

**MAY
2017**



The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield – United Church of Christ

The Wintonbury Spire

**“MAKE ME TO KNOW YOUR WAYS LORD
TEACH ME YOUR PATHS, LEAD ME
IN YOUR TRUTH AND TEACH ME,
GOD OF MY SALVATION”**

Psalm 25:4-5

Our Congregation, has just began our yearly emphasis on
STEWARDSHIP.

*I am suggesting that Psalm 25: 4-5 is directly related to
Stewardship!*

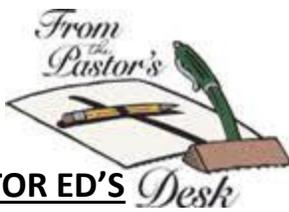
*As your Interim Pastor please allow me to highlight how they
relate:*

- A. STEWARDSHIP is about our intentional awareness that who we are and the gifts that we have are expressions of GOD’S grace!
- B. Awareness that we always need to be open to GOD’S new ways!
- C. Awareness that we need to be open and receptive to GOD’S revelation and truth... *“lead me GOD...teach me GOD!*
- D. STEWARDSHIP provides us with the opportunity to share our time, our talents and our financial resources for the common good!
- E. STEWARDSHIP IS ABOUT GIVING OF OUR TREASURES SO OUR CONGREGATION CAN SHARE WITH OTHERS GOD’S GOOD NEWS AND THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION; IT IS A BLESSING TO GIVE!

**“COME HELP US GROW...HELP US TOUCH OTHERS WITH OUR
COMPASSION AND THE PROMOTION OF JUSTICE..**

**BE GROUNDED IN YOURSELF FIRST
AND THEM HELP OTHERS GROW
OUT OF LOVE! GIVE WITH PASSION!”**

Pastor Ed



PASTOR ED'S *Desk*

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

- ***When considering responding to our Stewardship challenge stop, meditate on the meaning of Stewardship and respond out of grace!***
- ***When considering how much time, talent-sharing and financial support you will share with the Church...always explore new frontiers...GIVING MORE, NOT LESS...BE A BLESSING THROUGH YOUR GIFTS!***
- ***WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED 14 NEW ADULT MEMBERS...GOD IS GOOD!
(Be aware that even in our pastoral transition, 14 adults have said
“Yes, we want to grow, be nurtured and serve in this Church”***



- ***Other ways you can support our Church is by:***
 - inviting others to visit us!*
 - always promoting love compassion among us!*
 - being respectful to those who do not think like you!*
 - getting involved in a Ministry Team.*
- ***Join our Church Growth Ministry Team or our Race Relations Team...Yes help us grow and help us witness our love!***
- ***(Contact Pastor Ed for more information)***

MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH PEACE...Pastor Ed.

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.

News For Kids, Youth & Families



May

May is here and Faith Formation is full of activity throughout the month. Each event is wonderful and full of inspiration and creativity.

Our Faith Formation Bible Study continues. Please come and join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Living Room. We are looking at different themes of the Bible. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

The children of the Sunday School are preparing for Children's Sunday June 11th. They will be working on their pieces of the worship service and our Musical "The Tale of Three Trees" during Sunday School during the month of May. Please have your child attend Sunday school as much as possible in order to get in practice time. We are looking forward to this Special Sunday of celebrating our Children. Rehearsal's (there are two for this special Sunday) Saturday June 3rd and Saturday June 10th @ 10:00 am.

The Youth Group is walking on May 7th for the Food Share Walk for Hunger. Please feel free to sponsor one of our Youth on Sunday May 7th before we walk. We will leave Fellowship Hall @ 1:00pm and return to the church by 3:30. Please have your Youth wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing and be sure their clothing is appropriate for the weather. We walk rain or shine. Please bring the donation form with donations also you will need to sign the original form giving permission for your youth to walk. We will have a great time walking for hunger together. Any questions please feel free to call Dorine.

The Silver Lake Road Show is coming to FCCB on May 7th. There will be a presentation about Silver Lake during Coffee Hour. This is a time to for Silver Lake to share information and a few kids' games from Silver Lake. Come and check it out. Great fun at Coffee Hour!

Our Liturgical Dancers will be joining us in Worship on Mother's Day Sunday May 14th. Come to worship and experience the wonderful dance, done by Amber McKenzie, Kyara O'Connor and Joshua Clarke.

Sunday School ~ MAY

May 7th Sunday School and Communion Sunday. Silver Lake Road Show @ Coffee Hour. Youth Grp Walk for Hunger 1-3 pm

May 14th Sunday School Preschool ~ Gr 9 Mother's Day Liturgical Dance (Worship).

May 21st Sunday School Preschool ~ Gr 9 Classic Dinner 4 pm. Youth arrive 2 pm.

May 28th Sunday School Preschool ~ Gr 9





2017 Vacation Bible School is gearing up and getting ready. "Maker Fun Factory" Created by God Built for a purpose! We are looking for teachers and helpers for Games, Crafts and Bible. Mark your calendar for Vacation Bible School August 14th ~ 18th 9:00 - 12:00. An amazing adventure awaits your young child Ages 4 - 11, learning through music, bible, games and crafts/science. See the registration form included in this Spire. Preregistration is great!



Join Us May 18th @ 6:30 pm

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BIRTHDAY DESSERT BAR

Featuring our own Penny Goejten mystery writer, discussing her latest book, The Empty Chair.



Sign up May 7th & 14th or contact Angela Maine (awmaine@comcast.net) or Kay Yablecki (kjyablecki@comcast.net). \$5 donation appreciated. Signed books available for sale. Bring a Friend! All are Welcome.

Release



Greetings,

We are pleased to share this news with you. Please [sign up for our e-newsletter at this link](#) for more information concerning programs related to sanctuary, immigrant advocacy and refugees.

Hartford Seminary Declares Sanctuary Status

HARTFORD, CT – The Hartford Seminary Board of Trustees has voted to declare sanctuary status for the 183-year-old graduate school, which takes great pride in the multifaith and international diversity of its student body, faculty and staff.

The statement agreed upon unanimously by the board reads as follows:

Hartford Seminary has declared itself a “sanctuary seminary” in keeping with the religious meaning of the term as a sacred place of refuge or safety.

Hartford Seminary has long been committed to an ethic of inclusion in its academic life and mission. Our unique interfaith approach to preparing religious leaders worldwide makes it imperative that we continue to welcome students, faculty and staff from around the world and to provide them a secure environment. There are no borders when it comes to our commitment to strengthening relationships and promoting understanding across religious divides.

As a sanctuary seminary in a sanctuary city and state, we affirm the values of openness, unity and fairness. To that end:

- We remain committed to the principles of non-discrimination, including equal protection under the law, regardless of national origin or citizenship.
- We will not voluntarily assist the federal government in efforts to deport our students, faculty or staff solely because of their citizenship status.

Susan Schoenberger
Director of Communications
Hartford Seminary
77 Sherman Street
Hartford, CT 06105
860-509-9519

Please join us for this year's Tri-Conference Annual Meeting



June 16-17, 2017
Connecticut Convention Center
Hartford, CT

Be part of UCC history!

Everyone (voting delegates and guests) is invited to:

- Worship and share communion with your New England neighbors
- Explore the future of our church with UCC General Minister & President John Dorhauer
- Discern whether to endorse a new conference and move forward: **Together, As One**



UCC General Minister & President
The Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer

**READ details about the Resolution to form a new conference of the United Church of Christ
and REGISTER for the Meeting at:**

Connecticut Conference	ctucc.org/TriConAM
Massachusetts Conference	macucc.org/TriConAM
Rhode Island Conference	ricucc.org/TriConAM

Registration Deadline: Monday June 5, 2017

Blessing of the Animals

June 4, 2017

2 pm



First Congregational Church in Bloomfield
United Church of Christ



MAY

2017

<p><i>Every Sunday</i></p> <p>8 & 10 am Worship 12:30 New Birth Community Church</p>	<p><i>Every Monday</i></p> <p>6pm Bell Choir 7pm Narc. Anon.</p>
<p>May 7 Bible Discussion @ 8 am – Worship @ 10 am Communion Sunday Fourth Sunday in Easter</p> <p>Lectionary Possibilities: Acts 2: 42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2: 19-25; John 10: 1-10</p>	<p>8</p>
 <p>May 14 Bible Discussion @ 8 am – Worship @ 10 am Happy Mother's Day Fifth Sunday in Easter</p> <p>Lectionary Possibilities: Acts 7: 55-60; Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2: 2-10; John 14: 1-14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Loaves & Fishes Preparation on Mon May 15 Serving on Tues May 16</p>
<p>May 21 Bible Discussion @ 8 am – Worship @ 10 am Sixth Sunday in Easter Music Sunday</p> <p>Lectionary Possibilities: Acts 17: 22-31 ; Psalm 66: 8-20; 1 Peter 3: 13-22 ; John 14: 15-21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>May 28 Bible Discussion @ 8 am – Worship @ 10 am Seventh Sunday in Easter</p> <p>Lectionary Possibilities: Acts 1: 6-14; Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4: 12-14; John 17: 1-11</p>	<p>29 Memorial Day Church Office Closed</p> 
<p>June 4 Bible Discussion @ 8 am – Worship @ 10 am Communion & Pentecost Sunday Blessing of the Animals 2:00 pm</p> <p>Lectionary Possibilities: 2: 1-12 or Numbers 11: 24-30; Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13 or Acts 2: 1-21; John 20: 19-23</p>	<p>June 5</p>

MAY

2017

<i>Every Tuesday</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>
May 2 <i>9:15 am Exercise 11 am Dot Nordstrom Memorial Service</i>	May 3	May 4 <i>6:30 pm Wintonbury Flying Club</i>	May 5 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	May 6
9 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	10	11	12 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	13
16 <i>9:15 am Exercise 11:00 am Loaves & Fishes Offsite 6:00 pm HAEC Annual Meeting</i>	17 <i>1:30 pm Parish Care</i> Church Council 6:30 pm	18 Women's Fellowship Event 6:30 pm	19	20
23 <i>9:15 am Exercise</i>	24 <i>4:00 pm ABC</i>	25 <i>1:30 pm Parish Care 6:30 pm Glenwood Green</i>	26 <i>9:15am exercise</i>	27
30	31	June 1 <i>6:30 pm Wintonbury Flying Club</i>	June 2	June 3



Music Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, May 21 at the 10am service. Sopranos, altos, tenors and basses are invited to join the Cantata Singers for this service. Members, friends

and guests are all welcome. Rehearsals will be held after Easter Sunday on scheduled Wednesdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Music Suite and on scheduled Sundays from 9am-9:45 am in the Metzger Chapel. It is extremely important that you attend as many rehearsals as possible. A signup sheet will be on the Music Ministry bulletin board. You may also email me at straepipes@yahoo.com or you may contact any member of the Music Ministry Team whose names are on the Music Ministry bulletin board.



We are blessed to welcome the following persons into

Our Church Community

Maurise Benson

Kelly Correa

Dorine DeCarli

Andrea Davey Mercer

Kate Fennell

Sarah Kline Morgan

Barbara Kozlowski

Heather O'Connor & Rick Mesick

Emily & Katelyn Owens

Brett Sandman

Melinda Partridge

Elizabeth Von Eisengrein



Terry Martel	May 3
Shanoah Gee	May 7
Marnie Clark	May 9
Jaiden Alba	May 13
Charlotte Mottram	May 24
Lucy Wirsul	May 24
Dolly Hunt	May 30



May 7
Communion Sunday

May 14
Mother's Day

May 21
Music Sunday

May 29
Memorial Day

- *Prayers for the family of the late Dot Nordstrom. Cards can be sent to her daughter - Jane Connell 12 Arrowwood Dr. Cromwell, CT 06416
- *Prayers for Trudy Barnard who is at home recovering from eye surgery. Cards and calls would be appreciated.
- *Prayers for Paul Wilson Paul Wilson who is in rehab at Bloomfield Center & Rehab. Visits are welcome, cards can be sent to P.O. Box 396, Bloomfield, CT 06002-0396
- *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 ~ Julie Cato ~ Sue Davis
Charlotte Babcock ~ Gladys Dunbar
Jane Doble ~ Carol Johnson ~ Charles Miles
Madge Edwards ~ Hicksbert (Lloyd) Grant
Elaine Nelson ~ Faye Smith ~ Carol Wolcott
Adelle Wright ~ Betty Willis



COUNCIL CORNER

(4/19/17 Council meeting)

Attendees: Ron Robinson, Carolyn Delgado, Coleen Dobo, Scott Goetjen, Priscilla McCatty, Edwin Ayala, *ex officio*.

Financial – Revenues and expenses continue to track with what was budgeted. Notices will be going out shortly for Ministry Teams to submit their 2017 – 2018 budgets by the end of May in preparation for a June 25th Annual Meeting. As our fiscal yearend approaches, some pledge-completion reminders will be sent out soon.

Membership – Pastor reported there are now 16 people planning to become members – most of them on April 23rd with the rest shortly thereafter. **Very Exciting!**

Nominating – We continue to look for 3 people to be on the Nominating Committee. But in the meantime have determined that nearly all of the incumbents will continue another year. While some incumbents are still being contacted, known openings include 3 elected positions – Fellowship, Membership, Stewardship – and 6 appointed positions - Clerk, Financial Administrator and Nominating (3). Anyone interested in more information regarding these positions is encouraged to contact a Council member.

Stewardship – While Stewardship/service is a year around activity, our formal

campaign – **New Possibilities** - will run through the end of May this year. Everyone should have received a letter with more details by the end of April. Also, please be sure to read other Stewardship messages in this Spire.

Search – As an outgrowth of the Search process, Council will be exploring ways to have constructive discussions around diversity, especially race. Ursula will be attending a local 2-day workshop that includes ways to do this effectively.

Thank you, Ursula.

Closing prayer by Pastor Ayala

Next Meeting – 5/17/17 at 6:30 pm





Stewardship
While
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is a year around
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Campaign.

New Possibilities

will run through the end of May
this year.

Ron's Testimonial

Our joining almost 40 years ago was motivated by having young children, who we wanted to expose to a Christian environment. This Church came through in so many ways – Sunday School, Cherub Choir, Pilgrim Fellowship, Silver Lake – all of which have had a meaningful impact on each of us. But then there was also the welcoming Fellowship we encountered that resulted in most of our closest friendships. And there are the many highly rewarding opportunities it has provided us to serve and make a difference for others. Then this math major/musical novice was embraced into the joyful camaraderie of the Bell Choir. Who would have guessed! This Church has also led me to find a deeper spirituality and a more meaningful purpose for my life. I owe a lot to FCCB and want to help secure its future filled with bright New Possibilities.

Ron Robinson

George's Testimonial

Dad chose Bloomfield (and this Church) as his home because he felt both had opened their doors to people of other races and cultures more than any of the surrounding towns/churches. As a Displaced Person in Europe during WWII, who arrived in the United States via Church World Services, George appreciated what it meant to be welcomed. He related to the Civil Rights Movement and heavily identified with the struggles of African-Americans. During his time in the service (Georgia), he was deeply troubled by the segregation he saw. He was so proud to live and teach in Bloomfield with its wide mix of races and religions. There was a pure and simple openness in how my Dad reached out to people. When he saw someone in need, he wanted to help. He always wanted to learn their stories.

George Zars (from his memorial service with permission from his daughter, Valerie) – This expresses a lot of what we are all about. Among many other things, he was our Financial Administrator, accounting for our stewardship/pledge activity. Thank you, George.

George Zars

New Possibilities

This is the very timely and appropriate theme for our 2017 Stewardship campaign. Timely and appropriate because we are all currently benefitting from many inspiring experiences:

- Pastor's many hope-filled messages of new possibilities/beginnings
- The energizing splendor and renewal of Spring
- The spiritual rejuvenation we feel at Easter with the Resurrection
- The celebration of **14** very diverse new members, who have embraced our common Mission of **Love, Hope, Peace and Justice for all.**
- The progress of our Search Team toward calling a new Pastor

Our Church is truly **thriving**, not just surviving!

By now each of you should have received a letter with more details about the campaign. (If you did not, please contact the office @ 860-242-0776.) This campaign:

- Highlights our many ministries
- Shares stories/testimonials from members – a few are in this Spire
- Encourages everyone to share their stories about what this Church has meant to them and the New Possibilities they foresee
- Asks everyone to reflect on these messages **before** prayerfully considering how they might best support and secure a bright future of New Possibilities for this wonderful Church community
- Distributes pledge cards around mid-May
- Wraps-up Memorial Day weekend

Please help us all make this a very joyful experience. Thank you.

Your Council

Pastor Ed Ayala, Carolyn Delgado, Coleen Dobo, Priscilla McCatty, Ron Robinson





Pastoral Search Update
May, 2017

The Pastoral Search Team has continued to meet at least every other week to process the information we gathered through our listening circles and online survey and to prepare a draft of the Church Profile. We learned a great deal about our congregation and the many qualities we will need in a minister to lead our congregation forward into our future. The profile will be complete this month and submitted with the UCC. We will be meeting with our conference minister to determine next steps. We expect that once we start receiving pastoral profiles, we will need to meet weekly, to be prepared to follow up quickly on the most qualified candidates. We sincerely appreciate the patience and support the congregation has extended us, as we strive to complete this process as efficiently and professionally as possible.

Thank you and peace...

Your Pastoral Search Team,

Kevin Colvin, Ursula Dang, Cecelia Simmons, Mike Riley, Oz Gibbs,
Sophia Gray, Chante Wilson, Clay Hart, Trudy Barnard.

“Looking for Someone to Walk Humbly with Us”

O. Gibbs



