

**OCTOBER  
2016**



The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield - United Church of Christ

# The Wintonbury Spire



***“OUR CHURCH...  
OUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY,  
OUR FAITH COMMUNITY”***

***As your Pastor please allow  
me to share  
very inspirational moments  
that I have  
experienced among you in the  
last weeks.  
Inspirational moments that  
GOD has used  
to renew my love for faith  
community life!***

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

*Pastor Ed*

**PASTOR ED'S**



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

*Our 8 AM Sunday and a Thursday 10 am Bible study, where the sharing and openness is a blessing!*

*Pastoral Care visits and conversation that has shown our common humanity at its best!*

*Worship experiences that inspire and people who come and say, “Thank you Pastor...that message and music was for me”!*

*Seeing Children at Church enjoying Church life!*

*Being challenged by Church Members...Can we talk? I have an idea...How can I help...What can I do?*

*A Church member sharing a beautiful poem she wrote in late 1940; Another Church Member sharing a Cross with me that has significant meaning for him!*

*A powerful and inspiring conversation with Seabury Residents who shared their life stories with the Pastor (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday every month)!*

*Conversations with Pastoral Care Ministry Team and Deacons that reflect their love and commitment with our Church!*

*Seeing a Mission Ministry Team, a Church Council and Pastoral Search Ministry actively working, inspired by love!*

*A very inspirational conversation with a person who left the Church and now wants to come back!*

*A Committed Staff Team that loves their job and ministry!*

*A Memorial Garden Team that takes care of the outside facilities with love and passion. Including watering our outside plants weekly...and act of commitment and love!*

*Over a year ago when I was beginning my call to be your Pastor several people say...honeymoon will be over soon. Well, I've been among you 15 months...honeymoon is still present!*

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

***Pastor Ed***



OCTOBER 2, 2016

## 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](http://www.ucc.org/nin).



# News For Kids, Youth & Families

## Faith Formation Meeting

Our next Faith Formation meeting is on **October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 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.

## CROP WALK 2016



The Youth Group will also be walking the Crop Walk on **Sunday October 9th.**

Come at 12:30 to register. The walk begins @ 1:00 and ends around 3:30. The Youth will get their Sponsor Sheet on October 2nd at the Youth Group Meeting.

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

Youth Group for Grades 5 ~ 12th begins Sunday, October 2nd from 4:00 ~ 5:30. We will begin our meetings with a walk over to TCBY. Bring some spending money and you are always welcome to bring a friend. We will meet in Fellowship Hall. We will play some games and it will be a getting to know you evening of fun. We also will meet on October 16th from 4:00 ~ 5:30.

# OCTOBER 2016

Faith Formation Team is looking for members of the church who would like to "adopt" a college student. We would love to continue the care package ministry to our college students who need to stay in contact with the church family. If you are interested in adopting one of our college bound youth please contact Dorine.

## Harvest Family Fun Night

Harvest Family Fun Night is on Friday, October 28th. We will have Pizza, Salad & Cider. There will be games to play and once again the beloved Pumpkin Roll Race. We also will have a special visitor join us. Come and see who it is? Children are invited to dress in their Halloween Costume. This family event begins @ 6:00 and ends @ 8:00. Come and join in the fun!!!! Please sign up on the Faith Formation Bulletin Board.

## SCHEDULE

Sunday Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 a.m. Communion  
Sunday Children enter worship for communion with their families. Bibles for 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Youth Group 4:00 ~ 5:30  
Sunday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday School preschool through 9<sup>th</sup> grade Crop Walk @ 12:30  
Sunday Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday School Preschool through 9<sup>th</sup> grade Youth Group 4:00 ~ 5:30  
Sunday Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday School Preschool through 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
Sunday Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday School Preschool through 9<sup>th</sup> grade  
Faith Formation Meeting Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> @6:30



Jean Buscarello	October 3
Art Tucker	October 8
Stuart Babcock	October 14
Reese Hart	October 24
Genesis Hart	October 27
Faye Smith	October 27
Pamela Covington	October 28
Carolyn Jones	October 29



**October 2**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
**Neighbors in Need Offering**  
**October 16**  
**Worship in Fellowship Hall**  
**October 23**  
**Special Harvest Service**

- \*The Ciba Family on the loss of their daughter Rachel Markowitz.
- \*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



PRESENTING: YOUNG STRONG AND PROUD

RIDING A WAVE OF CREATIVITY 2016

A NIGHT OF MUSIC WORD AND DANCE

FEATURING: BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SELECT BAND

AND

BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL GOSPEL CHOIR

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016 AT 6 PM**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BLOOMFIELD

10 WINTONBURY AVE, BLOOMFIELD CT

ADMISSION FREE

FREE WILL OFFERING TO BENEFIT BLOOMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## Greetings from The Board of Deacons

A communion tablecloth, napkins, lectern hanging and pastoral stoles made from the African fabric that Pastor Deb gave the congregation as a farewell gift, will be blessed during worship on October 2, 2016. These were designed and created by Jolie Rocke Browne of Mosaic Gifts and Design and a member of Faith Congregational Church in Hartford. Ms. Rocke Browne is also a talented jazz and gospel singer who uses her many gifts and talents to praise and worship God and to work for justice and peace.



### SHARING YOUR TALENTS & GIFTS

"Your talent is God's gift to you.  
What you do with it is your gift back to God." *Leo Buscaglia*

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



# OCTOBER



# 2016

*Every Sunday*  
**8 & 10 am Worship beginning September 18**  
*12:30 New Birth Community Church*

*Every Monday*  
*7pm Narc. Anon.*

**October 2**  
**World Communion Sunday**  
**Bible discussion @ 8 am – Worship 10 am**  
*Lectionary Possibilities:*  
Lamentations 1: 1-16; OR Psalm 137; OR Habakkuk 1: 1-4; Psalm 37: 1-9; 2 Timothy 1: 1-14; Luke 17: 5-10

Oct 3

**October 9**  
*Bible discussion at 8 and Worship at 10 am*  
**Clergy Appreciation Sunday**  
*Lectionary Possibilities:*  
Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7; Psalm 66: 1-12 OR 2 Kings 5: 1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2: 8-15; Luke 17: 11-19

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*Church Office Closed*  
*Columbus Day*



**October 16**  
*Bible discussion at 8 and Worship at 10 am*  
**Worship in Fellowship Hall**  
*Lectionary Possibilities:*  
Jeremiah 31: 27-34; Psalm 119: 97-104 OR Genesis 32: 22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3: 14-4:5; **Luke 18: 1-8**

17  
*7:00 pm*  
*Missions L.V.*

**October 23**  
*Bible Discussion at 8 am and Worship at 10 am*  
*Annual Meeting after Worship Service*  
*Lectionary Possibilities:*  
Joel 2: 23-32; Psalm 65 OR Sirach 35: 12-17 or Jeremiah 14: 7-10; 19-22; Psalm 84 1-7; 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18; **Luke 18: 9-14**

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**October 30**  
*Bible Discussion at 8 and Worship at 10 am*  
*Lectionary Possibilities:*  
Habakkuk 1: 1-4; Psalm 119: 137-144 OR Isaiah 1: 10-18; Psalm 32: 1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12; **Luke 19: 1-10**

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**November 6**  
**Communion Sunday**  
*Bible discussion at 8 and Worship at 10 am*  
*Daylight Savings Time ends*

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# OCTOBER

# 2016

<i>Every Tuesday</i>	<i>Every Wed. 6:30 pm Choir 7 pm Alc. Anon.</i>	<i>Every Thursday 10 am Bible Study</i>	<i>Every Friday 7:30 pm Alc. Anon</i>	<i>Every Saturday</i>
				1
4	5	6 <i>6:30 pm Wintonbury Flying Club</i>	7	8 <i>6:00 pm New Birth Church Revival</i>
11 <b>Loaves &amp; Fishes</b> Preparation on Mon Oct 10 Serving on Tues Oct 11	12	13 <i>5:30 pm FCC Child Dev. Center Open House</i>		15 <i>6:00 pm Young, Strong &amp; Proud Concert</i>
18 <i>12 noon HAEC</i>	19 <b>Church Council</b> 6:30 pm	20 <i>1:30 pm Parish Care</i>	21	22 
25	26 <i>4:00 pm ABC</i>	27 <i>7:00 pm Glenwood Green Board Meeting</i>	28 <i>6:00 pm Faith Formation Family Fun Night</i>	29
Nov 1	2	3	4	5



## Council Meeting Minutes 7/20/16

Attending: Scott Goetjen, Carol Wilson, Priscilla McCatty, Carolyn Delgado, Coleen Dobo

The meeting was opened with a conversation on race and violence in the country. Council members shared reactions and concerns and stated an expectation that we will focus on this important issue this coming year.

It was announced that there is a Community Conversation on Race scheduled for August 9 at the Senior Center. Pastor Ayala will facilitate the discussion. It was agreed that Coleen will make plans for this to be announced at Sunday Service.

The Council made plans to make the last Church Profile electronic to make it available to the current search committee. We will ask Andrea if she can do that and, if not, Coleen will.

Much of the focus of the meeting was reviewing the budget under the circumstance that finances are down \$3900 and this was a larger deficit than was anticipated.

The Council clarified that making any progress in this area would require either taking more money from investments and trusts or increasing the amount of money from pledges. Another option is to rent more space. Council reviewed a document presented by Scott that summarized the budget as presented to the congregation at the annual meeting in June. It was noted that there were not a lot of members present at the meeting. It was agreed that Council will draft an email that summarizes the budget presented at the annual meeting and makes an appeal to church members to increase pledges.

Coleen agreed to use Scott's document as a reference and put together a document that would be reviewed and approved by Council members electronically. Time is of the

essence and it is targeted that his be done and prepared to go out by early next week.

When the email is prepared, it will be sent as a package including an electronic pledge card and the data and graphs that Scott prepared.

It was agreed that the document sent should include reference to the impact of budget constraints on preparing a benefit package for a new pastor.

Council members are hopeful that more finances can be acquired for the ministry teams if a large number of people can take the step to increase pledges even a little bit.

In terms of planning for the upcoming year, the tasks of the Vice Chair position were clarified to include being involved in Employee and Personnel activities. Coleen agreed to meet with Pastor Ed to begin planning. It was agreed that the following will be important activities: developing goals and measurable objectives for staff as well as Interim Pastor, being sure that staff activities and goals are in line with the new strategic priorities, developing standardized performance evaluations, and revising job descriptions. Particular attention may need to be paid to the music ministry given the importance that music has for hope-filled worship and the budget challenges from having paid performers.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Coleen Dobo.



## **Council Meeting Minutes**

### **9/21/16**

Attending: Priscilla McCatty, Scott Goetjen, Ron Robinson, Coleen Dobo, Carolyn Delgado, and Pastor Ed.

Ron opened the meeting with a prayer and then the Minutes from July were approved. Search Team Update: Kevin Colvin and Ursula Dang joined the meeting at the beginning to share an update regarding the work of the Settled Pastor Search Team. The Search Team was commissioned June 5 and is well under way having had several meetings, including one with Rev. Moreland. The team is working as a “listening circle” internally and intends to expand this process to subsets of the congregation, including council, youth, and staff. Kevin and Ursula shared that the team has a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. They are defining their group process and are in a stage of self-reflection and discernment. Ron extended an open invitation to the Search Team for any guidance or assistance.

Financial update (Scott): About a half dozen people increased pledges in response to our Call to Action email. Ultimately, we end the year with a deficit of just under \$3000 as the budget stands now. Ron agreed to send a letter to thank the folks who gave an increase in pledge support. Council had continued conversation about various options to balance the budget and the need to reach people to emphasize the financial issues we are facing. The music budget continues to be a concern. We have enough money to have Jason only twice for the rest of this year. Eustace has a plan to continue to have special music by exchanging space for concerts with some musicians. The Fall Budget meeting will be October 23, 2016 after worship. Carolyn will meet with Andrea to make sure the e-news email distribution list is updated.

Unfilled Ministry positions: There are a number of unfilled ministry team leader

positions as well as the Church Clerk position. Council members agreed to think about people who might be good candidates.

Pastor’s report: Pastor Ed is working very closely with the Parish Care Team. There are a lot of church members who are struggling with serious health issues. He expressed concern about the decrease in membership of the church. Pastor Ed reported that he helped to facilitate cohesion among the Search Team members and is now stepping into a more consultative role. He is very involved with Deacons; and also reports people reaching out more for assistance and pastoral counseling. Pastor has noticed new visitors coming to the church.

Staff Update: Ron attended staff meeting and got some feedback from the team. Several areas were identified by the staff that might need attention, including our collaboration with the Backpack Program; and also suggesting that it is time to change the security code. Other issues discussed included visitor welcome bags and renting space for special events.

Vice Chair: The following tasks were identified as priorities for the coming year, including developing and completing Pastor Ed’s evaluation, reviewing staff goals for the year, and moving forward with the Safe Church Policy (in coordination with leadership from the preschool (CDC).

Announcement: Sept 25th the congregation will be reaffirming our Open and Affirming ministry and blessing a donated diversity flag. Pastor Ed closed the meeting with prayer.

**The next Council Meeting was scheduled for October 19 at 6:30 PM.**

Minutes submitted by Coleen Dobo.

# **ANNOUNCEMENT**

## **2ND CT CONFERENCE REVIVAL OCT. 13-15, 2016**

Church members, clergy, lay leaders, youth...come all! Revive your soul at the 2nd Annual CT Conference Revival. Through prayer, music, scripture and inspirational speakers, gather with people from all over the Conference for 3 evenings of soul-lifting, passion-sparking, joy-filled worship and praise.

**Location:** Dixwell Congregational Church 217 Dixwell Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511 Free



**Saturday, October 15, 2016 @ 6:00 pm  
Young, Strong & Proud Event**

**Friday, October 28, 2016 @ 6:00 pm  
Faith Formation Family Fun Night**

# Footsteps of Peace

A John & Edie Murphy Music for Humanity Event

Sunday, October 23, 2016  
Asylum Hill Congregational Church

814 Asylum Ave | Hartford CT | [ahcc.org](http://ahcc.org)

1:30pm Sacred Conversation on Race

4:00pm Footsteps of Peace Concert

featuring music from Stan Satlin's "Auratorio Americana" performed by a 70-voice interfaith chorus and soloists

## TICKETS:

Concert \$25 | Sacred Conversation (registration required) \$25 | Both \$35 | [ahcc.org](http://ahcc.org)

Joel A. Martin's

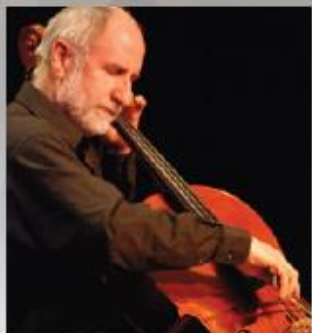
*Footsteps*  
OF PEACE



A nationwide initiative to promote peace, reconciliation and the eradication of racism in our communities, celebrated in a concert of original music, song, and spoken word

Joel A. Martin

Producer/Creator of Footsteps of Peace



Eugene Friesen  
4x Grammy Award  
winning cellist



Jolie Rocke Brown  
Gospel & Jazz Singer



Sharon Clark  
Jazz Singer



Josée Nadeau  
Live Artist

# Moral Monday Leader Rallies Faith Leaders

by Anne Hughes

Rev. Dr. William Barber speaks to faith leaders'  
*photo by Anne Hughes*



**NEW BRITAIN (09/13/2016)** -- Twenty five UCC clergy, faith leaders, and Racial Justice Ministry facilitators joined their Jewish, Unitarian, Baptist, and Moslem brothers and sisters on September 8, to hear the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, Pastor of Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina, President of the North Carolina NAACP, and architect of the Moral Monday Movement in NC, speak on the origins and journey of the Moral Monday Movement. Speaking at Central Connecticut State University just prior to his keynote address that evening at a Democracy, Unity and Equality (D.U.E.) Justice rally, Barber called for a coalition of faith leaders to demand a "Higher Ground Moral Declaration" from policy-makers and legislators. These demands on state leaders included supporting voting rights, labor rights, good jobs and a morally just living wage, universal access to quality public education, a fairly funded public sector, and a racial, gender, and ethnic justice-centered democracy in our state and work places.

Rev. Dr. Barber characterized this moral, faith-led movement as a fundamental reset of the conversation we are having in the political sphere and as a kind of moral revival. He stated that poverty, injustice, war, healthcare, and gun violence are moral issues, and are subject to what he called the "violence of inattention," ignored and unmentioned by current candidates, legislators, and the media.

He acknowledged that in North Carolina, when 17 were arrested for civil disobedience, in the face of some of the worst voting restriction legislation in the land, and the passage of discriminating, civil-rights violating state legislative practices, that "the people would know.... would hear of moral dissent, that we sow the seeds of victory later, when arrested now."

"You can't see the way unless you get IN the way!" said Barber.

Barber shared the history of the Moral Monday Movement in North Carolina, a movement now spreading around the country. He implored faith leaders to get off the sidelines, and to understand the intersectionality of the movement and the "theological malpractice" of the Christian Right in "hijacking" the issues. He reminded us that Jesus started his public ministry addressing systemic poverty, saying "Jesus was a brown-skinned Palestinian Jew who was profiled by the police and charged with tyranny... who preached the Good News to the poor!"

At the D.U.E. Justice Rally later in the day, Barber reminder the CCSU crowd that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed at the "heart" of our democracy and our founding documents is establishing justice... and yet we have a society that manifests racism, materialism, and militarism.

"We have a heart problem when we bail out crooks, banks, but refuse to grant the working class a living wage," said Barber. "We have a heart problem when states let 8 million citizens go without health care, when we allow deaths from low levels of education, and we allow big money in our elections, but we have insufficient education for our inner city schools."

"We have a heart problem."

Conference Minister the Rev. Kent J. Siladi opened the rally with a prayer. The Rev. Damaris Whittaker, pastor of First Church of Christ in Hartford, testified about the need to hold political leaders accountable for their commitments in the 5 areas of justice that Barber spelled out earlier. Also speaking at the rally was Bishop John Selders, pastor of Amistad UCC in Hartford. Selders and members of CT's Moral Monday delivered the Moral Monday Declaration and the D.U.E. Justice coalition signatures to state legislators and Gov. Dannel Malloy on September 12.

*Anne Hughes is a Racial Justice Ministry trainer for the CT Conference, UCC.*

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**Thank you Pat Robair, Deb Heubner, Ginnie Bain, Janet Swan, Jean Buscarello and Pam Covington for your faithful ministry of preparing the Spire for mailing each month.**

**Andrea**



**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

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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. 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:** Oct 28, 2016

**STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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