

The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Bloomfield, CT

An open and affirming congregation

Sunday, November 19, 2017



Thanksgiving

WORSHIP SERVICE

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 & 10 a.m. Sunday, November 19, 2017

Thanksgiving Sunday

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE Improvisation on *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*
WELCOME Pastor Ayala
LIFE OF OUR CHURCH
WELCOME GUESTS ~ *Please fill out the Ritual of Friendship pads*
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. Let us prepare ourselves to
be renewed and inspired by God. In silence...be at peace!”*



WE WORSHIP GOD

(+ Whether in body or spirit, please stand)

INTROIT *Pass it On – Kurt Kaiser*
Sunday School Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Worship Leader: God is present in our midst, present in our hearts and spirits. As one community, let us worship our Creator. Let us be one in worship!

Congregation: **We are grateful for GOD’S grace, grateful for the way that Sunday after Sunday GOD’S spirit nurtures our spirits. Grateful for each person that joins us in worship. Grateful for our humanity! For every human smile and every human cry. For the young and the old, we are grateful, for members and visitors we are grateful. For being a community of faith, we are grateful!**

Worship Leader: Let us be one in worship, nurturing a healthy community of faith...Glory be to GOD!

+HYMNS OF THANKSGIVING *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* # 526
Now Thank We All Our God # 27

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & CONFESSION (UNISON)

God in us, with us and mystery beyond us...Come and continue to fill our hearts with passion for life and with compassion toward others. Your inspiration and forgiveness nurtures our lives as it invites us to be present in the lives of others. ... We are grateful; may our common prayer be our call for unity this morning...

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 *For the Beauty of the Earth* arranged by Ronald Kauffmann
The Accidentals Handbell Ensemble

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN Dorine DeCarli

MUSICAL OFFERING *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* arranged by Kevin McChesney
The Accidentals Handbell Ensemble

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!

GOD IS IN OUR MIDST, GOD IS PRESENT, GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!

LET'S OPEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS TO GOD'S GOOD NEWS.

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!

FIRST LESSON ~ Psalm 118: 21-24, 28-29 OT p.695 in black Bible, p.565 in red

SECOND LESSON ~ Philippians 4: 4-9 NT p.242 in black Bible, p.198 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 "GRACIAS...BEING GRATEFUL" Pastor Ayala

+HYMN *For the Fruit of All Creation* # 527

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

OFFERTORY PRAYER ~ "Blessed by Grace...Giving out of GRACE"

OFFERTORY *All Good Gifts* Lon Berry
The Adult Choir

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

DOXOLOGY # 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)

Compassionate and loving God with gratitude for your presence and inspiration we have shared our offerings as humble expressions of our commitment to you, to this congregation and to your world. May these financial resources help us as a congregation to promote your message of New Life...Hope...Love...Compassion and Justice in every setting that we touch, inside and outside, this congregation... With gratitude and in the name of the Risen Christ we pray as one community...Amen!

MUSIC OF THE SOUL: EXPRESSIONS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

528

+BENEDICTION

Pastor Ayala

(Please join hands as an expression of Community Love)

GO WITH GOD'S BLESSING!

GO, BE A LIVING MESSAGE, A RAINBOW IN THE LIFE OF OTHERS

WITH GRATITUDE GO BE A BLESSING!

GO AND PROMOTE LIFE...SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL.

GO, AND LIVE FULLY: BE THE EYES THAT SEE SUFFERING AND INJUSTICE AND

TAKE ACTION WITH LOVE AND COMPASSION.

BEING A WITNESS TO GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL CREATION!

GO WITH THE BLESSING OF GOD, THE ALMIGHTY CREATOR,

OF JESUS, THE INSPIRING ONE, OUR SAVIOR-LIBERATOR

AND WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

GO... LET GOD SURPRISE YOU! AMEN!

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Amen, Amen, Amen

+POSTLUDE

Choral Improvisation on "Now Thank We All Our God"

Sigfried Karg-Elert

WE BID ADIOS TO PASTOR EDWIN AYALA!!!

JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

PASTOR ED'S LAST SUNDAY AS OUR INTERIM MINISTER.

**JOIN US AT 10 AM FOR A SPIRIT-FILLED WORSHIP INCLUDING MUSIC,
SINGING AND DANCING!**

STAY FOR A RECEPTION IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

THOSE IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS (AMONG MANY):



- *Prayers for Eric & Linda Markiewicz and their family on the recent passing of Eric's dad Walter on Nov 14, 2017.
- *Prayers for Erie Pinney. Cards and calls are welcome. No visits at this time.
- ***Those grieving or suffering the recent shooting in Northern California killing 4; after a truck driver ran down pedestrians** in New York City, killing 8 and injuring at least a dozen others on October 31; **and those grieving or suffering after a shooting at a church in Texas** where at least 26 were killed and at least 19 more were wounded on Nov. 5.
- *Prayers for Al Forster recuperating at home. Cards and calls are welcome.
- *Those grieving or suffering in the **Caribbean, Texas and Florida after the effects of Hurricanes Irma, Maria and Jose** which caused massive destruction.
- *Prayers for Jasmin Ayala going through a difficult time.
 - * Michael Edwards, praying for release.
- *Prayers that God will speak to us and through us as we seek God's leadership and vision for our Church.
- *Family & Friends of All Soldiers Who Have Fallen In service to our country.
- *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 prayers for those serving or living in war or conflict zones around the world, or where terrorists have struck.



Trudy Barnard	David Berg	Sue Davis	Gladys Dunbar
Carol Johnson	Bonnie King	Charles Miles	Charlotte Babcock
Jane Doble	Madge Edwards	Elaine Nelson	Faye Smith
Julie Cato	Estelle Cole	Carol Wolcott	Betty Willis

Please Remember These Connecticut Conference Churches in Your Prayers

Westport

Saugatuck Congregational UCC

Willimantic

The First Congregational Church of Willimantic

Westport

The Congregational Church of Green's Farms, UCC

Willington

The Federated Church of Willington UCC

Wilton

Wilton Congregational Church, UCC

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 2017

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

PASTOR AYALA'S REFLECTION TOPIC:

"OPEN HEARTS...SEEING GREATER THINGS"

SCRIPTURES: ISAIAH 43: 15-19 & JOHN 1: 43-51



This Week at a Glance...

Looking Ahead

Lectionary possibilities for next week include:

Judges 4: 1-7; 123 or Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18;

Psalms 90: 1-8, (9-11), 12; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; **Matthew 25: 14-30**

Sunday, Nov 19	8:00 am	Bible Discussion	Living Room
	10:00 am	Worship Service	Meeting Room
	11:30 am	Missions Set up boxes	Fellowship Hall
	12:30 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
Monday, Nov 20	8:30 am	Missions Thanksgiving boxes	Fellowship Hall
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir	Music Suite
	6:00 pm	Search Team	Living Room
	7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Nov 21	9:15 am	Exercise	Fellowship Hall
	1:30 pm	Wounded Healers	Counting Room
Wednesday, Nov 22	9:30 am	Jump Bunch	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room
	7:00 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
Thursday, Nov 23		Happy Thanksgiving!	Office closed
Friday, Nov 24		Church Office Closed	
	9:15 am	Exercise	Fellowship Hall
	7:30 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Welcome Guests! We are so glad you are here and invite you to join us after Worship for Coffee Hour.

Our Coffee Hour Hosts: Scott & Sharon Goetjen.

Today's Head Ushers: Oz Gibbs and Priscilla McCatty.

Today's Lay Reader is Deacon Carolyn Delgado.

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.

**REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR PIES
AFTER SERVICE TODAY.**

THANKSGIVING BASKET COLLECTION

One of our traditions at First Congregational church in Bloomfield is our Thanksgiving basket collection. Each year our church collects food to supply sixty-six Bloomfield families with a Thanksgiving meal. This year our annual collection for the Thanksgiving Baskets will take place today after worship service. Please choose a few items from our list or supply a whole meal! Any donation is appreciated so we can fill the baskets.

If you can't get out to shop we will accept monetary donations and shop for you. Volunteers are needed to help pack the boxes on Monday morning, November 20st at 8:30.

The list of items needed includes:

Apple, cherry and peach pie filling

Bags of carrots

Bags of white or sweet potatoes

Bags of onions

Stuffing mix or corn bread mix

Canned turkey gravy

Canned vegetables (corn, green beans, carrots, peas)

Pie crust mix

Cranberry sauce



