

# The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Bloomfield, CT

An open and affirming congregation

**Sunday, September 10, 2017**



## 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, September 10, 2017

**Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Times**

*“Without faith nothing is possible  
With Faith nothing is Impossible”*  
Mary McLeod Bethune

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE**

*Mike Carabello, pianist; Michael Scott, drummer*

**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. 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**

*This is The Day*

# 257

Sung by the Congregation

**CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

May we all feel welcome to this worship setting.

May God’s blessing be present in all of us!

**We join in worship as one community. We come to be inspired, we come to be challenged. We come as we are, with our limitations and dreams.**

**We come to build community. It is good to be together!**

God is among us and with us, let us worship with integrity and passion...Let us remember...God is in our midst. Let us be one in worshipping our God!

**+HYMN OF PRAISE**

*We are Walking in the Light of God*

# 366

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

God of our past, present and future...we celebrate the presence of your Spirit in us and

among us. Present in many different ways, in many tones. Present in ways that we can sometimes feel and other times in mysterious ways. We are grateful for your inspiration! Creator God, we are aware that life has many challenges and also aware of your renewing grace and strength. We pray and with humility we are asking that your Spirit will help us to be in tune with your desires for us and all creation. We pray in the name of Christ as we express unity through our common 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.*

MUSICAL OFFERING

*Mike Carabello, pianist; Michael Scott, drummer*

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Greeting from Pastor to our children

Dorine DeCarli

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS LITANY

(See Insert)

### **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 ~ Exodus 20: 1-12

OT p.82 in black Bible, p.66 in red

SECOND LESSON ~ Matthew 5: 1-6

NT p.4 in black Bible, p.4 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

**"REMEMBER, RESTORE, RENEW"**

Pastor Ayala

+HYMN

*Many are the Lightbeams*

# 389

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

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

OFFERTORY

*Mike Carabello, pianist; Michael Scott, drummer*

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)

God of new life and new possibilities, who invites us to remember to be aware of your liberating presence in us, and who also challenges us to restore and renew life

in us and around us. To you be all glory! May our offerings be expressions of our commitment to this congregation, and its creative mission and vision. We are grateful for your blessings. We offer ourselves in graceful response. Use our time, gifts and resources to build community and promote your message of Renewal...Peace...Love and Justice! In Christ's name we pray...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

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

# 404

+BENEDICTION

Pastor Ayala

(Please join hands as an expression of Community Love)

**GO WITH GOD'S BLESSING!**

LET US GO WITH OUR HEARTS AND MINDS  
SET ON GOD'S COMPASSION FOR ALL PEOPLE!  
GO, REMEMBER THAT GOD IS WITH US AND  
THAT GOD WANTS US TO BE RENEWED AND TRANSFORMED  
SO WE CAN ALL BE INSTRUMENTS OF LOVE, COMPASSION,  
JUSTICE AND PEACE.

GO AND PROMOTE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL LIFE...  
GO, DO THE WORK OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD.  
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

Improvisation on *Love Diving, All Loves Excelling*

We welcome guest musicians Mike Carabello and Michael Scott to our service this morning. Mike, one of the swinging upcoming Hard Bob pianists, has worked with several notable artists and has performed at the White House for President Obama, the Black Eyed Sally's Jazz Club and the New Haven Jazz Festival to name a few. Michael Scott returns as our drummer. He is a noted drummer in the Hartford area and has played in several concerts most recently with the Emery Smith Trio. Thanks Mike and Michael.

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



- \*Those in Texas and surrounding areas affected by Hurricane Harvey which made landfall on August 26. Those who will be affected by Hurricane Irma.
- \*Thank you from Marnie and Joel for all the prayers and cards received, Joel is improving.
- \*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.
- \*Our nation, that it may continue its difficult work to end the practices of racism; and 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
Carol Wolcott	Adelle Wright	Betty Willis	

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

**Simsbury**

First Church of Christ, UCC

**Somers**

Somers Congregational Church UCC

**Somersville**

Congregational Church of Somersville UCC

**South Glastonbury**

Congregational Church in South Glastonbury UCC

**South Windsor**

First Congregational Church of South Windsor, UCC

**NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017**

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES**

**PASTOR AYALA'S REFLECTION TOPIC:**

**"ROAD TO FREEDOM"**

**SCRIPTURES: EXODUS 20: 13-21 & MATTHEW 5: 7-13**



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

### Looking Ahead

Lectionary possibilities for next week include:

**Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149 or Ezekiel 33: 7-11;**

**Psalm 119: 33-40; Romans 13: 8-14; Matthew 18: 15-20**

<b>Sunday, Sept 10</b>	8:00 am	Bible Discussion	Living Room
	10:00 am	Worship Service	Meeting Room
	11:30 am	Church Picnic	Fellowship Hall
	12:30 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
<b>Monday, Sept 11</b>	1:00 pm	Loaves & Fishes prepare meal	Kitchen
	5:30 pm	Music Ministry Team	Classroom
	6:00 pm	Search Team	Living Room
	7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous	Fellowship Hall
<b>Tuesday, Sept 12</b>	11:00 am	Loaves & Fishes serve meal	Offsite
<b>Wednesday, Sept 13</b>	10:00 am	Board of Deacons	Living Room
	6:30 pm	Church Council	Living Room
	7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room
	7:00 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
<b>Thursday, Sept 14</b>	10:00 am	Bible Study	Living Room
<b>Friday, Sept 15</b>	7:30 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room

### **BLOOMFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COMMUNITY FOOD KITCHEN**

**EVERY SATURDAY 11:30 AM – 1 PM ~ Saturday, September 16, 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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Welcome Guests! We are so glad you are here and invite you to join us after Worship for our church picnic.

Our Hosts this morning: Rally Sunday Team.

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

Today's Lay Reader is Maurise Benson.

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.

Thank you God for Teachers and helpers - a Litany



For those who notice each child's special gift.

**Thank you, God, for teachers.**

For those who serve as much by listening as by telling.

**Thank you, God, for teachers.**

For those who make learning fun *and* meaningful.

**Thank you, God, for teachers.**

For those who truly live out the scripture "Love is patient, love is kind."

**Thank you, God, for teachers.**

For those who are here before the first child arrives and after the last child leaves.

**Thank you, God, for teachers.**

For those who dream of a next Great Generation, and seek to make it so.

**Thank you, God, for teachers.**

For those who work tirelessly and selflessly to help all children on their journey of faith.

**Thank you, God, for teachers. !**



