

The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Bloomfield, CT

An open and affirming congregation

Sunday, October 16, 2016



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, October 16, 2016

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES

LAITY SUNDAY

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE

Jason Durrant, jazz pianist; Michael Scott, drummer

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

Sing Amen

#41

The Congregation

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor May you be at peace. May you feel at home in worship.
May you be blessed by God’s presence. May you be blessed by our fellowship.
May God restore in us hope and serenity!

All We rejoice in the life that we share in common.
We come to worship with open hearts. Let us be one in worship.
Let us praise the living God as we share community life!

+HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

This is The Day

257

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & CONFESSION (UNISON)

Compassionate and loving God, Your presence among us is inspiring.
We continue to grow in our awareness that you are in us,
with us and beyond us. We trust that your spirit will continue
to be a blessing in our midst, inviting us to be
fully alive as we move into our future together!
As a community of faith we join in one prayer...

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

Jason Durrant, jazz pianist

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 Psalm 126

OT p.704 in black Bible, p.572 in red

SECOND LESSON Acts 11: 19-26

NT p.158 in black Bible, p.130 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

"THE KINGDOM OF GOD AMONG US"

Pastor Ayala

(INCLUDING AN UPDATE FROM PASTORAL SEARCH TEAM)

+HYMN

God of Grace and God of Laughter

32

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

OFFERTORY PRAYER

"Bless by Grace...Our financial support builds community"

OFFERTORY

Jason Durrant, jazz pianist; Michael Scott, drummer

DOXOLOGY

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

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)

God of grace and new possibilities, God of joy, hope and new revelations.

Out of grace...we have shared our offerings. Receive them as expressions of gratitude. Bless these offerings shared by many. May they be a blessing to the ministries of this congregation. Touching many lives as we reach out to others with a message of love, peace, hope, liberation and new life!

In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray...Amen!



SHARING EXPRESSIONS OF JOY AS WELL AS CONCERNS

A Litany of Community (Unison)

All merciful and tender God, you gave birth to the world and to all the people who look at the same moon that we see. We live in community with people in places where peace walks a tightrope. We live in community with those who are anxious for the tomorrows of their sons and daughters. We live in community with those for whom a bowl of soup and a piece of bread is a feast. We live in community with those who have forgotten the language of hope. We live in community with those who can TEACH us much about depending on you to provide for us day by day. God of all peace, God of all hope, give us kind and gentle hearts that we might act with compassion toward the whole human family. Amen.

- Sharlande Sledge

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Ayala

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 *We Are Walking in the Light of God* # 366

+BENEDICTION (Receive the blessing while holding hands) Pastor Ayala

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

“Go with God’s Blessing!”

LET GOD RESTORE US

GO AND ENJOY LIFE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

GO...BE A GOOD NEWS CHRISTIAN

GO...BLESS THOSE AROUND US!

GO...BE A RAINBOW IN SOMEONE’S CLOUD!

GO... WITH THE BLESSING OF...

GOD THE ALMIGHTY CREATOR,

JESUS THE INSPIRING ONE, OUR 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 *We are Marching in the Light of God*



THOSE IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS (AMONG MANY):



- * Prayers for the Ciba Family on the recent loss of daughter Rachel Markowitz.
- * Prayers for Bonnie King's healing from recent cancer reoccurrence.
- * Please continue keep Charlotte Mottram and family in prayer.
- * Prayers for Carol Wilson's successful recuperation; calls and cards are welcome, please send to P.O. Box address.
- * Continued Prayers for Sue and Allan Thompson's son-in-law Sean Boland, as he continues therapy for his tumor surgery.
- * Please keep Alan & Dana Wild and their family in prayer, for support and assistance as they search for a place to live and deal with the aftermath of their home being destroyed by fire.
- * Adele Wright has returned to her home at Avery Heights # 224, Hartford, CT 06106. Cards and prayers appreciated.
- * 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.



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

Please Remember These Connecticut Conference Churches in Your Prayers

Simsbury

First Church of Christ, UCC

Somersville

Congregational Church of Somersville UCC

Somers

Somers Congregational Church UCC

South Glastonbury

Congregational Church in South Glastonbury UCC

South Windsor

First Congregational Church of South Windsor, UCC



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 Usher is Oz Gibbs.

Today's Lay Reader is Scott Goetjen.

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.



This Week at a Glance...

Looking Ahead:

Lectionary possibilities for next week include:

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**

Sunday, Oct 16	8:00 am	Bible Discussion	Living Room
	10:00 am	Worship	Meeting Room
	12:30 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
Monday, Oct 17	7:00 pm	Missions Team	Living Room
	7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Oct 18	12:00 pm	HAEC	Living Room
Wednesday, Oct 19	9:30 am	Jump Bunch	Fellowship Hall
	6:30 pm	Church Council	Living Room
	7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room
	7:00 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
Thursday, Oct 20	10:00 am	Bible Study	Living Room
	1:00 pm	Parish Care	Living Room
Friday, Oct 21	7:30 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room

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

EVERY SATURDAY 11:30 AM – 1 PM

Bible Study

Thursdays @ 10 am

We are studying

**"Re-Claiming the Bible for a
Non-Religious World"**

by John Shelby Spong. Join us in the Living Room

Starting Monday, Oct 17, 2016, the Sunday Bulletin will be available to read on www.FirstChurchBloomfield.org

NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 2016
PASTOR ED'S SERMON: "A SPIRITUAL HARVEST TO SHARE"
SCRIPTURES – JOEL 2: 23-29 & LUKE 18: 15-17
"COME AND INVITE OTHERS ...SHARE GOD'S
WELCOMING SPIRT"



CALL TO MEETING
October 23, 2016
Following the 10 a.m. service

To vote on:

The 2016-2017 budget

Reporting and Conversation on

Any other business that may come before the group.

Edwin Ayala, Interim Minister

Siladi talks to clergy about their ministry challenges



God
is still
speaking,

The Rev. Kent Siladi addresses clergy at General Association
By Tiffany Vail

SOUTHBURY (9/25/2016) - Addressing the oldest annual gathering of clergy in the United States on Sunday night, Connecticut Conference Minister The Rev. Kent Siladi told the 50 clergy gathered what they already knew: that they are doing ministry in a climate for which they were not trained.

"One of the challenges that is before us is that our training in ministry is really training for a church that doesn't exist," he said, adding: "I was trained to be a really good institutional church pastor. I was trained ... to look for those markers of success in church life. If there were people in the pews and dollars in the plates, life was good. And that is what the marker was for measuring what vitality looked like in churches."

"So how's that working out, right now? Most of us are not serving congregations where people are flooding in to check us out these days," said Siladi, speaking to the first night of the 307th General Association.

"We can sit here and buy that narrative. We can get all hunkered down about what the church is not. Or we can say the mission of God is changing right before our eyes ... how are we attentive to the way the spirit of God is moving in news ways, and how are we going to bring wood to that fire?"

"The impact of what we do is a new metric," he said. "It's not only about number and dollars, it's about making an impact, making a difference."

Siladi went on to encourage pastors and church leaders to walk around their

neighborhoods, to look for unlikely partners in ministry, to find out what people are doing on Sunday mornings.

"Find out where there is life and ministry and where God's mission is being carried out," he said. "How can we learn from others? Where is our inquisitiveness about innovation? How are we learning from each other in the midst of this time?"

"I think it's an exciting time to do ministry," he said, "and I think we need to learn from each other."

Siladi said another big challenge for the churches in Connecticut is their buildings, and their history, and the fact that they were formed hundreds of years ago in response to the needs of parishioners walking or riding horses to worship.

"If we were starting over today, would we have five UCC congregations in a 3-mile radius of each other?" he asked.

"I don't believe God wants our church to be centered on buildings and services. Instead, God wants our churches - whatever specific forms our gatherings take - to be focused on active discipleship, mission and the pursuit of unity."

"So we've got this building question. We love our buildings. Really important things happen in our buildings. And - there are times when our buildings are impediment to the ministry to which God calls us," he said.

"It's hard to be honest and authentic and real about that. After all, the last thing your Board of Trustees wants you doing is talking about how maybe we ought to shed this building to be equipped for the ministry to which God calls us.

"But where are we going to have that conversation? When are we going to have that conversation? You all are rewarded for keeping the institutions running smoothly. But leadership is more than that. Its a call for us to begin to ask questions - some hard questions - about what would ministry look like if we were to share with others in our community in new ways. Maybe we don't need this building any longer. Maybe we could shed this building, invest that asset in news ministries to which God is calling us."

Siladi said we need to figure out, together, how we can recognize when our churches reach the tipping point, where people are living just to maintain the building, and figure out how we can talk to each other about that.

"I didn't take a course on that in seminary. But it's part of what we face as we try to do faithful ministry in our time," he said.



This handout accompanies the video: ***Our Church's Wider Mission: Multiplying Impact*** which can be found at: **ctucc.org**.

Watch the video to see how your contributions, along with the gifts of others past and present, support the mission and ministry of our denomination.

There are two main ways that local churches give money to the other settings of the United Church of Christ:

1. Our Church's Wider Mission.

Our Church's Wider Mission is composed of 5 parts:

- **Basic Support**, which is *unrestricted* support for the Conference and National Settings. This is invested in the programs, resources, and tools to keep local UCC churches strong, effective, and vital. 50% of OCWM basic support gifts are retained by the Connecticut Conference for use in Connecticut; the other 50% is sent to the national ministries of the UCC:

Basic Support also provides the structures needed so that 100% of special offerings can be used as designated.

- **Four Special Offerings**, which are *restricted* for specific purposes as outlined here:

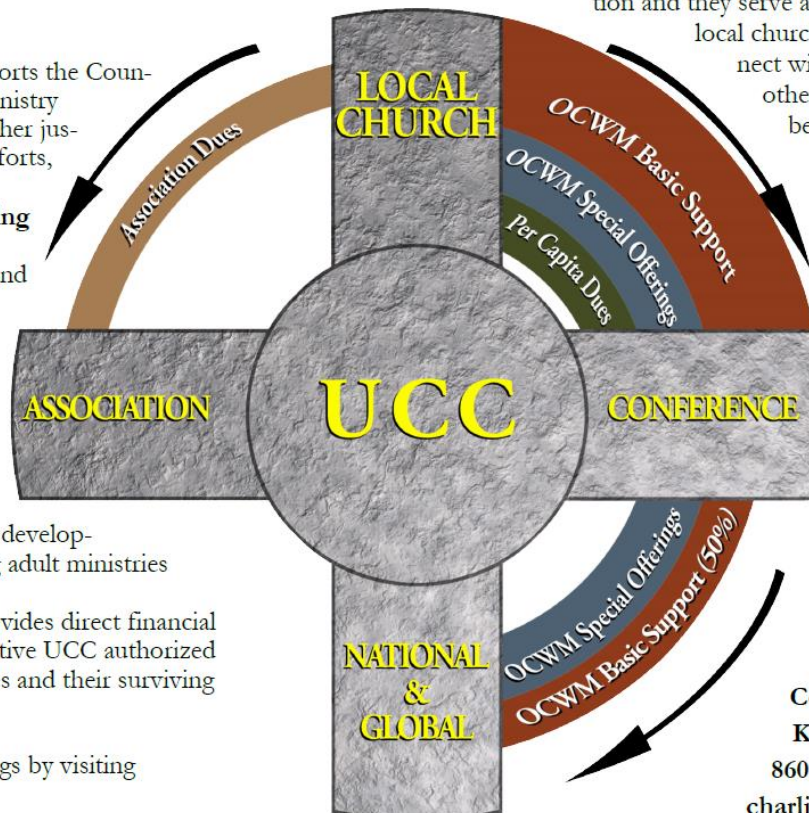
- **Neighbors in Need** supports the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM) and a variety of other justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.
- **One Great Hour of Sharing** supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response.
- **Strengthen the Church** supports church growth, pastoral and lay leadership development and youth and young adult ministries within Conferences.
- **The Christmas Fund** provides direct financial assistance to retired and active UCC authorized ministers and lay employees and their surviving spouses.

You can learn more about these offerings by visiting ucc.org.

2. Per Capita Contributions

- **To the Conference:** Local Churches are asked to make per capita contributions to the Conference, again to invest in the programs, resources and tools to keep local UCC churches strong, effective and vital. The contribution rate for 2011 through 2016 was \$8 per capita; Annual Meeting has approved increasing that to \$10 per capita in 2017.
- **To the Association:** Local churches all belong to one of 15 Associations in the state, and they are asked to make per capita contributions to that Association.

Associations have the important role of determining who is qualified to be ordained or licensed to serve the denomination and they serve as a way for local churches to connect with one another to share best practices.



Questions?
Contact Charlie
Kuchenbrod at
860.761.7111 or at
charliek@ctucc.org

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

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

Joel A. Martin's

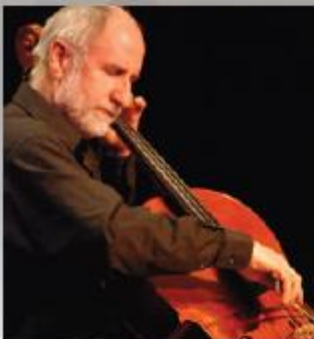
Footsteps
OF PEACE



Joel A. Martin

Producer/Creator of 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



Eugene Friesen
4x Grammy Award
winning cellist



Jolie Rocke Brown
Gospel & Jazz Singer



Sharon Clark
Jazz Singer



Josée Nadeau
Live Artist

