

**JUNE
2016**



The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield – United Church of Christ

The Wintonbury Spire

*The late African American Poet Maya Angelou,
who I have learned to respect and appreciate
said at one occasion...*

*“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did...
but people will never forget...*

HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL”

The words of Maya Angelou do inspire my pastoral passion and my pastoral work when it is my time to preach, visit, build and nurture community, challenge our practices or facilitate church growth!

As Christians, followers of the way...Jesus’ way, we are called to bring harmony and peace to all people and especially to those in need, sick, lonely, hurt or those who are victims of any kind of oppression, abuse or injustice. Jesus was not concerned about doctrines, creeds or who was right or not. Jesus was concerned about love, compassion, justice, etc.

Our Congregation has been blessed by creative leadership that through the years have made people *feel* loved, respected and cared for. Let us continue to be a blessing to those inside the walls of our Congregation and those outside our walls.

**“COME HELP US GROW...HELP US TOUCH OTHERS WITH OUR
COMPASSION AND THE PROMOTION OF JUSTICE...
REMEMBER, PEOPLE WILL NEVER FORGET
HOW WE MADE THEM FEEL!”**

Pastor Ed



PASTOR ED'S *Desk*

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

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, I do not give you peace as the world gives to you. Do not be troubled...or be afraid”

(Gospel of John Chapter 14: 25-29)

On Sunday May 22, I preached on “Pentecost of Peace” inspired by the John 14:25-29 scripture. I was asked to share some of the main highlights of the preaching in this month’s Spire. Here are some of the main thoughts:

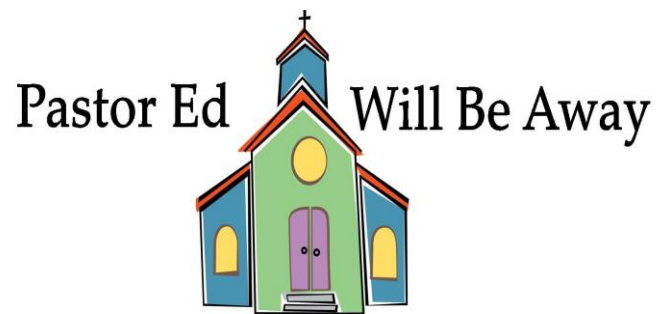
- God promises strength, it comes in the form of **PEACE!**
- God’s **PEACE** is not traditional peace (absent of conflict)!
- We could be happy or sad, injured, sick, depressed, lonely, in the middle of tribulations, hurt by past memories or expectations of what could be or not and still... be at **PEACE!**
- Pastor’s desire for **ALL** is ...to be at **PEACE...to have PEACE!**
- At **PEACE** with yourself...at **PEACE** with others!
- In the absence of **PEACE** our hearts are in trouble and we live in fear!
- My invitation is that we claim and reclaim **GOD’S PEACE!**
- St. Francis of Assisi invites us to be Instruments of **PEACE!**

- Be at **PEACE** with your past, with your family, with your memories, in your setting, and in your world!
- Have **PEACE ...be at PEACE** to change those things you can change...and to accept those things you cannot change!

There will be times when you and I can’t see clearly and can’t see the way. There are times when we are lonely, depressed, seriously concerned or in pain. Times when we are victims of injustice or oppression. Remember **GOD IS NEAR...YOU ARE NOT ALONE.** There will be an end to the storm... seek **STRENGTH IN GOD AND IN YOUR CHURCH COMMUNITY!**

MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH PEACE...

Pastor Ed



7/10 -7/24; 7/31-8/5/2016

News For Kids, Youth & Families



VBS 2016
Aug 15 ~ 19 from 9 to 12 noon

Vacation Bible School Registration Form is included in this Spire. Please pre-register your child for "Cave Quest" Following Jesus the Light of the World August 15th through August 19th 9:00 ~ 12:00. Feel free to invite your child's friends to this awesome week of music, learning and fun!

Children Sunday

Children's Sunday is June 12th @ 10:00 am. The Children of our Sunday School will be leading the Worship Service with the theme of Unity. After the service please plan on staying for the Children's Sunday Picnic, immediately following the service. Hot Dogs and chips and lemonade is provided. Bring a salad or side dish or dessert to share. We will have our picnic on the front lawn of the church. Please come and enjoy this wonderful worship with our youngest members as the Worship Leaders. The rehearsal for Children's Sunday is Saturday June 11th @ 10:00 am until 11:30.



Thankyou

I would like to thank our weekly Sunday School teacher Lisa Jaffery and thank you to Chante' Wilson for our Nursery Care and Dee Hart as our substitute teacher. I am grateful for their willingness and their dedication to our children. We had a wonderful Sunday School year! I also would like to thank the Faith Formation Team for their hard work and dedication, Chante' Wilson, Dee Hart, Dave Weaver, Libbie Merrow, and Pat Robair. All these people made the year wonderful with all their talents and gifts. Thank you!

Children's Bulletin

Beginning Sunday June 19th children will receive a Children's Bulletin for use during the worship service throughout the summer months. Sunday School will resume Rally Sunday September 11th. Have a wonderful and healthy Summer filled with God's blessings and peace.

Faith Formation Meeting June 9th 6:30 pm



Happy
Father's Day!



An Update on the Refugee Project May 2016

The Al Asmi family has arrived and is transitioning to their new home in an apartment complex in Bloomfield. Fadi, the father, and Eman, the mother, are caring for their son Hamdi, age 8, their daughter Farah, age 18 months, and their daughter Nour Sham, age three months.

The family originally lived in Daraa, Syria, which is on the Jordanian border and is the city in which the Syrian civil war started. They left Syria and have been in Jordan for the last two years until they left the Middle East on May 11th for the flight to Cairo and then on to JFK.

Many are working to help with the adjustment. In our church, the Bunkers are finding summer activity for Hamdi and getting him ready for school in the fall—probably at Metacomet. Jane Berg is coordinating all the transportation for the family which requires the transferring of baby car seats with each trip!! Eunice Medwinter, Erie Pinney, and Deborah Harrell Davis have worked with a wonderful group furnishing the apartment, and it is beautiful. Peggy Inglehart and the Merrows have offered to help with transportation and orienting the family to Bloomfield. Marnie Clark is ready to contribute to the English as a second language effort. Trudy Barnard has offered to babysit. Mary Laiuppa spent hours looking for apartments.

Doris Ahrens has knitted beautiful baby blankets.

In addition, there are many volunteers from Seabury, Duncaster, the Bloomfield Muslim Center, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, the Unitarian Society of Hartford, Old Saint Andrews Episcopal Church, First Church Windsor, and the Flagg Road UCC who have contributed and continue to offer hours of support. Sami Aziz and his wife Vjosa Dodds have been extremely helpful in welcoming the family and in finding translators. It really takes a village!!! The Bloomfield Interfaith Association is offering support.

The family has visited Social Security and the Department of Social Services. They have traveled to New Haven for some of the initial orientation sessions and medical evaluations. There are many things to do and ongoing challenges. Finding activities for Hamdi, getting internet, cable, TV, and phone services organized, learning English, learning the bus schedules, how to shop, where to shop, how to use the library—the list goes on and on. If anyone has questions or wants to babysit, drive, take buses, teach, or help in other ways, please contact David Hager at dhager3207@comcast.net or 860-690-3240. Working with the family is a rich experience.



MONTHLY CALENDAR WORSHIP JUNE 2016

June 5	Solo/Quartet
June 12 (Children Sunday)	Children Sunday
June 19 (Father's Day)	The Praise Team
June 26	The Praise Team

*subject to change due to volunteer choirs availability

Children/Youth Music Program



In recent conversations with Pastor Ayala and CE Director Dorine DeCarli, it was determined that there is a need for the participation of children/youth in the Music Ministry during worship services. As a result of these conversations, we have decided to incorporate this musical element on Communion Sunday each month. Pastor Ayala thought this was the best Sunday of the month because the children are already in worship and normally participate in the communion celebration. We are asking parents, guardians, and friends to assist us in this endeavor which will begin in the new church year 2016-2017 (October - June). The musical offering can be instrumental, vocal or liturgical dance; it can be solo, duet, a group, etc. Classmates and other children/youth that are not members of First Congregational church are invited. It must be adequate and fruitful - **not a performance but an act of worship**. Final approval of what is included will be by the Music Team, Minister of Music with input from Pastor Ayala, Board of Deacons and CE Director. Please **email** the name of the child/youth, their musical talents, to the Minister of Music, Eustace Straker (straepipes@yahoo.com) so that we can begin to accumulate this information during the summer months. Also, share with us your ideas as we build community together. God bless!



Jennah Rose Delgado June 13
 Peggy Igleheart June 19
 Sally Foster June 21
 Angela Maine June 22
 Judy Bunker June 29



June 5
 Communion Sunday
 June 12
 Children's Sunday
 June 19
 Father's Day

- * Sue Davis is in rehab at McLean Care, calls & cards would be appreciated.
 The address: 75 Great Pond Rd. Simsbury, CT 06070. (Evergreen Section) 860.408.5214.
- *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**
 June 2016 Wintonbury Spire



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105-6004

May 23, 2016

Dear Christians of the Connecticut Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus, the Risen One!

We give thanks for you, our partners in the church, for our common purpose in serving God. Our first and last word is gratitude, to the God who calls us each beloved, and calls us by name.

We are writing out of our particular concern for ministries that strive for racial justice. Recently, at the Silver Lake Conference Center, a banner declaring that "Black Lives Matter" was defaced. In red ink, the anonymous defacer wrote across the banner, "All Lives Matter."

We have seen this same action in other places. We have had spirited arguments with friends and colleagues who fervently believe that "All" lives matter, and that to single out some lives seems to diminish the worthiness of others. We disagree with that analysis, although we welcome the conversation about this.

But the action taken at Silver Lake — a place of holy encounter and spiritual refuge — was unwelcome. No matter the motivation, the vandal defaced "Blackness." No matter the motivation, the vandal acted in a way that is painfully, brutally familiar to persons who identify as Black: assaulting their race, denying their history, dismissing their pain — and thereby intending to diminish the image of God in them.

We wish to say this to our colleagues who are Black: we apologize that to date, we have failed to adequately confront the presence of racism in ourselves, in our churches, and in our society. We see, in the anonymous attack on a banner, an anger that seems wholly unaware of our culture's continued brutality to Black lives. We are even more committed to the essential work of eradicating racism because of the vandalism that occurred in our outdoor conference center — in "God's back yard."

It is worth mentioning that the person who vandalized the sign has been identified. Members of the church group that was visiting Silver Lake at the time were shocked and dismayed at the act. They are using this incident to deepen their own awareness of racial violence. For that, we praise God!

We also wish to make use of this incident to raise awareness of the urgent, ongoing work to expose racism in ourselves and in our midst. We have many resources available to the Connecticut Conference (UCC) on our website (<http://ctucc.org/racialjustice/>).

We ask your prayers for the many in our conference who are responding to the call to answer racism with the power of Christ's compassion - that life of shared suffering and transforming love. At the end, as at the beginning, we thank God for this church that gives us companionship in the costly work of discipleship.

Yours in Christ,

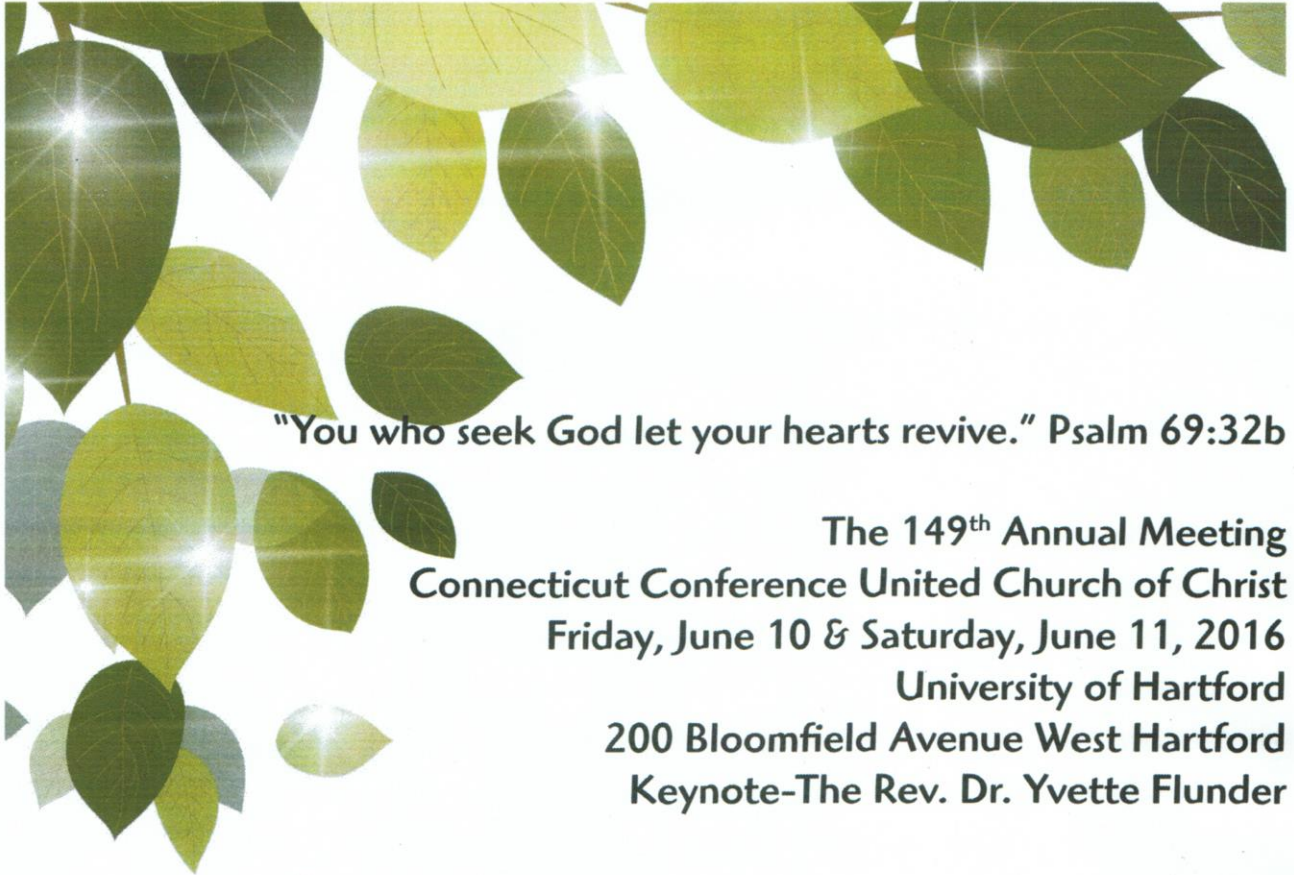
The Rev. Kent J. Siladi, Conference Minister

Ms. Persephone Hall and the Rev. Dr. John A. Nelson, co-chairs, Board of Directors, CTUCC-Racial Justice Ministry



God is still speaking,

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



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

**The 149th Annual Meeting
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**

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.



**www.ctucc.org
Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**



**Authorized Ministers Luncheon
Friday, June 10 Noon to 4 PM
University of Hartford**



JUNE	2016
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Every Sunday</i></p> <p>8 & 10 am Worship 12:30 New Birth Community Church, 4:00 Yoga</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Every Monday</i></p> <p>6pm Bell Choir 7pm Narc. Anon.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">June 5 <i>8 & 10:00am worship</i> Communion Sunday Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Times Lectionary Possibilities: 1 Kings 17: 8-16, (17-24); Psalm 146; Psalm 30; Galatians 1: 11-24; Luke 7: 11-17</p>	<p>6 Beginning of Ramadan</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">June 12 <i>8 & 10am worship</i> Children's Sunday Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Times Lectionary Possibilities: 1 Kings 21: 1-10 (11-14), 15-21a); Psalm 5: 1-8 or 2 Samuel 11: 26-12: 10; Psalm 32; Galatians 2: 15-21; Luke 7: 36-8: 3</p>	<p>13 Loaves & Fishes Preparation on Mon June 13 Serving on Tues June 14</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">June 19 <i>8 & 10am worship</i> Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Times Father's Day Lectionary Possibilities: 1 Kings 19: 1-4, (5-7) 8-15a; Psalm 42 & 43; Isaiah 65: 1-9; Psalm 22: 19-28; Galatians 3: 23-39; Luke 8: 26-39</p>	<p>20</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">June 26 <i>8 & 10am worship</i> Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Times Annual Meeting Lectionary Possibilities: 2 Kings 2: 1-2, 6-14; Psalm 77: 1-2, 11-20 or 1 Kings 19: 15-16, 19-21; Psalm 16; Galatians 5: 1, 13-25; Luke 9: 51-62</p>	<p>27</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">July 3 <i>9:30am worship</i> Communion Sunday Fourteenth in Ordinary Times Lectionary Possibilities: 2 Kings 5: 1-14; Psalm 30 or Isaiah 66: 10-14; Psalm 66: 1-9; Galatians 6: (1-6), 7-16; Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20</p>	<p>4 Church Office Closed</p> 

JUNE

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 7:00 pm Yoga</i>	<i>Every Friday 7:30 pm Alc. Anon.</i>	<i>Every Saturday</i>
May 31 9:15 am Exercise	June 1	June 2 6:30 pm Wintonbury Flying Club	June 3 9:15 am Exercise	June 4
7 9:15 am Exercise	8	9 6:30 pm Faith Formation	10 9:15 am Exercise	11
14 9:15 am Exercise	15 7pm Church Council	16	17 9:15am exercise	18 11:00 am Memorial Service for Richard Maine
11:00 am Loaves & Fishes serving Offsite				
21 9:15 am Exercise	22 4:00 pm ABC	23	24 9:15am exercise	25 25th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ
28	June 29 4:00 pm ABC	June 30	July 1	July 2

**First Congregational Church in
Bloomfield, UCC
Meeting of Ministry Teams,
Council & Staff**

Saturday, April 9th, 2016

Welcome and Opening Prayer – Pastor Ayala
@ 10.09 am

Introductory Remarks – Council Chair,
Carolyn Delgado

In attendance: Pastor Ayala, Carolyn
Delgado, Mary Laiuppa, Eustace Straker,
Dorine DeCarli, George Zars, Ron
Robinson, Michael Riley, David Weaver,
Anne Weaver, Trudy Barnard, Carol
Johnson, Priscilla McCatty, Karen
Blanchard, Shantel Bremmer, Andrea
Mercer, Dee Hart and Clay Hart.

Today's meeting focused on "big picture ideas" and church structure. There was consensus that the new structure allows for more flexibility regarding meetings and the work of the teams. For example, teams meet as needed and utilize e-mail for communication, allowing more time to do the actual work. Karen noted that the current structure allows the Parish Care Team to reach more of the congregation. The importance of communication was stressed and teams were encouraged to send meeting minutes to Andrea for distribution.

The revised Constitution was approved by the congregation in December 2015 and became effective January 1, 2016. Budget sheets for 2016-2017 will be sent to Team Leaders in May. FCC B Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2016.

Pastor Ed discussed stewardship.
"Stewardship is a spiritual response to

congregational needs." May has been designated as stewardship month and Pastor Ed plans to preach three sermons about stewardship. Other suggestions included making a pie chart to describe how the operating budget of the church is allocated. It is very important to let the congregation know that every pledge is important. A question was raised regarding how our children can be introduced to stewardship and how they can be included. Dorine said that she and the Faith Formation team are discussing this.

Pastor Ed led a discussion about church growth. "Growth comes from moving beyond..." Pastor asked us how we would respond in an "elevator conversation" to the question "How would you describe FCCB? The word "love" was prominent in the answers. The group discussed ways to grow the church. Suggestions included ways to reach the wider church and community through Open House events, brochures, expanding the use of social media, messages from the pulpit, evangelism, greater exposure to and participation in the community. "New Times require New Visions!!!"

Pastor Ed and Carolyn reported on the search process. The goal is to have a Search Committee in place in May. Pastor gave a brief overview of the search process. The group expressed positive comments about Pastor Ed, Carolyn and staff stepping up during this time of transition.

Meeting adjourned at noon with a prayer circle.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Davey-Mercer



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES 4-20-16

Attendees: E. Ayala ex officio, C. Dobo, P. McCatty, C. Delgado, S. Goetjen, C. Hart, C. Wilson. After an opening prayer, the minutes of 3-16-16 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS: A proposed change to the church constitution regarding the nominating process was reviewed and passed by Council by email on 3-28-16 as follows: Article VI, Section C – “Ninety days prior to the annual meeting, the Church Council appoints three individuals to act as a Nominating Committee to develop the leadership slate to be presented and voted on at the annual meeting. The Council may make recommendations or provide direction regarding the composition of the leadership slate. At the annual meeting, any member may present additional nominations for the elected positions.

Vacancies occurring during the year of the Council or of the Ministry Team Leaders may be filled by the Church Council until the next elections.”

The Nursery School name change approved at the 3-16-16 council meeting was amended to “First Congregational Church Child Development Center” in order to better describe the type of program offered, and not be in conflict with other early learning programs in the area.

STEWARDSHIP: The theme for this year’s campaign comes from 1 Peter, 4:10. “Like good stewards of the grace you have received from God, put yourselves at the service of others.” During three Sundays starting May 1, the pastor will preach on stewardship, testimonials from individuals will be a part of the service, and visual materials will be displayed in Fellowship Hall. A stewardship letter from Council, including pledge cards, will go out to the congregation after May 1st.

SEARCH COMMITTEE: Council reviewed a list of suggested names with the goal of

choosing congregation members who will be called and asked to serve in the search process for a settled pastor. The aim is to find 9 members who can commit to serving for a period of approximately 12-18 months. Once the committee is established, there will be a retreat to familiarize the members with the tasks, and begin to develop a profile of our church to be distributed to potential candidates. The Conference will provide guidance throughout the process.

FINANCIAL REPORT: For the 9 months ended March 2016, income is in line with the budget as compared to last year at this time. However, in looking at potential pledge units for the remainder of this year, there is a potential deficit because of deaths and people moving away from the area. Getting rent for the parsonage and payment for the backpack program has helped to boost income for the time being. Expenses are in line with or under budget in most areas with the exception of special music.

PASTOR’S REPORT: There is continued focus on the worship experience. Feedback indicates that attendance is improving.

Visitation by the pastor is concentrating on those in most critical need. There is ongoing interaction with the ministry teams. Bible study attendance is growing, and a group has been formed at Seabury. The early service continues to be enthusiastically attended.

Pastor Ed thanked Carolyn for her coordination efforts.

Next meeting: May 18 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Wilson





**CHURCH COUNCIL
MINUTES
5-18-16**

Attendees: C. Delgado, P. McCatty, S. Goetjen, E. Ayala ex officio, C. Dobo, c. Hart, C. Wilson. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Ed.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE: Seven people have agreed to serve to date. Efforts will be made to get one more member to reach the goal of a total committee of nine members. A service of commission is being planned for the first Sunday in June.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE: As of 5-18-16, 46 pledges have been received. Last year a total of 84 pledges were received. There has been a stewardship message and testimonies from congregation members each Sunday since the 1st of May. Coleen has composed a thankyou letter to be sent to those who send in their pledge cards.

FINANCIAL REPORT: As of the ten months ended April 2016, pledge income is about the same as last year at this time. If pledges come in as currently projected, there may need to be expense reductions. Expenses are under budget in most areas with the exceptions of special music and building repairs/maintenance for both the Church and Gale Memorial.

ANNUAL MEETING June 26TH: In reviewing the proposed slate, Council positions are filled, but many of the Ministry/Team leader positions need filling. Coleen has offered to write "classified ads" with job descriptions to put in the bulletins, Spire, emails in order to elicit interest in hopes that there will be a full slate to present on June 26th. The preliminary 2016-2017 budget will be presented and reviewed at this time.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Connecting with people continues to be a very important focus, and Pastor Ed receives valuable feedback from those he visits: i.e., Faye Smith feels that transportation for those who have no way to attend services/church events should be a key project. This will be raised with the Parish Care

Team. Staff relations are good and performance reviews are in process. Pastor Ed requested information on the following topics: 1.) Current status of the Backpack Project, 2.) Review of the interim agreement package with Carolyn and, 3.) Need for additional funds in Doreen's continuing education budget, as Director of Christian Education, in order to complete a two-year certificate program in faith formation, theology, and administration. This would give her tools to expand the adult education portion of her job description. Pastor Ed noted that he does not use the continuing education portion of his budget, and asked if some of that could be used for Doreen's courses. Council agreed. MSV to move \$250 from Pastor's continuing education budget to the Christian Education budget...Pastor's vacation schedule was reviewed.

Next meeting: June 15 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Wilson



Save The Date!!!

The annual meeting of the church will be held directly following worship on Sunday, June 26th.

Agenda items include reviewing and approving the preliminary 2016-2017 budget and the proposed slate of officers and team leaders for the upcoming church year which begins July 1st.

This is an important meeting and we welcome your attendance and participation.



Search Committee Named

After much prayer, many conversations and careful deliberation, a Search Committee has been established. We are pleased and excited to announce the members who have agreed to serve in this very important ministry in the life of our church. Members include Trudy Barnard, Kevin Colvin, Ursula Dang, Oz Gibbs, Sophia Gray, Clay Hart, Michael Riley, Cecilia Simmons and Chante Wilson. Each of them brings unique gifts, knowledge, perspective and experiences which will serve to enrich the important and challenging work of identifying and selecting the candidate who will be our new pastor.

The Search Committee will be commissioned during the worship service on June 5th. Please join us in welcoming and blessing them as they begin their work in the Search and Call process for a settled pastor.

Pastor Ed and the Council

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.



Memorial Garden

The members of the **First Congregational Church in Bloomfield on Sunday, May 30th, 1993 dedicated a portion of the Church grounds as a Memorial Garden** to honor passage into life everlasting. The Garden serves a variety of purposes. Foremost among these, the Garden was created to serve as the final resting place for departed loved ones. It is an appropriate location to scatter the cremated remains of members, friends, and their families, those for whom our Church has held special meaning.

The Memorial Garden is an integral part of the ongoing life of the Church, enhancing and beautifying the grounds through the years. It **is also a place of tranquility, for reflection, celebration of life, and remembrance.**

Members are encouraged to enjoy fellowship, to commune with nature, as well as to find comfort there.

A Memorial Garden Plaque, inscribed with the names, dates of birth and dates of death is located in the wing of the Church near the Garden. Also recorded are memorial gifts to the Garden Fund. A fee of \$350.00 is for interment, engraving of the nameplate on the Plaque, and as a contribution toward support of the Garden itself.

The Memorial Garden Committee has the responsibility to keep interment records and to administer the Memorial Garden Fund so as to maintain the beauty and dignity of the Garden.

Donations to the Memorial Garden Fund are gladly accepted; please make checks payable to The First Congregational Church, check memo: Memorial Garden.



The members of the Memorial Garden Committee are:

Mike Fuss Oz Gibbs Linda Markiewicz Kathy Mathews

Allan Thompson Kay Yablecki George Zars

John & Vicky Casner

David Hager and his red pickup truck



On Sunday, May 29 we will observe the Blessing of the Memorial Garden after our 10 am service. Please join us.



Blessing of The Memorial Garden

May, 29, 2016

Thomas W. Storms ~ 3.11.1992
Clara J. Tyrrell ~ 4.13.1993
Alice B. Smith ~ 7.6.1993
Harold A.L. Janes ~ 7.4.1994
Kuan-Yu Chen ~ 8.30.94
Edward Sorant ~ 12.20.1995
Lodewyk Schryver ~ 2.12.1996
Samuel R. Winther ~ 12.14.1996
Mildred Meyer Tucker ~ 6.28.1998
Martin V. Serignese ~ 10.4.1999
Clarence Frederick Roth, Jr. ~ 7.16.2000, Dorothy Bolles Swanson ~ 12.19.2000
Ruth Watkins ~ 4.26.2002
Cassilda Duncan ~ 10.28.2002
Blanche Ona Brown Carlson ~ 1.13.2003, Robert Lee Rollins ~ 4.4.2003
Howard S. Brody ~ 4.26.2003
Walter E. Nordstrom ~ 12.23.2003
Joan C. Winther ~ 3.15.2004
Irene D. Forster ~ 8.6.2004
Martin C. Bush ~ 11.20.2007
Edith L. Holmes ~ 2.27.2008
Sally Whittaker ~ 4.7.2008
Donna Fuss ~ 9.30.2008
Frederick D. Havens ~ 11.13.2009
Phyllis B. Oliver ~ 5.28.2010
Arthur H. Swan ~ 4.26.2011
Walter Brunner ~ 2.2.2015

Richard K. Stevens ~ 9.27.1992
Patricia B. Cosker ~ 6.13.1993
Brenniss G. Tyrrell ~ 9.8.1993
Kirtley J. Watkins Jr. ~ 7.22.1994
Gladys B. Atkins ~ 1.31.1995
Milton Robert Farr ~ 11.23.1996
Harold Carlson ~ 9.23.1996
John R. "Bob" Whiting ~ 11.29.1997
Terry Kay Hitt Thomsen ~ 4.19.1999
Agnes Weir Pease ~ 11.2.1999
Charles Pease ~ 8.26.2002
Raymond Alarick Swanson ~ 11.22.2002
Hollis W. Huston ~ 6.8.2003
Hope Blackman Carter ~ 1.12.2004
Beatrice S. Campbell ~ 5.24.2004
Donald H. Oliver ~ 9.1.2006
Ethel Lorraine Hawkins ~ 1.8.2008
Shirley C. Whiting ~ 3.5.2008
Annie Robbie Schryver ~ 7.18.2008
Alice Medbery Sorant ~ 6.16.2009
Marilyn Helen Long ~ 4.1.2010
Helen S. Wills ~ 1.20.2011
Doris H. Wentworth ~ 10.31.13
June Berg ~ 11.11.2015

***"I will tell you a mystery! We will not die, but we will all be changed"
(I Cor, 15:51)***



STEWARDSHIP 2016



Love-Your-Church Campaign

**STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS ARE DUE
MAY 31, 2016**



Celebrate Bloomfield 2016

The Town of Bloomfield invites all to the second annual Celebrate Bloomfield festivities to be held from June 1 - June 5TH. There are multiple events being held throughout town. For a schedule of events, please visit our website www.celebratebloomfield.org

**SPECIAL GUEST - SINGER/ACTRESS
ANIKA NONI ROSE** will appear at a venue to be decided during Celebrate Bloomfield!!!

VBS Registration Ages 4 – 11 First Congregational Church in Bloomfield

August 15 – 19, 2016, 9 am – 12 noon

Families, please complete **one form per child** and return to 10 Wintonbury Avenue, Bloomfield, CT, 06002.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Age ____ Grade in Fall ____

Date of Birth month _____ day _____ year _____ male _____ female _____

Child's address _____

Parent/Guardian name _____

Parent/Guardian phone number(s) _____

Person(s) to be contacted in case of emergency _____

Name phone Relationship to Child _____

Name phone Relationship to Child _____

Does your child have any medical condition(s) that we should be aware of? (allergies, medications, etc.) If yes, please describe: _____

Siblings who will also be attending VBS: _____

My child would like to be in class with the following friend(s) _____

I would like to volunteer to help with _____

The undersigned gives permission to his or her child to participate in the above named activity and releases First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, its officers, employees, and agents from any liability whatsoever for any injury or death to person or loss or damage to property sustained by the undersigned for any member of his family, in attendance, and the undersigned agrees to defend and indemnify First Congregational Church, its officers, employees, and agents from any liability or loss they might sustain by reason thereof.

In the event I cannot be reached in an EMERGENCY, I hereby give permission to the Emergency physician to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for and order injection, anesthesia, or surgery for my child as named above.

Signed _____ Date _____

Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____

OR

I do not wish to have Medical Treatment or Transportation for my child until I have been contacted by emergency personnel.

Signed _____ Date _____

By signing this registration form you agree that any photographs taken of your child at or during this event are the property of First Congregational Church in Bloomfield and may be used in future publications.

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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
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:
June 28, 2016 Aug 30, 2016 Sept 30, 2016
Oct 28, 2016 Nov 29, 2016 Dec 30 2016

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. Edwin O. Ayala, Interim Pastor
pastor@firstchurchbloomfield.org
860.242.0776 x 2 860-836-6651

Andrea Davey-Mercer
Administrative Assistant
office@firstchurchbloomfield.org
860-242-0776

Eustace Straker
Minister of Music
straepipes@yahoo.com
860-242-0776 x 3

Dorine DeCarli
Christian Education Director
ce@firstchurchbloomfield.org
860-242-0776 x 4

Shantel Bremmer
Nursery School Director
preschool@firstchurchbloomfield.org
860-242-0183 x 5

Michelle Alves
Building Management
jemgmt@gmail.com
860.888.1025

