



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 December 2014

Notes from Pastor Mary

A Christmas Lovefeast in the Moravian Tradition

The first Moravian Lovefeast was served in Germany on August 13, 1727. It is styled after the common meal partaken in love and fellowship by the early Church after Pentecost, where the early believers met and broke bread together, thereby signifying their union and equality.

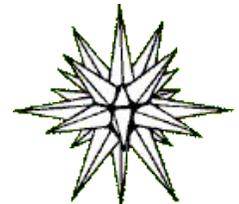
These meals of the church family were associated with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, which followed them. They were called *agape*, from the Greek word for highest expression of love. The service itself is not reserved only for Christmas but occurs throughout the year, though the Christmas Lovefeast is the most memorable and well known by non-Moravians.

The Lovefeast is primarily a song service, opened with prayer, and unique in that the highlight of the service is eating sweet buns and drinking mugs of warm cider, coffee, or tea. Children and members of any denomination or no denomination may partake.

Our Lovefeast will take place on Sunday, December 14th at 7:30pm.

We will have musical offerings by our choir, David Gonzalez, Re'al Carpentier, and other special performers that you will not want to miss.

I hope you will come and be part of creating a new tradition for our church and bring someone with you!



I WILL LIGHT CANDLES THIS CHRISTMAS

by Howard Thurman

Candles of joy, despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is the way that we as a congregation are able to help our neighbors meet their needs for food, transportation, paying bills, and rent. In this small but meaningful way, our church is living out Jesus' call in Matthew 25 to care for "the least of these who are members of my family," recognizing that all people are beloved to God.

Any donations made to the discretionary fund come directly to the pastor and go into an account reserved only for requests for assistance. Donations made to the fund are not part of your yearly pledge, but are a freely given offering. Please prayerfully consider the discretionary fund as you make your plans for giving to the ministry of our church.

~ Pastor Mary

Deacons Notes

As their terms come to an end, the Deacons would like to thank Ruth Stetson, Ruby Babcock and Alan Nichols for their outstanding work on the Board of Deacons. They will be greatly missed!

For the past 6 years, Ruby has faithfully baked and served our monthly Communion bread. She has always been there to help out.

In addition to being a dedicated Deacon, Ruth has been the flower coordinator, a time consuming and never ending responsibility.

Although Alan has only been a Deacon for 3 years, he has been an invaluable member of our Board. He has also been involved in many other church activities.

After years of planning, our Church has a sign on Rt.6 and Rt.169.

Thank you Earl McWilliams and Hope Barton for taking the leads in planning and completing this project! A big thank you to them and everyone else who helped out and contributed.

The two signs were completed by Gagnon Signs and were installed and paid for by the generous contributions of many members of our congregations.. The final cost was \$1720.00 and \$1725 was raised.

It's certainly nice to see an attractive sign at both entrances, explaining who we are!



Party Line

It is has been so nice to see Shirley Leach back in church after a hospital stay and some time at Westview.

Also good to see Peg Wasstrom back in church after a few weeks of being under the weather.

Evalin Berris is happy to be home after some time at Backus, Day-Kimball and Westview. Hopefully she will be feeling her old self again very soon.

Peg Seguire was also hospitalized in mid-November. We hope that she is also on the mend.

Congratulations to Sue and Jerry Hemmig who are celebrating becoming grandparents again! Grandson, Jace, was born on November 10th to their son, Jeff and his wife Jeanne. It sounds like Sue will be doing a lot of babsitting in the future!



Women's Group



During these last frantic days of preparing for the Sugar Plum Fair, I would like to thank all of you in our church family for your wonderful support for this event. It is always so heartwarming to see the donations of baked goods, cookies, handmade items and many other things that get brought in during the fair.

We could not have a successful bazaar without your help! Your cookies, baked goods and other donations help us to be “*one of the nicest bazaars in the area*” as we are often told. So we hope many of you will find the time to make us some goodies or think of other ways to make our bazaar the best.

If you do have some cookies, baked goods or other items for the bazaar, we will be setting up from 4 to 6pm or so on Friday, December 5th or someone is sure to be at church from 7pm on.

Call Kathryn Stellitano (860 774 9210) if you have a question.

Doors open on December 6th at 8 AM! We hope to see you there!

~ Kathryn Stellitano

Sugar Plum Fair

December 6th - 8 AM to 1 PM

Fresh Wreaths - Boxwood Trees

Rada Knives - Fresh Donuts

*Baked Goods - Finnish Coffee Bread
Cookies by the Pound*

Grandma's Jewelry Box

Gift Baskets

Knit & Sewn Items

Handmade Christmas Crafts

Gently Used Christmas Items

*Santa will be at the Thrift Shoppe
from 10 AM to 1PM*



Christian Education

The Sunday School will be setting up a tree in the front of the church filled with tags for our “adopt a family”. Please take a tag and help a child have a wondrous Christmas morning. I thank you so much for all the support you have given in the past years as well as your anticipated support this year.

- ❖ December 6th: Sugar Plum Fair: The Sunday School will be setting up a table with beautiful gift jars with yummy ingredients in them to make luscious desserts. Stop in to support this wonderful activity that will also benefit our adopt-a-family. A gift card for the family will be purchased with the proceeds from this activity. Also there will be a "Rainy Day Children's Basket" that you can purchase chances for and we will pick a name of the new lucky owner of this basket.
- ❖ December 7th & 14th: We will be learning the importance of Advent and getting ready to welcome the Baby Jesus into our hearts.
- ❖ December 14th (4pm-6pm) in Danielson we will be setting up a table to represent the Federated Church of Christ during the festivities in Danielson near the Westfield Congregational Church. Bring the kiddos to make and decorate a Christmas ornament.
- ❖ December 14th: (7:30 pm) Lovefeast Service. Please join us for a wonderful festive experience.
- ❖ December 21st: The children will be singing the songs they have been practicing during Sunday School. Afterwards the children will enjoy a Christmas celebration.
- ❖ December 28th: We will have our monthly Veggie Tales video based on the joy of welcoming Jesus into our lives.

Lastly, I want to wish everyone a joyous Advent and Christmas season.
I feel blessed to be part of such a wonderful congregation.

Merry Christmas my friends!

Yours In Christ, Therese H. Carpentier

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 12/17 Cindy Rollins
- 12/28 Randy Motasky
- 12/31 Sue & Lou Oleksy Anniversary



News from the Thrift Shoppe

Santa will be visiting the Shoppe on Saturday, December 6th from 10am-1pm as part of his visit to the Sugar Plum Fair.

- Affordable Holiday Gifts
- Collectibles – Glassware
- Pottery – Household Items
- Clothing for the family

Hours: Thursday 12-4pm; Friday & Saturday 10am-2pm

Entrance from Rt. 169 behind Brooklyn's Federated Church of Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, hear our prayers...

- We pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially for the family of Vyto Lugaukas; for David Kettelle; for the family of Roy Baker; and for the Arters family.
- We pray for Billy, Sue O's brother, whose cancer has returned, but he is responding well to chemotherapy.
- We pray for Eva, Ruth S's granddaughter, for courage, strength, and her triumph over life's challenges.
- We continue to pray for Hillar, Shirley L.'s son-in-law, who is experiencing health complications with the start of chemotherapy.
- We pray for Carolyn O.'s nephew and his wife, who are expecting a baby in January.
- We pray for those in our church family who are or have been in the hospital, who are working through physical rehabilitation, and for those in special need of God's healing presence: Robin, Paul, Shirley, Evie, and Doris.
- We pray for our children to have strength, courage, and perseverance to endure struggles and difficulties, and for parents who love them to find their own strength and inner peace.
- We pray for those who are struggling with illness: a brother-in-law who is having eye sight issues; Judy who is struggling with lymphedema; for Larry, Betsy B's brother, undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer; for Eddie and Leah as they go through treatment for cancer.
- We pray for peace in our world, particularly in Canada, in Ferguson, Missouri, between Gaza and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, in Syria, Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran.
- We pray continually for the girls who were kidnapped in Nigeria in April, for their families and their communities and swift action for international efforts to bring the girls back home safely.
- We pray for the families who are grieving the loss of loved ones because of the Ebola virus, as well as for the health workers, doctors, and nurses who are risking their lives to save and comfort the lives of others in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and around the world.

Gracious God, we give you thanks...

- for the birth of Jace, son of Jeanne and Jeff Hemmig, and grandson of Sue and Jerry Hemmig.
- for the service, bravery and courage of our military veterans.
- 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.



**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:tome@ctucc.org

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

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Brooklyn, CT
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Federated Church of Christ Brooklyn, Connecticut December 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Deacons Meeting 7:00pm	2	3	4	5	6 Sugar Plum Fair 8am-1pm Thrift Shoppe Open 10am-2pm
7 Choir Rehearsal 9am	8 Women's Group Meeting 1pm Executive Board 7pm	9	10 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	11 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	12 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	13 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
14 Choir Rehearsal 9am Moravian Lovefeast 7:30pm	15	16	17 Choir Rehearsal 7pm	18 Thrift Shoppe Open 12-4pm	19 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	20 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
21 Choir Rehearsal 9am Book Discussion 11:30 - 12:30pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm	25 Christmas Day 	26 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm	27 Thrift Shoppe Open 10-2pm
28 Choir Rehearsal 9am	29	30	31 Choir Rehearsal 7pm			