# SEPTEMBER 2016



# Wintonbur

The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield - United Church of Christ

# "BE A RAINBOW IN SOMEONE ELSE'S CLOUD"

Maya Angelou has always been an inspirational Poet who even after death is still inviting us all to... make a difference in the lives of others!

Her message is so consistent with Jesus's message and his invitation to us, to be salt, to be a light in this world!

Margaret Mead is quoted as saying "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people <u>CAN CHANGE THE WORLD</u>

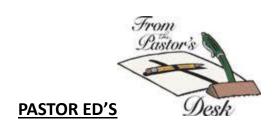
It's the only thing that ever has!"

You and I can make a difference In our world, our community, Our families...and YES, in our Church!

As we begin a new Church Calendar year I would encourage you to explore creative ways of making a difference in the life of First Congregational Church in Bloomfield!

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND GIVE YOU NEW STRENGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AMONG US!

Pastor Ed



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

The New Testament depicts Jesus as always being concerned with all human lives, describing his mission as...

"I have come so that you may live in abundance"

# ENJOY LIFE, LIVE YOUR PRESENT FULLY!

Another beautiful biblical lesson is...

"It is better to give than to receive"

Let's be <u>good stewards</u> of the blessings that GOD has given us...Give out of love!

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH FULLY, IT IS GOD'S BLESSING TO ALL OF US.

Pastor Ed

### TO OUR BELOVED CONGREGATION

May God's Grace, Peace and Inspiration be with you all!

On Sunday, August 28, I had the honor of meeting with FCCB Deacons in planning details related to our worship and program for the next months. We are all very excited about the inspiring experiences that we will have for our beloved Congregation.

In the conversation I clarified something that has been in the minds of some at our Church regarding my openness to be considered as a candidate for the permanent pastoral position at FCCB. I must admit that this has also been in my mind for some time.

I want to convey officially to our Congregation that I will not

be applying for the position of Settled Pastor.

I pray that God's Spirit will help the Congregation in identifying the inspirational leader that will continue to work with all of you in building a healthy witnessing and caring community of faith. A leader that will care for the Congregation and help it grow!

As your Transitional Pastor I will continue to provide pastoral leadership until your new pastor begins. I've been called to serve and I will continue to do this with passion and integrity. Please contact Andrea if you need my support, a visit or someone to listen to you.

May God's wisdom and love continue to touch all our hearts...

"He/she who binds to himself a joy
Does the winged life destroys
But he/she who kisses the joy as it flies
Lives in Eternity's sunrise"
William Blake Eternity Poem

Pastor Ed



An all church picnic will be held after the 10 am service on the front lawn of the church.

Hot dogs, chips and lemonade will be served.

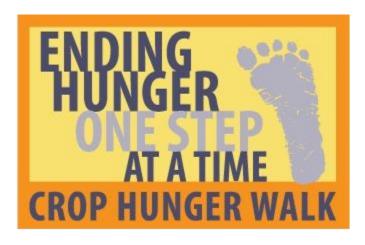
Please join us and bring a side dish or dessert to share.

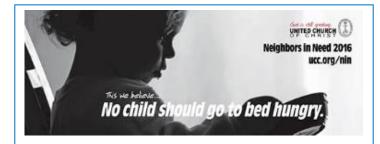
This is a great way to come together as a church community to celebrate the upcoming Sunday School year. All are welcome!



# Save the Date

CROP Walk October 9, 2016 at 1:00pm





Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. Most UCC congregations will receive the NIN offering on **October 2, 2016** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance. However, some local churches select another date. NIN contributions can be made on-line at any time at www.ucc.org/nin.

# News For Kids, Youth



**Families** 

### Faith Formation Meeting

Our first Faith Formation meeting is on September 15th @ 6:30 PM. Anyone wishing to join the team is welcome to attend the first meeting. Bring your ideas and energy and help us nurture our children and adults.

Mark Your Calendar now... First & Third Sunday each month - YOUTH GROUP

### Youth Group for Grades 5-12 Our

first meeting is Sunday October  $2^{th}$  @ 4:00 - 5:30. Our second meeting is the  $3^{rd}$  Sunday October  $16^{th}$  @ 4:00 - 5:30 pm. Bring a friend.

Sunday Sept 11<sup>th, -</sup> Sunday school Preschool - Grade 9 Rally Sunday Picnic after service Sunday Sept 18<sup>th, -</sup> Sunday School Preschool - Grade 9

Sunday Sept 25<sup>th -</sup> Sunday School Preschool - Grade 9

Youth Group begins in Oct, for Grade 5-12, meeting on First and Third Sunday each month

It you would like to hear the music for VBS Cave Quest 2016, log on to Youtube.com. It is surely great music.

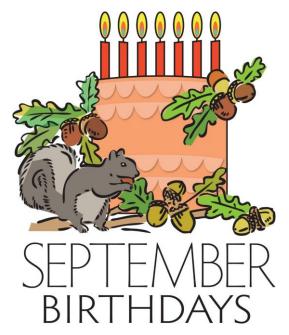
CAVE QUEST 2016
"JESUS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

### Rally Sunday September 11

Welcome to a new Program Year of Sunday School, Youth Group and Family Fun. Rally together on Sunday September 11th at the 10:00 am Worship Service. On this very special Sunday we will be blessing Back Packs, bring your Back Pack to church and have it blessed for the School year. We also will be blessing Backpacks, IPads and IPhones for our college students. Come and receive your blessing for the School year! During Sunday School the children will be making a Back Pack pull to go on their blessed Back Pack. Invite your friends to come to church and have them bring their Back Pack too. Our Sunday School classes will follow after Word with Children. Plan to stay for lunch on the front lawn after church. We will be having our Annual Rally Sunday Picnic. Please bring a dish or salad to share! Rally together, enjoy the blessings of the day as we begin our new year.

Vacation Bible School Vacation Bible School was another wonderful experience for 29 children of our church and community. We had a great time and wonderful feedback from the children and parents. I would like to thank the volunteers for their time, energy and enthusiasm. Teachers and Support staff: Karen Blanchard, Marnie Clark, Ursula Dang, Angela Maine, Sue Thompson, Pat Robair and Trudy Barnard. Thank you so very much for your amazing work with the children. Our youth group leaders and helpers: Tiarra Jackson, Kaitlin Percy, Isaiah & Joshua Clarke, Amber McKenzie & Kaleb McKenzie, Alex Correa, Beatrice Dang, Maisy (Marnie's granddaughter) and Katie Keene. These young people did an amazing job helping and leading. Thank you all for your time, energy and talents. What a great group!

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September 2 September 11 September 13 September 14 September 14 September 21 September 22



September 4
Faith Formation Sunday
September 11
Rally Sunday
September 18
Return to 10 am service



Scott & Kim Letendre - 5 years Sept. 24



- \*Carol Wilson recovering from surgery.
- \*Carol Johnson dealing with health issues.
- \*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 are appreciated.
- \*Carol Wolcott, would appreciate cards, 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
Faye Smith ~ Adele Wright

Dear FCCB Family! Thank you for your birthday cards and well wishes...Andrea

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# The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield Slate of Officers and Team Leaders for 2016-2017

### Church Council

**Chair - Ron Robinson** H) 860.521.5129 ~

Vice Chair - Coleen Dobo - (H) 860.372.9437 ~ cdobo11@gmail.com

**Member-at-Large - Carolyn Delgado** - (H) 860.977.6742 ~ © 860.977.6742 carolyn\_delgado@sbcglobal.net

Member -at-Large - Priscilla McCatty - (H) 860.243.3620 ~ priscillamccatty@att.net

Financial Manager - Scott Goetjen - (H) 860.408-1325 ~ wsgoetjen@comcast.net

Church Clerk -

Interim Pastor - Rev. Edwin O. Ayala-(c)860.836.6651~ eoaintersections33@yahoo.com

### **Ministries**

### Spiritual Life

Deacons/Worship - Anne Weaver (c) 860.966.0786 ~ annerw1935@gmail.com

Music -

**Faith Formation - Dee Hart -** (c) 860.573.8443 ~ <u>hrmdawn@yahoo.com</u>

Stewardship -

### Congregational Care

Parish Care – Karen Blanchard - (H) 860.651.0802 ~ © 860.424.7868 <u>blan61@cox.net;</u> karenhblanchard@gmail.com3

Fellowship -

### **Outreach and Witness**

Mission -

Membership -

**Visibility – Sophia Gray–** (H) 860.242.9226 ~ (W) 860.624.1160 clovergray@aol.com

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**Nursery School – Lisa Jaffray -** (H) 860.408.9261 ~ (c) 860.805.9942; ljaffray@comcast.net

### **Business Team**

Financial Manager - Scott Goetjen - (H) 860.408.1325 <u>wsgoetjen@comcast.net</u>

**Treasurer – Linda Markiewicz** (H) 860.243.1411 ~ © 860.463.8869 Portall@aol.com

Investments and Trusts - Ralph Blanchard - (H) 860.651.0802 ~ © 860.424.7869 blan61@cox.net

Facilities - Mary Laiuppa - (H) 860.242.1505 © 860.2098262 <u>laiuppa1@comcast.net</u>

### Other Positions

Financial Secretary - George Zars - (H) 860.242.6798.7932 <u>zamathman@comcast.net</u>

Memorial Secretary - Dorly Brunner - (H) 860.236.0131 ~ © 860.997.2326 dorlyb@sbcglobal.net

**Pastoral Search Team -** Trudy Barnard, Kevin Colvin, Ursula Dang, Oz Gibbs, Sophia Gray, Clay Hart, Michael Riley, Cecelia Simmons and Chante Wilson

Please consider
volunteering
for one of the
open positions.
Church Council
Chair can share
the details of
which ever
position may appeal to you!

# Open Ministry Positions



SEPTEMBER		2016
Every Sunday 8 & 10 am Worship beginning September 18 12:30 New Birth Community Church	September Flowers	Every Monday 7pm Narc. Anon.
August 28  Worship at 9:30 am Only  Lectionary Possibilities:  Jeremiah 2: 4-13; Psalm 81: 1, 10-16 OR Sirach 10: 12-18 or Proverbs 25: 6-7;  Psalm 112; Hebrew 13: 1-8; 15-16; Luke 14: 1, 7-14		Aug 29 Resume Monday – Friday schedule 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
September 4  Worship at 9:30 am Only  COMMUNION SUNDAY  Faith Formation Sunday  Lectionary Possibilities:  Jeremiah 18: 1-11; Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18 OR Deuteronomy 30: 15-20;  Psalm 1; Philemon 1: 21; Luke 14: 25-33		5 Church Office Closed Labor Day  HAPPY LABOR DAY
September 11  Rally Sunday Worship & All-Church Picnic  Worship at 10 am only  Lectionary Possibilities:  Jeremiah 4: 11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14 OR Exodus 32: 7-14; Psalm 51: 1-10;  1 Timothy 1: 12-17; Luke 15: 1-10		12 2 pm Loaves & Fishes preparation
September 18  Resume Bible Discussion at 8 am and Worship at 10 am  Lectionary Possibilities:  Jeremiah 8: 18-9:1; Psalm 79: 1-9 OR Amos 8: 4-7;  Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2: 1-7; Luke 16: 1-13		19
September 25 Bible Discussion at 8 and Wo	rship at 10 am	26
Lectionary Possibility Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91: 1-6, 14-16 OF 1 Timothy 6: 6-19; Luke 10	<b>R</b> Amos 6: 1a, 4-7; Psalm 146;	
October 2 World Communion So Neighbors In Need Offe Bible discussion at 8 and Wor	3	

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SEPTEM	BER			2016
Every Tuesday	Every Wed. 6:30 pm Choir 7 pm Alc. Anon.	Every Thursday 10 am Bible Study	Every Friday 7:30 pm Alc.Anon	Every Saturday
		1 1:30 pm Parish Care 6:30 pm Wintonbury Flying Club	2	3
6 First Day of school -FCC Child Dev. Center	7	8	9	10
Loaves & Fishes Preparation on Mon Sept 12 Serving on Tues Sept 13	14	15 6:30 pm Faith Formation	16	17
20	Choir 6:30 pm Church Council 6:30 pm	22 10 am Bible Study resume	23	24
27	28	29	30	October 1

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# An Update on the Refugee Project September 2016

Eman and Fadi Al Asmi have been living in Bloomfield along with their three children for just over three months now. Hamdi is eight and will be starting third grade at Metacomet School. He finished a session in summer school, participated in two weeks of Bloomfield Summer Camp, and started soccer training during a week of soccer camp. Farah will be two on October 26<sup>th</sup> and is addicted to cell phones. Nour Sham is coming on seven months and is teething.

Of note, there are now four Syrian families being resettled in the West Hartford-Bloomfield area with the help of IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) and co-sponsoring groups like ours.

There is some routine in the Al Asmi family's lives at this point although there is a great deal of time spent responding to requirements from the Department of Social Services and registering for various programs. Fadi is working as a pastry chef at City Steam in Hartford. Both he and Eman will be starting ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at the Bloomfield Continuing Education Center (390 Park Ave) on September 12<sup>th</sup>. There continues to be a need for lots of support for ESL. There has been progress, but there is a long way to go. Many thanks go to the translators from the University of Hartford and the community who have supported the family.

The number of volunteers working with the Al Asmi family is very encouraging. There have been multiple visits to the Food Share drop offs and to the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Food

Pantry. Several outings to the Wintonbury Church Clothing Closet have occurred, and there have been shopping expeditions to ready the family for the coming months. Special ESL sessions at the Prosser Library are becoming routine. Medical appointments continue. Others have taught Hamdi how to ride a bike. One volunteer spent a couple of days riding buses in order to teach Fadi how to get to work and back. Another volunteer has been teaching Fadi "smart food shopping." Friends have taken Fadi and Hamdi to services every Friday. Many have offered rides.

In the coming months while Eman and Fadi are taking ESL classes on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and Hamdi is participating in soccer practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 PM and in soccer games on Saturday mornings there is a great need for babysitters and transportation support. If anyone can contribute to these needs, let David Hager know (860-690-3240 or <a href="mailto:dhager3207@comcast.net">dhager3207@comcast.net</a>). The scheduling is complex, so please volunteer, get to know the family and experience the fun in seeing their faces begin to take more confidence in being here in Bloomfield.



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### **Pastor Search Team News Update!**

The Pastoral Search Team has met several times now over the summer and is putting plans in place to begin our search process. We met with our UCC Regional Minister, Rev. Tamara Moreland in June and discussed UCC policies and procedures and reviewed their documentation.

The search for a new pastor is one that requires not only thoughtful deliberation of what we wish for in a Pastor, but also careful self-evaluation and consideration of what we have to offer and how we can and should support our new Pastor. The search process has very formal requirements and usually takes about one or two years to complete.

The first task our team must complete is the UCC Church Profile. To this end we will be seeking input from the congregation through a written survey, a second hour discussion, (which will probably be held in October) and personal interviews which may be arranged with any of our team members upon request. There is also a suggestion envelope attached to the Pastoral Search bulletin board in the hallway of our building. We hope to have the Church Profile completed by sometime in November. This will then be posted

with the UCC for potential candidates to review.

We hope that everyone in our congregation will be able to participate in these opportunities to contribute to the Church Profile. Please keep an eye on your mailbox as we will be sending out a letter in September which will include a survey for you. We sincerely look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you, Your Pastoral Search Team

Kevin Colvin - Co-Chair
Ursula Dang - Co-Chair
Cecilia Simmons - Secretary
Michael Riley - Spiritual Mentor
Oz Gibbs
Trudy Barnard
Sophia Gray
Clay Hart
Chante Wilson



### **Stewardship Reflection**

By now everyone should have received information regarding the Church budget for 2016 – 2017. The pared down version calls for reductions in many areas, including Missions. It is a "survival" budget but as Pastor Ayala has frequently said, God's plan for us is to THRIVE, not merely survive. This Church has helped all of us, individually and collectively, through fellowship, prayer, Sunday school, Bible study, parish care, etc. and has served so many others with meals, clothes, Nursery school and much more.

Connie and I recently entered the retirement stage of our lives – a stage that naturally prompts reflection and planning. An important consideration has been our contributions – time and money – to our Church. Given our reduced income it would be easy for us to rationalize reducing our contributions but for almost 40 years this Church family has meant so much to the whole Robinson family in so many ways that we have decided to go the other direction.

Connie and I are increasing our pledge by 25%. This is not intended to be boastful, to solicit recognition or to insinuate it is appropriate for everyone to make a 25% increase (or necessarily change their pledge in any way) but merely to highlight how important we feel it is for us to step forward in supporting the Church as it is entering its next chapter with the Search for a new Pastor. The Robinsons have certainly benefited from the previous chapters and want future generations to be as fortunate. And the future starts now. Our hope is that you will join us in supporting this Church's bright future by further reflecting on what this Church has meant to you and our community – physically, socially and spiritually. We recognize that for many your pledge is already the result of such reflection and want to thank everyone for all of the support you can and do provide.

Faithfully,

Ron & Connie Robinson



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### True Colors, Inc.

Dear Rev. EDWIN,

Do you, or someone you know, have room in your heart and home? Do you know a

2 dad family looking for a kid that needs them? Please spread the word!

- T\* is 16. She loves to dance, is a cheerleader and hopes to one day enter a field where she can be an advocate for others. She really wants a one or two dad family in the greater New London area. Ideally she would be the only child.
- N\* is a sweet, kindhearted 14 year old girl with a smile that lights up a room. She loves to laugh, dance and sing along with her favorite songs on the radio. She is searching for a two dad family that is soft-spoken, gentle, flexible, active and compassionate. She is currently in the Wethersfield area but is willing to re-locate anywhere in the state with the right family.
- R\* is 13 is charismatic, outgoing and interested in many things. R\* was assigned male at birth. R\* identifies as female though R\* is currently not allowed to express that identity at all. R\* would love a two dad family where R\* can learn more about the LGBTQ community and culture. R\* is currently in Milford but can go anywhere in the state.
- Kaiden is a 23 year old Trans man with a very unsupportive family. He is looking
  to rent a room in a supportive household in the greater Hartford area and will be
  able to pay small amount of rent beginning next month.

If you, or someone you know might be a resource for any of these youth - or if you want to learn more, please email Robin at <u>director@ourtruecolors.org</u> or call 860.232.0050, x 302.

Thank you so much. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!

Robin



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### **GENERAL ASSOCIATION 2016**

(a continuing education event for clergy and other church leaders)

### September 25-26, 2016

Heritage Hotel and Conference Center 522 Heritage Rd., Southbury

"Typical" American Families: Deconstructing the Myth

New Location! New Format!!

### **AMAZING Speaker!!!**

### **Carlton Mackey:**

(Director, Ethics & the Arts Program for the Emory Center for Ethics)

Carlton Mackey is a photographer, public theologian, husband, and parent in Atlanta, GA. With multiple projects happening at once, Carlton explores the intersection of media images and race, family, and "normality." Join him for a conversation on his project Typical American Families: <a href="http://www.beautifulineveryshade.com/typical-american-families/">http://www.beautifulineveryshade.com/typical-american-families/</a>, as we ask the questions, What is typical? What is American? What is a family? ...and who decides?

### For more information on Carlton Mackey,

click here: <a href="http://www.ethics.emory.edu/people/Faculty/Carlton\_Mackey.html">http://www.ethics.emory.edu/people/Faculty/Carlton\_Mackey.html</a>

For more information and to register for this year's General Association, click here: <a href="https://www.regonline.com/GeneralAssociation2016">https://www.regonline.com/GeneralAssociation2016</a>

**EARLY Registration, now through August 26th:** 

\$110, + \$40 dinner on Sunday (includes Program for both days, Breakfast & Lunch on Monday)

Registration \$125+\$40 dinner, after August 27th – Sept. 18th (NO reservations/cancellations after September 18th)

Hotel Reservations can be made at the Heritage Hotel by calling (203) 264-8200, Group Rate is \$129/tx if reservations are made

BEFORE AUGUST 29, 2016

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### **RETREAT**

For many years, CT Women of the UCC's Eastern District, (most churches east of the CT River) planned a fall retreat. It was a time away from home, family and church responsibilities. Clergy and lay women gathered at a Retreat Center and with an energetic leader studied a specific subject. Friday afternoon to Saturday afternoon and a weekend in the fall of the year with a good leader was all that mattered. When Districts were dissolved several years ago, the State Board took over the job of planning and executing this time away. For a variety of reasons, some women like a one day Retreat, while others like an overnight experience. So, we try to accommodate everyone by alternating.

This year's Retreat will be a one day Retreat on Saturday, September 24, 2016 8:30 to 4:30 First Church of Christ, Congregational, New Britain

CARPE DIEM is the theme for our 2016 Retreat which will be led by the Rev. Lee Ireland. Our leader offers the following:

"Come explore how God's love can nurture our ability to be the voices of love and grace in our daily lives: leading us to moments of awe and deep gratitude. When we deepen our roots in God's love, we are nurtured and become centered as we deal with the branches of our lives: family decisions, medical predicaments and ethical debates.

Registration is \$35.00 and Sept. 15 is our registration deadline. A delicious lunch and welcome coffee are included. Make your check out to CT WOMEN, UCC and mail with complete contact info to Liz Longacre, 115 Cook Ave. Griswold, CT 06351. Contact Susan Waldron, 860 923 2887 or swaldron01@snet.net if more information is needed.

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## THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month may be included in next month's edition.

**Spire Schedule** The Wintonbury Spire will be mailed on the last Friday of each month. Please sign up for the "Spire Party" where we stuff, fold, label, seal and stamp the Spire from 10:30 – 11:30 am.

The next Spire Party will be held on: Sept. 30, 2016

### **STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Rev. Edwin O. Ayala, Interim Pastor pastor@firstchurhcbloomfield.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
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preschool@firstchurchbloomfield.org
860-242-0183

Michelle Alves Building Management jemmgmt@gmail.com 860.888.1025

