

*The First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ*



**at the Heart of Bloomfield**

## A WORD ABOUT MUSIC SUNDAY



Music Sunday is a worship service celebrating God's enduring love for us with voices, instruments and the spoken word. First Congregational Church, Bloomfield held its first Music Sunday in 1985. Since then, we have enjoyed praising God on these occasions with many members of many choirs of all ages: Cherub, Children, Junior, Accidentals Handbell, Band, Praise and Adult, many guest musicians - singers and instrumentalists, as well as choir directors and ministers. *They will never be forgotten!*



In today's Music Sunday 2017, you will hear the Sunday School Singers, the Accidentals Handbell Choir, the Cantata Singers, and instrumentalists. Music is a gift given to us by God. In some small way, we today will use this gift to spread the Good News. We will proclaim the Glory of God, Jesus Christ God's Son, and the Holy Spirit in this, God's world.



We thank you all for your continued support of the Music Ministry of First Congregational Church in Bloomfield. May we all continue to labor on in the service of God. God bless each and every one of you and may we all dwell in the House of the Lord forever!

Eustace B. Straker  
Minister of Music

**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, May 21, 2017

Sixth Sunday of Easter



**MUSIC SUNDAY**

**“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**

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

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

**WELCOME GUESTS**

**LIFE OF OUR CHURCH**

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

**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. In silence...be at peace!”*



**WE WORSHIP GOD**

*(+ indicates that those who are able may stand)*

**PIANO SOLO**

***Arabesque, Op. 18***

Robert Schumann

Beatrice Dang, pianist

**INTROIT** ***The Rejoicing*** – George F. Handel, arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson  
The Accidentals Handbell Choir

**CALL TO WORSHIP (UNISON)**

**Let our Music praise our GOD!**

**A GOD that is merciful, compassionate and caring**

**Lover of justice and peace who invites us to be fully alive.**

**All honor and praise be given to our Creator...**

**Let us be one in praising our GOD...Alleluia!**

**Alleluia to the God of Life!**

**+HYMN OF PRAISE**

***When In Our Music God Is Glorified***

**# 33**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION & CONFESSION (UNISON)**

We are grateful Creator God, for your presence in our lives.

You have been our inspiration in good times and in difficult times.

May the music flow this morning as expressions of our faith and spirituality. As one family we are one in prayer...

*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.*



**CHILDREN'S SELECTION**

*Prayer of Tomorrow* from *The Tale of Three Trees*

Allen Pote

The Sunday School Singers

**THE CHILDREN'S GOOD NEWS**

Pastor Ayala

**BAPTISM OF AVA GRACE PIENKOWSKI**, daughter of Michael & Tracey Pienkowski

**BAPTISMAL HYMN** *Go, My Child, With My Blessing* Sung by the Cantata Singers

**SCRIPTURE READING** Acts 17: 22-33 NT p 168 in black Bible, p 137 in red

**HANDBELL SELECTION** *Praise and Reflection* Mary Kay Parrish

The Accidentals Handbell Choir

**CONGREGATIONAL READING** Psalm 46 OT p 636 in black Bible, p 517 in red

**MUSICAL SELECTION** *God is Our Refuge and Strength* Allen Pote

The Cantata Singers with Harry Epstein, trumpeter

**+HYMN**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

# 7

**HANDBELL SELECTION**

*Hymn To Joy*

Ludwig van Beethoven  
arranged by Michael Keller

The Accidentals Handbell Choir



## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM                      *Blessed Assurance*                      arranged by Mark Hayes  
    The Cantata Singers

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 OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

Almighty God, You called us to worship. You have inspired music in the community; words have been written, music has been composed and people are singing. Stir us to use our talents and voices for your glory. Strengthen our faith through song. Receive, O God, the music and those who make it as a response to your work in Jesus Christ. We pray the music, the songs sung here today will carry your message and deepen our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!

MUSIC FROM OUR SOULS: JOY & 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    *For the Love of Jesus*    (See insert page 6)

+BENEDICTION Pastor Ayala

(Please join hands as an expression of Community Love)

***“May the God that brings music to our lives  
Be your inspiration and your strength...  
May God bless and keep you safe.  
May God’s face shine upon you, lift you  
And give you Peace. Go...share God’s music  
With the world...be open to being surprised by God!  
Go...with the blessing of God’s Love...  
The inspiration of Jesus Christ and the  
Power of the Holy Spirit...AMEN”***

CHORAL RESPONSE

*The Lord Bless and Keep You*

Peter Lutkin

The Cantata Singers

+POSTLUDE

**Te Deum**

Marc Antoine Charpentier

*Harry Epstein, Trumpeter*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

The Coffee Hour Hosts this morning are Ron & Connie Robinson.

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

Today's Lay Readers: Music Ministry.

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.

**"THE CRADLE ROLL NEEDS TO BE UPDATED!  
IF YOUR BABY HAS BEEN BAPTIZED THIS YEAR PLEASE  
SEND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:  
BABY'S NAME, GENDER AND DATE OF BIRTH."  
TO PAT ROBAIR AT [PROBAIR3@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PROBAIR3@GMAIL.COM).**

Remember FCCB as you plan your estate



**Memorials  
& Gifts**

## FOR THE LOVE OF JESUS



1. All for Jesus—all for Jesus,  
This our song shall ever be;  
For we have no hope, nor Savior,  
If we have not hope in Thee.
  
2. All for Jesus—Thou wilt give us  
Strength to serve Thee, hour by hour;  
None can move us from Thy presence,  
While we trust Thy love and power.
  
3. All for Jesus—at Thine altar  
Thou wilt give us sweet content;  
There, dear Lord, we shall receive Thee  
In the solemn Sacrament.
  
4. All for Jesus—Thou has loved us;  
All for Jesus—Thou hast died;  
All for Jesus—Thou art with us;  
All for Jesus crucified.
  
5. All for Jesus—all for Jesus,  
This the Church's song must be;  
Till, at last, we all are gathered  
One in love, and one in Thee.

**THOSE IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS (AMONG MANY):**



- \*Prayers for Monica and the family of the late Hicksbert (Lloyd) Grant.
- \*Prayers for 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
- \*Prayers for Grayson Rose, infant granddaughter of Michelle Alves who is dealing with health issues.
- \* Prayers for Julie Cato who will soon be the recipient of a kidney transplant.
- \*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.



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

**Please Remember These Connecticut Conference Churches in Your Prayers**

**Killingworth**

Congregational Church in Killingworth, UCC

**Ledyard**

Ledyard Congregational Church, UCC

**Lebanon**

First Congregational of Lebanon, UCC

**Lisbon**

Newent Congregational UCC

**Litchfield**

Milton Congregational UCC

***THE FLOWERS THIS SUNDAY ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD,  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF CHARLIE, BARBARA, CURTIS,  
PETER JACOBY, AND DORIS WILSON.  
GIVEN BY PAUL AND CAROL WILSON***





# SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday, June 11 at 2pm

## Blessing of the Animals

**Need Volunteers to make this successful.**

**Please contact Mary Laiuppa**

**860.242.1505 if able to assist.**



**Please join us in the memorial garden after the 10 am worship service on Sunday, May 28, 2017. We will gather to bless the garden and honor the memories of our loved ones.**

## HEALTHY RACE RELATIONS

*Pastor is suggesting that we at FCCB have a  
"Race Relations Ministry Team"*

*Our Team will explore creative ways of talking, understanding and experiencing healthy race relations inside and outside our Congregation. You just need to be interested in the theme and have an open mind and willingness to help us grow in this area!*

*Next Steps: (1) Let Pastor or Andrea know of your interest*

*(Note: Dee Hart & Karen Marcia have already expressed interest)*



## *This Week at a Glance...*

**Looking Ahead:**

**Lectionary possibilities for next week include:**

Acts 17: 22-31; Psalm 66: 8-20; 1 Peter 3: 13-22; **John 14: 15-21**

<b>Sunday, May 21</b>		<b>MUSIC SUNDAY SERVICE</b>	
	8:00 am	Bible Discussion	Living Room
	10:00 am	Worship	Meeting Room
	12:30 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
	<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>Youth Group Classic Dinner</b>	<b>Fellowship H.</b>
<b>Monday, May 22</b>	6:00 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Music Suite
	7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous	Fellowship Hall
<b>Tuesday, May 23</b>	9:15 am	Exercise	Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday, May 24</b>	9:30 am	Jump Bunch	Fellowship Hall
	4:00 pm	ABC	4:00 pm
	6:00 pm	NAMI	B-9 Upstairs
	7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room
	7:00 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
<b>Thursday, May 25</b>	10:00 am	Bible Study	Living Room
<b>Friday, May 26</b>	9:15 am	Exercise	Fellowship Hall
	7:30 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room

**BLOOMFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COMMUNITY FOOD KITCHEN**  
**EVERY SATURDAY 11:30 AM – 1 PM ~ Saturday, May 27, 2017**

297 School Street, corner of Wintonbury Ave & School St. Children and Families and ALL are welcome. For information please call 860-242-5641 or 860-874-7679.

**Volunteers are needed to help serve once a quarter.**

For more information, call Sally Foster 860-243-0274

**NEXT SUNDAY MAY 28, 2017**  
**PASTOR AYALA'S SERMON TOPIC:**  
**"FULLY AWARE TO WITNESS"**  
**(GENESIS 12: 1-3 & ACTS 1: 6-11)**

**"COME AND INVITE OTHERS TO SHARE GOD'S WELCOMING SPIRIT"**



## MUSICAL NOTES FOR MUSIC SUNDAY 2017

By Eustace Straker



**Piano Solo** *Arabeske, Op. 518* is composed at the age of 29 by German composer Frederic Chopin who is considered one of the greatest composers of the Romantic Era. *Arabeske* has been described as a work that alternates passages of wistful longing with more robust, declamatory episodes.

**The Introit:** *The Rejoicing*, composed by the *Hallelujah Chorus* composer George F. Handel 1749, is one of five pieces composed for *the Royal Fireworks*. The music was requested by King George II of England who wanted music to celebrate the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. The piece is arranged for handbells by Martha Lynn Thompson.

**Children's Offering** *A Prayer of Tomorrow* is the first song from the cantata *The Tale of Three Trees*, music by Allen Pote, lyrics by Tom Long. Based on an American folk tale, it captures the message of Jesus. The entire cantata can be heard here at First Church on Children's Sunday.

**Handbell Offering** *Praise and Reflection* is composed by Mary Kay Parrish in ABA format. The two A's are similar in rhythmic structure and dynamics while the B section is more lyrical and quieter.

**Musical Offering** *God is Our Refuge and Strength* is composed by contemporary composer Allen Pote, a frequent composer of much of our music here at First Church. Based on Psalm 46, this rhythmically driven piece with its rock-like accompaniment and trumpet part is divided into multiple repeated 2-section parts.

**Handbell Offering** *Hymn to Joy* is composed by Ludwig van Beethoven and arranged for handbells by Michael Keller. It is used by Beethoven in the final movement of his Ninth Symphony. Keller uses all the majesty of the handbells to proclaim that joy: rhythmic shakes, melody transfers, and dramatic crescendos.

**Offertory Anthem** *Blessed Assurance* music by Phoebe Knapp (1839-1908) and words by Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) is arranged by 20th century composer Mark Hayes. This arrangement of the beloved hymn is set in gospel style with syncopated rhythms, deep harmonic chords and swaying melodic lines. The anthem crescendos into a climatic repetitive gospel style ending.

**Choral Response** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* is composed by Peter Lutkin. It is a well-known response which concludes with a setting of Amen.

**The Postlude** *Te Deum* is composed by Marc Antoine Charpentier, a French composer of the Baroque era. It is arranged for organ and trumpet by Sue Mitchell-Wallace and John Head.





**“ Music can change the world  
because it can change people !  
– BONO**

# *With Gratitude*

## And Special Thanks

### With Gratitude:

Funding for this year's Music Sunday is made in part *by Kathy and Shaun Mathews* in loving memory of their parents, *J. Warren & Alice Van Deusen* and *Patrick & Rose Mathews* and by the Thatcher family in loving memory of *Janet Thatcher*.



### And SPECIAL THANKS

**Sunday School Singers, The Accidentals Handbell Choir, The Cantata Singers, Lan-Ya Huang, Beatrice Dang, Harry Epstein, Marnie Clark, Sarah Morgan, Maurise Benson, Families of all the participants, Pastor Ayala, Dorine DeCarli and Michelle Alves.**





# Music Sunday, May 21, 2017, Musicians



## Cantata Singers

### Sopranos

Pat Ackeifi  
Leslie Mills  
Carrie Wilson

### Tenors

A. Lee Martin  
Shaun Mathews

## The Accidentals Bell Choir

Kathy Belinke  
Tanya Bigley  
Marnie Clark  
Emerson Dang  
Mike Fuss  
Lan-Ya Huang  
Lynn Ierardi  
Terry Martel  
Kathy Mathews  
Charlotte Mottram  
Ron Robinson  
Sue Thompson

### Altos

Mary Laiuppa  
Terry Martel  
Kathy Mathews  
Charlotte Mottram

### Basses

Wesley Olds  
Joseph Merritt

## Sunday School Singers




Beatrice Dang, **Pianist**  
Harry Epstein, **Trumpeter**  
Shaun Mathews, **Sound Technician**

Lan-Ya Huang, **Accompanist, Pianist**  
John Ackeifi, **Video Taping Technician**  
Charlotte Mottram, **Librarian**

Sarah Morgan, Maurise Benson; **Accompanists Sunday School Singers**

Marnie Clark, **Sunday School Singers Director**  
Eustace B. Straker, **Minister of Music**





# STEWARDSHIP 2017-2018 NEW POSSIBILITIES!

More **New Possibilities** Stewardship  
Thoughts/Testimonials

Geoffrey and Jean Crofts were long-time members here before they moved to Kentucky over ten years ago. Even though they moved away, they never stopped pledging. Geoff recently passed away and left approximately \$6,000 as a bequest to the Church. When I spoke with their investment advisor to begin the process of transferring the funds, she mentioned how special our Church was to the Crofts and of their desire to leave us the funds. Our Church meant a lot to the Crofts. What does it mean to you and what do you want its future to be? Please consider this as you decide what your pledge for this Stewardship campaign will be.

**The Crofts (as shared by Scott Goztjen)**

We might take for granted what we have here at First Congregational Church in Bloomfield but we touch so many lives as we welcome new members, nurture friendships and care for those in our community and abroad. As I mentioned in Church a couple of Sundays ago, I have been involved with the finances of this Church for a long time. In all of those years, I have never felt how much the results of a Stewardship campaign will impact the Church as this one. We have a very tight budget and are looking forward to hiring a new minister. The results of this campaign will determine who we may be able to hire and therefore will impact the Church for years to come. This Church is poised for many New Possibilities. Just look at how we have recently welcomed a large group of new members, something that rarely happens during an Interim Ministry period. Where do we go from here? The possibilities are many. How we get there is up to all of us. Please carefully and prayerfully reflect on what New Possibilities can be achieved as you complete your pledge cards.

**Scott Goztjen**



# **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 8 am & 10 am each Sunday

## **STAFF**

Rev. Edwin O. Ayala, Interim Pastor

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](mailto:office@FirstChurchBloomfield.org)

All Staff can be reached by contacting the Church Office.

The Nursery School can be reached at 860-242-0183 or  
[preschool@FirstChurchBloomfield.org](mailto:preschool@FirstChurchBloomfield.org).

## **Pastor Edwin O. Ayala:**

In the event of an emergency (death, serious illness, deep spiritual or emotional need) please feel free to call Pastor Ayala at 860-242-0776 x 201, © 860-836-6651 or email him [pastor@firstchurchbloomfield.org](mailto:pastor@firstchurchbloomfield.org) or [eoaintersections33@yahoo.com](mailto:eoaintersections33@yahoo.com)

Visit our church's website: [www.FirstChurchBloomfield.org](http://www.FirstChurchBloomfield.org)