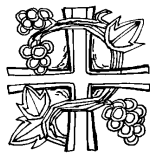


**MAY  
2016**



The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield – United Church of Christ

# The Wintonbury Spire

*“The best and most beautiful things in the world  
cannot be seen or even touched.  
They must be felt within the heart”  
Helen Keller*

Many of you have noticed how I am so inspired by the life and teachings of Helen Keller, a women who in her darkness (blind person) was able to see beyond what many could not see even with eyesight.

In 1903 she wrote the following “From My Key of Life: Optimism”.

*“If you are born blind, search the treasure of darkness.  
They are more precious than the gold of Ophir.  
They are love and goodness and truth and hope,  
and their price is above the rubies and sapphires”*

Helen Keller, years after her death in 1968 (she died in Connecticut) is still an inspiration, challenging us to...feel within the heart and to be open to search for the treasures of life!

It is my prayer and hope that all the members and participants in the life of our Congregation enjoy life’s beauty and treasures feeling and touching with your heart.

During May 2016 Pastor will be preaching and promoting stewardship as our response from the heart to God’s love as we affirm and search for life’s treasures.

*I invite you all to share your treasures out of love.*

*Blessing others with our time, talents and financial resources.*

*Pastor Ed*



**PASTOR ED'S** *Desk*

*“Sparks of challenges and information for you and your loved ones”*

**\*I WAS ASKED ONCE...HOW MUCH SHOULD I SHARE, HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE TO MY CHURCH? HOW MUCH TIME, ENERGY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT?**

*“I just said...”*

*What does your heart tell you?*

*Whatever you do...do it with joy  
Enjoy the treasures of life!  
Share your treasures in life!*

*With Joy...Give out of love!*

**\*AT JANET THATCHER MEMORIAL SERVICE**, I read a poem by David Harkins that inspired many. Some have asked me for a copy, here it is...

*“She is Gone”*

*You can shed tears that she is gone...or you can smile because she has lived.*

*You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back or you can open your eyes and see all she has left.*

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see her or you can be full of the love you shared.*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.*

*You can remember her and only that she's gone or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.*

*You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back or you can do what she would want: “smile, open your eyes, love and go on”*

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU...Pastor Ed**

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

## **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



May is here and the Christian Education is full of activity throughout the month. Each event is wonderful and full of inspiration and creativity.

## VBS 2016 Aug 15 ~ 19 from 9 to 12 noon

Vacation Bible School is gearing up and getting ready. All teachers, helpers and anyone interested in working Vacation Bible School this year will meet on **Sunday May 29th**, after coffee hour, in the Living Room. We are looking for teachers and helpers for Games, Crafts and Bible. Mark your calendar for **Vacation Bible School August 15th ~ 19th 9:00 - 12:00**. **Cave Quest "Following Jesus the Light of the World."** An amazing adventure awaits your young child Ages 4 - 11, learning through music, bible, games and crafts/science. See the registration form **on page 18** in this Spire. Preregistration is great!

## Children Sunday

The children of the Sunday School are preparing for **Children's Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>**. They will be working on their pieces of the worship service during Sunday School during the month of May. Please have your child attend Sunday school as much as possible in order to get in practice time. We are looking forward to this Special Sunday of celebrating our Children. Rehearsal for this special Sunday is **Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am**.

## 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. We are in need of **Adult drivers** please contact **Dorine** if you can help.

## Sunday School

**May 1st** Communion Sunday School and Worship  
**Youth Group Walk for Hunger 12:30 ~ 3:30**  
**May 8th** Sunday School Preschool ~ 9th Grade Mother's Day  
**May 15th** Sunday School Preschool ~ Grade 9 -  
**Youth Group Revival 3:00 pm** Liberty Christian Center  
**May 22nd** Sunday School for Preschool - Grade 9  
**May 29th** Sunday School for Preschool ~ Grade 9  
**Faith Formation Meeting Thurs. May 14th @ 6:30**

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 begin the book "The First Paul" by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, on May 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join us please pick up a copy of the book in the church office. The cost of the book is \$10.00. Come and enjoy the fellowship and this inspiring book.



If we live by the  
**SPIRIT,**  
let us also keep  
in step with the  
**SPIRIT.**

**GALATIANS 5:25, ESV**



The Youth Group is walking on May 1<sup>st</sup> for the Food Share Walk for Hunger. Please feel free to sponsor one of our Youth on Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> before we walk. We will leave Fellowship Hall @ 12:30 and return to the church by 3:30. Please have your Youth wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing and be sure their clothing is appropriate for the weather. We walk rain or shine. Please bring the donation form with donations also you will need to sign the original form giving permission for your youth to walk. We will have a great time walking for hunger together.

Any questions

please feel free to call Dorine

**FOODSHARE** Walk  
**against hunger**

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@ctuucc.org](mailto:debbyk@ctuucc.org) 860.761.7103 [www.ctuucc.org](http://www.ctuucc.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!



---

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

---

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.

To All Who Step Into This Roll



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



**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!

WEAR RED FOR

**Pentecost**

May 15, 2016





**MONTHLY CALENDAR WORSHIP  
MAY 2016**

May 1	Solo/Organ
May 8 (Mother's Day)	The Praise Team
May 15 (Pentecost Sunday)	Solo/Duet/Quartet
May 22	The Praise Team
May 29	Organ

\*subject to change due to volunteer choirs availability

**THANK YOU  
FROM THE CHOIR**



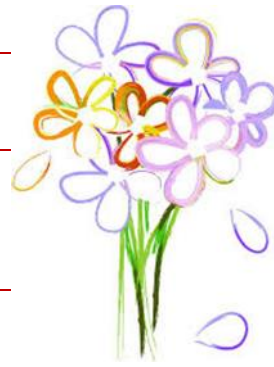
**FCCB Music Ministry**

Special thanks to all the choirs, instrumentalists and their families and everyone in the Music Ministry for giving of themselves through music to the Glory of God!

Special thanks to Pastor Edwin Ayala for his valuable input into this Music Sunday service; to Andrea Mercer for her input in preparing this Music Sunday bulletin. I also want to thank Jason Durrant, Dorine DeCarli, Marnie Clark, and Michele Alves for their assistance in preparing our annual Music Sunday.

# MAY

# 2016



*Every Sunday*

8 & 10 am Worship  
12:30 New Birth Community Church

*Every Monday*

6pm Bell Choir  
7pm Narc. Anon.

**May 1**

*8 & 10:00am worship*  
**Communion Sunday**  
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Lectionary Possibilities: **Acts 16: 9-15**; Psalm 67; Rev 21: 10, 22-22: 5;  
John 14: 23-29 or John 5: 1-9

2

**May 8**

*8 & 10am worship*  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day

Lectionary Possibilities: **Acts 16: 16-34**; Psalm 97; Rev 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21  
John 17: 20-26

9

**Loaves & Fishes**  
Preparation on  
Mon May 9  
Serving on  
Tues May 10

**May 15**

*8 & 10am worship*  
**Pentecost Sunday**  
Blessing of the Animals

Lectionary Possibilities: **Acts 2: 1-21** or Gen 11: 1-19; Psalm 104: 24-24, 35b;  
Romans 8: 14-17 or Acts 2: 1-21; John 14: 8-17 (25-27)

16

**May 22**

*8 & 10am worship*  
**Trinity Sunday**  
First Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Possibilities: **Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31**; Psalm 8; Romans 5: 1-5  
John 16: 12-15

23

**May 29**

*8 & 10am worship*  
**Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Times**  
Second Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary Possibilities 1 Kings 15: 20-21 (22-29) 30-39; Psalm 96 or 1 Kings 8:  
22-23, 41-43; Psalm 96: 1-9; Galatians 1: 1-12; **Luke 7: 1-10**

30 *Church Office Closed*



# MAY

# 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>
May 3 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	May 4 <i>5:30 pm Stewardship</i>	May 5 <i>6:30 pm Wintonbury Flying Club</i>	May 6 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	May 7
10 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	11  <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"><i>11:00 am Loaves &amp; Fishes serving Offsite</i></div>	12 <i>6:30 pm Faith Formation</i>	13 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	14
17 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	18  <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"><b>7pm Church Council</b></div>	19	20 <i>9:15am exercise</i>	21
24 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	25 <i>4:00 pm ABC</i>	26	27 <i>9:15am exercise</i>	28 <b>11:00 am Memorial Service for Roland Mills</b>
31	June 1 <i>4:00 pm ABC</i>	June 2	June 3	June 4

# 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





# MAY BIRTHDAYS

Terry Martel	May 3
Shanoah Gee	May 7
Marnie Clark	May 9
Jaiden Alba	May 13
Charlotte Mottram	May 24
Lucy Wirsul	May 24
Dolly Hunt	May 30



**May 1**  
Communion Sunday

**May 8**  
Mother's Day

**May 30**  
Memorial Day



- \* Sue Davis is in rehab at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare, cards would be appreciated. The address: 50 Gaylord Farm Road, Milne 200, Wallingford, CT 06492.
- \*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**



**“Like Good Stewards of the grace you have received from God,  
put yourselves at the service of others”**

1 Peter 4: 10

**Our Stewardship Campaign kickoff is:**

**Sunday, May 1**

**ON SUNDAY, MAY 1**

Pastor Ayala’s message on  
Stewardship

**“STEWARDSHIP: The Art of  
Sharing”**

Malachi 3: 10-12 & 1 Peter 4: 7-11

**ON SUNDAY, MAY 8**

Pastor Ayala’s message on  
Stewardship

(And Mother’s Day)

**“LOVE: An Expression of  
Stewardship”**

Deuteronomy 10: 12-18 & Romans  
8: 35-39

**ON SUNDAY, MAY 15**

Pastor Ayala’s message on  
Stewardship

**“BLESSED BY GRACE...sharing by  
Grace”**

Proverbs 3: 5-10; Matthew 5: 13-15 &  
1 Corinthians 9: 6-8

**Come to Coffee Hour after  
worship for Fellowship and enjoy  
our Ministry Team Displays.**

## Search and Call Update



**Pastor Ed and Council members have begun inviting church members to serve on the Search Committee. Our goal is to commission the committee at a worship service in early June.**

**The congregational survey is continuing. Many thanks to the 38 individuals who have responded to date. If you have not yet completed a survey, it is not too late!! Everyone is encouraged to participate—friends as well as members. Whether you have been attending for decades or for several months, we invite you to participate. A survey is included in this Spire and is also available from the church office. Completed surveys can be placed in the envelope on the table in front of the office or returned to the church office.**

**We welcome your participation, recommendations and prayers as the Search and Call ministry continues.**

*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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## FCC NURSERY SCHOOL

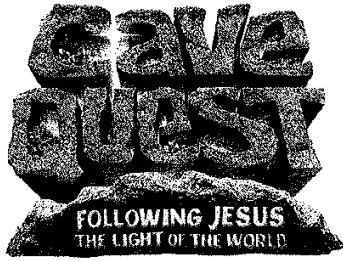
Read Across America for the month of March 2016 was a huge success. We had set a goal of 500 books for the month. We exceeded our goal with the amount of 589 books read. This is a big accomplishment for the students. Reading is always a good way to get families involved with children and some families are still taking the challenge and seeing how many books they can read together. I am so happy that we could help implement this program within families. We would like to thank all those that participated in this reading challenge. We are so appreciative!!

Some upcoming events

Circus Field Trip - May 13th

Moving Up Ceremony - June 30th

Shantel Bremmer, Director



# Registration Form

(One Per Child)

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

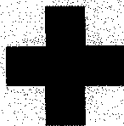
Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Home email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Crew number or name (for church use only): \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_



In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

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33rd ANNUAL  
**FOODSHARE** **Walk**  
 against hunger

**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**

**FOODSHARE**

Cornerstone Weekend Backpack Program  
 Enfield Food Shelf, Inc.  
 Farmington Food Pantry  
 Five Corner Cupboard  
 Friendship Service Center of New Britain  
 Gifts of Love  
 Grace Lutheran Church  
 Grace SDA Food Pantry  
 Hands on Hartford, Inc.  
 Hebron Interfaith Human Services

Hope SDA Church Food Pantry  
 House of Bread  
 Loaves & Fishes Ministries, Inc.  
 Northend Church of Christ (H.U.G.S.)  
 Food Pantry  
 St. Monica's Episcopal Church  
 St. Vincent de Paul Middletown  
 Sodexo – EHPS Backpacker's Program  
 United Labor Agency  
 Windsor Food & Fuel Bank



450 Woodland Avenue • Bloomfield, CT 06002 • (860) 286-9999

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The Chase Family Foundations  
 Issuers of The Chase Challenge

DIAMOND:



GOLD:



SILVER:



BRONZE:

McCarter & English, LLP  
 ShopRite/Wakefern

ROUTE:

Deloitte  
 Jade Marketing  
 Phoenix  
 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:**

May 27, 2016   June 28, 2016   Aug 30, 2016  
Sept 30, 2016   Oct 28, 2016   Nov 29, 2016

**STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Rev. Edwin O. Ayala, Interim Pastor**  
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**Andrea Davey-Mercer**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
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