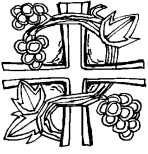


**NOVEMBER
2015**



The First Congregational Church in Bloomfield - United Church of Christ

The Wintonbury Spire

From Pastor Ed office

What a great honor it is to be your Interim Pastor. Together we will continue to build community...together we will proclaim God's Good News and be of inspiration to each other. **Feel free to contact me for any pastoral needs for you, your love ones and your friends.** Feel free to invite others to join us in worship and to our community life...as we affirm:

1. HEALTHY FELLOWSHIP!
2. OPENESS TO ALL PEOPLE!
3. SIMPLE SHARED VALUES THAT BUILDS COMMUNITY!
4. AS WE PROMOTE GOOD IN OUR WORLD!

As many of you know, I love poetry...allow me to share what has been an inspirational poem for me, attributed to Roy Croft.

**I love you because you are helping me
To make of the lumber of my life
Not a tavern, but a temple;
Out of the works of my every day...
Not a reproach but a song!**

**I love you
Because you have done
More than any creed
Could have done
To make me good,
And more than any fate
Could have done
To make me happy!**

**GOOD PEOPLE...BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS AS MUCH AS YOU
CAN!**

SHALOM

Pastor Ed

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THANKSGIVING PIE ORDER FORM

Name _____

Telephone Number(s) _____



of Apple Pies _____

of Pumpkin Pies _____

\$11 per pie

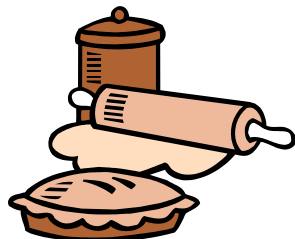
Total Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

_____ I will pick up my pie(s) during
11/22 Coffee Hour.

_____ I will arrange a different pick up
time with Dorine.

Thank you for
returning this form to
the church office by

Monday, November 16.



VOLUNTEERS –
HELPERS NEEDED!

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Complete Meal

- Canned Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Veg, -Peas, Corn, Green Beans,
(4 cans total)
- Canned Pie filling (apple, peach or cherry)
- Canned Olives
- Canned Turkey Gravy
- Bag of White or Sweet Potatoes
- Bag of Onions
- Bag of Carrots
- Box of Pie Crusts Mix
- Stuffing Mix or Corn Bread Mix

Our annual Thanksgiving collection is Sunday, November 22. We have 66 baskets to fill. Please continue to take feathers with food items listed. If you are unable to shop, we are accepting monetary contributions and do the shopping for you.

Help is needed with the packing of the boxes, on Monday morning Nov 23 at 8:30 am, please contact Mission Team member Kay Yablecki at 860-651-4517.



BLOOMFIELD
INTERFAITH
ASSOCIATION
COMMUNITY

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday November 22, 2015

at 7 PM

Host: Saint Stephens Church

590 Bloomfield Avenue,

Bloomfield, CT

ALL WELCOME

Refreshments to follow



Please bring non-
perishable food items

Offering will be taken for
the Bloomfield Food Bank.
Checks payable to
“Bloomfield Social & Youth
Services” Memo: Food Bank

News For Kids, Youth & Families



NOVEMBER 2015

Pie sale!

November is a time to be busy and full of Thankfulness. The Youth Group is making pies to raise funds for Christmas Gifts for families in Bloomfield through Social Services. The Youth Group will be taking apple and pumpkin pie orders during coffee hour on November 8th, and November 15th or you may place your order by November 16th by mail to the church office using the Spire order form.

Pies will be ready for pick up on November 22nd, during Coffee Hour.

Time of Thanksgiving

Our Sunday School Children and youth will be busy sorting all the foods brought to worship on November 22nd and making cards for the food baskets. With grateful hearts the children know they are helping others during a time of Thanksgiving.

UPCOMING FOR DECEMBER

Mark your Calendar

December 6th - Youth Group Christmas Shopping at Target in Windsor after church. Bring lunch money.

Our Special Christmas Pageant on Sunday December 20th at 10:00am Worship Service. The rehearsal for the pageant is Saturday December 19th at 10:00am.

Nov 1st - Communion Sunday (Children worship with their families, Bible class for 3rd, 4th, 5th grade)

Nov 8th - Sunday School for PreK - 9th grade

Nov 15th - Sunday School for PreK - 9th grade

Nov 22nd - Sunday School for PreK - 9th grade

sort food for Thanksgiving Baskets

Nov 29th - Sunday School for PreK - 9th grade

First Sunday in Advent

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

November 1st - Youth Group Meeting

4:00-5:00pm

November 15th - Youth Group Meeting

4:00-5:00pm

November 21st - Pie Baking Saturday

10:00am

November 22nd - Pie Delivery

during Coffee Hour





Thanksgiving Beatitudes

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

—Author unknown

Fall Clean-Up



ALL CLEAN-UP AND LEAF
COLLECTION:
Saturday, Nov. 14 @
8:30 am
(11/21 rain date)

The power of gratitude

grat·i·tude

[grat i tood]

noun

the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

—Melody Beattie

Family Fun Night



Family Fun Night on 10/30/2015 was great FUN. The children came in their Halloween Costumes. There was much food and fun. We also were visited by Fam Ily and his brother Ted. He was new to the church and wanted to know what we do at the church and what time Worship began on Sunday's. Of course everyone was so welcoming! He also told a few Knock Knock jokes for us. We are so glad he is part of our church Family. His brother too! The children and adults had a great time with the candy games and there were crafts to do as well. Thank you all for coming and having fun and thank you to the Faith Formation Team for hosting such a fantastic event.

2015

NOVEMBER



Every Sunday

8 & 10 am Worship
12:30 New Birth Community Church

Every Monday

6:00pm Bell rehearsal
7pm Narc. Anon.

November 1

Worship at 8am & 10am
COMMUNION SUNDAY
Lectionary possibilities:
2 Kings 5:1-14
Matthew 8:2-3

2

November 8

Worship at 8am & 10am
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
FAMILY APPRECIATION SUNDAY
Lectionary Possibilities:
Micah 5:2-4; 6:6-8
Matthew 9:13

9

November 15

Worship at 8am & 10am
Lectionary Possibilities:
1 Samuel 1: 4-20; Daniel 12: 1-3; Hebrews 10: 11-14
Revelation 1: 4b-8; John 18: 33-37

16

November 22

Worship at 8am & 10am
Lectionary Possibilities:
2 Samuel 23: 1-7; Psalm 132: 1-12; Daniel 7: 9-10; Psalm 93
Matthew 21:12-13

23

Nov. 22 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

November 29

Worship at 8am & 10am
Lectionary Possibilities:
Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25: 1-10; 1 Thessalonian 3: 9-13;
Luke 21: 25-36

30

First Sunday of Advent

NOVEMBER

2015

<i>Every Tuesday</i>	<i>Every Wed. 7 pm Alc. Anon. 6:00 pm NAMI</i>	<i>Every Thursday</i>	<i>Every Friday 7:30 pm Alc. Anon</i>	<i>Every Saturday</i>
				
3 <i>9:15am Exercise</i>	4 <i>9:30 am JumpBunch 6:00 pm Zumba 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	5 <i>6:30pm Wintonbury Flying Club</i>	6 <i>9:15am Exercise</i>	7 <i>7 pm CT Conference Revival</i>
10 <i>9:15am Exercise</i>	11 <i>9:30 am JumpBunch 4:00pm ABC 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</i>	12 <i>Veteran's Day Church Office Closed</i>	13 <i>9:15am Exercise</i>	14 <i>8:30 am Fall Cleanup</i>
17 <i>9:15am Exercise 5:00pm ABC</i>	18 <i>6:30pm Choir Rehearsal</i> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Council meeting Thurs Oct. 18 7:00 pm </div>	19	20 <i>9:15am Exercise</i>	21 <i>10:00 am Youth Group Pie Baking</i>
24 <i>9:15am Exercise 4:00pm ABC</i>	25 <i>NO CHOIR REHEARSAL</i>	26 <i>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</i> <i>Church office closed</i>	27 <i>Church office closed</i>	28

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

10/21/15

Attendees: C. Delgado, C. Dobo, D. Morrill, E. Ayala
ex officio, S. Goetjen, C. Hart, C. Wilson.

The meeting opened with a prayer from Pastor Ed.
Pastor's Report: Now that Pastor Ed is our official Interim Minister, he is getting acquainted with the full range of church procedure at FCC Bloomfield. The first staff retreat will be held tomorrow, and he has met with the Pastoral Care and Mission teams to date. He distributed his preaching schedule through 11/22. The focus for worship will be BUILDING A HEALTHY FAITH COMMUNITY.

Financial Report: As of Sept. 30, Income is ahead of target because some pledges were prepaid for the entire year. Expenses are mostly in line with the budget. The *balance* due for the ramp has been paid.

Personnel/Salary Increases: MSV to approve salary increases for staff retroactive to July 1st from the payroll pool line item of the budget.

Church Constitution Revisions: There will be a second hour discussion held on Nov. 8 to answer any questions about the proposed revisions to the Church Constitution presented at the Oct. 4th congregational meeting. A special meeting will be held on Dec. 6th after the 10 a.m. service to vote on the proposed changes.

Music Program: The special music line item amount in the budget will only cover those expenses through December. An appeal letter will be sent to the congregation to solicit the \$2,100 needed to continue special music from Jan. through June.

Mission Team Proposal: Information is being gathered about the possibility of having the now-vacant parsonage used by a refugee family. Much information needs to be gathered about how such a process would work, what other organizations would be involved, financial considerations, time frame, etc. before deciding to undertake this project.

Council Priorities and Next Steps:

Exploration of adult education component of Faith Formation

Review/update job descriptions

Clarify custodial employment status
Growth of the Church

Gifts to the Church have to be approved by Council. Sally Foster would like to give her painting "Meadow of Diversity", created in conjunction with one of the summer sermons, to the Deacons. MSV to accept the painting.

After a benediction, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Next meeting will be Nov. 18 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Wilson



First Congregational Church
Dear Mr. & Mrs. Bunker

Thank you for your request to adopt children for our 2015 Season of Giving Toy Drive.

Below you will find your assigned family #, code names for each child & their ages along with their wish list. We are requesting that all gifts be new, wrapped and tagged with each child's code name and family #.

Gifts should be brought to the church office labeled adopt a family cc of Judi Bunker, starting Nov 22 and ending Dec 6, 2015.

If you have any questions or need to schedule an alternative date to drop off the gifts, please feel free to contact Camilla Jones or India Rodgers at 860.242.1895. Thank you again for your generosity and Best Wishes to you and yours for a Joyous Holiday Season.



Family #	Child ID	Age	Sex	Size	Gift ideas
22	CFG	11	M	9/10	~ Tablet, p-3 controller, Injustice gods among us Ultimate edition ps3 game, controller charging station, blk sweater no hood, bean bag Dallas Cowboys, ps3 games

Family #	Child ID	Age	Sex	Size	Gift ideas
22	TRA	8	F	8, shoes, 2 boots	~ Tablet, shopkins, Mom Daughter bracelets and charms, My password journal, stuffed animals, clothes, Zoomer Kitty, orbecs luzry spa, furby boom, project mc square, Zoomer puppies, decet dolls, nerf rebelle guardian crossbow, pokeman cards, Alex toys deluxe pottery wheel razor dune buggy ride on.



Refugee Benefit Concert

People forcibly displaced by 2014: 59.5 million.

19.5 million are refugees, 51% being children. Many left home with little more than what they were wearing.

Help those who have lost almost everything.

Attend the Refugee Benefit Concert

Performances by local young artists and students from The Hartt School.

Classical masterworks by Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, Fauré, Shostakovich 87 more.

All proceeds will go toward relief efforts for refugees from war-torn regions

Saturday, November 21st, 7:30 pm

Unitarian Society of Hartford

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT

860-233-9897

Suggested donation \$15



Christmas Cantata



It's Cantata time again!

The Cantata Singers of the First Congregational Church of Bloomfield will present the cantata Appalachian Winter on Sunday, December 13 at the 10am service. The cantata is composed by the renowned American composer Joseph Martin. Joining us in worship will be the Accidentals Handbell Choir playing seasonal music. Please join us in worship as we celebrate the coming of our blessed Savior, Jesus the Christ.



Looking Ahead...

Advent Begins November 29, 2015

Community Carol Sing
December 6, @ 4 pm

Christmas Cantata Sunday
December 13, @ 10 am

The Longest Night Service
Saturday, December 20, @ 3 pm

Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 20, @ 10 am

Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 24, @ 6 pm

Epiphany & Star Gifts
Sunday, January 3, 2015 @ 10 am

LIVE NATIVITY SCENE



Children and adults needed to look like Bethlehem! Put on warm shoes and throw a blanket over your shoulders.

**COLORS OF THE SEASON!
Tree Lighting Ceremony
On the Town Green in Bloomfield
Thursday, December 3, 2015 4:30pm**

**Ideas and info: call Mary Laiuppa
860-242-1505**





Russell & Charlotte **MOTTRAM** 11/15

Ron & Connie **ROBINSON** 11/26

Jeanna MCKENZIE 11/25

Karen MARCIA 11/27

Linda BLANCHARD 11/29

Lisa JAFFRAY 11/29



Lois ROBERT 11/02

William BELCHER 11/09

Connie ROBINSON 11/09

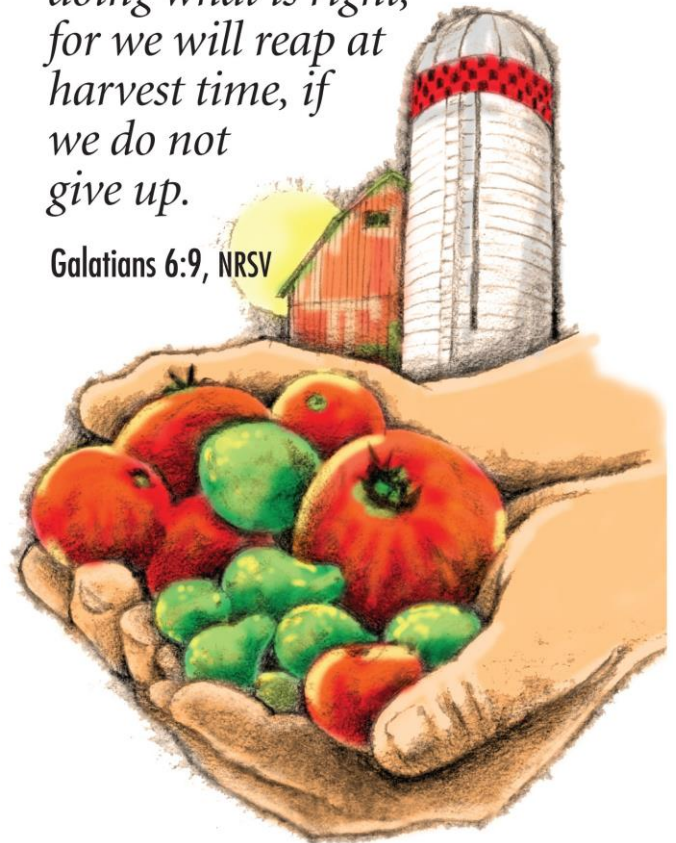
Gwen ILOANI 11/15

Marcia LITKE 11/16

John CASNER 11/18

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9, NRSV



**THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

10 Wintonbury Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Church Office: 860-242-0776
Nursery School: 860-242-0183
Church Fax: 860-243-8035

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The *Wintonbury Spire*, newsletter of the First Congregational Church in Bloomfield – United Church of Christ, is published monthly to provide information to and about our members and friends. Items received in the office by the 15th of the month may be included in next month's edition.

Spire Parties will be held on:

October 30, 2015	November 23, 2015
January 29, 2016	January 1, 2016
March 25, 2016	February 26, 2016
May 27, 2016	April 29, 2016
	June 28, 2016

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