

The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

An open and affirming congregation

HAPPY 280TH BIRTHDAY!

Transfiguration Sunday February 11, 2018



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.

at the Heart of Bloomfield



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
10 a.m. Sunday, February 11, 2018

Transfiguration Sunday

WE GATHER TOGETHER

PRELUDE

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

Gilbert Martin

WELCOME

LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

WELCOME GUESTS *Please fill out the Ritual of Friendship pads*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CENTERING MOMENT *Our faith is 2000 years old and our church is 280 years old, but our thinking is not!
Our God is still speaking, still calling, still stirring us up!*



WE WORSHIP GOD

(+ Whether in body or spirit, please stand)

INTROIT

Day By Day

342

Sung by the Congregation (Twice)

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you!

All: God has loved us from before all time.

Leader: In our here and now, let us receive and reveal God's love.

All: Through the grace of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen!

+HYMN OF PRAISE

I Love Your Church, O God

240

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & CONFESSION (UNISON)

Gracious God of all joy and compassion, we invite Your presence in our midst this day. As we praise you, lift our hearts and minds to oneness with You. God of mercy and hope, we confess that we come to worship You with deep hungers and uncertain dreams. Our lives are not what we wish them to be in every way. And yet – as we have for 280 years - we gather here to praise and bless You because You help us keep everything in perspective. We confess we are not as diligent as we should be in knowing You, in uniting our spirits with Your Holy Spirit, in seeing the radiance of Christ in the midst of the world. Help us turn our souls toward You and toward all that is good and beautiful and just. Let us be transfigured in our lives that we may carry your glory and your grace into this hurting world.

Thanks be to You, O God, who taught us to pray like Jesus...

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

Just a Little Talk With Jesus

Cleavant Derricks

The Adult Choir

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Dorine DeCarli

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 50: 1-6

OT p.639 in black Bible, p.519 in red

SECOND LESSON ~ Mark 9: 2-9

NT p.54 in black Bible, p.44 in red

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Write These Words in Our Hearts

298

Write these words in our hearts, we beseech you, O God.

REFLECTION

“THE RADIANCE OF CHRIST”

Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree

+RESPONSIVE HYMN

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

(see insert)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Crabtree

OFFERTORY

Ride the Chariot

Negro Spiritual

The Adult Choir

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

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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)

Ah, God, You do bless us and we in turn seek to bless You and Your intent for this world with our tithes and offerings. Grant that these gifts may strengthen Your Church here in Bloomfield, across our nation and around the globe that we may radiate the love of Christ to all. Enable us to grow in generosity, for we know that is Your will. Bless us and these our gifts in the name of Christ. Amen.

EXPRESSIONS OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O God

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Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;

Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace..

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

+ HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

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+BENEDICTION

(Please link arms as an expression of Community Love)

Rev. Crabtree

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Amen, Amen, Amen

+POSTLUDE

Improvisation on *In the Midst of New Dimensions*

THE PRAYERS TODAY ARE ADAPTED FROM “TOUCH HOLINESS” BY RUTH DUCK AND MAREN TIRABASSI.

REV. DR. DAVIDA FOY CRABTREE

Our guest Minister is the Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, who grew up in a tiny church in northwestern Connecticut and experienced her call to ministry at Silver Lake Conference Center when she was 13. She has a keen interest in helping Christians connect Sunday with Monday and in the Church working for justice and peace in the world. Next month she moves to Seabury.

“The 40 days leading up to Easter can be some of the most life-giving, perspective-changing, hope-filled days of the entire year.”

-MargaretFeinberg.com #LentChallenge

THOSE IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS (AMONG MANY):



- *Prayers and comfort for the Hart family on the death of Dee's aunt due to complications from the flu, family is traveling to Washington, DC.
- *Prayers - Anne Clark is at McLean Nursing Home and would appreciate visits and cards mailed to her at: 75 Great Pond Road Simsbury, CT 06070. She is on Skyview Rm 234.
- *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 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 misogyny 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
Bonnie King	Charles Miles	Charlotte Babcock	
Madge Edwards	Julie Cato	Al Forster	Estelle Cole
Carol Wolcott	Adelle Wright	Betty Willis	

Please Remember These Connecticut Conference Churches in Your Prayers

East Hartford South Congregational Church, UCC	East Hartland The First Church in Hartland, Congregational
East Haven First Congregational Church of East Haven	East Windsor First Congregational Church of East Windsor, UCC
	East Woodstock East Woodstock Congregational Church UCC

**NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**REV. CHRIS ADAMS WILL BE OUR GUEST MINISTER
REFLECTION TITLE ~ "ALL ABOUT EBEDMELECH"
SCRIPTURES ~ JEREMIAH 38: 7-13 & JOHN 12: 23-36**

CELEBRATE
Diversity



This Week at a Glance...

Looking Ahead

Lectionary possibilities for this week include:

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

Sunday, Feb 11	10:00 am	Worship Service	Meeting Room
	11:30 am	Church Anniversary Potluck	Fellowship Hall
	12:30 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
Monday, Feb 12	6:00 pm	Bell Choir	Music Suite
	6:30 pm	Search Team	Living Room
	7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous	Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, Feb 13	9:15 am	Exercise	Fellowship Hall
	1:30 pm	Wounded Healers	Counting Room
Wednesday, Feb 14		HAPPY 280th BIRTHDAY FCCB!	
		ASH WEDNESDAY	
	7:00 am	CDC Valentine's Breakfast	 Fellowship Hall
	9:30 am	Jump Bunch	Fellowship Hall
	7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room
	7:00 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
	Thursday, Feb 15	10:00 am	Bible Study
6:30 pm		Church Council	Living Room
Friday, Feb 16	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: Church Birthday Pot Luck Lunch.

Today's Head Ushers: Ozma Gibbs & Priscilla McCatty.

Today's Lay Reader is David Weaver.

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.

Lent Begins February 14, 2018

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are once again in need of a new Financial Administrator to enter the pledges received each week. It takes about one hour a week to do. Work must be done on the Church's computer after normal office hours. Melinda Partridge took over for Charlotte Mottram who moved. Now, Melinda is also planning to move. We need to find a replacement before the end of February. This way Melinda can offer some training. Please consider filling this position.

Please contact Church Council Members if interested.



The Deacons have arranged pastoral coverage in the event of a serious pastoral emergency.

Rev. Dr. Davida Foy Crabtree, a retired UCC pastor, has agreed to be on call while the search continues for another interim minister. Please contact Andrea in the church office or Karen Blanchard, Parish Care team leader, if a pastoral need arises.

The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcome to the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield
We hope that you find comfort, joy & inspiration in this time of worship;
and renewed energy for your journey of faith. You are invited to remain after the
service this morning for refreshments and informal conversation.

SCHEDULE

Worship is held at 10 am each Sunday

STAFF

Andrea Davey-Mercer, Office Manager

Dorine DeCarli, Director of Faith Formation

Eustace Straker, Minister of Music

Shantel Bremmer, Director of Child Development Center

Building Management is provided by Michelle Alves and JEM Services.

CHURCH OFFICE

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Phone: 860-242-0776

Fax: 860-243-8035

Email: office@FirstChurchBloomfield.org

All Staff can be reached by contacting the Church Office.

The Child Development Center can be reached at 860-242-0183 or
preschool@FirstChurchBloomfield.org.

Visit our church's website: www.FirstChurchBloomfield.org

