



CHURCH NEWS

Vol. 64, No. 1

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

JANUARY 2016



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.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2016, following Worship. Annual Reports will be available two weeks before, on Sunday, January 17th.

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,

Marjorie Holmes once wrote, “For me each New Year is like opening an intriguing mystery story. What’s going to happen? Where will it lead?” We hope it will lead somewhere good. 2015 was a hard year for the world. And we are wise enough to know that amid all the excited expectations of New Year beginnings that this may also be a year that will have lasts—the last Thanksgiving with Uncle Tom, the final birthday for an aged mother.

King George VI of England used the following as his New Year’s message to his empire in 1939: “I said to the man at the gate of the New Year: ‘Give me light that I may tread the darkness’: but he said to me: ‘Go forth in the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way.’”

At the turnstile of a New Year, goodwill for each other is often expressed by a pagan wish to “a Happy New Year.” Pagan, I note, because the word happy is derived from ‘hap,’ meaning ‘luck.’ Thus the joy of the coming year is expected to come from favorable circumstance, fortunate happening, around one—the weather clear, neighbors congenial, business prosperous, and nations peaceful—things over which one has little or no control. No wonder that happiness is regarded as a hit-or-miss joy, and the pursuit of happiness likened to “a pig with a greasy tail, which everyone runs after but nobody can hold.”

Jesus does not talk about happiness, but he talks about abundant life and blessedness:

Blessed are the poor in spirit . . .
Blessed are those who mourn . . .
Blessed are the meek . . .
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness . . .
Blessed are the merciful . . .
Blessed are the pure in heart . . .
Blessed are the peacemakers . . .

Beatitudes are impotent to change bad luck to good, but they are powerful developers of our spiritual lives. A Beatitude is an attitude of being—being aligned with the laws of the universe, right with God’s thoughts—that brings soul-health. Jesus said that joy and blessedness are the predictable derivatives of forms one’s life to the beatitudes. They are springs which pour forth freely in good times and in bad, in all the seasons of our life.

Therefore, friends, I offer you a Christian greeting and wish for you in the year 2016 the best I know—A BLESSED NEW YEAR.
Kendrick



Happy, Healthy New Year! From the Christian Education Working Group



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Group will be taking orders for Super Bowl grinders on Sundays, January 24th and 31st.

They can be picked up on Sunday, February 7th.



CHRISTMAS REMINDERS

OFFICE HOURS . . . A reminder, we will have very limited office hours during the week between Christmas and New Year’s Day, PLEASE call before coming in. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP . . . On December 24th, at 10 pm, please join us for a Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Carols, Candles and Communion. The special Christmas Offering will go to Family Promise.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING . . . The Christmas Offering has been designated, this year, to go to Family Promise; to help with organizing and providing necessary resources to begin their program which will help homeless families in the area. This offering is collected at the Christmas Eve, December 24th, service and there is a special envelope marked “Christmas Offering” in your box of giving envelopes. If you do not have these, a special envelope will be included in the bulletin for you to use.



Thank you to all who have contributed to the church's giving opportunities this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season. From toys and gifts to gift cards and food to toiletries and socks . . . everyone has helped to make it a wonderful holiday for many. Thank you!



ANNUAL REPORTS

The deadline for the submission of annual reports WAS THIS PAST Friday, December 18, 2015, at 10:00 am. Please send them by e-mail (firstnewbritain@snet.net), if possible. This gives me about two week's time to get them done, factoring out the Christmas holidays. They will be handed out to members on Sunday, January 17th, two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact me at 860-229-3709 or at firstnewbritain@snet.net. Thank you! ~ Kristine Lewko, Office Manger

\$ FROM THE FINANCIAL CLERK . . .

- **CONTRIBUTIONS** . . . Please remember that all contributions must be in the Church office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2015, in order to be shown on your 2015 Giving Statement for tax purposes. Many thanks to all who support the church's finances.
- **2016 PLEDGE ENVELOPES** . . . Pledge envelopes are available for pick up in the Narthex. In an effort to be better stewards of the church's funds and of the environment, we will continue the change, made for previous year's Giving Envelopes, associated with your pledges. If you pledged to contribute weekly, you will still receive the boxed envelopes, as we have used in the past. If your pledge is for monthly, quarterly, or annual giving, you will be receiving a packet of envelopes. The quantity will be determined by your pledging frequency.

Feel free, at any time, to request additional envelopes for your contributions - simply leave a note with your name and address or giving number in the Sunday collection plate or email / send a note to our Financial Clerk, Bernie Prue, fccnb830accounts@snet.net. It is possible that your giving number may change to accommodate this, but your giving history will be moved to the new number.

- **ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS** . . . will be available for pick up on Sunday, January 17, 2016.



IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Bea Crumb as she continues cancer treatments. Cards can be sent to 22 Overlook Ave, New Britain, CT 06053. These are opportunities to use our Blue Cards, to send good cheer, which are in the pews and are a nice and easy way to send caring thoughts to our church family. They are greatly appreciated by, and comforting to, those who receive them. Place the card in the offering plate and it will be sent to the recipient via the church office snail mail. No addresses to search for, no stamps to find.



BREAD BAKING!

Thank you to Lois MacFarlane, Mary Norris, Justice (Bowser) Irizarry and Amanda Costa for baking during the month of December. Amanda Costa will be baking for Sunday, December 27th, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, January 3rd, Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, January 10th, Joyce Anderson Zink will be baking for Sunday, January 17th, Margo Hunt will be baking for Sunday, January 24th Joyce Furman will be baking for Sunday, January 31st, Arlyd Munoz-Snyder will be baking for Sunday, February 7th, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, February 14th, Lois MacFarlane will be baking for Sunday, February 21st and Arlyd Munoz-Snyder will be baking for Sunday, March 6th.

Bakers are needed for Sunday, February 28th and all Sundays after, with the exception of March 6th. 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.



SOCIAL & SERVICE CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Wednesday, December 9th we held our annual Christmas party, complete with a delicious baked ham dinner and a lively grab bag. The group then filled Christmas mugs with treats to be delivered to our shut-ins. We look forward to the upcoming year and hope all will feel welcome to attend our functions. Our next event will be our picnic in June – hope to see you there! ~Judy Robertson & June McCarthy, Co-Chairs



MEN'S BREAKFAST POSTPONED

Our Men's breakfast was cancelled for next Sunday, December 20th and rescheduled to Sunday, January 3rd. John Gemmell will be the cook. Other upcoming dates are February 14th, March 20th, April 17th and May 22nd.



THE OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY . . . NEEDS AND THANK YOU!

January will be SOUP month. We will be collecting all types of soup . . . canned, mixes, cup-o-soup, etc. As always, any and all donations are welcome Sunday and during office hours.

Bags of Holiday Meal Essentials, our December collection, were delivered to the Osgood Food Pantry. Thank you!



SOCK BASKET

With cold weather settling in, we have begun collecting socks during the fall and winter to donate to area social service organizations. To date we have collected and donated over 30 pairs of socks and more are needed. New socks for men, women and children will be gratefully accepted and distributed throughout the upcoming months. ~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!



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.



CALLING ALL USHERS AND READERS FOR DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Would you like to be an Usher and/or Reader? There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex before church and during Coffee hour, in the Fireside Room, after worship. An ushers is still needed for December 27th. Ushers and readers are also needed for January and February. 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

PEW CARDS

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

- The 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. Put your card in the offering plate as it is taken and they'll 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.



WINTER WEATHER CLOSINGS

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. The church office may close early, also, in bad weather; please call before coming in. Thank you.



PRAYER SHAWLS

In a thank you note addressed to the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Polly Chamberlain, Mike's sister and Sharon's sister-in-law, wrote . . . "The prayer shawl you sent, via my sister-in-law Sharon, is so very beautiful! I also appreciate the sentiments of being strengthened and blessed that came with it."

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



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



JANUARY 2016 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- January 1 New Year's Day, Building Closed
- January 3 Carillon Prelude, Communion Sunday, Epiphany, Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School
- January 5 Tai Chi, meets Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm
- January 7 Adult Choir meets Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm
- January 10 Guest musicians, Phil Rosenthal and Son, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School, Annual Reports available and Luncheon Concert with the Rosenthals
- January 17 Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School, Annual Reports Available and Council meeting
- January 18 Building Closed, Martin Luther King Day
- January 20 NB Women's Club Board
- January 24 Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School
- January 25 Newsletter Deadline
- January 31 Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and 2nd Hour Lunch and Annual Congregational Meeting



HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING . . .

- 3 PATTY WEHRLI-ZEMSTA
- 4 WALTER MURDOCK
- 7 JOHN MAHAR
- 11 TERIK HETMYER
EVAN BELLIVEAU
JESSICA CURTIS
- 16 SAM PETRISKO
- 17 KEVIN ANDERSON
- 18 LOIS O'BRIEN
- 19 AIDYN DAVIES
- 20 JANET KNAUS
BOB RACKLIFFE
- 24 CHARLIE SLATE
ABIGAIL WASIK
- 25 ANN DUNCAN
- 29 JENNIFER HALLIN
- 30 GLENN ANDERSON
- 31 DANIELLE MICHAUD



*Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Safe
and Peaceful New Year!*

Poinsettia Dedications 2015

In Loving Memory of

Gorden and Ruth Alling
 Herb and Irene Anderson
 Mary K. Atashian
 Joan W. Belanger
 Joey H. Belanger
 Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Reed Blake
 Peg and Lindsey Booth
 Richard and Claire Brown
 Richard and Claire Brown
 Kathryn Canora
 Patricia Carter
 Edward and Francine Christ
 Charles and Mary Clapp
 Lucy Clapp
 Gus and Ruth Controvellos
 Jen Dismukes (Mary's friend)
 Dr. Edward and Pauline Dorian
 & George Edward Dorian (son)
 Nicholas Faits
 Bobby Faits
 Mr & Mrs William C. Flagg

 Mr & Mrs William E. Flagg

 Henrietta Frawley
 James Fulton
 Russell and Anna Furman
 Russell and Anna Furman
 Ethel Gane
 Lucille Gemmell
 Thomas Gemmell
 Leon Grant
 Glenn E. Grimm
 Peg Guilbault
 Robert and Shirley Holt
 Esther G. Johnson
 Eldridge Jones

Given by

Dean and Edward Sasso
 Joni Anderson-Senk
 Edward Kerekian
 The Belanger Family
 The Belanger Family
 Walter and Lois MacFarlane
 Their loving Family
 The Furman Family
 Nancy Arasimowicz
 John and Karen Canora
 Betsy Turbacuski
 Manon-Lu Christ
 Don and Judy Robertson
 Don and Judy Robertson
 Charles B. Mangan, Jr.
 Mary and Kendrick Norris
 Carol Dorian Calvert
 Carol Dorian Calvert
 AnneMarie and Michael Duncan
 AnneMarie and Michael Duncan
 Betty Jane Duguay and Mr. and
 Mrs. Richard W. Hallin
 Betty Jane Duguay and Mr. and
 Mrs. Richard W. Hallin
 Lorraine Corfiati
 Betsy Turbacuski
 The Furman Family
 Nancy Arasimowicz
 Betty Sweeney
 John and Wendy Gemmell
 John and Wendy Gemmell
 Betsy Turbacuski
 Ann Grimm and Family
 Lynn and Don DelCegno
 Nancy Arasimowicz
 Sylvia Wilson Lucas
 Jennette Jones

In Loving Memory of

Mr. and Mrs. Hector MacFarlane
 Phil Madore
 Mr & Mrs Charles B. Mangan Sr.

 Jean (Controvellos) Mangan
 Dorothy S. Miller
 John and Dorothy Minnicucci
 Eurith and Lindsay Muir
 Zaven and Marion Najarian
 Lisa M. Naples
 Michael S. Naples
 Carol Norris (Kendrick's mother)
 Scott O'Brien
 Liz O'Donnell (Mary's sister)
 Sophie Petrisko
 Margaret Porter
 Mike Powell
 Mildred Holcombe Riley
 Tom and Ellen Robertson
 Donald R. Santora
 Christine Sasso
 Marsha Alling Sasso
 Joseph C.E. Sawyer & Irene Sawyer
 Henry and Gladys Schragger
 and Daughter, Sandra Ann
 Anna Scott
 Edward B. Scott
 Ethel B. and Alexander H. Scott
 Sophie Senk
 Howard and Ellen (Macker) Slate
 Doris and John Sweeney
 Jack and Betty Tattersall
 John and Elizabeth Thorstenson
 Estelle and Leo Trzasko
 The Turbacuski Family: Stanley,
 Corraine and Kelly
 James M. Wilson, M.D.

Given by

Walter and Lois MacFarlane
 Margo Thompson Madore
 Betty Jane Duguay and Mr. and
 Mrs. Richard W. Hallin
 Charles B. Mangan, Jr.
 Jonathan Scott
 Charles B. Mangan, Jr.
 Manon-Lu Christ
 The Michael Najarian Family
 The Naples Family
 The Naples Family
 Mary and Kendrick Norris
 Lois O'Brien
 Mary and Kendrick Norris
 The Petrisko Family
 Lois O'Brien
 Glenn and Joyce Anderson
 Lois Riley Leavenworth
 Don and Judy Robertson
 The Santora family
 Dean and Edward Sasso
 Dean and Edward Sasso
 Glenn and Joyce Anderson
 The Schragger Family

 Jonathan Scott
 Jonathan Scott
 Jonathan Scott
 Joni Anderson-Senk
 Charles and Marilyn Slate
 Betty Sweeney
 The Michael Najarian Family
 Charles and Marilyn Slate
 The Trzasko Family
 Betsy Turbacuski

 Sylvia Wilson Lucas

JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 ~ Building Closed, New Year's Day	2
<p>3 ~ Communion Sunday and Epiphany 8:45 Men's Breakfast 9:45 Carillon Prelude 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School</p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	4	<p>5 10 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi</p> <p>7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	6	<p>7 7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p>	8	9
<p>10 ~ Guest Musicians, Phil Rosenthal and son 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 2nd Hour Light-Luncheon Concert with the Rosenthals</p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	11	<p>12 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi</p> <p>7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	13	<p>14 7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p>	15	16
<p>17 8:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School Annual Reports available 11:15 Council meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	18 ~ Building Closed, Martin Luther King Day	<p>19 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi</p> <p>7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	<p>20 9-noon New Britain Women's Club Board</p>	<p>21 5-9 pm. CT Conference Board meeting and supper</p> <p>7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p>	22	23
<p>24 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School Youth Group Grinder Pre-orders</p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	25 10 am. Newsletter Deadline	<p>26 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi</p> <p>7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	<p>27 9:30 – 11:30 am. Conference Committee on Ministry</p>	<p>28 7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p>	29	30
<p>31 ~ 2nd Hour Annual Congregational Meeting 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School Youth Group Grinder Pre-orders 2nd Hour Luncheon and Annual Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>						

*A reminder, we will have very limited office hours during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day,
PLEASE call before coming in. Thank you!*