

**APRIL
2015**



The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield – United Church of Christ

The Wintonbury Spire

Grace and Peace to all as the season changes,

It's March 25 and I am wondering whether the snow will melt out of the Memorial Garden in time for the Easter Sunrise service. Spring is here, officially, but you wouldn't know it from the weather and that white coating on my back yard. Maybe by the time you read this, it will be better. Maybe not.

But I am not complaining – really – not complaining. God promises that Spring will come, that Summer will follow, that the seasons will turn, the sun and moon will rise and set, tides come in and out. And Lent will turn to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and then Easter. There is always Resurrection – no matter what. In the midst of the turning seasons of the church, we know that love and life always win.

So, I am not complaining because today, right next to the snow in my front garden, there are three little crocuses. As I watch them grow and see others join them, I wonder what the work is that I am supposed to do, now that Winter has passed. Walking more and getting out more, I am reminded of a poem attributed to St. Teresa of Avila. Even though Christ's earthly body dies on the Cross, God's work still goes on – through you and me.

Christ Has No Body

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Have a blessed and joyful Easter, and may the Resurrected Christ walk with us as we do God's work on earth.

In Christ's Peace, *Pastor Deborah*



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105-6004

March 19, 2015

The Rev. Deborah J. Blood
First Congregational Church in Bloomfield
10 Wintonbury Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Dear Deb,

"I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16

This month the staff of the United Church of Christ in Connecticut will be praying for your congregation and its leadership. This long standing practice is one way that we are reminded of the ties that bind us together in the covenant that we share as God's people gathering in this time and in our respective places.

In addition to the staff engaging in prayer for your congregation we will be listing your church in the prayer list published as part of the "Spirit Calendar," a weekly devotional sent out to subscribers through FIDO, the internet-based discussion forum available on the Conference website.

If you have any specific prayers that you would like us to lift up for you or the church and its leadership, please let me know. These prayers will be held in confidence and circulated only among the staff and not listed in any public forum.

I would also welcome your prayers for our Conference in your public prayers in worship. As we move into this time of new beginnings we need all the prayers we can get! Our mutual ministries will be sustained knowing that we are holding one another in prayer. We cannot do this ministry alone.

We are grateful for your witness and ministry. Our prayers for you are steadfast and give thanks for the privilege that is ours to be in this covenantal relationship with you.

May God's abundant blessings be upon you in these days.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Kent J. Siladi
CT Conference Minister



God is still speaking,

860.233.5564 toll free) 866.367.2822 fax) 860.231.8111 www.ctucc.org

News For Kids, Youth, & Families



March 29

Our Sunday School children and youth will be distributing the Palms to the congregation from the front and back of the church with shouts of Hosanna! Please have your children arrive @ 9:45 so that they have time to get ready and receive Palms.

Silver Lake is now taking applications for their summer camp fun. Please see the CE Bulletin Board for the Camp Brochures or register online at silverlakeect.org.

Heads Up Hartford week long Summer Camp is scheduled for **June 19-26, 2015**. High school freshman through seniors work together on community service projects throughout greater Hartford. Lots of exciting activities are scheduled for this year, including the chance for everybody to work at a CRT site with small kids--probably the favorite work site for all the campers. Learn more at HeadsUpHartford.org.

Revival May 3rd

The Revival is coming up on May 3rd @3:00 pm. Mark your calendar, you will not want to miss this Worship Service for the Youth of CT Conference. We are still looking for Hospitality and Parking help. Please see Dorine to help out and be a part of this wonderful event for our youth and the CT Conference. For more information please see the insert in this Spire.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Coin banks were returned on Sunday March 22nd. 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.



CE BOARD MEETING April 8th @ 6:30 PM

Sunday School Schedule

April 5 Easter & Communion Sunday. Children will stay in Worship with their families

April 12 Sunday School Preschool ~ 9th Grade

April 19 Sunday School Preschool ~ 9th Grade

April 26 Sunday School for Preschool ~ 9th Grade

Youth Group Meetings

*Please note Youth Group meeting change due to EASTER

April 19th 4:00 - 5:30 Revival Group meeting **VERY IMPORTANT**

April 13th 4:00 - 5:30

Confirmation Class will be on April 19th. We will be planning Confirmation Sunday which is on May 10th. This is very important to attend. We will meet at 12 noon until 3:00 pm

**BLOOMFIELD UNITED METHODIST
COMMUNITY FOOD KITCHEN**

**Presents
It's 3rd Annual**

***Fund Raiser
Awards Banquet***

April 17, 2015 6pm - 10pm

REHOBOTH CHURCH OF GOD

**1170 Blue Hills Ave.,
Bloomfield, CT 06002**

Keynote Speaker:

Rev. Suzette DeBeatham-Brown

REHOBOTH CHURCH OF GOD

Donation \$40

For More Info:

**860-987-2743 or 860-573-8544
860-913-6524 or 860-683-2148**



On Behalf of the Board of Christian Education

The Labyrinth was a wonderful experience added to Lent this year. Thank you to First Church in Windsor for letting us borrow your beautiful Labyrinth. Thank you to Oz Gibbs and Roger Bunker and Michelle for picking it up and setting it up and returning it to

Windsor. Also, thank you to Ursula, Van, Emerson and Aaron Dang and David Hagar for the folding of the Labyrinth. All of your help was greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Angela Maine for all of your expertise and card making supplies. The Art Night was great! It was a pleasure to make cards for our Shut-ins for Easter. Thank you to Sue Thompson for the awesome soup, Anne Weaver for the salad and Sharon Goetjen for the bread. Dinner was great! Thanks to all who came out to make the beautiful cards too! Great blessings were made for many.

Dear Family and Friends of First Congregational Church in Bloomfield,

Thank you so very much for your presence, cards, letters, hugs and flowers that you gave to us at the death of my Father. I am so very grateful for all of your love and support during this difficult time. The words and gifts of sympathy you gave are truly appreciated and each gave us comfort and care. God's goodness and compassion shows through each one. This journey of sorrow would be impossible without your love and support. I am grateful to all of you for these great gifts of love and grateful to serve such a wonderful congregation of God's loving people.

Dorine, Kyle and Derek DeCarli



2015

APRIL

<p><i>Every Sunday</i></p> <p>8 & 10 am Worship <i>12:30 New Birth Community Church</i></p>	<p><i>Every Monday</i></p> <p>6 pm Bells Reh. <i>7pm Narc. Anon.</i></p>
<p>April 5 EASTER</p> <p>Sunrise Service 6:30 am (no 8 am service) Worship at 10 am</p> <p><i>Lectionary Possibilities:</i> <i>Ezekiel 14: 10-31; Genesis 1: 1-2a; Psalm 136: 1-9</i> <i>Matthew 28: 1-10</i></p>	<p>April 6</p>
<p>April 12 Second Sunday of Easter</p> <p><i>Lectionary Possibilities:</i> <i>Ezekiel 15: 20-21; Genesis 7: 1-5, 11-18; Psalm 133;</i> <i>Matthew 28: 16-20</i></p>	<p>13</p> <div data-bbox="1300 699 1533 1033" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Loaves & Fishes Preparation: Mon Apr 13 Serving: Tues Apr 14</p> </div>
<p>April 19 Third Sunday of Easter</p> <p><i>Lectionary Possibilities:</i> <i>Ezekiel 36: 24-28; Genesis 8: 6-18; 9: 8-13; Psalm 46</i> <i>Acts 10: 1-17, 34-35</i></p>	<p>20</p>
<p>April 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter Paul Martel speaks on FIBUSPAM at second service</p> <p><i>Lectionary Possibilities:</i> <i>Ezekiel 37: 1-14; Genesis 22: 1-18; Psalm 143</i> <i>Acts 13: 1-3; 14: 8-18</i></p>	<p>27</p>
<p>May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter Youth Revival 3:00 pm</p> <p><i>Lectionary Possibilities:</i> <i>Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22: 25-31;</i> <i>John 15: 1-8; Romans 1: 1-17</i></p>	<p>4</p>

APRIL

2015

<i>Every Tuesday</i> 9:15 am Exercise	<i>Every Wed.</i> 9:30 am Soccer 7 pm Alc. Anon.	<i>Every Thursday</i>	<i>Every Friday</i> 9:15 am Exercise 7:30 pm Alc. Anon	<i>Every Saturday</i>
	1	2 Maundy Thurs	3 Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday 9:00 am Flower Club
		April 2 7 pm Maundy Thurs. Foot Washing	Fri, April 3 noon Good Friday Bloomfield UMC Pastor Deb will be participating in the 7 Last Words	
7	8 5:00 pm ABC 6:30 pm C. E. 6:30 pm Glenwood Green	9	10	11
14	15 5:00 pm ABC	16 11:30 – 2:00 pm HAEC meeting	17	18
Loaves & Fishes Serving: Tues 4:00 pm - ABC				
21	22 5:00 pm ABC	23 Thur. April 23 6:30 pm Church Council	24 Spire Party 10:30 am	25
28	29 5:00 pm ABC	30	May 1	2
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Sunday, May 3 Foodshare's 32nd annual Walk Against Hunger Details on page 10...</p> </div>	

Inside & Out *#AFFIRMED*



5th ANNUAL CT UCC YOUTH REVIVAL

Sunday, May 3 at 3 pm

First Congregational Church in Bloomfield at 10 Wintonbury Avenue

A Racial Justice Ministry Event

Rev. Da Vita 'Day' McCallister preaching

WHAT IS A REVIVAL? This is a dynamic worship service that will renew your spirit. Come and sing praise, celebrate vitality, and embrace diversity! **WHERE WILL IT TAKE PLACE?** The Revival will be at the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield. There is plenty of free, off-street parking available behind the church. **WHO IS INVITED?** All youth in grades 5 and up and their pastors, parents, or adult leaders. Bring a few or bring your whole group; fill up your car and meet us in Bloomfield. **WHO IS PREACHING?** Rev. Da Vita "Day" McCallister, Associate Conference Minister for Youth and Young Adults will preach. We will also have testimony from several youth from around the state. **WHAT ABOUT THE MUSIC?** There will be lots of upbeat music provided by Isaac Monts and the praise band from Liberty Christian Center International. **WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THIS REVIVAL?** This is our 5th Annual Revival so be prepared for an amazing celebration that features music, dance, inspiring testimony and more! **WHAT IS SCRM?** SCRM stands for Sacred Conversations on Race Ministry. The Revival is a SCRM event because it is intentionally multi-cultural and multi-racial. We believe God calls us to create a beloved community that affirms the dignity of all individuals. **DO I HAVE TO REGISTER?** This event is free, however we request that you reply here to let us know how many are coming. (Name, church, estimated number) **WILL THERE BE AN OFFERING?** Yes, we will take a collection to support Youth Ministry at Bloomfield as well as a designated outreach program in the Bloomfield Community. **WHAT ABOUT FELLOWSHIP?** Of course, there will be time to hang out afterwards! You'll see friends from Silver Lake and Giv2. There will be refreshments as well as displays about some of the great programs in our CT Conference. **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?** All who want to sing or dance should come for a warm-up rehearsal at 2:30 on the day of the Revival. We will post music titles a month before the event.

OTHER QUESTIONS? Contact Debby Kirk at debbyk@ctucc.org or 860-377-2675 or www.ctucc.org or [#CTUCCYouth2105](https://twitter.com/CTUCCYouth2105).

Shining Hope for Communities
(SHOFCO)

(Potential is everywhere;
opportunity isn't!)

Mission Moment:

One of the organizations supported by funds distributed by our Mission Board is the Shining Hope for Communities movement in the Kibera, a large urban slum in Nairobi, Kenya. The organization is centered around a school for girls and works to provide students with education, equality, and empowerment.

Recently, Nicholas Kristof and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, wrote the sequel to their book, "Half the Sky." Their new book, "A Path Appears" features a chapter on SHOFCO. In the church Living Room on Sunday, April 12th, during the second hour, the Mission Board will show the segment of a documentary created for A Path Appears which features the Shining Hope School.

The school was founded by Kennedy Odede who grew up in Kibera and witnessed the effects of poverty and neglect prevalent in that community. The school started in 2004 and the program has grown wonderfully to include efforts in providing health and social support for Kibera residents. The story of the school describes its development and the romance between Kennedy Odede and his wife Jessica

Posner who was a sophomore at Wesleyan University in 2007 when she took a year off from her studies to work in Kibera. Kennedy had little formal education but subsequently graduated from Wesleyan giving the student address at the 2012 commencement. The images of life in the Kibera slum in the film are powerful as are the descriptions of the hope and the potential which are offered by the school.

The Mission Board hopes that you will come and learn about this organization which we, as a church, support.

The Tower of Tuna Returns!



Did you know that there are many families in Bloomfield who are food-insecure? Thankfully, the Backpack Program sponsored by the Hyacinth Williams Foundation sends food home with children every Friday to help sustain their household over the weekend. We can help with this effort by providing extra protein, which is sorely needed! For the Month of April, let's build a Tower of Tuna at the front of the church! Bring canned tuna each Sunday until we have enough to provide significant support to this worthwhile program. Can't wait to see how high we can go!!!



**32nd Annual
Foodshare Walk
Against Hunger**



Sunday, May 3, 2015

HARTBEAT PARK

140 Garden Street, Hartford
Check-in at 12:30 p.m.
Walk steps off at 2:00 p.m.

FREE Parking at 690 Asylum Avenue



**COMMUNITY PROGRAMS THAT BENEFIT
FOODSHARE**

- Enfield Food Shelf, Inc.
- Farmington Food Pantry
- Friendship Service Center of New Britain
- Gifts of Love
- Hands On Hartford
- Hope SDA Church Food Pantry
- House of Bread
- Loaves & Fishes Ministries, Inc.
- Northend Church of Christ (H.U.G.S.)
Food Pantry
- Saint Monica's Episcopal Church
- St. Vincent de Paul Middletown
- Windsor Food and Fuel Bank

**Checklist for
Walk Day**

- ✓ Foodshare's Walk Against Hunger will be held rain or shine. In the event of severe weather, visit www.foodshare.org or call 860.286.9999.
- ✓ Bicycles, skateboards, and headsets are not permitted.
- ✓ Pets are not permitted on the walk site or route.
- ✓ Wear comfortable sneakers and clothing appropriate for the weather. Don't forget sunscreen!
- ✓ Each participant, even if part of a team, **MUST** check in individually with a **completed check-in form** and signed waiver. A parent's signature is required if under 18 years of age. **PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY!**
- ✓ Write the total amount you are turning in on your Check-in Form before you arrive.
- ✓ Bring all of your cash/check donations and completed matching gift forms, if applicable.

DIRECTIONS

Going East:

Take I-84 to Exit 48A, Asylum Street. Stay in the left lane, exit and turn left onto Asylum Street

Going West:

Take I-84 to Exit 48, Asylum Street. Turn right onto Asylum Street

- On Asylum Street, bear right at the fork onto Asylum Avenue.
- At second light, turn right into The Hartford's entrance.
- For more information about accessible parking, please contact Foodshare BEFORE May 2nd.

CHURCH COUNCIL MUNUTES

3/19/15

Attendees: C. Delgado, D. Morrill, D.

Blood *ex officio*, C. Dobo, C. Wilson

The meeting opened with reflections on a piece Carolyn brought called "Winter Psalm".

The minutes of 2/12/15 were approved.

Dialogue with Pastor: We have received a gift of an electronic keyboard from the

Laiuppa/ Kania family in memory of

Roberta, and \$400 from the Estate of

Roberta Kania. .. Joe Tobin, Pastoral Care Coordinator, is off to a good start. The

Pastoral Care Team will have an

informational/listening session on Palm

Sunday (March 29) after

church...Confirmation Retreat was a good

experience...An Ash Wednesday supper

and service was held. Holy Week will

include a Maundy Thursday foot washing

service and two services on Easter morning.

Pastor Deb will preach at the Ecumenical

service at the United Methodist Church on

Good Friday.

Stewardship 2015: No one has volunteered

so far to lead the campaign. The process

will need to begin next week, and a theme

needs to be chosen centering on the

"Mission and Vision" commitments we

have made (voted on). The time frame will

be shortened to a 4-Sunday event starting

4/26/15. Pastor Deb will weave

stewardship into her sermon this coming

Sunday, and participants will be sought from

each of the ministry circles in our now

governance structure. A planning group will

meet on March 31st.

Discussion revolved around the concept of

"Interdependence" – a wholistic approach

that churches are embracing in order to

encourage collaboration and sharing

resources. Recognizing that by reaching out

to sister churches and sharing strategies,

both long-term and short-term, we can

develop connections that energize us for the

future.

The next meeting will be 4/23/15 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wilson



FCCNS Read's Across America

The Nursery School in collaboration with parents and Dr. Paulette Trowers-Lawrence has been encouraging literacy at home and school. The school has displayed circles of the books we have read. In April we will bring Read Across America to an end with a celebration and give aways.

We invite all those who wish to attend the celebration on Friday, April 17th @ 10:30 am. Please contact Shantel Bremmer, Director 860. 242. 0183 with any questions.



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 Larry Wild. Or just show up!

**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH IN BLOOMFIELD**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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. **Items received in the office by the 15th of the month may be included in next month's edition.**

Spire Schedule The Wintonbury Spire will be mailed on the Friday of the last full week of each month. Please sign up for the "Spire Party" where we stuff, fold, label, seal & stamp the Spire from 10:30 – 11:30 am.
Spire Parties will be held on the following Fridays:
April 30, 2015 May 29, 2015 June 26, 2015

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Andrea Davey-Mercer,
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Holy Week Services

March 29 *Palm Sunday* 8 & 10 am
April 2 *Maundy Thursday*
7 pm Foot Washing Worship
April 2 *Prayer Vigil* BEGINNING after
worship & lasting until noon on Good Friday. Sign
up on bulletin board.
April 3 *Good Friday*
12 noon – 3 pm Worship
Bloomfield United Methodist Church
297 School St
Pastor Deborah preaches on the Seven
Last Words of Christ
April 5 *Easter*
6:30 a.m. Worship
10 a.m. Worship in the Meeting Room
No 8 am Worship service