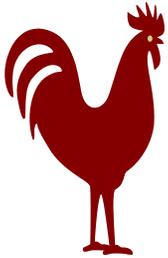


CHURCH NEWS
Vol. 63, No. 10



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

OCTOBER 2015



OFFICE AND GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday 9 am - Noon

PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Kendrick Norris, Interim 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.

2ND HOUR, “LOOKING FORWARD”, MEETING

We will be moving ahead, in earnest, in our search for your new, settled minister. To this end we will have our third “Looking Forward Meeting” after church and quick lunch on Sunday, September 27th. This will be a first attempt at visioning a future: What are the essentials for the church and in a settled minister? What would you hope for? Shortly after this meeting the Church Council will select a search committee who will hold more information-gathering meetings themselves. Then on Sunday, November 22nd The Rev. Michelle Hughes, Associate Conference Minister for Transitions, will preach and speak to us about the search process for a new settled minister.

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

A LONG LINE OF MAGI

With the fall season comes football, flaming foliage and leaf raking, Halloween and mulled cider, family at Thanksgiving and First Church's stewardship endeavor. To put it succinctly: Stewardship is the using and sharing of our of possessions, time, and personality for the progress of God's Reign.

Let's flesh that out a bit. Every week we pray as Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come." Our stewardship of time, talent and treasure is the part we actively play, what we owe, and what we commit to back up our desire that God's way will hold ever greater sway in the world—that there will be less evil and more good, less hate and more love, less selfishness and more sharing. We work with God, allocating what we have, to cultivate God's values and hopes for our community of faith and for all of creation. Stewardship then is fundamentally a joyful endeavor that links us in the most intimate ways with God's purposes and gives profound meaning to our lives.

Who were the first Christian stewards? I imagine they were the Magi: those intrepid soul seekers who, upon discovering the baby Jesus, "bowed down and offered their treasures: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Their discovery of the promised one, their humble worship of the divine child, and their sharing of what was most precious must have been a numinous experience for Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Imagine how thrilling that moment was when they laid their presents on the ground before the child of God. We do exactly the same when we make our pledges to First Church.

This year we are using the Pony Express Stewardship Program. It's fun, quick, easy, no pressure, and gives us a little bit of interaction with each other. We have divided our parish into 15 geographical areas, each with a Trail Boss in charge of a route of eight to ten individuals/families. The Trail Boss will read the stewardship material, consider their pledge and fill out the pledge card, seal it in an envelope and as soon as possible she or he will deliver it to the next person on the list. At the exchange, talking as fellow members is encouraged but not required.

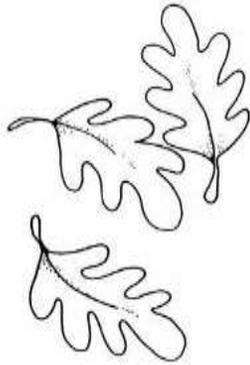
When you receive the saddle bag you will have two days to do the same . . . read the stewardship material, consider your pledge and fill out the pledge card, and place your sealed envelope in the completed side of the saddle bags. Please move the saddle bag on to the next family on the list within the two day time. This should take no longer than three weeks to finish. If you have any questions or are unable to move the saddle bag forward, please call your Trail Boss, as listed on the route sheet.

For those at a further distance, and a part of our family who has not pledged recently, a pledge card will be sent to you. We very much look forward to your response to help this joyful and loving church family.

2016 is an important year in the life of First Church. If you are able, and some of you are, I strongly encourage you to consider increasing your pledge. If you are not able, then share as you can. All pledging is kept confidential. All are equal in the sight of God; all are equal in the respect and love of this church.

In Christ's love, Kendrick

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL!

On October 31st, from 1 – 4 p.m. First Church will host what we hope will be the first of many Fall Family Festivals. There will be something for everyone – crafts to make, food and beverages to purchase from local vendors, games, face painting, pumpkins to decorate and more! The New Britain Fire Dept will bring a fire truck *and* the “smoke house”! Come in your Halloween costumes and bring a friend!
Beth Sticca and Sharon Chamberlain

NOMINATING

It's nominating time again and we are beginning to work on the Nominating Slate for 2016. Maybe you're on a Working Group and would like to try something new, that would be great! Maybe you're happy where you are and would consider chairing that Working Group, that would be great! It would be wonderful to have some new people on Council. If you're not on a Working Group, we'd love to have you included on one. Please talk to me at coffee hour about Working Group opportunities.
Karen Canora



CALLING ALL USHERS AND READERS

Would you like to be an Usher and/or Reader? There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex before church and during Coffee hour, in the Fireside Room, after worship. Ushers and Readers are needed for the next three months, October, November and December. The training for ushering is easy and can be done before the service. Please pick a date or a whole month to help. We'd love to have you join us!
Karen Canora



MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC!

- **Michael Leona Senior Voice Recital – Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.**
Mike, who is our choir's Tenor Section Leader, will be graduating from CCSU in January. In fulfillment of his Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance, he will be performing a recital in **Founders Hall**, located in the **Davidson Hall** administration building on Stanley Street. The program will include compositions by Mozart, J. S. Bach, Stephen Sondheim, Robert Schumann, Ralph Vaughan Williams, and others. Admission is free
- **DIVISI 10th Anniversary Concert – Saturday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.**
Central Connecticut State University's premier all male A Cappella group will celebrate its 10th anniversary in October. To celebrate, they invite you to attend this special concert in **Welte Hall Auditorium**. Many of you have enjoyed Divisi's concerts both here at First Church and on the CCSU campus. More than 30 alumni from the group's 10 year history will be on hand to perform in what will surely be a memorable concert! Contact Mike Leona at mleona16@gmail.com for ticket information.
- **Jazz at First Church – Friday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.**
Join us for an evening of jazz and popular standards with **The Larry Gareau Trio** and the vocal stylings of our own **Beth Sticca**! This is a great opportunity to bring friends and neighbors. Refreshments will be provided. (BYOB). Spoiler alert: You might want to bring your dancing shoes!
- **2nd Hour Breakfast Concert (11:30 am) – Benjamin Tint, Classical Guitar**
Our morning Worship service is followed by a Coffee Hour and a Continental Breakfast at 11:00, after which is a brief concert in the sanctuary from 11:30 to 12 noon.

PLEASE PICK UP PROGRAM BOOKLETS

We have created a Program Booklet, which lists information about the church, worship, education, missions, programs and events. It also contains a calendar of events from September 2015 - June 2016. As well as offering information to our members about new and upcoming events, we will be able to show perspective pastors and visitors that we are an active, thriving church. The booklets have name labels, are in alphabetical order and will be in a basket in Fellowship Hall. Please take yours to review for the upcoming year; the fewer we have to mail, the more we'll save on postage. If you do not see one with your name, please take a blank one and leave a note in my mailbox. Thank you! ~ Kristine



BREAD BAKING!

Thank you to Lois MacFarlane, AnneMarie Duncan, Teri Grecki and Martha Moses for baking bread for the month of September. Arlyd Munoz-Snyder will be baking for Sunday, October 4th, Mabel Yeterian will be baking for Sunday, October 11th, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, October 18th, AnneMarie Duncan will be baking for Sunday, October 25th, Joyce Anderson will be baking for Sunday, November 1st and Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, November 8th.

Bakers are needed for Sunday, November 15th and all Sundays after. Please sign up, in the Narthex before church or during coffee hour, to bake two welcome breads to be given out to visitors, returning members or those having difficulty in their lives. Any kind of homemade bread is appreciated, from yeast breads to sweet breads to bread from mixes.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study has begun and will be held again on Monday, September 28th, from 11 am - noon. We will be going through the earliest and shortest Gospel: the Gospel of Mark. Our focus is "who is Jesus?"

We will meet on Monday, from 11 to noon in the Parlor. All are welcome to one or all of our meetings. Each week's lesson will stand alone. Fall sessions will be held on: September 28th and October 5th, 19th and 26th.



NAME TAGS

Name tags are in the Narthex and we ask that you take a minute to fill one out and wear it each Sunday morning. This will be helpful to members and visitors, since we are beginning a new program year and have some new and returning faces in church.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Calling all men to join us for breakfast at 8:30 am on the third Sunday of each month. We will take turns cooking and cleaning up and put our wonderful church kitchen to good use. A hearty breakfast and good conversation is the perfect way to get ready for church. We will meet on the following dates: October 18th, November 15th, December 20th, January 17th, February 14th, March 20th, April 17th and May 22nd.



IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

- Congratulations to Lois and Walter MacFarlane who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary on September 16th.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Joan Belanger, who is continues to recover from surgery at Newington Health Care Center. Cards can be sent to her home at 48 Fisk Drive, Newington, CT 06111.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Lynn Anderson.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Bea Crumb, as she continues to recover from surgery in early September. Her address is 22 Overlook Avenue, New Britain, CT 06053.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Sarah Flythe, as she continues to recover from thumb surgery in early September. Cards can be sent to 80 North Mountain Road, Unit B, New Britain, CT 06053.

These are opportunities to use our Sunshine Post Office, to send good cheer, see later article. Cards, pens, an address book and a mailbox are set up in the Fireside Room . . . just write one out during Coffee Hour. They are a nice and easy way to send caring thoughts to our church family and are greatly appreciated by, and comforting to, those who receive them. A birthday list and birthday cards will be provided, also.



OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to all who have been bringing in "after school snacks" and other food donations.

For October we are continuing to emphasize donations of "After School Snacks". Individual serving size items of pudding, applesauce, fruit cups, granola bars, crackers and cheese, etc. make a great after-school snack or can be packed in school lunch boxes.

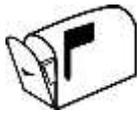
Please feel free to use the coupons clipped onto our shopping cart and, as always, your donations may be brought to the Sunday worship service or dropped off during the week when the office is open.

~Missions & Congregational Life



CLIPPED COUPONS FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

The Missions & Congregational Life Working Group will continue to collect coupons for military families to help them provide for their families. HOWEVER, they are asking that they be already cut out, since there is a back-log of ones needing to be clipped. Please remember to bring in your coupons, drop them off in the basket in the church office and help us continue with this worthwhile venture!



PLEASE USE OUR SUNSHINE POST OFFICE

Following the Apostle Paul's call to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep," (Romans 12:15), we now have greeting cards for you to write to someone who has been mentioned during our "Prayers of the People" or anyone you would like to reach out to. Cards, pens, and an address book are available during Coffee Hour, on a table in the Fireside Room. Just place your cards in the Sunshine Post Office box and they will be stamped and mailed out on Monday. This is an easy way to show you care. Please challenge yourself to write at least one card a month. As Jesus made it abundantly clear, as we do it for another so we do it for him. ~ Kendrick



PRAYER SHAWLS

Also remember that our prayer shawl ministry is an outreach ministry. Yes, prayer shawls are for those in our congregation who are ill or grieving. And, they are also for people outside our membership. So if you have a family member, a friend, or a co-worker who you think might appreciate a soft, warm symbol of God's love please let me know and I will get you one of our beautiful prayer shawls. ~ Kendrick

SIGN UP SHEETS

Clip-boards will be in the Narthex before church or in the Fireside Room during coffee hour, with sign-up sheets for the following . . .

- Bread Baking . . . please sign up on any available date, to bake two welcome breads to be given out to visitors or returning members. Any kind of homemade bread is appreciated.
- Fall Bible Study, facilitated by Kendrick, beginning Monday, September 14th at 11am . . . please sign up so we will know how many to plan for and list the dates you are able to attend.
- Men's Breakfast . . . please sign up for our October Men's Breakfast, on Sunday, October 18th at 8:30 am.
- Deacons and Readers . . . are needed for October, November and december. Please sign up for the month or whenever you are available.

PEW CARDS

You will notice green, blue and yellow cards in the pew card holder.

- The new green card is for Joys and Concerns that you would like shared during the "Prayers of the People." You can simply list a name—yours, another person's or a family or group – and indicate if you'd like it listed in *Our First Church Family*. If you want, you can add a reason for the concern or for the joy. Please put your card in the offering plate as the offering is taken so, they can be used in today's prayers.
- The yellow one is a card for visitors to fill out if they'd like more information on First Church, to be contacted or be put on our mailing list.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Francis of Assisi was a holy man with a great love for creation, for humanity and for the animals. His hymn, All Creatures of our God and King (#64 in the Pilgrim Hymnal) is a perennial favorite. The Feast of Saint Francis is Saturday, October 3rd and we will have a blessing of the animals at 11:00 AM in the courtyard. Bring your pets, any kind, to be blessed. It will be a grand celebration of life.

"Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen."

NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

Neighbors in Need (NIN), one of the four United Church of Christ special mission offerings, which we will receive on World Communion Sunday, October 4th, supports our denomination's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States—direct service projects and advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. NIN also supports our American Indian congregations throughout this country. Please give generously, using the special mission offering envelopes available in our worship bulletins on September 27th and October 4th.



OCTOBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Saturday, October 3rd: Blessing of the Animals, 11 am, Giant Divot Golf Tournament, 11 am and Dinner at 5 pm
- Sunday, October 4th: Carillon Prelude, Communion Sunday, World Communion Sunday and Neighbors in Need Offering
- Sunday, October 11th: Guest, Minister in Discernment Chris Solimine, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and 2nd Hour with Chris Solimine
- Monday, October 12th: Columbus Day, Building Closed
- Friday, October 16th: Larry Gareau Trio, with vocalist Beth Sticca, 7:30 pm
- Sunday, October 18th: Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am, Lay Person Sunday with Glenn Anderson preaching, Baptism, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and Council meeting, 11:15 am
- October 19th: Newsletter deadline, 10 am. and Bible Study, 11 am - noon
- October 23rd: Wedding, Justice Bowser
- October 24rd: Wedding, John Thomas, Jr., off-site
- October 25th: Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and 2nd Hour with Peter Kilduff
- October 26th: Bible Study, 11 am - noon (last class)
- October 31st: Happy Halloween and Fall Family Festival



Wishes for a Happy and Safe Halloween!



SIGN UP NOW! GIANT DIVOTGOLF TOURNAMENT

**THE GIANT DIVOT GOLF EVENT IS QUICKLY APPROACHING...
SIGN UP YOURSELF, ASK YOUR NEIGHBORS, CO-WORKERS
AND FRIENDS. ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Sign up for the 19th Annual Giant Divot Golf Outing held to support our local And worldwide missions. A portion of the proceeds will go the local food bank program and our Thailand orphanage mission project. This year the tournament will be played on October 3rd at Tunxis Plantation Golf Club in Farmington. The event will be a scramble format.

The \$95/person entry fee covers greens fees, carts, prizes and dinner held back at the church after the golf. Please complete the attached form and return to the First Church office with your entry fee made payable to First Church of Christ-NB, no later than Sunday September 27th. If you don't have a team, but are interested in playing, please let us know ASAP and we'll help you form a team.**

Tee times starting at 11:00 a.m. will be assigned one week prior to the event.

Player 1: _____

Player 2: _____

Player 3: _____

Player 4: _____

* (Please include player's name, email address and phone #)

** First Church of Christ Congregational
830 Corbin Avenue
New Britain, CT 06052 860-229-3709

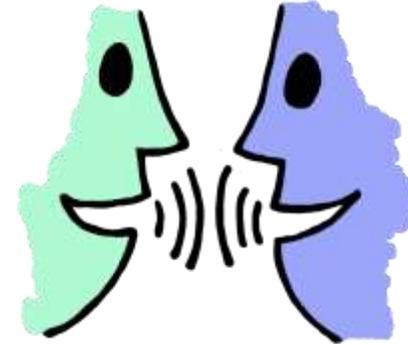
Please see Mike Duncan if you are interested in coming to the dinner only, after the tournament.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

Joni Anderson-Senk & Joe Senk
Christopher and Peggy Porter

October 3rd
October 10th



Honest Conversations with Muslim Neighbors

**Who are our Muslim neighbors? What do they believe?
How do extremist actions worldwide affect them?**

Hear greater-Hartford-area Muslims share their stories, and respond to questions such as: Why don't we hear moderate Muslims speak out against extremism? Why do some girls & women wear Muslim dress, and others do not? What does the Qur'an really say about people of other religions? American Muslims don't have all the answers, but our guests will respond out of their own experiences, raising issues that concern them as well as us. Together, in conversation, we can promote a more peaceful world for everyone.

**Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.
First Church of Christ, Congregational
830 Corbin Ave New Britain, Ct**

ALL Are Welcome!

Join us for this important event in the interfaith life of Connecticut
& bring a friend!

Sponsored by: The New Britain Interfaith Conference (NewBAIC), CT Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU), the Muslim Coalition of CT and Hartford Seminary. Because of limited seating, please RSVP sharonfcc830@gmail.com



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING ...

- 1 Evelyn Baker
- 5 Bill Allen
- 6 Rebecca Gacek
- 7 Jason Belanger
Janice Hasenjager
- 8 Joan Telke Blair
- 10 Ed Grickis
- 12 Royce Wasik
- 13 Stuart Sisco
- 16 Joseph Previti
- 18 Cameron Naples
Mike Gorzoch
- 21 Christopher Abraham
- 24 Martin Depoian
Nancy Cook
- 25 Christy Gillespie (Betty Sweeney)
- 26 Bill Furman
Lorraine Corfiati
- 28 Don DelCegno
Nancy Ogren

OCTOBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30 pm. Adult Choir NB Women's Club	2	3 11 am. Blessing of the Animals 11 am. Giant Divot 5 pm. Giant Divot Dinner
4 ~ Communion Sunday, World Communion Sunday and Neighbors in Need Offering 9:45 Carillon Prelude 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 7:00 pm. Alanon	5 11 am.-noon Bible Study	6 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	7	8 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	9	10
11 ~ Guest, Minister in Discernment, Chris Solimine 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 2nd Hour with Chris Solimine 7:00 pm. Alanon	12 Columbus Day ~ Building Closed	13 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	14 9-noon NB Women's Club Board	15 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	16 7:30 pm. Evening Jazz, Larry Gareau Trio w/ Beth Sticca	17
18 ~ Lay Person Sunday, Glenn Anderson Preaching and Baptism Sunday 8:30 am. Men's Breakfast 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 11:15 am. Council meeting 7:00 pm. Alanon	19 10:00 am. Newsletter Deadline 11 am.-noon Bible Study	20 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	21 9:30-11:30 am. Conference Committee on Ministry	22 Wedding Rehearsal, Justice Bowser 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	23 3:30 pm. Wedding, Justice Bowser	24 Wedding, John Thomas, Jr., off site
25 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 2nd Hour with Peter Kilduff 7:00 pm. Alanon	26 11 am.-noon Bible Study	27 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	28	29 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	30	31 ~ Happy Halloween! 1-4 pm. Fall Family Festival