trail for the dogs to take walks through the woods and enjoy nature. We then walked several of the dogs along the new path. It was gratifying to see how they calmed down and began sniffing through the ferns as they strolled through the woods.

On Thursday we focused on the Church gardens. The Memorial garden was weeded, and a ten by four foot patch was opened up above the wall along the Chapel's east side.

We fertilized it and transplanted in two holly bushes and an azalea from the entrance from Route 169. We also added a spirea and a hydrangea bush, as well as pulled a truckload of bittersweet and poison ivy out of the bridal veil bush just east of the Chapel.

On Friday we delivered 100 pounds of food from the narthex to the St Francis food pantry in Danielson. We also helped a church member weed an overgrown area in her front yard. That afternoon we all went over to Lake Alexander for a pizza/ice cream and cookies party.

It's heartening to see our youth continuing to make our Church's commitment to Missions real.
– *Earl McWilliams*

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
of Christ, Brooklyn, CT**

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September 2014

FEDERATED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY	2 Deacons Meeting 7pm	3 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	4 Thrift Shop Open 12-4pm	5 Thrift Shop Open 10-2pm	6 Yard Sale and pancake/sausage Breakfast 9am Thrift Shop Open 10-2
7 Rally Day and Potluck lunch Choir Rehearsal 9am	8 Women's Group Meeting 1pm Executive Board Meeting @7pm	9	10 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	11 Thrift Shop Open 12-4pm	12 Thrift Shop Open 10-2pm	13 Thrift Shop Open 10-2pm
14 Christian Education Choir Rehearsal 9am	15	16	17 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	18 Thrift Shop Open 12-4pm Trustees Meeting 6:30pm	19 Thrift Shop Open 10-2pm	20 Thrift Shop Open 10-2pm
21 Book Discussion 11:30 – 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal 9am	22	23	24 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	25 Thrift Shop Open 12-4pm	26 Thrift Shop Open 10-2pm	27 Thrift Shop Open 10-2pm
28 Blessing of the Animals Davis Park @ 3pm Choir Rehearsal 9am Care & Share Sunday	29	30				