

WEEK OF 9.27.09 AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 9.27.09	10 am – Stewardship Kick-Off Guest Minister, Mike Penn-Strah Worship and Sunday School 11:15 am – Brunch following Worship
Mon. 9.28.09	7:00 pm – Bible Study
Thurs. 10.1.09	7:30 pm – Adult Choir
Fri. 10.2.09	7:30 pm – Hot Cat Jazz Band
Sat. 10.3.09	Giant Divot Golf Tournament; 5:30 Dinner

WEEK OF 10.4.09 AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 10.4.09	World Communion Sunday/ Stewardship “Outreach Sunday” / Neighbors in Need Offering 10 am – Worship and Sunday School, Please return grocery bags for the Osgood Food Pantry
Mon. 10.5.09	7:00 pm – Bible Study
Tues. 10.6.09	7:00 pm – CGMO Working Group
Thurs. 10.8.09	7:30 pm – Adult Choir
Fri. 10.9.09	10 am – Newsletter Deadline

WEEK OF 10.11.09 AT FIRST CHURCH

Sun. 10.11.09	Baptism: Aubrey Marie Hernandez 10 am – Worship and Sunday School
Mon. 10.12.09	Columbus Day ~ Building Closed
Tues. 10.13.09	7:00 pm – Diaconate and Worship Working Group
Thurs. 10.15.09	7:30 pm – Adult Choir

AFTERNOON AND EVENING CHURCH HOURS

Please note that due to budget cuts and fewer support group meetings, Ed’s hours have been reduced. Please contact Bill if you are planning a committee meeting in the afternoon or evening, to be sure that the building will be open.



WOMEN’S CIRCLE RETREAT

The Women’s Circle will be holding their annual retreat from October 30th thru November 1st at the Mercy Center in Madison, CT. A meeting will be held on Sunday, October 4th immediately following the worship service to discuss the topic for this year’s program. If you are interested in attending for the weekend or just the program on Saturday, please be sure to come to this important meeting.

Judy Robertson, Women’s Circle

STEWARDSHIP

Do You Have a Question for our Financial Clerk?

If you have any questions on your pledge, or any financial questions relating to the church, please don’t hesitate to contact Bernie Prue, Financial Clerk, First Church of Christ, New Britain. Her hours are: Tuesdays 7:30 to 11:15 AM, and Fridays 12:30 to 5:00 PM.

Stewardship Sundays

Last Sunday, September 27, was the first of four Sundays devoted to **Stewardship**. We all think of stewardship in terms of financial commitment and, yes, that is very important. But stewardship means so much more. It also means participating in church activities, volunteering, caring for and sharing with church members and others in our community.

On September 27 we were reminded by the Rev. Dr. Michael Penn-Strah, our retreat facilitator in May of 2008, of the three church goals that emerged from the retreat: to nurture our membership, outreach to others and grow our church. September 27th focused on **nurturing our members**. Lynn Anderson introduced the stewardship effort, Margo Hunt gave the children’s sermon, Michael Penn-Strah gave the sermon, our children distributed grocery bags they had decorated and Sarah Joyce-Grikis and her crew put on a great brunch in celebration of our members. Thank you Lynn, Margo, Michael, Sarah and all the children in Sunday School.

On October 4, outreach to others is our theme. Please plan on being at the service. Those who were at the September 27th service received a small grocery bag to fill with non-perishable goods. If you would like a grocery bag, pick one up in the office this week or fill one from your local grocery store. **Bring them back to church on October 4.** We’ll take them to our local food collaborative for distribution.

Our themes will continue on **October 18** (October 11 will be a regular service due to the Columbus Day holiday) with the theme of **growing our church** and culminate on **October 25** with **commitment Sunday**, when we hand in our completed pledge cards. You’ll hear more about them in our next newsletter.

Did you receive your invitation, pledge card and bookmark?

A special mailing introducing our stewardship Sundays was sent out to all members and friends of First Church on September 21. Did you receive yours? If not, please call Kristine in the FCC Office and she will be sure you receive your mailing.

The book mark is one way we wanted to show our appreciation for our members. Who doesn’t use a book mark? And if you’ve looked at it carefully, you’ll notice a prayer that we’ll see in our bulletins many times during the next several weeks. Please read it and think about it as you contemplate your pledge to First Church for 2010.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

On October 4th, we will participate in the UCC’s special mission offering, “Neighbors in Need”. Please bring your envelopes (provided in the September 27th bulletin) back to church to show your support for this offering which supports ministries of justice and compassion.

~Judy Robertson, CGMO Working Group

REQUEST FROM OUR “ADOPTED SOCIAL WORKER”

Our “Adopted Social Worker”, Jennifer Hernandez of the Nurturing Families Network/MOMS program has notified me that one of her clients has the need for a double stroller. If anyone has one that they no longer need and would like to donate, please contact me at 225-1124. Thank you.

Judy Robertson

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: “The Prayers of Jesus”

Did you even wonder what Jesus’ prayer life was like or why some of our prayers are not answered? Are you interested in examining the six petitions of our Lord’s Prayer that we recite every Sunday morning? Are you familiar with John 17, Jesus final prayer?

We have begun discussing these topics and many more, and will continue on Monday nights, through November 9th, at 7:00 pm (we will not meet October 12th, Columbus Day). Attending all sessions is not necessary, but you are invited to all discussions.

**FIRST CHURCH COMMEMORATIVE
ANNIVERSARY PLATES**

In celebration of our 250th Anniversary, an order of 48 white vintage, 10 1/2" plates (similar to our 200th anniversary plate) were ordered commemorating the anniversary of our church. The plates will be sold during 2nd hours beginning on Sept. 20 for \$20. Anyone wishing to purchase a commemorative plate can sign-up in the church office or we’ll see you during second hour.

Joyce Petrisko
Anniversary Committee

OPPORTUNITY WITH THE CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE

Do you have a passion for our church history? Do you want to immerse yourself in the lore and story of our past, both the church and the Conference? Then the Connecticut Conference is looking for you. We are in need of an Archivist. This position is part-time and nominally remunerated. It is a position of love and dedication. Please contact Cecile Gilson at cecileg@ctucc.org or (860) 761-7109 for more info.

DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

Calling all flutes, trumpets, violins or any other instrument you may play – unless of course it's the piano and too big to carry! Please bring them to church school this Sunday, October 4th, as we continue to learn about music in the Bible.

Moms and Dads who have not yet returned the registration form for this year's Sunday School Program, please plan to do so this Sunday...I have extras if you need one.

Congratulations to the following Sunday School students who had *perfect attendance* for the month of September:
Jessica McElravy, Sarah, Megan and Nicole Perrotta, Isabella and Mary Petrisko, and Sam and Catherine Najarian! Very nice job!

I'm pleased to announce that beginning this week you will see the smiling face of Kristine Mangan in our Toddler Room on Sunday mornings. Stop by and say hi – even if you're not dropping off a little one!

See you Sunday,
Sharon Chamberlain
Coordinator of Christian Education



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

The Hospitality subgroup is looking for a few people to join our "Coffee Hour Crew". If interested, please call Joyce Anderson 229-6777 or gjkand@aol.com or Sarah Joyce-Grikis 223-5659 or sarah@satalino.com. The CGM&O Working Group



OPEN DATES FOR MEMORIAL FLOWERS: The following dates are available for Memorial Altar flowers: the second 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 30, 2009

NEW BRITAIN, CT

Dear Friends,

Our current "Stewardship Season" continues with "Outreach Sunday" on October 4. Focusing our mission/outreach work was the second major goal we established for our church after the leadership retreat of May, 2008.

This is an especially appropriate Sunday for this thematic focus, because it is also World Communion Sunday; and we collect our annual Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering. Another unique element of worship that day will be the sharing of three "outreach stories" by members of our church.

A word about Neighbors in Need—

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 4, 2009, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and actions alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues, such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Please come to church on October 4 (and then again on October 11, when we shall celebrate a baptism); please give generously to this year's Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering; and please commit to reaching out to others in faithful service.

See you in church! Blessings always!
Jack

FIRST CHURCH NEWS

Vol. 57, No. 18



"First Church News" (USPS 196-120) is published bi-weekly from September to June and monthly during July and August by First Church of Christ, Congregational, 830 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06052. (Tel: 860-229-3709; Fax: 860-826-7079, e-mail firstnewbritain@snet.net). Periodicals postage paid at New Britain, CT 06052.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Church News, 830 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06052.

First Church website - www.firstnewbritain.org.

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.