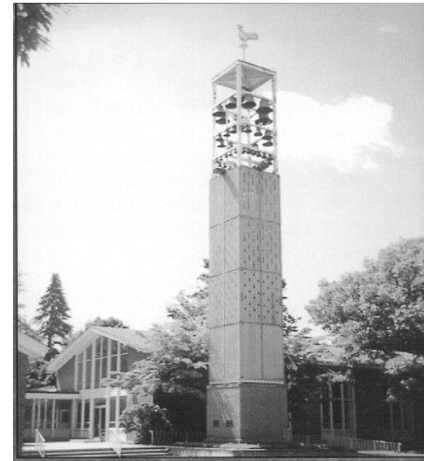


First Church News

**First Church of Christ, Congregational
United Church of Christ**

830 Corbin Avenue
New Britain, CT 06052
860-229-3709
www.firstnewbritain.org

February 2010



CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual meeting will be held immediately following the worship service on **Sunday, January 31st**. In addition to approving our budget, matters regarding our Endowment Fund and Capital Campaign Fund will be brought before the congregation for their vote. Please be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting!

~Judy Robertson, Council Secretary

First Church provides worship and education that deepen the understanding and living of the Christian faith to promote spiritual growth, hospitality, and service to others.

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends,

As this season we call *Epiphany* draws to a close at Ash Wednesday, we begin the new season known as *Lent*.

Lent is a penitential season of self-examination, prayer, and fasting that precedes the celebration of Easter. In Western churches, the season opens on Ash Wednesday and consists of forty days excluding Sundays. The term *Lent* is derived from roots that mean *to lengthen*. The Lenten season points to the spring of the year and to the increasing daylight hours which spring brings. The color of this season, beginning with Ash Wednesday and including Sundays, is purple, symbolic of penitence, royalty, and hope.

Based upon the success of last year's Lenten programming, we have an additional community meal and special event planned for this year. The overall title of our educational opportunities is "Church 101." Most activities will occur in the Fireside Room.

On Wednesday, February 17, at 6:00 P.M., our Christian Education Committee will offer a pancake supper to be followed at 7:00 P.M. by a brief Ash Wednesday worship service and then our first educational event entitled "Seasons 101."

On Wednesday, March 3, we'll share a pot luck supper at 6:00, followed by a program at 7:00, entitled "Bible 101."

On Wednesday, March 17, at 6:00, we'll have another community meal, followed by "Jesus 101" at 7:00.

Then on Thursday, April 1, our Deacons will serve their traditional soup and bread supper at 6:00, followed at 7:00 by a Maundy Thursday Service of Communion and Tenebrae in our sanctuary.

Please plan to join your First Church family in our observance of this holy season.

See you in church! Blessings always!

Jack

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to Andrew Baker and Travis Lavigne for perfect attendance in Sunday School during the month of January!

CHURCH NEWS

MOVE TO A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER: Beginning February 1, 2010, First Church News will be published on a monthly basis. We will also begin a wider e-mail distribution of the newsletter. As a result, we have changed the format, so it is more easily "readable" both in print and on-line.

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

With the move to a monthly newsletter, we will be sending out a weekly e-mail blast, to update information between newsletters. We are asking everyone to update your e-mail address. Please e-mail it to firstnewbritain@snet.net or call the church at 860-229-3709.

IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

Our thoughts and prayers are with Margo Hunt and her family regarding the death of her sister, Suzanne Newton. A memorial service was held here on Thursday, January 28th at 11:00 am.

THANK YOU FROM HOSPITALITY

Thank you to Marietta Guidone and Kristine Lewko for providing baked goods for coffee hour. It was most appreciated.

~ Sarah Flythe

2009 ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports are available in the narthex and also in the church office. Please pick one up before the annual meeting, on Sunday, January 31st.

2010 OPEN DATES FOR MEMORIAL FLOWERS

The fourth Sunday of August is available as a permanent, annual, opening for memorial altar flowers. The fifth Sunday of January, fifth Sunday of August and fifth Sunday of October are open for this year only. Please contact the church office (860-229-3709) if you are interested in any of these dates. Thank you.

WINTER WEATHER

In the case of bad weather, please watch WFSB Channel 3 or tune into WTIC am or fm or WRCH fm; for information on church closings or the cancellation of church events. Please note both New Britain listings and "First Church" listings. Thank you.

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

- **NEW WORKING GROUPS:** "New" working groups, working groups and subgroups with 2010 committee members, will begin meeting in February, after the Annual Meeting.
- **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** *Our One Great Hour of Sharing Special Mission Offering* will be received on Sunday, March 14, 2010.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Eight-to-Eat Foods Groups are returning. For those unfamiliar, Eight-to-Eat Food Groups have nothing to do with nutrition or food pyramids. Eight-to-Eat Food Groups are FUN opportunities to get together with other adult churchgoers for food and fellowship.

Sign up as a single or twosome. We will organize groups of 8 that will get together 3 or 4 times between Feb. and May. Your group chooses its own schedule. You can choose to eat in homes or out, pot-luck or not. In the past, some groups have had really fun and creative experiences. Whatever your group chooses is fine.

So don't miss out.....Sign up in office, coffee hour after church or call the church office by Feb. 7th. Questions?? Contact Nancy Cook or Margo Hunt.

IF YOU'RE SHOPPING FOR A PRESCHOOL...

The Cooperative Nursery School of New Britain will be holding their annual Open House on Wednesday, January 27th, from 6 – 8 p.m. The snow date will be **FIRST** Thursday, January 28th. Come by and meet the teachers and see the classrooms. Children are welcome! If you have any questions, contact Sharon Chamberlain at 860-224-9963.

CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

The Community Mental Health Affiliates' Team Time Social Club is holding a children's book drive from January 13 – March 11th. Many of CMHA's clients are children and adolescents from impoverished homes. Because of their poverty, their homes do not include books; and their parents are unable to take them to libraries due to lack of transportation, time, or concern regarding overdue books. Please drop off your new or gently used children's books, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am. – 4:30 p.m., at the Team Time Social Club (CMHA), 125 Whiting Street, New Britain, CT. Thank you!

WORKSHOP . . . HOMEWORK WITHOUT TEARS

Join us on Tuesday, January 26th, from 7 – 8 pm., during a Parent / Teacher Conference Day for a fun discussion about how to support your child with homework. It will be held at Saint James Missionary Baptist Church, in the Pina / Smith Fellowship Hall. Please call the New Britain Office of Family Education at 860-223-2716, if you are planning to attend.

SERENDIPITY FOR 8TH GRADE GIRLS

Our goal is for Serendipity Girls to enter high school with 2 years of knowledge under their belts, so they have a competitive edge throughout their high school careers. We cover High school preparation: "Proper Study Skills", training to understand the cumulative GPA system and graduate on time and comprehensive college tours. We also offer Life skills training: Fiscal responsibility, Etiquette training and the need to volunteer, the builds your college portfolio. Join us to learn more . . . Tuesday, January 26th at 5:00 pm, at the YMCA, 50 High Street, NB. Call 860-224-2926 for more information.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

WHO SAYS...

There is nothing to look forward to during the "winter doldrums?"

Sunday, February 7th – the church school students will be collecting "Souper Bowl" dollars for the Friendship Service Center. Bring an extra dollar to throw in the pot!

Sunday, February 14th – Church school students will be celebrating Mardi Gras with pancakes and activities during class time.

The CE Committee will meet at 11:15 in the parlor.

And for the adults...

Mark your calendars for a **St. Patrick's Day Social on Saturday, March 20th** – right here at First Church! Plan to invite a friend or two for a wee bit o' fun. Watch for further details.

Calling all people with sewing skills! With our increased use of the costumes we currently own, I have realized that we need to repair some of the existing ones *and* make some new ones. If you are interested in gathering for an hour or two for this purpose please let me know. Just like a good old fashioned "sewing bee"- and I'll provide the refreshments!

See you in church,
Sharon Chamberlain
Coordinator of Christian Education

YOUTH GROUP DATES

- Sunday, January 24 and January 31: Super Bowl Grinder Sale, 11am-12pm.
- Sunday, January 31: Revolution at Trinity United Methodist Church, Windsor Ct., 6pm -9pm.
- Sunday, February 7: Grinder Making, 9am-10am
- Saturday, February 13: Dinner and Auction at Berlin Congregational Church, Berlin; from 5:30pm - 7:00pm.
- Sunday, February 21: Youth Group 5:30pm-8:00pm.

FIRST CHURCH MISSIONS

HOLIDAY MISSION COLLECTIONS

Thank you to all those who support the missions of First Church . . . Sharon had a check drafted for \$2800.00 to send to Sirirat . . . from the sale of crafts, gifts and donations. The Thanksgiving collection raised \$501.00, which was sent to Back Bay Missions. The Sunday School children raised \$60.00 during their Halloween, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF.

OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY

We are currently collecting food for the Osgood Food Pantry. Any non-perishable foods are accepted. Perhaps you would consider donating cooking oil as one of your donations. This will enable the food recipients to cook with healthy ingredients such as canola, olive, or vegetable oils. Thank you for all you do. ~ Missions Committee

FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1	2 12:30 pm. Staff Meeting 7:00 pm. M & O Meeting 7:30pm. AA (Men only)	3	10:00 am. Alanon 7:30 pm. NA 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	4	6	
7 ~ Communion Sunday 9 am. Super Bowl Grinder Making 10:00 am. Worship and Sunday School “Souper Bowl” Collection following worship 12:00 noon New Jerusalem 8:00 pm. Alanon	8	9 12:30 pm. Staff Meeting 4:00pm. Endowment Committee 7:00 pm. Diaconate and Worship 7:30pm. AA (Men only)	10	10:00 am. Alanon 7 pm. Preschool Board Meeting 7:30 pm. NA	11	12	13
14 10:00 am. Worship and Sunday School 11:15 am. Christian Education Meeting in the Parlor 12:00 noon New Jerusalem 8:00 pm. Alanon	15	16 12:30 pm. Staff Meeting 4 – 6 pm. Central Association in the Parlor 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	17 ~ Ash Wednesday 10:00 am. Alanon 9 – noon NB Women's Club Board 6 pm. Pancake Supper 7pm. Simple Worship and Lenten Program in Fireside 7:30 pm. NA	18	19	20	
21 ~ First Sunday of Lent 10:00 am. Worship and Sunday School 12:00 noon New Jerusalem 5:30 – 8 pm. Youth Group 8:00 pm. Alanon	22	23 12:30 pm. Staff Meeting 7 pm. NB Music Club Program 7 pm. Council Meeting 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	24	10:00 am. Alanon 7:30 pm. NA	25	26	27
28 10:00 am. Worship and Sunday School 8:00 pm. Alanon							