

**APRIL  
2016**



The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield – United Church of Christ

# The Wintonbury Spire

***“EASTER PEOPLE>>>BUILD COMMUNITY”***

The Gospel of John describes Jesus’ command to his disciples as

***“Love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12)***

***Resurrection People...Easter People...Followers of Jesus’ Way  
are called to relate to others out of love. Love is expressed  
in actions of compassion, caring and in building community!***

***Throughout our history, First Congregational Church in Bloomfield,  
UCC***

***Has been blessed by many acts of love from its members. We  
are grateful...we have been blessed...You and I are the  
Recipients of the love of many...praise GOD!***

***One way that we express our love for our Church is by sharing our  
gifts with the Congregation: time, talents, passions...treasures.***

***During the month of April we will be inviting you and many others  
to express your love to our Church by your continued financial  
support.***

***Our Congregation has creative ministries and programs  
that need our financial support so we can continue to witness  
inside and outside the walls of our community, affirming that we  
are faithful to Jesus’ mandate...***

***“Love One Another as I have Loved You” (John 15:12)***

***My invitation to you is to support our Church out  
of Love!***

***Pastor Ed***



## PASTOR ED'S *Desk*

*"Sparks of challenges and information for you and your loved ones"*

### STEWARDSHIP AS A RESPONSE TO GOD'S

**LOVE...** Scripture clearly affirms that we are all blessed in different ways and we respond to GOD's blessing by giving...by sharing with others of **our time...our energy ...our talents** and **our financial resources**. I would invite each one of you to begin to explore creative ways of being more involved in this your congregation. This is my challenge to you... support our community of faith by:

\*Exploring new ways of being involved in key leadership positions!

\*Supporting ministry teams doing great work in our Church!

\*Examining your financial commitment to the church...try to increase it!

\*Being involved in The Search Committee for Settled Pastor!

\*Inviting others to come to Church and being welcoming to all!

\*Being open to God's Spirit and creativity in our Congregation!

### PASTORAL SEARCH:

The Pastoral Search process to identify the person that GOD and this Congregation will be calling to be our Settled Pastor has begun! Members of the Congregation have suggested names to the Church Council for the Search Committee. The Church Council now has the task of selecting nine persons that represent the rich diversity of our Church. **More information will follow in order to keep you all well informed!**

### QUALITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR NEXT SETTLED PASTOR:

Make sure you fill out the Survey that will be circulating to identify the qualities that you want to see in your settled Pastor. **YOUR INPUT IS VERY IMPORTANT!**

**YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON MY SUPPORT AND BLESSING... PLEASE BE IN TOUCH...**

***Pastor Ed...building community together!***

### **OUR MISSION**

**Responding to God's Call, our mission as The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, United Church of Christ, is to go out into the world proclaiming God's love for all creation, working for justice, bringing Christ's peace and growing in love and faith through service to others. We are a safe and sacred community that welcomes all people and supports each individual journey of faith.**

# News For Kids, Youth & Families



The One Great Hour of Sharing coin banks were returned on Sunday March 6th. Thank you for helping those in need around the world in this special offering. This makes a big difference in those lives who have faced an emergency in all parts of the world. Great job Sunday School children.

Our Faith Formation Bible Study continues. Please come and join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Living Room. We will be studying "The First Paul" by Borg & Crossan.

Vacation Bible School is August 15<sup>th</sup> through August 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Ages 4 ~ 11 Mark your calendar for the fun, games, music, crafts and food of CAVE QUEST...Following Jesus The Light of the World! This year is going to be fun. If you are interested in helping with games or crafts or helping out in any way please see Dorine. We would love to have you join our team.

Silver Lake is now taking camp applications for their summer camp fun. Please see the CE Bulletin Board for the Camp Brochures and register online at [silverlakeect.org](http://silverlakeect.org).

**SAVE THE DATE!**

## Revival May 15th

The Revival is coming up on May 15th @ 3:00p.m. It will be held at Liberty Christian Center. Youth Group, mark your calendar, you will not want to miss this Worship Service for the Youth of CT Conference. For more information please see the insert in this Spire.

### Sunday School

April

April 3rd Sunday School and Communion Sunday.

April 10th Sunday School - Preschool ~ Grade 9.

April 17th Sunday School ~ Preschool ~ Grade 9.

April 24th Sunday School Preschool ~ Grade 9.

### Youth Group Meetings

April 3rd Youth Group 4:00 ~ 5:30.

April 17th Youth Group 4:00 ~ 5:30.

Save the date!!! Sunday, April 3,  
Second Hour ~ conversation on the Lenten Series Bible  
Study book  
"The Last Word"



## WOMENS' FELLOWSHIP NEWS

### SAVE THE DATE

**The Birthday dinner is back!** Mark your calendars for Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM. Sign up dates are: 4/3, 4/10 & 4/17 after worship service. Tickets are \$20.00 each. Please see Kay Yablecki to sign up for this wonderful and exciting fellowship.





SAVE THE DATE!



# CTUCC YOUTH REVIVAL

**Sunday, May 15 at 3:00 PM**

**Liberty Christian Center International 23 Vine  
Street Hartford, CT**

Revival Preacher  
Rev. Da Vita "Day" McCallister  
ACM for Leadership and Vitality



*The Youth Revival is a Racial Justice Ministry Event*



For more information contact Debby Kirk, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries  
[debbyk@ctu.org](mailto:debbyk@ctu.org) 860.761.7103 [www.ctu.org](http://www.ctu.org)

# Environmental Justice for All!



## *An Environmental Justice and Leadership Training Retreat at Silver Lake for Youth of Color in Grades 9-12 May 20-22*

Are you concerned or want to know more about environmental issues in your neighborhood? Do you want to learn what you can do to make a difference?

Join us May 20-22, 2016, at Silver Lake Conference Center to meet other

young people like you, who care about the health of their communities, and to find out how to take action!



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together we will discover how people of faith  
can work for environmental justice for all

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In addition to exploring a faith-based approach to environmental justice, we will tackle team challenges on the low ropes course and plant seedlings in the organic vegetable garden.

This retreat is offered at no cost through the generous sponsorship of the United Church of Christ (UCC) and UCC Justice and Witness Ministries Neighbors in Need Campaign, and individual supporters.

### register online!

To sign up, a parent or legal guardian can go online to [www.silverlakeect.org](http://www.silverlakeect.org) and click on "Silver Lake Online Registration" to register for free. **You will need the password EJ2016 to complete your registration.** If you are not able to sign up online, please call our office at 860-364-5526 to register over the phone. Contact Pam Arifian, Sustainability Director, at [pama@ctuucc.org](mailto:pama@ctuucc.org) with questions about the retreat.

223 Low Road, Sharon, CT 06069 • 860-364-5526 • [www.silverlakeect.org](http://www.silverlakeect.org)





The 149<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ  
Friday, June 10 & Saturday, June 11, 2016  
University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford  
Keynote-The Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder



*"You who seek God let your hearts  
revive." Psalm 69:32*



CITY OF REFUGE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder

Bishop Yvette Flunder is a native San Franciscan and third generation preacher with roots in the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Flunder is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ and holds both masters and doctorate degrees in Ministry from the Pacific School of Religion and the San Francisco Theological Seminary, respectively. In 2003, she was appointed Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries, a multi-denominational coalition of over 56 churches and faith-based organizations from all over the world.

Bishop Flunder founded the City of Refuge UCC in 1991 in order to unite a gospel ministry with a social ministry. City of Refuge is a thriving inner-city congregation that celebrates the radically inclusive love of Jesus Christ.



**THANK YOU** all for giving so generously to support Loaves and Fishes at First Congregational Church. The donations will allow for continued nutritious meals to be cooked and sent to Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen in Hartford.

Meals are served once a month on the second Tuesday with these meals cooked in our kitchen here at First Congregational Church the day before.

Anyone interested in serving please contact Kay Yablecki 860-651-4517. Those who would like to help with the cooking please contact Karen Blanchard at 860-424-7868 or Deb Huebner at 860-578-7283.



***OUR SENIOR EXERCISE GROUP***

Meets twice a week from 9:15 until 10:15 on Tuesdays and Fridays in the Fellowship Hall. Only available on one of those days? **NO PROBLEM!** Come and join us for low-impact exercise and fun! Anyone interested please contact Pat Robair. Or just show up!







**MONTHLY CALENDAR WORSHIP**  
**April 2016**

April 3	Organ/Instrumentalists
April 10	The Praise Team
April 17	Solo/Organ
April 24 (Music Sunday)	The Accidentals Handbell Choir, Praise Team & Adult Choir

\*subject to change due to volunteer choirs availability

**SAVE THE DATE!**



**Music**  
Sunday

**APRIL 24, 2016**

# APRIL

# 2016



<p><i>Every Sunday</i></p> <p>8 &amp; 10 am Worship 12:30 New Birth Community Church</p>	<p><i>Every Monday</i></p> <p>6pm Bell Choir 7pm Narc. Anon.</p>
<p><b>April 3</b> <i>8 &amp; 10:00am worship</i> <b>Communion Sunday</b> Second Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Lectionary Possibilities: Acts 5: 27-32; Psalm 150; Rev 1: 4-8; John 20: 19-31</p>	<p>4</p>
<p><b>April 10</b> <i>8 &amp; 10am worship</i> Third Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Lectionary Possibilities: Acts 9: 1-6; Psalm 30; Rev 5: 11-14 John 21: 1-19</p>	<p>11</p> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Loaves &amp; Fishes</b> Preparation on Mon Apr 11 Serving on Tues Apr 12</p> </div>
<p><b>April 17</b> <i>8 &amp; 10am worship</i> Fourth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Lectionary Possibilities: Acts 9: 36-43; Psalm 23; Rev 7: 9-17 John 10: 22-30</p>	<p>18</p>
<p><b>April 24</b> <i>6 &amp; 10am worship</i> <b>Music Sunday</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>Lectionary Possibilities: Acts 11: 1-18; Psalm 148; Rev 21: 1-6; John 13: 31-35</p>	<p>25</p>
<p><b>May 1</b></p>	<p>2</p>

# APRIL

# 2016

<i>Every Tuesday</i>	<i>Every Wed. 9:30am Jump Bunch 7 pm Alc. Anon.</i>	<i>Every Thursday 10:00 am Bible Study</i>	<i>Every Friday 7:30 pm Alc. Anon</i>	<i>Every Saturday</i>
March 29 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	March 30	March 31 <i>6:30 pm Wintonbury Flying Club</i>	April 1 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	2
5 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	6 <i>7:00 pm Wintonbury Historical Society Event</i>	7	8 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	9 <b><i>10:00 am Church Council Teams &amp; Staff Meeting</i></b>
12 <i>9:15 am Exercise Loaves &amp; Fishes Offsite</i>	13	14 <i>6:30 pm Faith Formation</i>	15 <i>9:15am exercise</i>	16 <i>11:00 am Memorial Service for Jan Thatcher</i>
19 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	20 <i>6:00 pm Glenwood Green</i> <b>Church Council 7:00 pm</b>	21 <i>12 noon HAEC</i>	22 <i>9:15am exercise 1<sup>st</sup> night of Passover</i> <b>7pm Women's Fellowship Dinner</b>	23 <i>8:00 am Music Min Rehearsal</i>
26	27 <i>4:00 pm ABC</i>	28	29	30



# 2016 Counselor-in-training

Take a weekend to get ready for summer!



Do you want to be a counselor for Silver Lake? Then this is the conference for you! Join us for a three-day interview and training session and become one of the future leaders of Silver Lake! You will learn how to lead games, how to quiet a roomful of conferees, how to keep them safe, and how to help God change their lives while enriching your own. You'll get all the training you need to make you a great counselor!

Successful completion of this weekend program will make you eligible to be a counselor or CIT in Summer 2016.

Participants must be at least 15 years old by June 15, 2016.

## REGISTER ONLINE

Counselor-in-Training March 11-13, 2016

Deans: Betty Geiling & Maureen Montrose

For 15- to 18-year-olds

Cost: \$130 [www.silverlakeect.org](http://www.silverlakeect.org)



**SILVER  
LAKE**

Conference Center  
Page 12 of 20





# A P R I L BIRTHDAYS

Ursula Dang	April 24
Monica Grant	April 27
Kay Yablecki	April 28



**April 1**  
Communion Sunday

**April 22**  
Earth Day

**April 24**  
Music Sunday



- \*Eustace Straker – radiation treatments.
- \*Tim Johnson, cards and call appreciated.
- \*Michelle Alves – radiation treatments.
- \*Keep Calvin and Estelle Cole in your thoughts and prayers. Calvin is at Bloomfield Center for Nursing and Rehab, Estelle is home. Cards and calls would be appreciated.
- \*Carol Wolcott, would appreciate cards and calls.
- \* Michael Edwards, praying for release.
- \*Prayers that God will speak to us and through us as we seek God's leading and vision for our Church.
- \*Family & Friends of All Soldiers Who Have Fallen In Iraq & Afghanistan.
- \*Our friends at Community Solutions, Inc., that God will support them as they find new opportunities and hope for the future.

Doris Ahrens	~	Charlotte Babcock
Julie Cato	~	Gladys Dunbar
Charles Miles	~	Elaine Nelson
Madge Edwards	~	Hicksbert (Lloyd) Grant

**Please send me names and dates of anniversaries and birthdays for all family- Month & Day**



## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES 03-16-16

Attendees: C. Delgado, P.

McCatty, S. Goetjen, E. Ayala *ex officio*, C. Hart, C. Wilson, T. Moreland *Regional Conference Minister*. Reverend Moreland offered an opening prayer. We welcomed Pricilla McCatty as our new council member.

Reverend Moreland met with the Council in her role as part of the support team for organizing our pastoral search process. She provided and reviewed a timeline outlining the various steps to be completed as we work toward selecting a new settled pastor. We are at the point of choosing members to serve on the search committee. Once the committee has been established, early tasks will include organizing their members, setting up a meeting schedule and developing a profile detailing the specifics of our church and wider community to be distributed nationally. The committee will keep the council and congregation informed of their progress. To assist in the development of the profile, a survey will be circulated and second hour conversations will be held to identify qualities that our congregation would like to see in pastoral leadership.

Financial Report: On the income side, pledges are still ahead of budget at this time because of prepayments. We will need to be careful of discretionary spending, however, because of people moving and some lowered pledge amounts. Expenses continue to be mostly under budget at this time with the exception of special music. The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for June 26<sup>th</sup>. Scott will need budget input from the various ministry teams by May 15<sup>th</sup> in order to develop the preliminary 2016-2017 budget figures to present at that meeting.

Annual Stewardship Campaign: At the beginning of April the campaign will be started. Pastor Ed will develop some ideas to present to council perhaps including a brochure outlining what our budget has accomplished in the past year, and a video presentation. Input will be

sought at the All-Team Meeting to be held April 9<sup>th</sup> as to their upcoming priorities including budget planning.

Council discussed and voted to approve the proposal to change the name of our nursery school to *First Congregational Church Early Learning Center* to reflect the broader scope of early childhood education provided.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ed continues to meet regularly with the various ministry teams. His priorities continue to emphasize community relationships, spirituality, and visitation. He will play a supportive role in the stewardship campaign and search process.

**Next meeting will be April 20 at 7 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Carol Wilson

## **SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

### **Joint Ministry Team, Council and Staff Meeting**

We will meet on **Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10 am -12 noon** in Fellowship Hall. There are three main purposes for the meeting: We will discuss:

1. The progress of ministry teams, what is working well, what needs attention and the Ministry Team slate for the upcoming 2016-2017 church year.
2. The 2016-2017 Stewardship Campaign and how we all can participate in this important activity.
3. Ideas and recommendations about "growing" our church.

The meeting will be facilitated by Pastor Ed and Carolyn Delgado. Please plan to attend this important meeting. If you are not yet participating on a ministry team or if you would like a better understanding of how our church works to carry out our mission, please join us. All are welcome!

Please RSVP to Andrea in the church office by April 5<sup>th</sup>.



## **Search and Call Update**

**The Church Council received 40 recommendations of individuals to serve on the Search Committee. We are carefully and prayerfully considering which nine individuals will be asked to serve. The goal is to establish a committee that is as inclusive and representative as possible of our diverse church family.**

**Please pray for us as we work on this challenging task!**

**A congregational survey will begin in the next several weeks. The purpose is to obtain recommendations and preferences about the qualities the congregation wants our new settled pastor to have. We are working out the final details and are pleased that Pastor Ed has agreed to lead this aspect of the search and call ministry. This is both an exciting and challenging time in the life of our church. We welcome your participation and prayers.**

*Carolyn Delgado*



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN BLOOMFIELD, UCC

*As part of this Church we are blessed by GOD's grace and we are called to be instruments of blessing. We welcome your input as we search for our settled pastor who will also be a blessing in our midst!*

## **BLESS US WITH YOUR INPUT REGARDING OUR SEARCH FOR PASTORAL LEADERSHIP (March 18, 2016 version)**

### **I WOULD LIKE OUR NEW SETTLED PASTOR TO BE:**

	<b>Very IMPORTANT</b>	<b>Somewhat IMPORTANT</b>
• <b>A GIFTED TEACHER THAT WILL HELP US UNDERSTAND DEEP SPIRITUAL TRUTHS</b>	—	—
• <b>AN EXPERIENCED PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR, SUPERVISOR &amp; MENTOR OF STAFF</b>	—	—
• <b>A LEADER WITH A STRONG PASTORAL HEART</b>	—	—
• <b>AN EFFECTIVE PREACHER WHO IS A GOOD COMMUNICATOR AND IS INSPIRING</b>	—	—
• <b>A LEADER WHO ENJOYS VISITATION</b>	—	—
• <b>A JUSTICE-DRIVEN INTERFAITH LEADER</b>	—	—
• <b>A LEADER WHO WILL HELP US GROW</b>	—	—
• <b>A LEADER WHO WILL HONOR OUR PAST, RESPOND TO PRESENT CHALLENGES AND PROVIDE CREATIVE LEADERSHIP MOVING US TO A NEW FUTURE</b>	—	—

### **OTHER... I WOULD LIKE OUR NEW SETTLED PASTOR TO BE:**

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## **An Update on the Refugee Project—April 2016**



Further progress has been made in building the network of support for resettling a refugee family in Bloomfield. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, we submitted the Faith / Community Group Commitment Form for the IRRC (Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Committee) to Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS), the organization based in New Haven with whom we are co-sponsoring a refugee family. We have given IRIS the “green light.”

Having submitted our commitment form we are ready to receive a call from IRIS at any time regarding a family which has been approved for resettlement in Connecticut. When that call will come is unknown. In Connecticut there are currently five active co-sponsoring groups working with IRIS. Calvary Chapel in Southbury is resettling 11 Ukrainians comprising four families. The Shoreline Interfaith Refugee Resettlement team has received a

family of five Syrians. In Wilton there is a family of six Syrians. The group in Danbury and Bethel is resettling a family of five Syrians, and First Congregational Church in Branford received a family of three Iraqis during the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>. Once the family is identified for Bloomfield there will be a period of two weeks, at most, during which an apartment has to be leased and furnished. The pantry needs to be stocked. Arrangements for transportation to many appointments has to be organized. There will be a period of intense activity.

**There are many ways to participate in the refugee project.**

**We need volunteers.**

Please contact David Hager ([dhager3207@comcast.net](mailto:dhager3207@comcast.net)) if you would like more information or would like to work along with others in welcoming a refugee family. Among the refugee families coming from the Middle East more than half of the individuals are children and 75% of the children are under the age of 12. Our congregation has an opportunity to make a difference to a family which has left their own country because of religious, social, or political persecution.



# BIRTHDAY DINNER



PLEASE JOIN US

FRIDAY APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> 6:00 PM

KANE'S MARKET BUFFET: GARDEN SALAD, RICE PILAF, CHICKEN PICCATA,  
VEGETABLE LASAGNA, ROLLS, COFFEE, TEA, BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR DESSERT

ENTERTAINMENT: PIANO SELECTIONS FROM BEATRICE DANG

\$20.00 PER PERSON

SIGN UP AFTER CHURCH APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>, AND 17<sup>TH</sup>.

THE BIRTHDAY DINNER IS A WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP SPRING TRADITION. IT IS A  
TIME FOR THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH TO GATHER FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP,  
IN CELEBRATION OF ALL OF OUR BIRTHDAYS AND A NEW SPRING!



**Sunday, May 1, 2016**

**LIAM E. MCGEE MEMORIAL PARK**

(formerly Hartbeat Park)

140 Garden Street, Hartford

Check-in at 12:30 p.m.

Walk steps off at 2:00 p.m.

**FREE Event Parking at 690 Asylum Avenue!**

**Every dollar you raise helps support a hungry neighbor here in Greater Hartford**

**COMMUNITY PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT**

<b>FOODSHARE</b>	Hope SDA Church Food Pantry
Comerstone Weekend Backpack Program	House of Bread
Enfield Food Shelf, Inc.	Loaves & Fishes Ministries, Inc.
Farmington Food Pantry	Northend Church of Christ (H.U.G.S.)
Five Corner Cupboard	Food Pantry
Friendship Service Center of New Britain	St. Monica's Episcopal Church
Gifts of Love	St. Vincent de Paul Middletown
Grace Lutheran Church	Sodexo – EHPS Backpacker's Program
Grace SDA Food Pantry	United Labor Agency
Hands on Hartford, Inc.	Windsor Food & Fuel Bank
Hebron Interfaith Human Services	



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Windsor Federal Savings

**Register online at: [www.FoodshareWalk.org](http://www.FoodshareWalk.org)**

The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield

10 Wintonbury Avenue  
Bloomfield, CT 06002  
Church Office: 860-242-0776  
Nursery School: 860-242-0183  
Church Fax: 860-243-8035

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The *Wintonbury Spire*, newsletter of the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield – United Church of Christ, is published monthly to provide information to and about our members and friends.

**Spire Schedule** The Wintonbury Spire will be mailed at the end of each month. Please join us for the “Spire Party” where we stuff, fold, label, seal and stamp the Spire from 10:30 – 11:30 am on a Friday morning.

**Spire Parties will be held on:**  
April 29, 2016   May 27, 2016   June 28, 2016  
Aug 30, 2016   Sept 30, 2016   Oct 28, 2016

**STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**  
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