

The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Bloomfield, CT

An open and affirming congregation

Sunday, January 15, 2017



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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.



The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, UCC

10 Wintonbury Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002

Gathered as Wintonbury Parish February 14, 1738

Renewing our faith as people of God

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Sunday, January 15, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE

Go Down Moses

Fela Sowande

WELCOME *please fill out the Ritual of Friendship pads*

LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

WELCOME GUESTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CENTERING MOMENT *“You are invited to be at Peace and One with GOD’s Spirit. Let us prepare ourselves to worship our God. In silence ...be at peace!”*



WE WORSHIP GOD

(+ indicates that those who are able may stand)

INTROIT

Oh Freedom Negro Spiritual

Carrie Wilson, soloist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, let us worship together. Come, let us celebrate life together! May GOD’s Spirit renew in us the **Passion** and **Joy** needed to build community, and to promote **Peace** with **Justice**. May our worship be an inspiration, moving us to promote **Hope** and **Peace** for all Creation!

All: **GOD’s love has touched our lives in creative ways! Come, inspiring GOD, come and surprise us. Fill our hearts and minds with new winds. Welcoming winds sensitive to All People no matter where they are in their life’s journey. Let us be one in worship...Praise be to GOD!**

+HYMN OF PRAISE

We are Walking in the Light of God

366

LET US BE ONE IN PRAYER (UNISON)

Gracious GOD, we come in a spirit of gratitude.

You have touched our lives beyond religion.

Your Spirit has inspired us, we are grateful!

Inspire us to see and feel your presence

In other human vessels, in nature, in children

In those who are now with you, we are grateful!

May our prayer be an expression of our best desires.

We pray to you as you have taught us...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING *Guide My Feet* Negro Spiritual
Carrie Wilson, soloist

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS WITH OUR CHILDREN Dorine DeCarli

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!

**MAY GOD'S SPIRIT FILL OUR HEARTS WITH LOVE
MAY WE DISCOVER GOD'S REVELATIONS IN ALL EXPRESSIONS OF LIFE
LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD...GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!"**

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 25: 6-9 NT p.798 in black Bible, p.652 in red
SECOND LESSON Luke 4: 14-21 NT p.74 in black Bible, p.61 in red

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet* # 297
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

PASTOR'S REFLECTION "DR. KING'S DREAM...GOD'S DREAM" Pastor Ayala

+HYMN *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* # 536

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

OFFERTORY PRAYER ~ "Blessed by Grace...Our financial support builds community"

OFFERTORY *This River* Brown
Carrie Wilson, soloist

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

DOXOLOGY # 44

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow, Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER AND DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS (UNISON)

Gracious GOD who challenges us to dream
Of a better world for all people,
Even in the midst of shadows and light.
We are grateful for your many blessings,
receive our offering as expressions of gratitude.
May this offering shared today be helpful,
in bringing new life, hope and peace to many in need.
May this offering shared today sustain the work and ministries
of this, our beloved community of faith.
We pray as One, we share as One. Amen!

SHARING EXPRESSIONS OF JOY AS WELL AS CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

*Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

+ HYMN OF COMMITMENT TO SERVE

Lift Every Voice and Sing

481

+BENEDICTION

(Receive the blessing while holding hands)

Pastor Ayala

“People of GOD...PEACE...SALAAM...ArDievu...Vayan con Dios...SHALOM”

“Go with God’s Blessing!”

MAY GOD’S SPIRIT BE OUR INSPIRATION AND STRENGTH
AS OUR LIGHT ILLUMINATES THE LIVES OF OTHERS IN OUR WORLD
AS WE DREAM AND STAND FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE,
MAY THE MESSAGE OF LOVE AND PEACE
BE OUR INSPIRATION TO SERVE, TO BE A BLESSING!

GO...BE A RAINBOW IN SOMEONE’S CLOUD!

GO AND BE A BLESSING IN EVERY SETTING OF LIFE THAT YOU TOUCH
GO...PROMOTE HOPE, PEACE-JUSTICE, JOY AND LOVE!

GO... WITH THE BLESSING OF...

**GOD THE CREATOR,
JESUS OUR INSPIRING SAVIOR
AND WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
GO... LIVE FULLY AND LET GOD SURPRISE YOU!**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Amen, Amen, Amen

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017

**“COME AND INVITE OTHERS ...SHARE GOD’S
WELCOMING SPIRIT”**

THOSE IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS (AMONG MANY):



- *Prayers for the family of the late Doris Ahrens
- *Prayers for The Rev. Da Vita McCallister, Associate Conference Minister of Leadership and Vitality, whose father died on Dec. 24.
- *Prayers for Thompson Congregational Church--fire on 12/29 severely damaged the church.
- *Prayers for the family of the late Jean Turek.
- *Prayers for Guenther Zvaigzne for ongoing healing from recent heart surgery. (Brother of Sylvia Colvin).
- * Prayers for Julie Cato who will soon be the recipient of a kidney transplant.
- * Prayers for Bonnie King's healing from recent cancer reoccurrence.
- *Keep Calvin and Estelle Cole in your thoughts and prayers. Calvin is at Bloomfield Center for Nursing and Rehab, Estelle is at home, cards and calls would be appreciated.
- * 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.



David Berg Sue Davis Gladys Dunbar Carol Johnson Charles Miles
Charlotte Babcock Julie Cato Jane Doble Madge Edwards Elaine Nelson
Hicksbert (Lloyd) Grant Faye Smith Carol Wolcott Adele Wright

Please Remember These Connecticut Conference Churches in Your Prayers

Andover

First Congregational, UCC

Avon

Avon Congregational Church

Ansonia

The First Congregational Church of Ansonia, UCC

Avon

West Avon Congregational UCC

Berlin

Berlin Congregational Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome Guests! We are so glad you are here and invite you to join us after Worship for Coffee Hour.

The Coffee Hour Hosts this morning are Scott & Sharon Goetjen.

Today's Head Ushers are Priscilla McCatty and Oz Gibbs.

Today's Lay Reader is Libbie Merrow.

Our Nursery is open every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Worship. Please see one of our ushers and they will be happy to direct you.

The Sunday Bulletin is now available to read at
www.FirstChurchBloomfield.org



This Week at a Glance...

Looking Ahead:

Lectionary possibilities for next week include:

Isaiah 49: 1-7; Psalm 40: 1-11; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; John 1: 29-42

Sunday, Jan 15	8:00 am	Bible Discussion	Living Room
	10:00 am	Worship Communion Sunday	Meeting Room
	12:30 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
Monday, Jan 16		Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	Office Closed
	7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous	Counting Room
Tuesday, Jan 17	9:15 am	Exercise	Fellowship Hall
	12:00 pm	HAEC	Living Room
Wednesday, Jan 18	9:30 am	Jump Bunch	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room
Thursday, Jan 19	10:00 am	Bible Study	Living Room
	6:30 pm	Glenwood Green	Living Room
Friday, Jan 20	9:15 am	Exercise	Fellowship Hall
	7:30 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room

Saturday, January 21, 2017 EVERY SATURDAY 11:30 AM – 1 PM

BLOOMFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COMMUNITY FOOD KITCHEN

297 School Street, corner of Wintonbury Ave & School St. Children and Families and ALL are welcome. For information please call 860-242-5641 or 860-874-7679.

Volunteers are needed to help serve once a quarter.

For more information, call Sally Foster 860-243-0274



Spiritual Nourishment

Pastoral Search News!

We will be hosting an encore session
of our 2nd Listening Circle at

Seabury

Thursday, January 19th

at 1:30 pm

in the main lobby

"Who is our Neighbor?"

and

***"Who is God calling us to
become?"***

If you were not able to attend last Sunday

The 3rd Listening Circle in our
series will be on

Sunday, January 29th

after worship in

Fellowship Hall

The theme for this

conversation is

***Who are we calling to join
us on our journey?***

Save the Date!

Refreshments will be served
and childcare is available!

Also... if you have not yet completed the Pastoral Search Inventory
type the following link into your browser to take this survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/firstcongregationalchurchbloomfield>

We have paper copies available too. If anyone needs help completing the survey or has
questions about the search process you can contact any of the Search Team members.

Our email address is

Search.Team@FirstChuchBloomfield.org



Thanks again,
Your Pastoral Search Team



Your Pastoral Search Team



LET FREEDOM RING!!!

The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcome to the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield
We hope that you find comfort, joy & inspiration in this time of worship;
and renewed energy for your journey of faith. You are invited to remain after the
service this morning for refreshments and informal conversation.

SCHEDULE

Bible Discussion is held at 8 am each Sunday
Worship is held at 10 am each Sunday
Bell Choir Rehearsals will resume in January 2017
Choir Rehearsals will resume in January 2017

STAFF

Rev. Edwin O. Ayala, Interim Pastor
Andrea Davey-Mercer, Administrative Assistant
Dorine DeCarli, Director of Christian Education
Eustace Straker, Minister of Music
Shantel Bremmer, Director of FCC Child Development Center
Building Management is provided by Michelle Alves and JEM Services.

CHURCH OFFICE

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Phone: 860-242-0776

Fax: 860-243-8035

Email: office@FirstChurchBloomfield.org

All Staff can be reached by contacting the Church Office.

The Child Development Center can be reached at 860-242-0183 or
preschool@FirstChurchBloomfield.org.

Pastor Edwin O. Ayala:

In the event of an emergency (death, serious illness, deep spiritual or
emotional need) please feel free to call Pastor Ayala at 860-242-0776 x 201,
© 860-836-6651 or email him pastor@firstchurchbloomfield.org
or eointersections33@yahoo.com

Visit our church's website: www.FirstChurchBloomfield.org