

**JANUARY
2016**



The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield – United Church of Christ

The Wintonbury Spire

**GREETINGS...WELCOME TO 2016...A NEW YEAR FULL OF
POSSIBILITIES!**

On January 10, 2016 our Congregation will receive three unique visitors.

They will come as part of the message of Epiphany, they will be...

THE THREE WISE MEN, THE THREE KINGS!

Before they return to faraway lands in the East they want to stop at

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN BLOOFIELD, UCC

And leave with us three messages to inspire us during the 2016 year.

What message do your family, our neighbors, our Congregation and our world need to hear as we prepare to enter a new year? Come let us hear their inspiring message! Invite others to come and be present; children, families, neighbors, young and old, all are welcome!

As your Pastor I am inviting you to join me, our staff, our Council and all our ministry teams in being creative in 2016. Creative and open to the good news coming from our Creative GOD who is always challenging and inviting us to be alive by promoting:

- *Creative and inspiring worship that welcomes all people!
- *Creative fellowship that continues to brings our community together!
- *Creative ministries that empower many... inside and outside our walls!
- *Church vitality and Church growth that affirms justice, hope and peace!

**I AM OPEN TO THE MESSAGE OF THE THREE KINGS AND OPEN TO
THE GOOD NEWS COMING FROM OUR CREATIVE GOD...JOIN
ME...LET'S BUILD COMMUNITY TOGETHER... LET'S CONTINUE TO
PROCLAIM THAT GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!**

Pastor Ed



Pastor Ed is very involved in the planning and will be a part of the service!

**COME...INVITE OTHERS...MONDAY
JANUARY 18, 2016 AT 7:00 PM**

PASTOR ED VACATION TIME

Pastor Ed will take some vacation time starting Sunday January 3, And returning Sunday January 10 when the **Three Kings** will visit our congregation. We will have a visiting Pastor preaching on January 3, Communion Sunday!

FELLOWSHIP FAMILY NIGHT

Pastor Ed has been thinking of promoting more **Fellowship Family Nights** in 2016. Please let **Andrea** know if you would like to work with

Pastor Ed in this area. We need people with ideas and suggestions.

This is a one time commitment not a long term commitment. Pastor is thinking of having fun nights that bring families together around different themes, such as art...jazz...music...games, etc. **Have an idea?**

All ideas are welcome, let's be creative...let's continue to build community!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

On Monday January 18 here at First Congregational Church we will be honoring and upholding the prophetic challenge of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A man of GOD who challenged our nation and all of us to stand for justice for all people. Come and be part of this special service.

The Bloomfield Interfaith Coalition is sponsoring this wonderful event.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION BIBLE STUDIES

For 2016 we are looking at sponsoring adult Bible studies at our Church and at Seabury. Let **Dee, Andrea or Doreen** know if you are interested. Thursdays at 10am at FCCB is one possibility!



More information to follow!



A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

News For Kids, Youth & Families



JANUARY 2016

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! May this New Year of 2016 be a year of growing in faith with many joys and blessings. Try this with your family, get a jar and small pieces of paper and a pen, write down a blessing each day and drop it in the jar and at the end of the year read what wonderful blessings you acquired all year long. The Christmas Pageant was once again a wonderful worship service! It began with an Introit played by Beatrice Dang and another beautiful music piece before the Pageant was done by Aaron Dang on Guitar. Thank you to Gregory, Debora and Zacharias Medrano for portraying the Holy Family. Zacharias was a beautiful baby Jesus. Also thank you to Cyrus Medrano, Andrew Johnson and Caillou Burrier for representing the Magi. The Magi this year were led by a Star worn by Jennah Rose Delgado and they were accompanied by a camel Mateo Ayala. We again had our two year olds of our Nursery in costume as sheep led by the Shepherdess, Sue Vernale and Shepherd, Geno Ayala. We added new this year the beloved Little Drummer Boy Christmas Carol and Jaiden Alba portrayed the Drummer Boy while playing a drum on his way down the aisle and at the Manger. Our angels and shepherds in the Christmas Pageant were superb. It was great! We had so many children we ran out of costumes!! The Sunday School Children's Choir directed by Marnie Clark, did a fabulous job singing during the offertory. Joining them in a solo was Charlotte Mottram. They were accompanied by Emerson Dang on Piano. It was absolutely beautiful, thank you Charlotte. Our wonderful musicians were our young adults Reese Hart on Trumpet and Emerson Dang on Piano. They played their instruments beautifully for the Christmas Carols sung by the Congregation.

Also, our scripture readers did a fantastic job leading the Pageant Christmas Story, thank you Beatrice Dang, Aaron Dang, Olivia Haughton, Taylia Haughton and Joshua Markiewicz. Thank you all for your hard work, dedication and talents of each and every one.

All of you make the Christmas Pageant a great celebration of Christmas Worship and a beautiful retelling of the Christmas Story. Also thank you to Carolyn Delgado and Dee Hart for help during rehearsal and the Pageant. Another thank you goes to Ursula Dang, Beatrice Dang and Mary Laiuppa for helping set up Bethlehem and Mary your lights and light up Palm tree were awesome and we will borrow them again next year, they were another wonderful addition to the experience. Thank you parents and grandparents for your time and support during the Pageant I greatly appreciate it and your children and grandchildren are amazing and a wonderful gift to our Congregation. Thanks so much.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! May this New Year of 2016 be a year of growing in faith with many joys and blessings and peace!

Thank you Thank you to all the Families of our Congregation who lit the Advent Candles. Advent is a special time of the church year and having our families light the candles make our Advent worship full of hope, peace, joy and love with Christ within each of you.

Something New for the New Year****Join us for a new Bible Study beginning on Thursday, January 22nd @ 10:00 a.m. Pastor Ayala and Dorine DeCarli will lead an Adult Faith Formation Bible Study. We are looking forward to sharing time studying the bible and having community time with you. Please let us know your interest. Contact Pastor Ayala, Dorine DeCarli or Dee Hart...more information to follow.

SAVE THE DATE

Youth Revival
Sunday, May 15TH
@ 3PM.
Liberty Christian Center
See Flyer on Faith Formation
Bulletin Board.

Sunday School

Sunday, January 3rd Communion Sunday
Children have Sunday School Epiphany
Sunday

Youth Group 4:00 ~ 5:30 Living Room
Sunday, January 10th Sunday School for
Preschool - Grade 9. A Visit from the
Three Kings during Worship

Sunday, January 17th Sunday School for
Preschool - Grade 9

Youth Group 4:00 - 5:30 Living Room
Sunday, January 24th Sunday School for
Preschool - Grade 9

Sunday, January 31st Sunday School for
Preschool - Grade 9

The Living Nativity was a wonderful evening of fun, as we took part in the Bloomfield Colors of the Season on December 3rd. We were visited by quite a few families from the Town Green, we were waved to by the riders on the Horse drawn carriage and even greeted by cars going by. Children stopped by to hold baby Jesus and their families took photos. Thank you to Mary Liaupppa, Oz Gibbs, Libbie Merrow and Carol Wilson, Ursula Dang and Michelle Alves. It was a great time and it is great to be out in the community sharing our Christmas Spirit and Story. Check out the articles from the Bloomfield Journal and the Messenger on the kiosk and Faith Formation bulletin board.

Cathedral

IN THE NIGHT

A service opportunity for young adults, ages 19 to 29
Worship~ Serve~ Reflect

Cathedral in the Night is an outdoor Christian community in downtown Northampton, MA which seeks to create a safe place for all people: the homeless, the housed, the church-less, the church-ed, the student and the resident to explore, question and live out their spiritual beliefs; to gather for a meal and to empower one another to engage in issues of social justice by working to fight the causes of inequality and homelessness.

Sunday, January 10, 2016

129 Main Street in Northampton, MA



Tentative Schedule

- 3:00 Gather to set up and prepare food
- 5:00 Outdoor Worship
- 5:30 Share a meal together
- 6:30 Clean up and Reflect
- 7:30 Head home

This event is free, but pre-registration is requested by December 30 as space is limited. Eventbrite <https://ctucc-citn.eventbrite.com>



Sponsored by Connecticut Conference United Church of Christ, First Church of Christ, Simsbury,
and UCC UConn at Storrs Congregational Church

Contact Debby Kirk, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for more information
debbyk@ctucc.org 860-761-7103



2016

JANUARY

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Every Sunday</i></p> <p>8 & 10 am Worship 12:30 New Birth Community Church</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Every Monday</i></p> <p>6pm Bell Choir 7pm Narc. Anon.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">January 3 <i>10:00am worship only</i> Second Sunday after Christmas Epiphany celebrated</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lectionary Possibilities:</i> Ephesians 1: 3-14; John 1:(1-9), 1-18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">January 10 <i>8 & 10am worship</i> 3 Kings Visit FCCB Second Hour First Sunday after Epiphany Lectionary Possibilities: Isaiah 43: 1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8: 14-17 Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Loaves & Fishes Preparation on Mon Jan 11 Serving on Tues Jan 12</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">January 17 <i>8 & 10am worship</i> Second Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lectionary Possibilities: Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 35: 5-10; 1 Corinthians 12: 1-11 John 2: 1-11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>7 pm MLK Interfaith Service</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">January 24 <i>8 & 10am worship</i> Third Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lectionary Possibilities: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12: 13-31a; Luke 4:14-21</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">January 31 <i>8 & 10am worship</i> Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lectionary Possibilities: Jeremiah 1: 4-10; Psalm 71: 1-6; 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13; Luke 4:21-30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Feb 1</i></p>



JANUARY

2016

<i>Every Tuesday</i>	<i>Every Wed. 9:30am Jump Bunch 7 pm Alc. Anon.</i>	<i>Every Thursday</i>	<i>Every Friday 7:30 pm Alc. Anon</i>	<i>Every Saturday</i>
5 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	6 <i>6:00 pm Zumba</i>	7	8 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	9
12 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	13 <i>6:00 pm Glenwood Green</i>	14 <i>1 pm Parish Care</i>	15 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	16
19 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	20 Wednesday Jan 20 7:00 pm Council Meeting	21	22 <i>9:15am exercise</i>	23
26 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	27 <i>4:00 pm ABC</i>	28	29 <i>9:15am exercise</i> Fri Jan 29 Spire Party 10:30 am	30
2	3	4	5	6



Second Hour Notes - Sunday Nov. 15, 2015

Parish Care - Compassion and Caring

Notes recorded by Ursula Dang

Pastor Ed began the second hour with opening remarks. He expressed his joy that we were coming together for this opportunity to explore different ways of connecting with other members of our church. He expressed how impressed he was with our members creativity and how everyone uses their unique individual gifts and abilities to express compassion for others. He offered a story about how a member used text messaging during the 8:00 am service to reach out to another member. The other member made it in for the 10:00 am service. He said the key to creativity is... "Just Be You."

He suggested three additional qualities that are important in pastoral care work

- Sensitivity - You have to be sensitive to the pain of others. You may not see on the outside how broken someone is on the inside.
- Confidentiality - Some people are very private, others may want to share their needs with others. The key is you have to ask if it is ok to share their stories.
- Passion - You have to have a passion for people.

The second hour continued with participants giving testimonials about how they were inspired to become involved with pastoral care work. Many were touched by acts of kindness that they received during difficult times in their lives or even just witnessing people extend a helping hand to others. Members spoke of receiving meals when they could not cook for their family, or coffee and cake when they were ill, of receiving cards or reading to a friend or bringing someone the Sunday Bulletin and just talking about what's going on at church. There was gratitude not only for the gifts received but also for the joyful opportunities we have to share our gifts and compassion with others.

Karen Blanchard went on to talk about the status of the Parish Care Ministry in our church. Over the spring and summer the Parish Care Team together with Joe Tobin developed and distributed surveys to our homebound members to better understand their needs and their experience in our church. Based on the responses to these surveys we are developing three outreach ministries;

- Visiting/Calls Ministry
- Card Ministry
- Ride to Church Ministry

Karen is keeping a list of congregational care needs and we are trying meet those needs by finding other members of the congregation that can offer a visit, call or ride. Trudy Barnard is heading up the card writing ministry and we have many cards to share with our members. Karen distributed a Volunteer Sign-up sheet. Anyone that is interested in helping with any of these three ministries is encouraged to contact Karen, Pastor Ed or any of the Parish Care team members.

Pastor Ed noted that due to extenuating circumstances Joe Tobin was not able to continue in his role as Pastoral Care Coordinator for FCC and it was by mutual agreement to discontinue this contract.

Pastor Ed concluded our Second Hour by asking us to also make sure that we take care of the care takers in our church. He said that there are many people who do so much for others in our congregation. Sometimes they need a little note or card that says "Thank you" as well.

Parish Care – Volunteer Signup

Please fill out a volunteer form and submit to the church office as soon as possible. If you have any thoughts you'd like to share or need more information, please contact Pastor Ayala or one of the Parish Care Ministry Team members listed below:

Karen Blanchard (chair) – 860-424-7868
Ursula Dang – 860-242-7547
Anne Weaver – 860-966-0786

Marnie Clark – 434-409-0386
Connie Robinson – 860-521-5129
Trudy Barnard – 860-627-7417

I would like to volunteer and be part of the Parish Care Visiting/Calls Ministry

Name:

Address:

Tel.

_____ Email _____

I would like to volunteer and be part of the Parish Care Rides to Church Ministry

Name:

Address:

Tel.

_____ Email _____

If you have other suggestions on how we can take care of our church, please add to our form below.

Second Hour—January 10, 2016

Sponsoring a Refugee Family

The Mission Team will present some of the background and details of the plan to involve our church with other congregations and civic groups in co-sponsoring a refugee family in 2016. This is an exciting program which offers many easy and focused ways to participate and an opportunity for fellowship and community involvement. **Please join the Mission Team in the Living Room after the service on January 10th.**



We Were Remembered

Please remember the family of Helen Woodford in your prayers as she remembered us. We received bequest of \$28,000 from Helen Woodford's estate. This money will be added to the Trustees Fund held by Investments and Trusts. A bequest is one of the many ways that we can remember the church and provide for its care and the care of its members for future generations.

Thank You!



ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016

THE 3 KINGS WILL VISIT DURING OUR 10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE



**COME AND HEAR THE GOOD NEWS THAT THEY WILL
SHARE WITH US**



MORE TO FOLLOW

SAVE THE DATE

**On
Monday, January 18th, 2016**

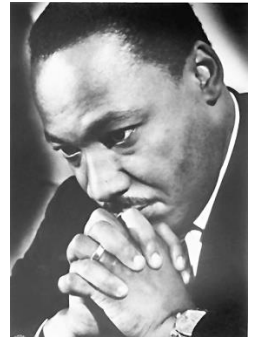
**The Bloomfield Interfaith Association
Will celebrate the Legacy of the
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

At the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield

"I Have Decided to Stay With Love...Hate Is Too Great a Burden to Bear."

***Our Service starts at 7:00 pm
Participants include local members of
our
Community***

***This promises to be an important
moment in the
life our Community.***



Bring the Family, bring a Friend

***Free Will Offering will support
Community Food Kitchen at Bloomfield UMC***

***"Injustice anywhere is a threat to
Justice everywhere"***

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT 2015





**Minutes: Special
Congregational Meeting,
12/06/2015**

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by Roger Bunker, moderator. Pastor Edwin Ayala offered a prayer.

Doug Morrill reviewed the changes to the revised constitution and moved that the revised constitution be adopted. The motion was seconded and discussion followed. A question regarding participation by deacons in new member classes was clarified.

A question regarding the nominating process for Council members was raised. After discussion, the amendment was revised to include the need to clarify the nominating process for Council positions. Council was charged with making this change. A motion was made to move the question with the proposed revision; the motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The new Constitution will become effective 1/01/2016.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Delgado



Looking Ahead....

We have just experienced an Advent filled with music, song, hope and joy. We celebrated Christ's birth as our children and youth led us to a manger in Bethlehem to participate once again in the wonder of the Nativity. We look forward with hope and expectation to the New Year and to the new things God will do and we will do as we continue the ministries of our church.

One of the new things will be to begin the process of calling a settled pastor. This is something in which the entire congregation will be involved. In the coming weeks Council will begin this process. First steps will include establishing a Search Committee and developing our church profile. Congregational participation is extremely important and over the next months we will invite that participation in a number of ways. Stay tuned!

We are a vibrant, healthy, faith-filled church. Let's move into 2016 with confidence and hope. And as we move into this new beginning, may we continue to be a blessing to others.

*Have a wonderful new year!
Carolyn Delgado*

**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.

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:

December 23, 2015	January 1, 2016
January 29, 2016	February 26, 2016
March 25, 2016	April 29, 2016
May 27, 2016	June 28, 2016

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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