

# The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Bloomfield, CT

An open and affirming congregation

**Sunday, September 17, 2017**



MATTHEW 5:7-13

## **BEING A PEACEMAKER**

### 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  
8:00 & 10 a.m. Sunday, September 17, 2017  
**Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Times**

*"If we want to understand a human being, do not listen so much to their words but pay attention to their behavior (actions)"*  
**Albert Einstein**

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE**

Improvisation on *The God of Abraham Praise*

**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**

***Our God is an Awesome God,***

*Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above.*

*With wisdom, power and love, Our God is an awesome God*

Sung by the Congregation

**CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

May God bless each and every one of you. May God bless your children and loved ones. May God bless all creation! May we be one in worshipping our Creator.

May God be with you!

**And also with you Pastor, God is present in all of us!**

**We are one in Christ. We are one in worship. May our worship be an inspiration to all of us. May God's Spirit renew and give us strength, so we can continue to build community together! It is good to be together!**

Let us be one in worshipping our God!

**+HYMN OF PRAISE**

*The God Of Abraham Praise*

# 2

## PRAYER OF INVOCATION & CONFESSION (UNISON)

God to you be all glory and honor. We celebrate your presence in us, with us and beyond us. Your inspiration and strength always challenge us to be present in the midst of conflict and pain, as well as in celebrations and joy! We are grateful Creator God! We pray with humility and ask that your Spirit 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...

(Sung by Congregation) *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.*

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Dorine DeCarli

## 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: 13-21

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

SECOND LESSON ~ Matthew 5: 7-13

NT p.5 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

"ROAD TO FREEDOM"

Pastor Ayala

+HYMN

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

# 102

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

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

OFFERTORY

*You Raise Me Up*

Rolf Lovland

*Kristen Russell, soloist*

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 good news and liberation, we celebrate your presence among us. As we share these offerings, may they be used as expressions of our commitment to you and this congregation and its creative mission and vision. We offer ourselves in

graceful response to your grace. Loving God, continue to 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

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

# 363

+BENEDICTION

Pastor Ayala

(Please join hands as an expression of Community Love)

**GO WITH GOD'S BLESSING!**

**LET US GO INTO GOD'S WORLD WITH OUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN HARMONY,  
WITH GOD'S SPIRIT AND THE PROMOTION OF PEACE, JUSTICE AND FREEDOM!**

**GO, REMEMBERING THAT GOD IS WITH US ALL, AND WITH ALL CREATION!**

**GO AND PROMOTE LIFE...SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL**

**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

*Prelude in a minor* Benedetto Marcello



**Remember  
Our Homebound Members**

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



- \*Those grieving or suffering in the **Caribbean and Florida after the effects of Hurricane Irma**, which caused massive destruction of property last week and over the week end (September); **The people of Mexico, where an 8.2 magnitude earthquake** killed over 90 people and leveled many parts of Mexico on Sept. 7. **Those in Texas and surrounding areas affected by Hurricane Harvey** which made landfall on August 26.
- \***Those suffering** because of the **wildfires in Montana**.
- \*Prayers for Jasmin Ayala going through a difficult time.
- \*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**

<b>South Windsor</b> Wapping Community Church UCC	<b>Southbury</b> South Britain Congregational Church
<b>Southbury</b> United Church of Christ, Southbury	<b>Southington</b> First Congregational Church of Southington
<b>Southport</b> Southport Congregational UCC	

**NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017**

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES**

**PASTOR AYALA'S REFLECTION TOPIC:  
"FOREVER YOUNG"**

**SCRIPTURES: PSALM 105: 1-5 & PHILIPPIANS 4: 4-9**



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

### Looking Ahead

Lectionary possibilities for next week include:

Exodus 14: 19-31; Psalm 114 or Exodus 15: 1b-11, 20-21 or Genesis 50: 15-21;  
Psalm 103 (1-7), 8-13; Romans 14: 1-12; Matthew 18: 21-35

<b>Sunday, Sept 17</b>	8:00 am	Bible Discussion	Living Room
	10:00 am	Worship Service	Meeting Room
	11:30 am	Second Hour	Living Room
	12:30 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
<b>Monday, Sept 18</b>	6:00 pm	Search Team	Living Room
	7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous	Fellowship Hall
<b>Tuesday, Sept 19</b>	1:30 pm	Wounded Healers	Living Room
<b>Wednesday, Sept 20</b>	7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room
	7:00 pm	New Birth Community Church	Metzger Chapel
<b>Thursday, Sept 21</b>	10:00 am	Bible Study	Living Room
<b>Friday, Sept 22</b>	7:30 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Counting Room

### **BLOOMFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COMMUNITY FOOD KITCHEN** **EVERY SATURDAY 11:30 AM – 1 PM ~ Saturday, September 23, 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 Coffee Hour.

Our Coffee Hour Hosts this morning: Jane Koley & Mary Laiuppa.

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

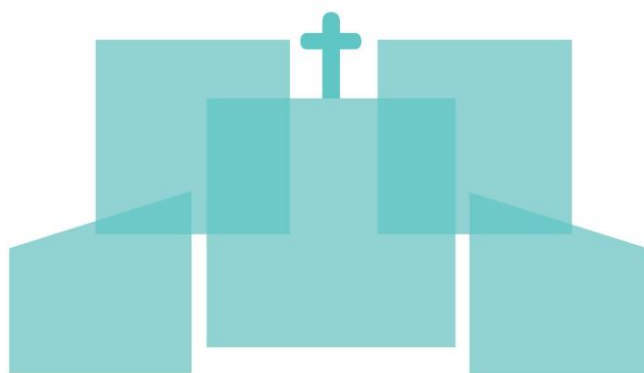
Today's Lay Reader is Allan Thompson.

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.

**Stop by the Living Room to view the amazing Pencil Artwork that was created this Summer on Thursday mornings. Thank you Al Forster for your vision!**

# Second Hour, Join Us



## Steps in Race Relations

**Today in the Living Room after worship service.**



**Neighbors in Need (NIN)** is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. Most UCC congregations will receive the NIN offering on **October 1, 2017** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance. NIN contributions can be made on-line at any time at [www.ucc.org/nin](http://www.ucc.org/nin).

# 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 [eointersections33@yahoo.com](mailto:eointersections33@yahoo.com)

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