

"First Church News" (USPS 196-120) is published monthly from January through December 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).

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First Church website - www.firstnewbritain.org

OFFICE and GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 3 pm

Friday 9 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.

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 2012



CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held THIS Sunday, January 29, 2012, immediately following the worship service. Annual Reports are available in the Narthex and the church office, please take one per family. Among matters to be voted on will be a new slate of officers and working group members and the budget for 2012.

There will be a meeting, for interested members of the congregation, at 9:15 am, before worship, THIS Sunday January 29th, to answer any questions regarding the 2012 budget. Members can drop in any time between 9:15 and 10:00.

~ Mike Duncan, Council Chair

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,

The first two Sundays in February bring to a close my recent sermon series on the first chapter of Mark's Gospel. In worship, we've been looking at the beginnings of Jesus' activity and ministry in Galilee. On Feb. 5, we focus on the healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law and others who were "sick or possessed by demons" (29-39). And on Feb. 12, our gospel story is the account of Jesus healing a leper (40-45), which begins a long section on "ministry and controversy, chiefly in Galilee."

Sunday, Feb. 19 concludes this season of "Sundays after Epiphany" with our annual examination of the extraordinary Biblical story of "The Transfiguration."
(Mark 9:2-9)

Then the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. Lent is a penitential season of self-examination, prayer, and fasting that consists of forty days, excluding Sundays (because each Sunday is a "little Easter!"). 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 liturgical color throughout is purple.

We shall continue our successful schedule for Lenten programming that has worked well in recent years: three Wednesdays and one Thursday with a meal at 6:00 P.M., then worship and/or a program from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. We begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, with supper at 6:00 P.M., a brief worship service at 7:00 P.M., and then an introduction to this year's program: "Come, help me write the sermon!" (details elsewhere in this newsletter)

Let us begin our *fifth* Lenten journey together with this prayer for the season:

"We pray, O blessed Three-in-One, our God while endless ages run,
That this, our Lent of forty days, may bring us growth and give you praise."
(*New Century Hymnal*, No. 187, verse 5)

See you in church! Blessings always!
Jack

"COME, HELP ME WRITE THE SERMON!"

This year's Lenten programming will look at a new way to use scripture during Lent. (Think palms and lilies!) There will be a brief introduction to the study on February 22, following our Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 P.M., and then two one-hour programs on March 7 and 21, from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. All sessions will be preceded by a meal at 6:00 P.M. Mark your calendars! All are invited!

~ Rev. Jack

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY"

Remember to bring along your spare coins and perhaps a dollar bill or two for the collection following worship on February 5th! The church school students will be waiting for you in the narthex with their soup pots. All proceeds will go to the Friendship Service Center's soup kitchen.

On **February 19th**, you have a wonderful opportunity to enjoy "Fat Tuesday" pancakes during coffee hour *and* visit the Lenten Learning Centers, where the Sunday school students will be very happy to greet you and assist you with a number of seasonal activities. We hope you'll plan to attend!

See you in church,

Sharon Chamberlain
Coordinator of Christian Education

THAILAND MISSION UPDATE!

It occurred to us recently – but too late to gather *all* of the information and publish it in the Annual Report – that there should be a page devoted to our Thailand Mission and what has taken place in the past year. Perhaps when Rev. Sirirat visits us in June, we can get an update on the children, but in the meantime you should know that earlier this month we sent her a check for \$5,500! Those dollars are the result of weekly donations, selling Thai crafts whenever and wherever we can, proceeds from the Giant Divot, and a couple of *very generous* monetary gifts. When Sirirat was emailed that the check was coming, her response was "Thank God for First Church".

Thank you for your continued support!

Mike Duncan, Sarah Joyce-Grikis, and Sharon Chamberlain

YOUTH GROUP DATES 2012

- February 5th will be grinder making at 9:00am-10am and a meeting at Berlin Congregational 4pm-6pm
- February 19th Youth Group will meet at First Church 4pm-6pm

Sarah Flythe
Coordinator of Youth Programming

GRINDER ORDERS

The Youth Group will be taking orders for grinders for Super Bowl Sunday on Sunday, January 29th. They will be made and available for pick-up on Sunday, February 5th.



IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Norma Powell and her family on the passing of Mike Powell on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. A memorial service was held here, at First Church, on Saturday, January 14th.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Betty Hill, who passed away on Friday, January 6, 2012 at Brittany Farms Health Center. A memorial service was held here, at First Church, on Wednesday, January 11th.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Karen Canora and her family on the passing of her father, Howard Groth, DPM, on Thursday, January 5, 2012. A memorial service was held on Monday, January 9, 2011, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.
- Our thoughts are with John Gemmell, as he continues to improve after recent surgery.
- Welcome back to Peg Guilbault, who is back volunteering in the church office, after a bout with pneumonia.

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED...

something "missing" from our hymns lately. The addition of "Amen" at the end of a hymn was a practice that became popular during the Victorian era in this country. Neither the poets who wrote the words nor the composers who wrote the music would have made that addition to their own work. Most churches have by now done away with the practice, and it is interesting to note that no major hymnals published since the 1970's have included "Amen" at the end of hymns. So, I felt it appropriate to make this change with the beginning of the New Year.

Jim Gower,
Director of Music Ministries



CHILI COOK-OFF CONTEST AND SUPPER FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd at 6:30 pm

Sample a variety of chili . . .
Vegetarian, Mom's favorite, mild or spicy
AND the best chili at FCC . . . everyone judges.



Then join us for supper . . .
Your choice of chili, salad, cornbread, beverage and dessert

Supper tickets are available at coffee hour or in the office,
\$5 for adults and kids eat free



To enter the cook-off, sign up at coffee hour.

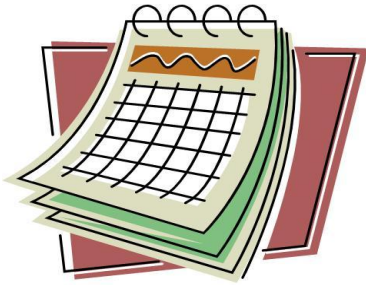
Bring along your friends and family
and enjoy a FUN evening for all ages.

NEW MEMBERS IN THE NEW YEAR

We are hoping to receive new members into our family of faith in the early part of this new year—2012. If you have been a guest with us and would like to consider church membership at this time, please speak to Rev. Cook or call the church office at 860-229-3709. All are invited and encouraged to join!

ANNUAL REPORTS

Please pick up your copy of the 2011 Annual Report in the narthex. Please take one (1) per family. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th, after worship.



FEBRUARY DATES

- Friday, February 3rd, Chili Cook-Off Contest and Supper, 6:30 pm
- Sunday, February 5th, Super Bowl grinder pick-up and Youth Group meets at Berlin Congregational
- Sunday, February 12th, Christian Education Meeting, 11:15 am
- Tuesday, February 14th, Diaconate and Worship, at 7 pm
- Friday, February 17th, Newsletter Deadline, 10:00 am
- Sunday, February 19th, Coffee Hour featuring Pancakes and Learning Centers and Youth Group meets at First Church
- Monday, February 20th, Building Closed for President's Day
- Wednesday, February 22nd, Ash Wednesday Dinner, 6 pm; and Program and Simple Worship, 7 pm
- Tuesday, February 28th, Council Meeting, 7 pm



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO . . .
JOAN AND TOM THOMAS
DON AND JUDY ROBERTSON
PAUL AND JANET CULTON

FEBRUARY 14th
FEBRUARY 18th
FEBRUARY 21st



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | PETER OHANESIAN
BRIAN THOMAS
CHARLES MANGAN
DAVID NIEMAN |
| 4 | SANDY WOJCIAK
GEORGE NAJARIAN
GORDON CULTON |
| 7 | EVELYN BERG |
| 8 | JAMES GOWER |
| 10 | FRED STEPHENS |
| 11 | ALISON DUNCAN |
| 14 | MATHEW PHILLIPS |
| 17 | AMY BELLIVEAU |
| 19 | JOAN THOMAS |
| 20 | KEVIN SISCO
JAY JONES |
| 22 | SYDNI SPENCER
BERNIE PRUE |
| 22 | NOAH SITTAMBALAM |
| 23 | MICHAEL MANGAN
STELLA GRANT |
| 24 | RYAN ABRAHAM |
| 25 | MARTHA MOSES |
| 28 | JONATHAN SCOTT |

“COUNT YOURSELF BLESSED”



Our sincere thank you to all those who have already contributed to this year's Stewardship Campaign. Names are listed on the following pages, in no particular order. We will add names as we receive pledge cards.

Our apologies if we have omitted your name. Please contact the church office at (860)229-3709.

Faithfully,
The Stewardship Committee

Mrs. John Stone
Henry Schrager
Grove Steele

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Snyder
Joni Anderson-Senk
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Knaus
Mrs. Lindsey Booth

Mr & Mrs William Allen
Mark Moses
Mr & Mrs John Canora
Mrs. Willis Woodruff
Dot Dlugolneski
Mr & Mrs Donald Hunt Sr
Mrs. A Yeterian
Mr & Mrs Brendan Conry
Mr& Mrs Michael Najarian
Mr & Mrs Michael Duncan
Mrs Michael Powell
Mr & Mrs Glenn Anderson
Mr& Mrs Steven Anderson
Stella Grant
Peg Guilbault
Sarah Joyce-Grikis
Jean Young
Dr. & Mrs. Jacob Ohanesian
Sarah Flythe
Dr & Mrs Sitambalam
Jeanette Jones
Mary Ann Kern
Evelyn Berg
Sylvia Wilson Lucas
Dean Sasso
Mitchell Miller
Edward Sasso
George Martin
Mr & Mrs Don Robertson
Mr & Mrs Art Morneau

Martha Moses
Mr & Mrs Stuart Sisco
Mr & Mrs Frederick Stephens
Mr & Mrs David Harris
Mrs. Frances V Russell
Ed Grickis & Marietta
Guidone
Betty Jane Duguay
Mr & Mrs Peter Nieman
Mr & Mrs Charles Slate
Mr & Mrs Richard Hallin
Betty Sweeney
Joyce Furman
Mr & Mrs James Wilson
Mr & Mrs Peter Gacek
Mabel Yeterian
Mr & Mrs Mike Chamberlain
Stephen Csinsi
Mrs. Kirsty Naples
Mr & Mrs Bill Furman
Lois Zink
Mr & Mrs Paul Petrisko
Donald Dingman
Joey Belanger
Doris Hadvab
Mrs. Anthony Perrotta
Mr & Mrs Philip Thomas, Jr
Mr & Mrs John Mahar
Mr & Mrs Michael Gorzoch
Ann Pritchard
Jonathan Scott
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher
Porter

Rev. & Nancy Cook
June McCarthy
Ann Love Newbury
Sandra Gashgorian
Mr & Mrs Charles Nichols
Carol Calvert
Rev & Mrs Don Fitzsimmons
Mr & Mrs Martin Depoian
Joan Blair
Gordon Collins
Harry Najarian
Shirley Stepanczak
Mr. & Mrs. Wehrli-Zemsta
Duncan Murdoch
Sandra Dorr
Mr & Mrs Stanley Helberg
Lorraine Corfiati
Mrs. James Levinworth
Mr & Mrs Walter MacFarlane
Mr & Mrs Edward Duncan
Margo Thompson Madore
Betsy Turbacuski
Mr & Mrs Charles O'Brien
Nancy Guidice
Nancy Ogren
Mr & Mrs Leonard Armitage
Janet Culton
Edward Kerekian
Barbarra Boucher
Mr & Mrs George Nagarian
Mr & Mrs Joseph Previti
Dr. Robert Rackliffe
Mr & Mrs Brian Lavigne
Joan Cromwell

Poinsettia Dedications

2011

In Loving Memory of

Nan and Norm Arenander
Mary K. Atashian
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Reed Blake
Donald Booth
Lindsey Booth
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brown
Kathryn Canora
Freda and Jim Carlos
Patricia Carter
Charles and Mary Clapp
Thomas Conry
Gus and Ruth Controvellos
William and Eleanor Coppe
Clarence P. Crumb
Daisy Furman Cunningham
Dr. Edward and Pauline Dorian
George Edward Dorian
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elliott
Bobby and Nicholas Faits
Catherine and William Flagg

Etta and William E. Flagg

Henrietta Frawley
James Fulton
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Furman, Sr.
Ethel S. Gane
Lucille Gemmell
Thomas Gemmell
Walter and Betty Gower
Leon Grant
Nishan and Araxie Kerekian
Esther G. Johnson

Given by

Susan and John Rathgeber
Edward Kerekian
Walter and Lois MacFarlane
Peggy Booth
Peggy Booth
The Furman Family
John and Karen Canora
Margo Thompson Madore
Betsy Turbacuski
Don and Judy Robertson
Carol and Brendan Conry
Charles Mangan, Jr.
Chris and Peggy Porter
Mildred, Beatrice & Edmund Crumb
The Furman Family
Carol Dorian Calvert
Carol Dorian Calvert
Jane Nevico-DiPillo
Michael & AnneMarie Duncan
Arlene & Richard Hallin
and B. J. Duguay
Arlene & Richard Hallin
and B. J. Duguay
Lorraine Corfiati
Betsy Turbacuski
The Furman Family
Betty Sweeney
The Gemmell Family
The Gemmell Family
Jim Gower
Betsy Turbacuski
Edward Kerekian
Sylvia Wilson Lucas

In Loving Memory of

Mr. and Mrs. Hector MacFarlane
Dick and Jeanne Madore
Phil Madore
Charles and Ruth Mangan Sr.

Jean (Controvellos) Mangan
Joseph Mastroni (Dad)
John and Dorothy Minnicucci
Kevin Michaud
Zaven and Mae Najarian
Suzanne Newton
Scott O'Brien
The Petrisko Family
Eliot and Marilyn Porter
Margaret Porter
John C. Pritchard
Helene and Adam Rathgeber
Tom and Ellen Robertson
Marcia Sasso
The Schragger Family
Ethel B. and Alexander H. Scott
Edward B. Scott
Lisa Ann Shannon
Howard and Ellen (Macker) Slate
John W. and Doris S. Sweeney
Jack and Betty Tattersall
Ken and Mary Thompson
John and Elizabeth Thorstenson
Estelle and Leo Trzasko
Kelly Turbacuski
Stanley Turbacuski
Elizabeth Furman Viall
Alfred and Geraldine Wermann
James M. Wilson, M.D.

Given by

Walter and Lois MacFarlane
Margo Thompson Madore
Margo Thompson Madore
Arlene & Richard Hallin
and B. J. Duguay
Charles Mangan, Jr.
Jane Nevico-DiPillo
Charles Mangan, Jr.
The Furman Family
The Michael Najarian Family
David Newton
Charles and Lois O'Brien
The Schragger and Petrisko Families
Chris and Peggy Porter
Charles and Lois O'Brien
Carol and Brendan Conry
Susan and John Rathgeber
Don and Judy Robertson
Dean Sasso
The Schragger and Petrisko Families
Helen Scott
Helen Scott
Jane Nevico-DiPillo
Charles and Marilyn Slate
Betty Sweeney
The Michael Najarian Family
Margo Thompson Madore
Charles and Marilyn Slate
The Trzasko Family
Betsy Turbacuski
Betsy Turbacuski
The Furman Family
Kathy Allen
Sylvia Wilson Lucas

February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 am. Alanon	2 12:00 – 4:00 pm. NB Women's Club Program 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	3 6:30 pm. Chili Cook-Off	4
5 ~ Communion Sunday 9:00 am. Grinder Making 10:00 am. Worship, Sunday School and "Souper Bowl" Collection 12:00 noon New Jerusalem 4 – 6 pm. Youth Group meets at Berlin 7:00 pm. Alanon	6 11:00 am. Staff Meeting	7 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	8 10:00 am. Alanon	9 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	10	11
12 10:00 am. Worship and Sunday School 11:15 am. Christian Ed Meeting 12:00 noon New Jerusalem 7:00 pm. Alanon	13 11:00 am. Staff Meeting	14 7 pm. Diaconate and Worship 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	15 9:00 am. NB Women's Club Board 10:00 am. Alanon	16 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	17 10 am. Newsletter Deadline	18
19 10:00 am. Worship and Sunday School Coffee Hour featuring Pancakes and Learning Centers 12:00 noon New Jerusalem 4 – 6 pm. Youth Group meets at First Church 7:00 pm. Alanon	20 Building Closed ~ President's Day	21 11:00 pm. Staff Meeting 4:00 pm. MSC Meeting 7 pm. Widow Support Group 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	22 ~ Ash Wednesday 10:00 am. Alanon 6:00 pm. Dinner 7:00 pm. Program and Simple Worship	23 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	24	25
26 10:00 am. Worship and Sunday School 12:00 noon New Jerusalem 7:00 pm. Alanon	27 11:00 am. Staff Meeting	28 7 pm. Council 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	29 10:00 am. Alanon			