

Bloomfield Congregational Community Newsletter

Celebrating Important Moments



We were so blessed to receive dozens of boxes of fresh produce from Faith Care.



We also received tons of cans for our Community Kitchen from Seabury.



Local resident donates masks for our Child Development Center!

Looking Forward to what is Coming Soon!

August 9th

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Sacred Conversations

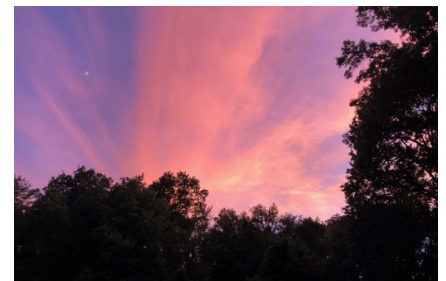


August 3rd - Aug 16th

Pastor Shawn on
Vacation

Pastor Joe Tobin will be providing pastoral care.
(details inside)

God's Amazing
Creation



Pastor's Message

Moving Forward



There is no going back. I'm not trying to be dramatic. I'm just being honest. Time moves in one direction – forward. We can *look* back. We can *learn* from the past, but time only moves forward in our world.

Moving forward is what we need to do as well.

The Covid-19 crisis is not going away anytime soon. I wish it was. However, even when the most intense time passes (who knows when that will be) it feels like things will be different for a while. I'm not saying anything you don't already know. Something is different now. Something is fundamentally new here.

That requires that we think and act in new ways as well. That includes how we worship and how we grow as a Community of Faith. This means not just the things we've already done to adapt so far (which I feel we all have done quite well together), but moving forward also means how we will do things in the

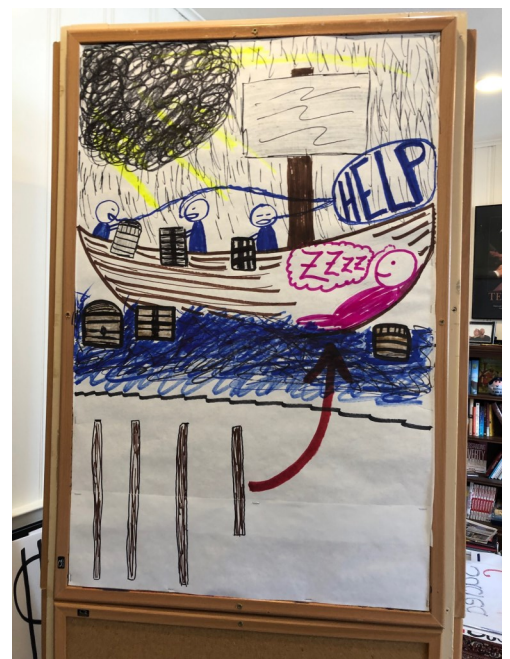
future beyond what we've already done so far. This clearly has challenges, but it presents opportunities as well. It may be hard to see the upside in all of this, but it exists. *"Those who have walked in darkness have seen a great light."* Versions of this statement are in Isaiah and Matthew.

We're in a kind of darkness right now. You may even feel like you're in the middle of a storm, or like you drew the "short straw." I can feel it. Maybe you can too. Yet there is an implication in this scripture, that there is light that we might not recognize that has already begun to shine. The next verse says, *"Those who lived in deep darkness, on them light has shined."*

The light is already shining. It may be hard to see. It may be concealed for one reason or another, but it's there as surely as the sun is still there when we experience the night. We're going to find that light and we're going to follow it.

That's how we'll move forward.

Peace, Pastor Shawn



Moving Forward Team

The Moving Forward Team - Following that Light



As part of our process of moving forward, in late July we established the *Moving Forward Team*. The goal of the *Moving Forward Team* is to help us all explore what is possible, what is safe and what is best to do as a Community of Faith in the future. This is not just a “how do we return to the building” team.

Looking at what a return to the building might look like and in what timeframe will certainly be an important part of what the team does.

That is incredibly complex and doing it right is profoundly important. It is important for your safety and it is important for the safety of the greater community. We are leaders in this community. We are our brothers and sisters keepers. We bear that responsibility for you and others. We take that very seriously. However, there is much more to it than that. Like considering what other ways we can grow together and be connected, even if it doesn't involve the hugs and handshakes and physical face-to-face time we might long for. Like considering questions such as, “*What is possible?*” and “*Where is the light directing us?*” - even if it isn't where we expect it to lead.

This team will work with staff, various church teams, Deacons, Council and me as we work towards what we will do in the future. You will get an opportunity to have a voice in this as well.

I don't know what the answers are. I do know the light will guide us, and that we have many lights in this community of faith. Thank you for being on this journey with us.

Peace, Pastor Shawn

Team Members:

Carolyn Delgado

Heidi Kenefick

David Sherman

Ann Jennings

Libby Merrow

Susan Tobin



Serving the Community

Community Kitchen



There's a lot that goes into getting ready for each Drive Thru Community Kitchen meal. It all gets done faithfully, without fanfare and helps make the world a bit better in trying times.



Masks

Out of the blue, Dayle Harmon offered two dozen homemade masks. She heard what we are doing and wanted to help. Wow! And, they are helping. They were given to the teachers in our Child Development Center. Then, she did it again!



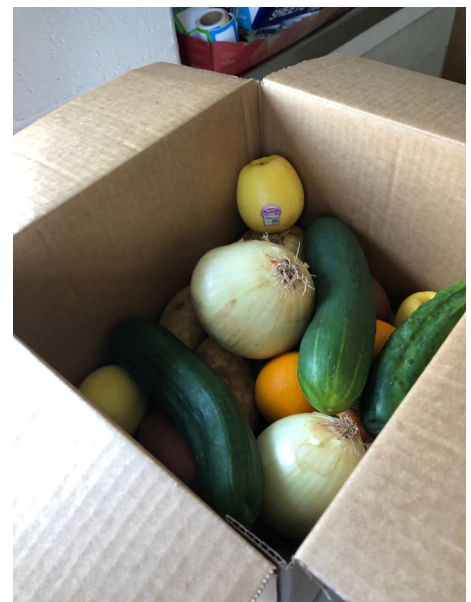
Serving the Community

Power of Partnerships

Venton Forbes of Faith Care delivers dozens of boxes of fresh produce to give to people through the Community Kitchen. That's another example of the Power of Partnership.



In a second delivery a week later, he delivered lots of cheese (that went to the Child Development Center), milk and more fresh produce. Thank You!



Youth

Virtual Mission Trip



Recently, our youth got to experience the very first virtual mission trip in Bloomfield Congregational Church's history! How exciting! They learned and shared a lot. The students had the opportunity to learn about several topics that plague our world today. Lucy Hurston joined them on Saturday to share about the Community Kitchen. They even went into the subjects of

affordable housing and a quality education.

They learned that affordable housing and a good education, combined with having qualified people who care in your life can make all the difference. We believe that this was a very valuable experience for our youth. They were also able to share in conversation about what they learned during the weekend sessions. Thank you Dorine.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is underway! It is not too late to register! Contact Faith Formation Director, Dorine DeCarli at d.ace@sbcglobal.net or (860) 803-5536.



Child Development Center

Update on our Child Development Center



We are back! Our opening day was June 30th. We decided to open in the summer to see how things would go for our program. So far we have no cases of COVID and everything is going well. The children were excited to see their teachers in person. We have been doing virtual learning through Zoom so it was great to see the children's reactions when they saw all of us. We are taking the necessary precautions to make sure the children and teachers are safe. We follow the CDC guidelines to make sure we are doing what is required of us. Things may be a little different for us but we are doing our best to make the

summer fun for the children. The school is having an awesome summer thus far.

Personal Protective Equipment Distribution Center



Our Child Development Center has the incredible distinction to be a distribution center for PPE (personal protective equipment) for family child care centers and other child care centers such as the YMCA. It is an honor to be able to serve the community in this capacity as well as all of the other ways.

Did You Know? We were asked by the Office of Early Childhood to be a distributor of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies in the Hartford County to childcare and home daycare providers. We have given over 100 centers and home daycare providers PPE supplies. We are excited to be able to be a part of giving to the community.

Social Justice

Update on Sacred Conversations



We continue to have Sacred Conversations sessions monthly via Zoom. Our next session is Sunday, August 9th from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. The homework for this session is on the Sacred Conversations link on the church website.

The link also has information from previous sessions and a list of resources including books, articles, movies and YouTube videos.

Here is the link to the website: <http://firstchurchbloomfield.org/sacred-conversations.html>

We invite and encourage you to attend these sessions and to utilize the resources to deepen and enlighten your understanding of how we have arrived at the place we are today. These conversations are helping to build a foundation from which we will stand to do the justice work that God calls us to do and which is so badly needed in our world.

Black Lives Matter Signs



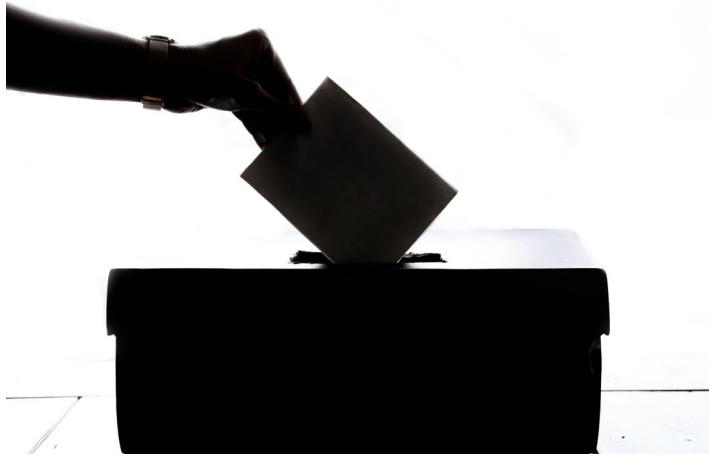
An anonymous donor generously gave two Black Lives Matter banners in honor of Dave Weaver and his passion for social justice.



Do You Know?

Do you know any professional musicians who perform Gospel music or Spirituals? If so, we want to talk with them as we strive to improve the diversity and quality of our music. Please contact our Minister of Music Eustace Straker with any information. You can reach him at straepipes@yahoo.com or (860) 729-1141.

June All Church Meeting



We had our very first Zoom “All Church Meeting” in June. We wondered how it would all go and were thrilled that all the technology worked and that LOTS of people joined and participated actively in the meeting.

We voted in two great teams for Council and the Board of Deacons, as well as leaders for each of our active teams.

Scott Goetjen did his regular, wonderful job going through the financial situation of the church. While we didn’t have the numbers projected up on a wall in enormous size, we were able to follow along as he shared his screen and went through where we landed last year and what things looked like going forward.

We certainly have our financial challenges, particularly during this time of Covid-19 when we aren’t getting rental income or “plate” offerings. We are operating with a deficit. We certainly need each of us to do what we are called to do by God to help this Community of Faith grow the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. *However, we are not in a crisis.* We are strong and we are able to weather this storm. If you haven’t pledged yet and are willing to do so, it will help us plan for the future with greater certainty, and allow for more fruitful planting of the seeds of the Kingdom. We welcome your help in any form.

Members of Council and Deacons

Council

Clay Hart, chair
Carol Wilson, vice- chair
Scott Goetjen
David Sherman
Roger Bunker (added post-meeting)
Kay Yablecki, clerk

Deacons

Carolyn Delgado, chair
Jon DeHoyos
Dee Hart
Lucy Hurston
Chip McIsaac
Leslie Mills

Here are the ministry team leads:

Facilities: Mary Laiuppa
Faith Formation: Dee Hart
Missions: Judi Bunker
Music: Marnie Clark
Parish Care: Ursula Dang

Looking Forward

Pastoral Care Coverage:

Pastor Joe Tobin will provide Pastoral Care coverage while Pastor Shawn is away. You may call at any hour in the event of an emergency, or during normal hours if you simply need to speak with a pastor. His personal cell number is (860) 916-1923.

Rev. Larissa Forsythe will be preaching on Sunday, Aug. 9th.

Rev. Sara Wilson will be preaching on Sunday Aug. 16th.



Calling All Mask Makers!

Do you make masks? We need more to serve those in need in our community. Some of you already donated many masks. That was awesome and made a difference! Now, with schools opening up and the pandemic clearly not going away anytime soon, many more are needed. Adult. Child. Tween. All kinds. So, if YOU make them, we know people who NEED them!

Please bring them to Pastor Shawn.

Thank you!



Sacred Conversations

Our next two Sacred Conversations will be Sunday, August 9th, and September 20th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Zoom. Visit the Sacred Conversations link on the church website for information about Sacred Conversations and resources. The homework assignment for the August 9th session will also be posted there.

Looking Forward continued...



August 9th Sacred Conversations

September 7th Happy Labor Day

September 20th Sacred Conversations

September 22nd Fall Begins

(Can you believe it? Let's hope the heat and humidity break by then! 😊)

Birthdays

Sept 2nd - Keadean Stewart

Sept 11th - Kamryn Stewart

Sept 13th - Ralph Blanchard

Sept 14th - Ron Robinson

Sept 18th - Carol Wilson

Sept 21st - Carol Johnson

Sept 27th - Cindy Walker



Oct. 3rd Jean Buscarello

Oct. 7th Barbara Kozlowski

Oct. 14th Stuart Babcock

Oct. 22nd Heather O'Connor

Oct. 24th Reese Hart

Oct. 27th Genesis Hart

Oct. 28th Pamela Covington

July and August Anniversaries

September 24th - Madge and Segisbert Edwards

September 24th - Kim and Scott Letendre

Happy Anniversary!

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bloomfield Congregational Church

10 Wintonbury Avenue

Bloomfield, CT 06002

Church Office: (860) 242-0776

Pastor Shawn Fisher: ext. 201

Director of Faith Formation Dorine DeCarli: ext. 203

Minister of Music Eustace Straker: ext. 202

Child Development Center: ext. 204

www.firstchurchbloomfield.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchBloomfield.org/>

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxk_KR0fMB3wNWxBa86FVMQ)

[UCxk_KR0fMB3wNWxBa86FVMQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxk_KR0fMB3wNWxBa86FVMQ)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bloomfield.cc/>