

# The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Bloomfield, CT

An open and affirming congregation

Sunday, August 6, 2017

## COMMUNION SUNDAY



### 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  
9:30 a.m. Sunday, August 6, 2017

## **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES**

**“If you got nothing to dance about,  
find a reason to sing...be fully alive”**

### **WE GATHER TOGETHER**

#### **PRELUDE**

*Lan-Ya Huang*, guest musician

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

**LIFE OF OUR CHURCH**

**WELCOME GUESTS**

**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**

*(+ Whether in body or spirit, please stand)*

#### **INTROIT**

***This Little Light of Mine***  
Sung by the Congregation

#364 (verse 1 only)

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In beauty and in mystery,

All: **We see the face of God.**

One: In the common and the ordinary and the extraordinary,

All: **we know the love of Christ.**

One: In the bread and the cup,

All: **we taste the presence of God.**

One: On this summer Sabbath

All: **we share the Bread of Heaven.**

#### **+HYMN OF PRAISE**

***O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing***

# 39

#### **PRAYER OF CELEBRATION & CONFESSION (UNISON)**

Eternal Spirit, from the beginning of time you have called your children into communion with you. Yet we confess that like all the rest, we have turned to our own

ways and refused your love and grace. Restore us to the joy of knowing you, and singing your praise, through Jesus who is the Bread of Life. We ask this as we pray as you have taught us... We shall always continue to pray as you have taught us...

*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.*

## **GOD IS STILL SPEAKING!**

**GOD'S REVELATION IS NOT SEALED, GOD IS STILL SPEAKING IN MANY CREATIVE WAYS. ALLOW SPACE FOR GOD'S REVELATION TO TOUCH YOUR SOUL THROUGH NATURE, POETRY, A HYMN, A READING, A SHARING MOMENT WITH A FRIEND OR A STRANGER, AN EXPERIENCE. BE OPEN TO GOD'S SPIRIT, LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD.**

**FIRST LESSON** Isaiah 55: 1-5

OT p.838 in black Bible, p.685 in red

**SECOND LESSON** Matthew 14: 13-21

NT p.19 in black Bible, p.16 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*

**MINISTER'S REFLECTION**

**"A COMMUNION MEDITATION"**

Rev. SaraJane Munshower

**+HYMN**

*Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race*

# 372

## **WELCOME TO GOD'S TABLE**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION**

**SHARING THE SACRAMENTS**

*During communion today please be reminded that there is gluten-free bread available in the cake cup on the communion bread tray.*



## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE**

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

**OFFERTORY**

*Lan-Ya Huang, guest musician*

**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)**

Through these offerings, O God, we give thanks. And, we choose to provide life and love to those who are in need of physical and spiritual sustenance. May we be both for those we encounter in the coming week. In the spirit of Christ, Amen!

**JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**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

*Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed*

# 463

+BENEDICTION

Rev. SaraJane Munshower

(Please join hands as an expression of Community Love)

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

*Amen, Amen, Amen*

+POSTLUDE

*Lan-Ya Huang*, guest musician

**WELCOME**

We welcome Lan-Ya Huang as our guest musician this Sunday. Lan-Ya has been with us for several years serving as our accompanist for our Christmas Cantatas and Music Sundays as well as the guest musician for Sunday services. Thank you, Lan-Ya.

Eustace Straker is on vacation this week.



*Welcome*

Rev Munshower

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



- \* Prayers for Joel Clark recovering from a heart attack.
- \* Prayers for Anne Clark who is recovering from a recent fall. Please send notes and cards of cheer to Anne Clark, P. O. Box 541 East Granby, CT 06026. At this time the family would much prefer cards to visits and or phone calls.
- \* Prayers for Julie Cato who is at home recuperating from surgery.
- \* 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
Jane Doble	Madge Edwards	Elaine Nelson	Faye Smith
Carol Wolcott	Adelle Wright	Betty Willis	

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

**Norwich**

First Congregational Church of Norwich UCC

**Old Greenwich**

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

**Old Saybrook**

First Church of Christ in Saybrook (Congregational)

**Norwich**

Park Congregational UCC

**Old Lyme**

First Congregational Church of Old Lyme



**NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 13, 2017**

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES**

**REV. SARAJANE MUNSHOWER WILL DELIVER THE SERMON**

**“COME AND INVITE OTHERS TO SHARE  
GOD’S WELCOMING SPIRIT”**



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

### Looking Ahead

Lectionary possibilities for next week include:

Genesis 32: 22-31; Psalm 17: 1-7, 15 or Isaiah 55: 1-5;  
Psalm 145: 8-9, 14-21; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew 14: 13-21

<b>Sunday, Aug 6</b>	9:30 am	Worship Service	Metzger Chapel
	12:30 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
<b>Monday, Aug 7</b>	7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous	Fellowship Hall
<b>Wednesday, Aug 9</b>	5:00 pm	ABC	Fellowship Hall
	6:00 pm	NAMBI	Library
	7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room
	7:00 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
<b>Friday, Aug 11</b>	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 Punch and Cookies.

Our Host this morning is Mary Laiuppa.

Today's Ushers: Oz Gibbs & Priscilla McCatty.

Today's Lay Reader is Oz Gibbs.

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.

*Great  
are the  
works  
of the  
Lord.*

# VBS 2017

*“Created by GOD Built for a Purpose”*

**AUG 14 THROUGH AUG 18 ~ 9-12 PM**

**SEE REGISTRATION FORM IN BULLETIN**



## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Aug 7 – August 24

Monday - Thursday  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Friday - CLOSED

Pastor Ed will be away

## Summer Worship



**JULY 2 - SEPT 3**

**9:30 AM IN CHAPEL**



**7/24 - 8/14**



**PASTOR ED'S SUGGESTIONS FOR SUMMER READINGS:**

- ✓ **"The return of the Prodigal Son: a story of homecoming"**  
**By Henri Nouwen.**
- ✓ **"To Bee or Not to Bee" (there is more to life than making money)**  
**By John Penberthy**

**DO YOU HAVE A BOOK SUGGETION FOR SUMMER READING?  
...Mention it to Pastor Ed...**







# Summer Schedule

## Deacon Contact Information

Carolyn Delgado 860-977-6742  
[carolyn-delgado@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolyn-delgado@sbcglobal.net)

Oz Gibbs 860-729- 6793  
[ozgibbs@aol.com](mailto:ozgibbs@aol.com)

Dee Hart 860-573-8443  
[hrmdawn@yahoo.com](mailto:hrmdawn@yahoo.com)

Andrea Mercer 860-306-6608  
[andreamercer@yahoo.com](mailto:andreamercer@yahoo.com)

Anne Weaver 860-966-0786  
[annerw1935@gmail.com](mailto:annerw1935@gmail.com)

## Deacons On Call

**Aug 7 – Aug 14:**

Carolyn Delgado; Andrea Mercer

## Church Office Hours

**August 7 – August 24**

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Fridays **CLOSED**

## Summer Worship Schedule

**July 3 – September 4**

**If you have a Pastoral need,** please contact a “Deacon on Call” listed above. This information will also be noted in the bulletin each week.



**JULY 30 to SEPT 3 - 9:30 am**  
SEPT 10 - Rally Sunday 10 am  
SEPT – 17 (Fall/Winter Schedule)  
Resume 8am & 10 am Services

Work Begins on

# Crafting New Conference Proposal

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7/24/2017

*By Tiffany Vail  
Associate Conference Minister for Communications*

Just after the Annual Meetings of the Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut Conferences voted decisively on June 17 to move forward toward uniting into one Conference, Connecticut Conference Board Member Jocelyn Gardner-Spencer looked at Connecticut Conference Minister Kent Siladi and said “we have a lot of work to do.” *The team working at First Congregational Church in Woodstock, CT*

That work began in earnest on Thursday, when 14 members of the three Boards of Directors and the Conference Ministers met in the approximate center of the three Conferences – Woodstock, CT – to begin mapping out what comes next.

The *Together, As One* team is tasked with developing a definitive proposal for a unified Conference that will be brought before Annual Meeting voters in June of 2018, and then will need further approval by General Synod voters in 2019.

Participants at Thursday’s four-hour meeting expressed both excitement at being involved in what could be an historic moment in the denomination, and reservations at how difficult the work lying ahead may be.

The team agreed that the first priority will be to articulate the vision, mission and purpose of this new conference, and that all other work will flow from there. A subgroup was formed to begin work on this task, and other subgroups were formed to work on governance of the new conference (board structure and bylaws), financial issues, and questions around staffing.

The group discussed the possibility of bringing on a consultant to guide their work – in particular, to help with engaging people in the Conference during the process of developing the proposal.

The group has monthly meetings planned for the rest of the year, with a goal of having a proposal to bring to the three Board of Directors in early 2018.

The team has also established an email address – [togetherucc@gmail.com](mailto:togetherucc@gmail.com) – which anyone is welcome to use to reach the group with comments or questions

**VBS Registration Ages 4 – 11 First Congregational Church in Bloomfield  
August 14 – 18, 2017, 9 am – 12 noon**

Families, please complete **one form per child** and  
return to 10 Wintonbury Avenue, Bloomfield, CT, 06002.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Grade in Fall \_\_\_\_

Date of Birth month \_\_\_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_ male \_\_\_\_\_ female \_\_\_\_\_

Child's address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) to be contacted in case of emergency \_\_\_\_\_

Name phone Relationship to Child \_\_\_\_\_

Name phone Relationship to Child \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have any medical condition(s) that we should be aware of? (allergies, medications, etc.)

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings who will also be attending VBS: \_\_\_\_\_

My child would like to be in class with the following friend(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer to help with \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned gives permission to his or her child to participate in the above named activity and releases First Congregational Church in Bloomfield, its officers, employees, and agents from any liability whatsoever for any injury or death to person or loss or damage to property sustained by the undersigned for any member of his family, in attendance, and the undersigned agrees to defend and indemnify First Congregational Church, its officers, employees, and agents from any liability or loss they might sustain by reason thereof.

In the event I cannot be reached in an EMERGENCY, I hereby give permission to the Emergency physician to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for and order injection, anesthesia, or surgery for my child as named above.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number \_\_\_\_\_

OR

I do not wish to have Medical Treatment or Transportation for my child until I have been contacted by emergency personnel.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this registration form you agree that any photographs taken of your child at or during this event are the property of First Congregational Church in Bloomfield and may be used in future publications.

# **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 9:30 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 [eoatintersections33@yahoo.com](mailto:eoatintersections33@yahoo.com)

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