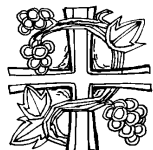
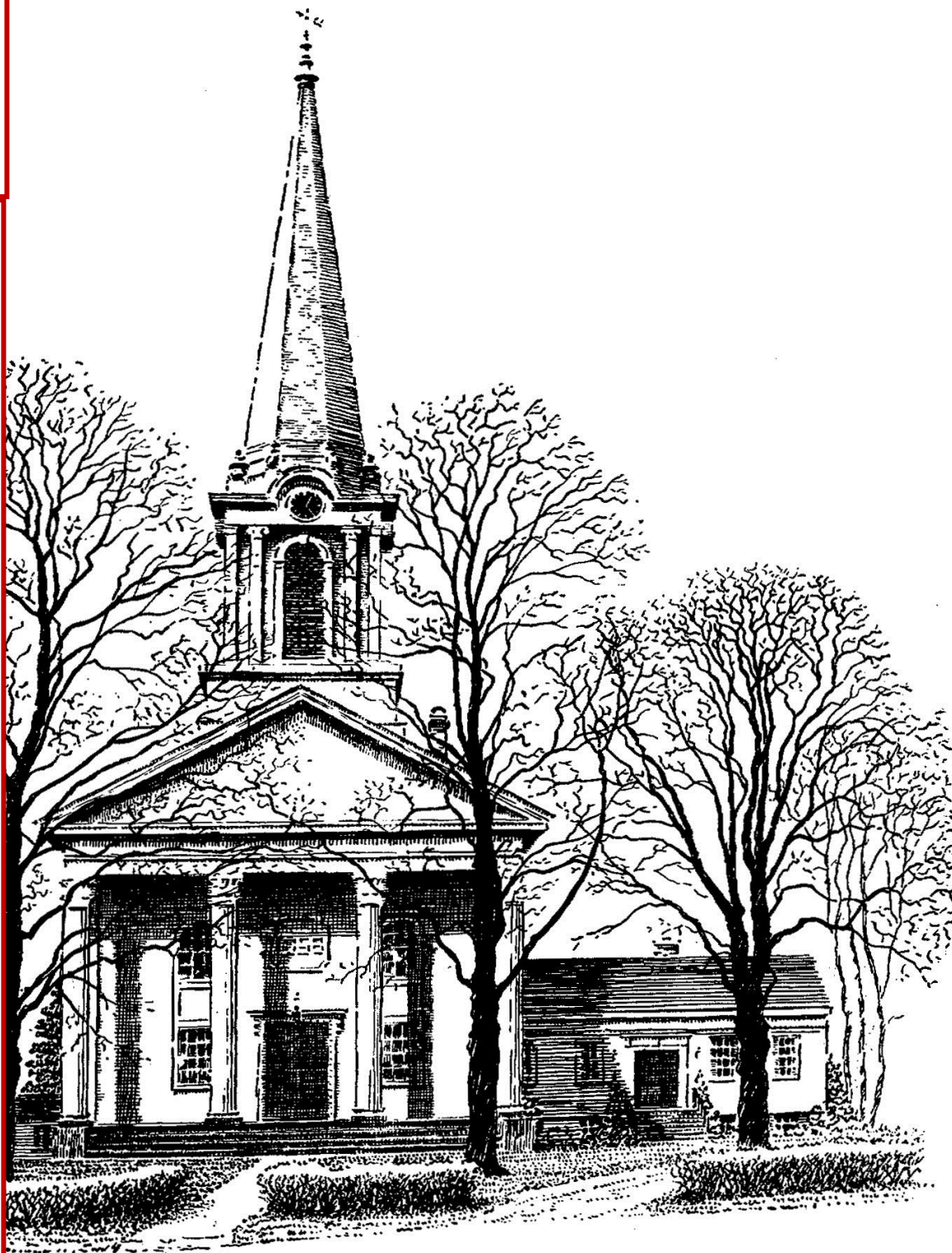


**FEBRUARY  
2018**



The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield - United Church of Christ

# The Wintonbury Spire



**Celebrating 280 years  
at the Heart of Bloomfield  
Happy Birthday on February 14<sup>th</sup>**

# Commentary: Justice work means working with the most vulnerable

January 18, 2018

Written by **Zach Wolgemuth**

Justice work means working with the most vulnerable. by Zach Wolgemuth Executive, UCC Disaster Ministries Issue #877 | January 22, 2017 WITNESS for JUSTICE A weekly commentary from the United Church of Christ When we think of justice advocacy, we often think actions such as writing letters to congress, marching on Capitol Hill or participating in a boycott. Few of us would consider disasters to be linked to justice work because disasters don't discriminate... or do they? It is true that many natural disasters impact rich and poor; young and old; black and white; educated and uneducated; insured and uninsured; employed and unemployed, but the reality is that certain communities are more susceptible to disasters than others. Because of systemic injustices, they are more vulnerable. Recently I traveled to Port Arthur, TX, in response to flooding from Hurricane Harvey. Port Arthur was inundated by floodwaters leaving many of its families and residents with few options. The median income there is approximately \$32,000, barely half of the national average. Nearly 30 percent of the city lived in poverty in 2015, a percentage that most has certainly increased since the flooding. For the past 12 years I've traveled throughout the U.S and around the globe responding to disasters of all types, scale and scope. I sorely wish I could say that what Port Arthur experienced was a coincidence or an anomaly, but it is not. As often as I see impoverished communities impacted by disaster, low income families too are disproportionately affected when disasters strike, simply because of factors that relate to their socioeconomic status, race or education. Disasters expose the inequality, injustices and prejudices in our society, yet they also provide a unique opportunity to respond as well. I strongly believe that justice work should be interwoven into our everyday lives. Justice work is difficult, it's dirty, it requires being vulnerable, placing ourselves in another's shoes, and being willing to learn and grow in our own understanding of what a "Just World For All" really means. Each day I am personally challenged to step out in faith and seek ways to do

justice, love mercy and walk humbly with my God. The vile, divisive rhetoric that we hear coming from national leaders is powerless against the relationships we build and the love we show to others in their time of greatest need. [ucc.org/justice](http://ucc.org/justice) [bit.ly/witness4justice](http://bit.ly/witness4justice) [ucc.org/donate](http://ucc.org/donate) Wf J ARCHIVE LEARN The United Church of Christ has more than 5,000 churches throughout the United States. Rooted in the Christian traditions of congregational governance and covenantal relationships, each UCC setting speaks only for itself and not on behalf of every UCC congregation. UCC members and churches are free to differ on important social issues, even as the UCC remains principally committed to unity in the midst of our diversity. DONATE Zach Wolgemuth is Executive of UCC Disaster Ministries for the United Church of Christ. ABOUT THE AUTHOR I'm proud to serve as the executive for UCC Disaster Ministries because of our role in addressing injustices. UCC Disaster Ministries focuses on responding in communities where systemic injustices persist and where our responses can directly build capacity. Port Arthur is one such example where we are working closely with a local non-profit community development corporation to repair homes that will help displaced renters return home and also increase the number of affordable housing options in the community. By empowering these families, offering hope and building relationships we break down barriers of injustice and prejudice that threaten the very fabric of our common humanity. Praise be to God.

*Zach Wolgemuth is the Executive for UCC Disaster Ministries.*

**WITNESS** *for*  
**JUSTICE**

# News For Kids, Youth & Families



LOVE, LOVE, LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED...

The Sunday School is having their Annual Cup Cake Sale!!! February is a wonderful time to show love. The Sunday School will be showing love by decorating Cupcakes to support a Covenant to Care Birthday Party. We will decorate cupcakes during Sunday School time on February 11<sup>th</sup> and then sell them during coffee hour, for \$2.00 each. Come to coffee hour and buy a cupcake or two to support the Sunday School's mission to show love for children in need of a celebration.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4<sup>th</sup>

Thursday Bible Study will be beginning a new book soon for the Lenten Season. Join us @ 10 am every Thursday. We will be glad to see you there.

## Sunday School

February 4<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday, Sunday School for Preschool ~ 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and Communion.

February 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday School for Preschool ~ 9<sup>th</sup> Grade - Fellowship Hall decorating cupcakes.

February 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday School for Preschool ~ 9<sup>th</sup> Grade.

February 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday School for Preschool ~ 9<sup>th</sup> Grade.

The Youth Group will be collecting your spare change for Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>. They will be holding Soup Pots for you to give your spare change at the exits as you leave church. The proceeds of this Fund Raiser will be going to Bloomfield Social Services. Many youth groups will be collecting money around our Nation and giving their proceeds to their local food banks. Each Youth Group will then enter the total amount collected into the National Total collected @ [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org). Check out our FCCB page on this website and see how we did in our collection and can see how the nation did in helping stop hunger. Help us end hunger. This is our 8<sup>th</sup> year collecting and over the years our total collection is \$1,375.00 Great job FCCB! Help us make a difference and score a Touch Down for Hunger. Thank you for your support. Don't forget Youth Group, we will count the money at Youth Group and eat soup!

## Youth Group Schedule

February 4<sup>th</sup> Collect for Souper Bowl of Caring after worship 11:00.

Youth Group 4:00~5:30 Souper Bowl Sunday Counting Party and Soup Event.

February 18<sup>th</sup> Youth Group 4:00~5:30 TCBY.



Happy Valentines Day!



**Happy 280th Birthday**  
**First Congregational Church**  
**February 14th, 2018**

# 8th Annual CTUCC Youth Revival

**When** Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 3:00 PM to 5:30 PM  
**Where** Faith Congregational Church in Hartford  
2030 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06120  
**Phone** 860-761-7103  
**Email** [debbyk@ctucc.org](mailto:debbyk@ctucc.org)  
**Contact** Debby Kirk

**View Registration Forms** [8th Annual CTUCC Youth Revival](#) →

**WHAT IS A REVIVAL?** This is a dynamic worship service that will your renew your spirit. Come and lift your praises, celebrate vitality, and embrace diversity! **WHERE WILL IT TAKE PLACE?** The Youth Revival will be at Faith congregational Church at 2030 Main Street in Hartford. There is plenty of free, off-street parking available behind the church. **WHO IS INVITED?** All youth in grades 5 and up and their pastors, parents, or adult leaders. Bring a few or bring your whole group; fill up your car or rent a bus and meet us in Hartford. **WHAT ABOUT THE MUSIC?** There will be lots of upbeat music provided by Isaac Monts and the praise band from Liberty Christian Center International. **WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THIS REVIVAL?** This is our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Revival so be prepared for an amazing celebration that features music, dance, inspiring testimony and more! **WHAT IS RJM?** RJM stands for Racial Justice Ministry. The Revival is a RJM event because it is intentionally multi-cultural and multi-racial. We believe God calls us to create a beloved community that affirms the dignity of all individuals. **DO I HAVE TO REGISTER?** This event is free, however we request that you reply here to let us know how many are coming. (Name, church, estimated number) **WILL THERE BE AN OFFERING?** Yes, we will take a collection to support Youth Ministry at Faith as well as a designated outreach program in the Hartford Community. **WHAT ABOUT FELLOWSHIP?** Of course, there will be time to hang out afterwards! You'll see friends from Silver Lake, JCT, TAWFG, and Giv2. There will be refreshments as well as displays about some of the great programs in our CT Conference. **HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?** All who want to sing or dance should contact Debby Kirk at the number above.



For more information contact Debby Kirk, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries  
[debbyk@ctucc.org](mailto:debbyk@ctucc.org) 860.761.7103 [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org)



# 2017 Ministries of the Connecticut Conference, UCC

In 2017, the Connecticut Conference took an historic first step toward forming a new, unified conference with our siblings in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. This Conference has long known that together, we can do more to live the love of justice and Jesus than we can do alone. This move toward uniting is the next natural step on our journey.

The details of this new venture are still unfolding. Follow along at: [ctucc.org/ta1updates](http://ctucc.org/ta1updates)

In the meantime, here is a look back at what we as a Conference did together in 2017:

## Silver Lake Conference Center

918 young people learned leadership through 37 summer conferences (500 attended environmental justice training)

This was an *increase of 109 campers* over the previous year—an important reversal in what had been a downward trend.

- 75 deans, 124 counselors, and 7 chaplains volunteered to lead, nurture, and inspire
- 47 dedicated summer staff sang, cleaned, ran, protected, and mentored the conferees
- More than 3000 youth and adults enjoyed weekend retreats at Silver Lake during the spring and fall
- \$67,950 in sponsorships were provided to 287 campers by individuals, churches and associations
- \$31,625 in Silver Lake Scholarships were awarded to 106 individuals
- The Golf Tournament and Fancy Camp Gala raised nearly \$20,000 to support the ministry of Silver Lake
- 8 multiracial youth welcomed to 4th Annual Environmental Justice For All! Retreat

## Youth and Young Adult Ministries

- 32 youth attended Youth@Synod as part of a collaborative CT/MA/RI Tri-Conference trip to Baltimore
- 250 Giv2 (Give Squared) participants from 5 chapters gave close to 600 service hours to CT Communities
- 110 youth and adults gathered at the Interfaith Youth Hangout at First Congregational Church of Middletown
- 173 attended Youth Revival in West Hartford, and offered \$944 for refugee resettlement
- 130 confirmands from 15 churches participated in CTUCC Confirmation Retreats, which included Creation Care Workshops
- 5 Thinking About Working for God Apprentices explored call through this signature CTUCC job shadow program
- CTUCC partnered with First Church Simsbury to support the Young Adult Service Community program

# Inspiring & Supporting Vital Ministry

- 283 Leaders attended 2 Super Saturday Events
- 250 leaders from 16 congregations participated in 12 Safe Conduct Trainings
- 50 leaders from 18 congregations took part in *Stepping Stones* Christian Education workshops
- 9 facilitators were trained to begin work with Clergy Excellence Groups
- 40 pastors connect with the Conference Minister in one-on-one conversations
- 25 people began transitional, interim, bridge or designated term pastorates
- 12 people became Members in Discernment
- 11 new clergy were ordained and 19 clergy began new settled pastorates
- 48 delegates, 12 youth delegates and 10 staff sent to General Synod in Baltimore

## Justice Ministries

### Racial Justice:

- 20 churches completed either a racial justice training or a sacred conversation on race
- 25 middle school youth engaged in the "Did You Know?" youth racial justice curriculum
- ALL Silver Lake summer staff went through 6 hours of racial justice training

### Environmental Justice:

- Environmental Justice workshops and discussions held at 3 churches
- 4 interfaith climate justice vigils in CT were coordinated and several nationwide actions were promoted
- 175 people began receiving a new monthly newsletter with updates on environmental issues

### Economic Justice:

- 14 faith denominations/organizations were brought together into the Coalition Against Casino Expansion
- 70 people attended a meeting in opposition to a casino in East Windsor and 13 leaders spoke out at the state capitol
- The Conference Minister was arrested while advocating for the marginalized



## Conference Staffing

### New Staff:

Debby Dione, Director of Finance & Budget (shared with MA)  
Jill Ford, Program Associate & Conf. Registrar  
Toyan (TJ) Harper, Associate for Racial Justice (shared with MA)  
Susan (Suzi) Townsley, Associate for Leadership, Innovation and Change

### Changed Positions:

Jennifer Kronholm Clark, SLCC Program Director  
Isaac Monts, Associate for Justice and Leadership  
Sioux Wilusz, Executive Assistant to the Conference Minister

### Staff Departures:

Jane Fawcett  
Cecile Gilson  
Michelle Hughes  
Day McCallister  
Alan Munshower



# FEBRUARY

# 2018



*Every Sunday*

10 am *Worship*  
12:30 *New Birth Community Church*

*Every Monday*

6pm *Bell Choir*  
7pm *Narc. Anon.*

**February 4**  
**Worship @ 10 am**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

5  
6:30 pm  
*Search Team*

*Lectionary Possibilities:* Isaiah 40: 21-31; Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c;  
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23; **Mark 1: 29-39**

**February 11**

**Worship @ 10 am**  
**Racial Justice Sunday**

*Lectionary Possibilities:* 2 Kings 2: 1-12; Psalm 50: 1-6;  
2 Corinthians 4: 3-6; **Mark 9: 2-9**

**First Congregational Church 280 Years on Feb 14**

12

**Loaves & Fishes**  
Preparation on  
Mon Feb 12

**February 18**

**Worship @ 10 am**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

*Lectionary Possibilities:* Genesis 9: 8-17; **Psalm 25: 1-10;**  
1 Peter 3: 18-22; Mark 1: 9-15

19



*Church Office Closed*

**February 25**

**Worship @ 10 am**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Celebrate FCCB becoming Open and Affirming ONA**

*Lectionary Possibilities:* Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22: 23-31;  
Romans 4: 13-25; **Mark 8: 31-38 or Mark 9: 2-9**

26

6:30 pm  
*Search Team*

**March 4**

**Communion Sunday**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

5

6:30 pm  
*Search Team*


**Save the Date!!!**

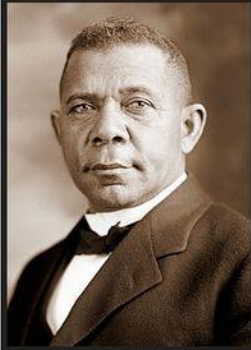
**Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 we will celebrate FCCB's 280<sup>th</sup> birthday and Mardi Gras. Sign up for our potluck lunch after worship.**



# FEBRUARY

# 2018

<i>Every Tuesday Exercise</i>	<i>Every Wed. 9:30am Jump Bunch 7 pm Alc. Anon.</i>	<i>Every Thursday 10:00 am Bible Study</i>	<i>Every Friday 7:30 pm Alc. Anon</i>	<i>Every Saturday</i>
30	31	1	2 9:15 am Exercise  Groundhog Day	3
6 1:30 pm Wounded Healers	7	8 6:00 pm NAMBI	9 9:15 am Exercise	10
13 1:30 pm Wounded Healers	14 Ash Wednesday  Happy Birthday FCCB 280 years! Happy Valentine's Day to All!	15	16 9:15am exercise	17
20 1:30 pm Wounded Healers	21 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Feb Church Council 6:30 pm</div>	22	23 9:15am exercise <b>Anniversary of FCCB vote - Open and Affirming Congregation</b>	24
27 <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Fri Feb 27 Spire Party 10:30 am</div>	28 4:00 pm ABC	March 1	2	3



I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed.

(Booker T. Washington)

izquotes.com

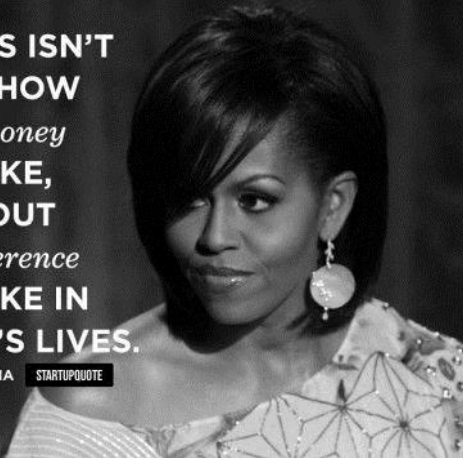
“Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it.”

– Maya Angelou



SUCCESS ISN'T ABOUT HOW MUCH *money* YOU MAKE, IT'S ABOUT THE *difference* YOU MAKE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES.

- MICHELLE OBAMA STARTUPOQUOTE



“A MAN WHO STANDS FOR NOTHING WILL FALL FOR ANYTHING.”

MALCOLM X

“IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE.”

- NELSON MANDELA



“At present, our country needs women's idealism and determination, perhaps more in politics than anywhere else.”

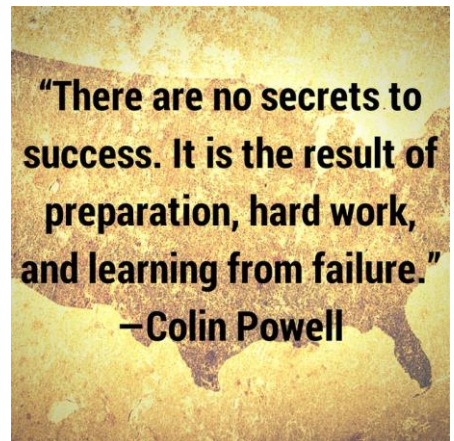
Shirley Chisholm

/WWIN



“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”

– Colin Powell



“Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” -James Baldwin (*As Much Truth As One Can Bear*, *New York Times*)

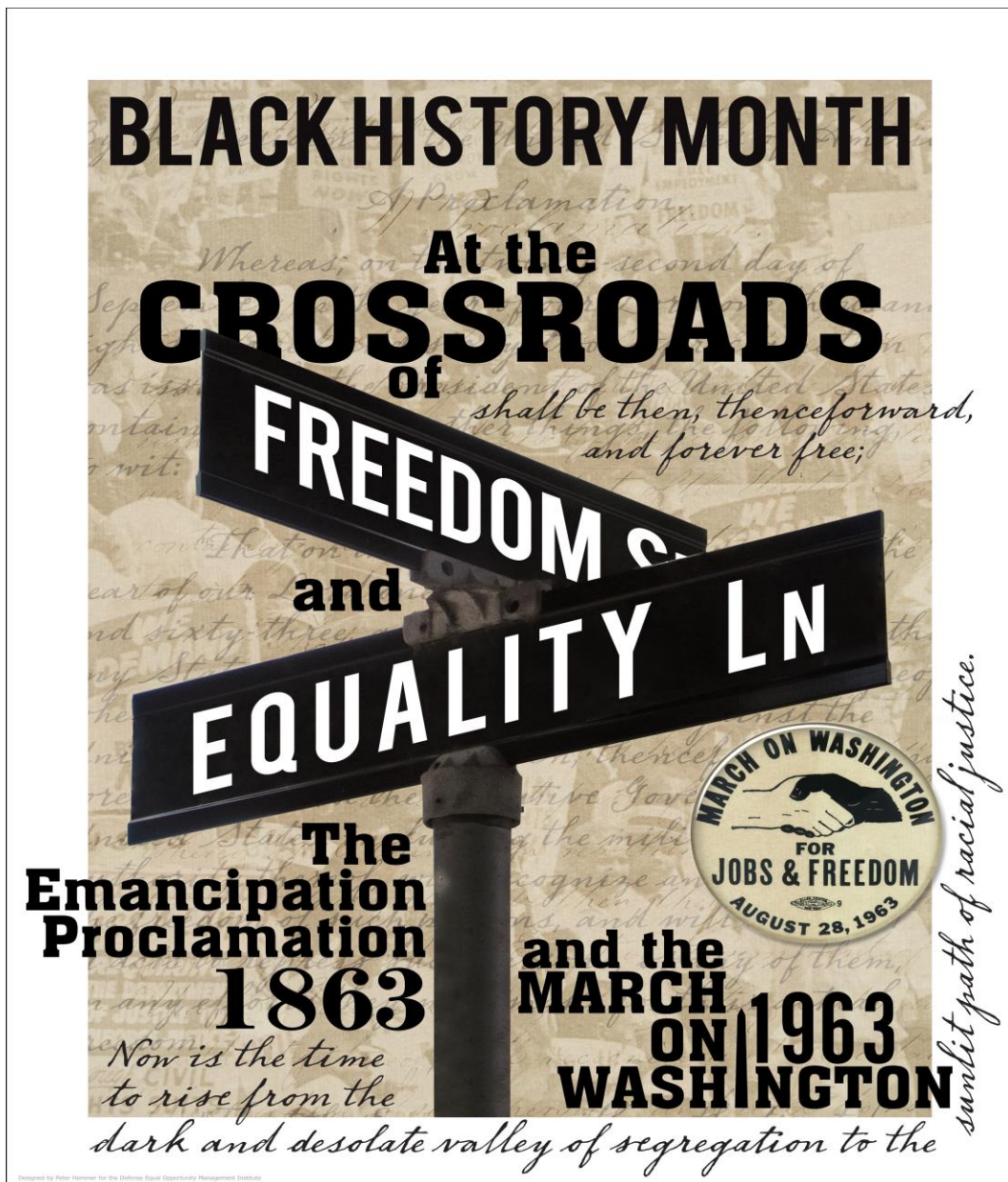
FEBRUARY IS

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

What we now call Black History Month originated in 1926,  
founded by Carter G. Woodson

As **Negro History Week.**

The month of February was selected in deference to  
Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln  
who were both born in that month





Happy Anniversary Eustace!



Janelle Hales	Feb 2
Madge Edwards	Feb 2
Adelle Wright	Feb 2
Brandon Gee Little	Feb 10
Janet Swan	Feb 14
Paul Wilson	Feb 17
Kim Letendre	Feb 19
David Weaver	Feb 19
Trudy Barnard	Feb 20
Eric Markiewicz	Feb 27

- \*Prayers for Elizabeth Von Eisengrein struggling with health issues. Cards and calls are welcome.
- \*Prayers for Erie Pinney, Cards and calls are Welcome. No visits at this time.
- \* 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.
- \*Our nation, that it may continue its difficult work to end the practices of racism and misogyny and prayers for those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world, or where terrorists have struck.



Ash Wednesday ~ Feb 14  
 Valentine's Day ~ Feb 14  
 First Sunday in Lent ~ Feb 18

Dave Berg ~ Charlotte Babcock ~ Julie Cato  
 Gladys Dunbar ~ Madge Edwards ~ Sue Davis  
 Al Forster ~ Charles Miles ~ Bonnie King  
 Carol Wolcott ~ Adelle Wright





(DRAFT) CHURCH  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
1-17-18

Attendees: R. Robinson, C. Delgado, S. Goetjen, J. Casner, C. Wilson. The meeting opened with a prayer. The December Council Minutes were accepted as presented.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** The FCCB Child Development Center has received notice that the Town of Bloomfield has denied their request to be exempt from paying personal property tax on equipment used in the center. Scott will file an appeal application by Feb. 20. The financial report for the end of Dec. 2017 shows that pledges are above budget for the month because of year-end payments made by some members. Free offering and rental income are down a bit, but we are on track. Expenses are generally in line with the budget. Minister's expenses are lower. Prosser fund expenses are up because of state cuts. Larger costs for Prosser and Gale will be covered by Investments and Trusts.

**PERSONNEL:** Carolyn continues to be in contact with the staff. She plans to meet on a more regular basis with Shantel, Director of the Child Development Center, and Mary of Facilities Team. The staff should be complimented on doing a great job in the absence of a minister.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE:** Ursula sent an email report to Council that we are not yet close to making an offer for a settled pastor, but the team is committed to finding the right person for our church. A number of profiles are still under review, and hopefully more will come in from the Conference. There are a number of churches in the Hartford area searching for a minister at present. Council came up with a few clarifications to be explored with Ursula and supports the goal that the strongest focus should be on fulfilling the criteria and characteristics outlined in our

church profile regardless of age, race, gender, etc. when reviewing a candidate.

**INTERIM PASTOR UPDATE:** Pastor Tamara Moreland, Regional Conference Minister, has asked if we would consider a part-time person (20-25 hours/week) as she continues to help us to find someone for the interim period. Council agreed to consider this option.

**STEWARDSHIP:** On Feb. 4 following the morning worship service, there will be a meeting with Brett, as this year's leader of stewardship, team leaders, and Council to brainstorm about the upcoming stewardship campaign. In order to meet the expense of a full-time pastor and maintain the current budget level of all other expenses we will need a 10% increase in pledges for the next fiscal year.

**NOMINATING:** Mary has agreed to remain as Facilities Team leader.

**SECURITY:** Following the meeting in Meriden with the State Police on providing safety at the church, one of the suggestions was to lock the doors after the service has started and have a person stationed at one designated entrance to admit latecomers. Signs would be placed on the other entrances indicating at which door access would be available. Five years ago Mary had the town police do a walk-through of the building with regard to suggestions for safety for the Child Development Center. This resulted in security upgrades currently in place for the preschool. Council will ask Mary to share any information that the church could use to further enhance safety at a future council meeting

Ron expressed appreciation to Deacons and staff for taking on extra duties in the absence of a minister. The meeting ended with a prayer.

**NEXT MEETING:** February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Wilson

### MISSION BOARD MINUTES 12/11/17

**ATTENDANCE:** Kay, Betsy, David, Lucy, Judi, Jane, Eunice, Sandy Weigt

November minutes were accepted.

**THANKSGIVING BASKETS:** Thank you letters have been sent. We collected \$1500 and had \$532 already in the account. We spent \$1135.80 for gift cards and extra groceries. (Stop and Shop donated an additional \$500 we used towards gift cards). \$896.20 was left. We will spend \$300 on Stop and Shop gift cards for Andrea to hand out to members in need and keep the rest in the account for next year.

**PROSSER FUND:** \$37,938.84 has been spent since July. This is about half of what was in the account. This is over our annual budget but additional money was in the account due to not having spent the budgeted amount in prior years. The need seems to be great right now and we discussed what we should do if requests keep coming in and the money is depleted. Do we drain the account and then have no cushion for over-runs in the future? Jane would like to let Social Services know that we don't have an endless amount of money so they are aware that we can't fund at this rate through the end of the fiscal year. This way they can look for other sources first for some needs.

**CSI:** Nothing new to report.

**COVENANT TO CARE:** Judi reports we are still with the same social worker. Toys are coming in for Christmas.

**BACKPACK PROGRAM:** Eunice reported that new names are being added and they are now up to fifty-three backpacks each week. They may add a school in Hartford in January. Food costs about \$11 per backpack. They have received about a third of their budget already in donations.

**HYACINTH WILLIAMS FOUNDATION:** Eunice is setting up a self-sufficiency program in Jamaica. So far five families have received chickens and feed and boosters at an initial outlay of \$200 per family. After six weeks they can sell all of the chickens for \$300 and reinvest the money so they have seventy-five chickens. This will continue so they will eventually be able to

keep some of the profit as income. David moved to spend \$400 to sponsor two families and Betsy seconded. After discussion about our budget and other expenditures we decided to table the decision until January.

**AL ASMI FAMILY:** Fade is employed at City Steam Restaurant and Blue Plate Kitchen. He has also catered an event for Lucy at Manchester Community College. All family members have had their medical exams in the green card applications process. They continue to take classes in learning English and dealing with the life struggles they are presented with.

Next meeting Monday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00.

David will chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay Yablecki



### Minutes of the FCCB Deacons Meeting January 24, 2018

**Attending:** Carolyn Delgado, Andrea Mercer, Dee Hart, Ozma Gibbs, Eustace Straker  
Chair Anne Weaver was unable to attend. Vice Chair Carolyn conducted the meeting in her absence. Carolyn began the meeting with a prayer at 10:00 am.

**Transition and Pastoral Coverage:** Carolyn updated the group on the Church Council's progress in finding an interim minister while the search process for our new settled pastor continues. Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree has agreed to provide pastoral coverage if an urgent need arises before we have an interim. The group also discussed possible supply ministers we may employ.

#### Worship Planning

**February is Black History Month** – Dee will work with Faith Formation Director Dorine DeCarli on Children's Messages for the month

built around Black History and the culture(s) of Africa's descendants. This theme will also be included in the weekly bulletin and Eustace will include music celebrating this.

**February 4:** Communion will be distributed. Andrea and Carolyn volunteered to set up and serve. Ozma will serve and clean up. One server is left to recruit. Ministerial coverage also TBD.

**February 11:** Last Sunday before Lent is also closest to FCCB's birthday on February 14, marking 280 years in 2018. Dee will contact town government and the Bloomfield Messenger about commemorating and covering this significant anniversary. A Birthday/Mardi Gras potluck is also proposed for the occasion. Andrea will reach out to the other church teams for commitments to help – from planning thru cleanup. Additionally, that will be Racial Justice Sunday and its assigned theme is Compassionate Caring, elements that resonate strongly in our congregation.

**February 14 (Ash Wednesday):** We will not hold an Ash Wednesday service this year. We agreed to explore the possibility of joining with the Methodist Church if they are having a service. A listing of area services will be compiled also for distribution.

**February 18:** First Sunday in Lent. Lenten theme this year will be “We Are Here!” – exploring how we live as Christians in the world we inhabit. In support of the theme, we will publish an appeal for personal reflections from members of the congregation. The goal is to have reflections for the 40 days of Lent to be included in the weekly bulletin and the church e-news. The reflections may be signed or anonymous as each writer prefers.

February 23 anniversary of ONA at FCCB will be celebrated on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Bell Choir plays that day and the theme is “God's Loving Paths.”

**February 25:** Theme is “Always Close.”

**March 4:** Communion will be by intinction. Dee and Andrea volunteered to set up and serve. Carol Johnson will serve and clean up.

**March 29:** Maundy Thursday---communion and foot washing. Prayer Vigil begins 8pm

**March 30:** Good Friday—Prayer Vigil ends 12 pm

#### **Additional Business**

**Easter Sunday:** Briefly discussed the 10 am service. The Bell Choir is currently scheduled to play. Communion will be served. There was some discussion regarding logistics. Eustace will discuss this with the Music Team and the Bell Choir.

**Meeting Room Decoration:** Ideas were shared on improving the look of the Meeting Room. It was agreed that one or two more palm trees would be nice, perhaps on the landings next to the pulpit steps with a third to be placed in the Narthex. Dee proposed, and the group agreed, that white and gold fabric be draped on the large cross for Easter morning.

**LGBTQ Info:** Andrea told about attending an MLK Day service at South Congregational in Hartford. While there she picked up information about LGBTQ youth, which she gave Dee to be passed in turn to Dorine.

**Memorial Fund Usage:** At the gathering of church leaders to be held February 4 Dee and Carolyn will ask about the possibility that restrictions on some funds might be re-examined, reinterpreted, and possibly relaxed in light of changing needs and circumstances.

The group joined hands for a prayer by Carolyn and adjourned the meeting at 11:50.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 21, 10:00 am**

Respectfully submitted,  
Ozma Gibbs



**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.

**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:**

Feb 27, 2018	March 27, 2018
April 27, 2018	May 29, 2018
June 29, 2018	August 31, 2018

**STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

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[straepipes@yahoo.com](mailto:straepipes@yahoo.com)  
860-242-0776 x 3

**Dorine DeCarli**  
Director of Faith Formation  
[ce@firstchurchbloomfield.org](mailto:ce@firstchurchbloomfield.org)  
860-242-0776 x 4

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