

WEEK OF 9.6.09 AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 9.6.09	10 am – Communion Sunday Worship in the Chapel
Mon. 9.7.09	Labor Day, Building Closed
Tues. 9.8.09	7:30 pm – Diaconate and Worship Working Group
Thurs. 9.10.09	7:30 pm – Adult Choir

WEEK OF 9.13.09 AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 9.13.09	10 am - Rally Day / Grandparents Day Worship returns to the Sanctuary 11:15 am - Gallery Opening 11:15 am – Rally Day Picnic
Mon. 9.14.09	10:00 am. – Newsletter Deadline
Tues. 9.15.09	Democratic Primary Day 9:00 am – First Day of Preschool 4:00 pm – Endowment Committee
Thurs. 9.17.09	7:30 pm – Adult Choir

WEEK OF 9.20.09 AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 9.20.09	10 am – Worship and Sunday School 6 – 9 pm – Youth Group
Tues. 9.22.09	7:00 pm – Council Meeting
Thurs. 9.24.09	7:00 pm – NEWBRACC Meeting Held Here 7:30 pm – Adult Choir

OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY

The Missions Committee is sponsoring a Back to School Food Drive for the Osgood Food Pantry. We are collecting items such as peanut butter, jelly, macaroni and cheese, tuna and any canned goods. Any donations would be greatly appreciated! Thank you, the Missions Committee.

MUMS FOR SALE!

The Cooperative Nursery School of New Britain will be selling mums from Karabin Farms. Order forms will be available in the church office beginning Sunday, September 6th. The deadline for ordering is Friday, September 18th. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Chamberlain.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed as Greeters and Readers for Sunday worship. Please contact Mike Chamberlain (ctzarman@sbcglobal.net) or Jane Sittambalam (ejsjanessitt@aol.com) by e-mail or see them after church. Thank you!

RALLY SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship returns to the sanctuary on Sunday, September 13. Please join us and come to see the new changes from Phase 3 of the Capital Campaign! Beautiful, new carpeting has been installed, walls around and behind the Pulpit were painted, the stonework was cleaned, the brickwork was washed and new pew cushions are on order. The result is a warm, welcoming Sanctuary for all. Come and enjoy!

RALLY SUNDAY!

Well, that was a *fast* summer! It's always a bit sad when it comes to an end...*BUT*, it's exciting to look forward to a brand new year of church school. If you like **music, art, and eating**, you won't want to miss the Rotation Workshops this fall. Be here on **Sunday, September 13th**, when we celebrate the start of the 2009 – 2010 program.

Following worship, the Christian Education subgroup will host a **PICNIC!** We will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs and are asking everyone to bring a side dish, a salad *or* a dessert to share. There will be activities provided for the young people. Hope your family will plan to attend and catch up with friends that you may not have seen all summer!

Happy Labor Day,
Sharon Chamberlain
Coordinator of Christian Education

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group will be starting in September, for students in grades 6-12. There will be a sign up sheet at an information table on Rally Sunday. Hope to see you then.
~ Sarah Flythe

HOT CAT JAZZ BAND COMING

We know many churchgoers enjoyed hearing the Hot Cat Jazz Band play for us during worship services in the past. Well, we have good news! There will be an opportunity to enjoy their music for a whole evening on Friday, October 2nd.

So save the date and watch for further announcements – you won't want to miss a great evening of entertainment!

Judy Robertson
Christian Growth, Ministries and Outreach

FCCEF

As promised, here is a short version of our "bottom line". We are withdrawing 12-13% of our total Endowment balance to meet our operating expenses this year. Other recent years have been very similar. Our Endowment's value was adversely impacted by recent economic trends. In 2009, the Endowment withdrawal and income from Trusts support approximately 58% of our expenses, while member pledges support only about 29% of our expenses. The remaining 13% comes from unpledged income and pledges received late.

The Council has committed to balancing the budget by 2020. The math works out as follows: we need to increase pledging by \$17,500 this year or face painful budget cuts which will diminish our programming and missions. Pledge income was budgeted at \$135,000 last year so our 2010 goal is \$152,500. We CAN meet this challenge but every one of us must make a commitment to be a part of the solution by giving generously. Please give your most prayerful consideration to the upcoming Stewardship Campaign.

Lynn Anderson
Council Chairperson

RETURN TO REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

We will return to regular office hours this Monday, August 31. The church office will be open from 9:00 am. to 3:00 pm., Monday – Thursday and 9:00 am. to noon on Friday. Kristine's hours will be Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am. to 1:00 pm. and Tuesday from 10:30 am. to 2:30 pm. Bernie's hours will remain the same; Tuesday 7:30 to 11:15 am. and Friday 12:30 to 5:00 pm.

REMINDER OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Beginning in September, meetings will return to their pre-summer schedule; with the Christian Growth, Missions and Outreach Working Group meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, the Diaconate and Worship Working Group meeting the second Tuesday of the month and the Church Council meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

Congratulations, to John and Kim Carbone on the birth of their 3rd son – Jeffrey Daniel, born August 18th. Everyone is doing well – including big brothers Jackson and Joseph!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

“The Prayers of Jesus” will be starting MONDAY, (note day change) September 28th at 7:00 pm., in the church Parlor. Prayer was the backbone of Jesus’ ministry. From his baptism to his crucifixion, the Gospels portray Jesus as a man of prayer who knew and deeply valued intimate communion with his heavenly Father. In our six sessions we will explore the prayers of Jesus to gain insights into prayer, the character of God, and how to deepen our relationship with him.

We will use the same format and DVD. Each session is independent, so that attending all sessions is not necessary. Believe it or not, these studies are **not** hard to understand.

- September 28: *Watch & Pray.* Jesus’ Model Prayer Life (Mark 1: 32 -39, 9:9-29, 14:32-42)
- October 5: *Our God Listens.* The Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8)
- October 12: Columbus Day, Building Closed
- October 19: *Joining in Jesus’ Prayer.* The Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)
- October 26: *Praying to a Good God.* The Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-13)
- November 2: *Praying with Purpose.* Jesus’ Final Prayer (John 17)
- November 9: *A Friend in High Places.* Faith, Prayer and Answers (John 14:13-14)



THE ANNUAL GIANT DIVOT GOLF OUTING

This year’s event will be held Saturday, October 3 at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain. Food and festivities at the church after the golf. Bring your friends and plan on joining us for good fellowship, a lot of laughs and to help support the church and the mission work we have been called to do. More details in the coming month.

OPEN DATES FOR MEMORIAL FLOWERS

The following dates are available for Memorial Altar flowers: the third Sunday in April, the third Sunday in June, the second Sunday in November and the fourth Sunday of December. The cost is \$25.00; please contact Kristine if you are interested in signing up for one of these dates, 229-3709. Thank you.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

NEW BRITAIN, CT

Dear Friends,

At this time of the church year, I am always reminded of my high school senior class play, in which I portrayed Colonel Thorwald in “Rally Round the Flags, Boys.” And today, I urge all of us to “rally round our church” as we begin a new program year on Rally Sunday, September 13, at 10:00 A.M. in the sanctuary.

The simple word “rally” can mean a variety of things: “to muster for a common purpose,” “to recall to order,” “to arouse for action,” “to come together again to renew an effort,” “to join in a common cause.” And all are perfectly appropriate for what we need to do as members and friends of this First Church of New Britain community.

We need to rally around our worship life. Attendance always slips in the summer, and so we need to return to the fold and participate fully in joyous worship.

We need to rally our time and talent. Several of our new “working groups” need help. Virtually all programs of the church could use additional volunteers. Our nominating process will begin soon as we seek to recruit leadership to be elected at our next annual meeting. Please don’t wait to be asked—offer your time and talent. And if you are asked, please respond with an enthusiastic and committed “Yes!”

And we need to really our treasure. The simple bottom line is that if First Church is to survive and thrive financially, all of us must give more money to support its ministries and missions. Our new and exciting stewardship program begins on Sunday, September 27, and concludes on Sunday, October 25, when we return our 2010 pledge cards.

My friends, it is time to begin again, to begin anew, to rally around First Church with enthusiasm, energy, commitment, and generosity.

See you in church! Blessings always!

Jack

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OFFICE and GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am – Noon

PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Jack Cook, Senior Minister
Sharon Chamberlain, Coordinator of Christian Education
James Gower, Director of Music Ministries
Sarah Flythe, Coordinator of Youth Programming

Please go to our website, www.firstnewbritain.org for staff contact information

Copies of sermons and additional newsletters are available in the information rack outside the church office.