

CHURCH NEWS

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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 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.



REMINDER . . . SUPERBOWL GRINDERS AVAILABLE

The Youth Group will be taking orders for Super Bowl Grinders again on Sunday, January 31st. They are available with ham, cheese, turkey or a combination of those; with lettuce, tomato, mayonnaise or mustard. They are large grinders and come with chips for \$8.00. They can be picked up after worship Sunday, February 7th, Super Bowl Sunday.

“ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE.”

Ephesians 3:17

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR

LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

While I am personally partial to the seasons of Advent and Christmas, the traditional centerpoint of the Christian year is falls at the end of Lent: Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Special events in our lives usually require preparation. Holy Week is no different. That's why the early church set aside the forty days before Easter (excluding Sunday that are always celebrations of the Resurrection) as a time for prayer, meditation, self-examination and study.

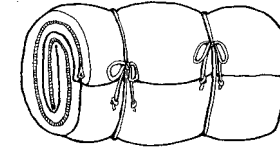
The symbolism of forty days is biblically rich. Immediately we recall, and perhaps at this time of year even identify with, Jesus' forty days of spiritual struggle against temptation in the wilderness. Yet, there is more. Forty days also recalls Noah and his family enduring forty days and forty nights of rain (Genesis 7:4), the Hebrews wandering forty years in the desert (Deuteronomy 8:2, 4), Moses waiting on Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights (Exodus 24:18), Elijah walking for forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb (I Kings 19:8), and the forty days that Jonah gave Nineveh to repent (Jonah 3:4). And there are the forty hours that Jesus lay in the tomb before his resurrection.

What all these events linked to forty have in common is that they are times of trial, introspection and preparation for something new to be born—a new attitude, a new hope, and a new relationship with God. To help Christian pilgrims enter into this dark time of transition three practices have been encouraged: fasting (Matthew 6:16-18), almsgiving (Matthew 6:2-4), and prayer (Matthew 6:5-6). These are not performed in order to be seen by others (Matthew 6:1), but rather as private and personal acts that help us to deliberately turn ourselves once again toward God and God's creation.

This season encourages us all through prayer, discipline and study to share again in the great drama of our Lord's ministry, death, and resurrection. We encourage you to prepare at home and in your own way—alone, with families, or with friends. We also encourage you to utilize the worship services and programs that we offer to help you in your Lenten journey.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, this year on February 10. We will have dinner in Fireside and then a service of worship in the Chapel at 7. Join us for this intimate communion service. We will also have two Lenten Suppers and program that will be **child friendly** on Wednesdays February 24th and March 9th. We will eat at 6pm with the program beginning at 6:45. We will play some B-I-B-L-E Wheel of Fortune; don't miss Sharon Chamberlain as Vanna White. This will be a fun, challenging and educational experience for all ages.

One way or another, let us all engage the great drama of our Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection this Lenten season.
In Christ's love, Kendrick



Spend a Week at Camp in God's Backyard

Registration forms for Silver Lake sessions this summer are now available. Please see me if you would like one!

“SOUPER BOWL” Sunday is coming! On February 7th, the church school children will be collecting money in our soup pots following Worship. All proceeds go to the operation of the Friendship Service Center kitchen. Thank you for your support!

Coming February 24th . . . the first of two Lenten programs! The *multigenerational B-I-B-L-E Wheel of Fortune*. Supper is at 6:00 pm and the program - for young and old alike - will begin at 6:45. Please sign up in the Narthex or church office if you plan to attend!

See you in church,
Sharon Chamberlain, Coordinator of Christian Education

LENTEN OFFERINGS

Ash Wednesday, February 10th

Dinner, 6-7 pm, prepared by Business & Finance and Building & Grounds
Worship in the Chapel, 7-7:45 pm

Wednesday, February 24th, Lent 1

Dinner, 6 pm, prepared by TBA
Program: 6:45 pm, “B-I-B-L-E Wheel of Fortune” for all ages

Wednesday, March 9th, Lent 2

Dinner, 6 pm, prepared by Christian Education
Program: 6:45 pm, “B-I-B-L-E Wheel of Fortune” for all ages

Palm Sunday, March 20th

Worship, 10 am

Maundy Thursday, March 24th

Soup Dinner, 6-7 pm
Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary, 7-8pm

Easter Sunday, March 27th

Worship, 10 am



YOUTH GROUP

Invitation to First Church youth in grades 5th to 10th to meet in the kitchen at 9:15am on February 7, 2016, to help make Super Bowl grinders and enjoy good conversations and treats.

Sarah Flythe, Coordinator of Youth Programming



THANKS FROM THE SEXTON

I would like to thank all the members of our congregation, staff, Rev Norris, and Bill Furman for making my start, at First Church, a tremendous new beginning. Your outpouring of support makes it a blessing to make the long commute to work every day. Every day, as I walk the building, I'm finding new rooms, closets, and places I never knew existed. Hopefully I will come to grips with the keys and learn what key opens what lock. I pledge to you to work my hardest and be dedicated to this great facility and to you as members. At any time stop by or give me call to let me know how I can better this Church for your usage or worship experience. My e-mail is facilities830@gmail.com. Thank you again for your confidence in myself and I look forward to working on our church as we prepare for the future together. Glenn Anderson



SEARCH COMMITTEE

The committee is hard at work and has begun the search process. First steps for the committee are creating a church profile. While we have done much work as a congregation to determine our strengths, weaknesses and where we see ourselves in the future, we may still need your help. You may be approached by a committee member for information regarding committees you may have served on or currently serve, future and past expectations, etc... If at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Chairs, Mike Duncan or Beth Sticca. Please feel free to approach committee members as well - Mike Chamberlain, John Gemmell, Mike Gorzoch, Margo Hunt, Sylvia Lucas, June McCarthy, Deborah Ortega, Don Robertson & Arlyd Munoz-Snyder.



*Do you want to spice up your winter during this cold snap?
Come to the . . .*

*Annual First Church Chili Cook-Off!
Friday, February 5th
6:30pm*

*Tickets are \$5.00 each
Children under 6 are free*

*Price includes a sampling of the best Chili in town,
as well as a meal of Chili, salad, bread and dessert.*

*Prizes will be awarded for:
First Church Best
Mom's Best
Best Spiciest
Best Vegetarian*

*Sign-up sheets and tickets are available at Coffee Hour,
or see Joyce Anderson*



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.



ALL CHURCH COFFEE HOUSE, MARCH 6th
 An Afternoon of Music, Fun, Sweets and More!
 3 pm – 5 pm in Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy great music spanning many genres, shared by church members of all ages! Bring your friends, family and neighbors to enjoy good tunes and talents, along with some tasty treats! Free admission. Donations for desserts will benefit an outreach mission chosen by our youth.

**CALLING ALL CROONERS, ASPIRING BALLADEERS
 AND TALENT ACTS OF ALL KINDS!**

Do you have a favorite Broadway, folk or other genre tune you love to sing? How about a magic trick or some juggling to woo a crowd? Perhaps it's time to recite that Opus Magnum poem you've been penning all your life? Here's your chance to sing your heart out and share your talents! First Church is hosting our own Coffee House event on March 6, from 3-5 pm, and we need YOU! Contact Chris with the act or song and sheet music (Jim Gower will be happy to accompany on the piano). All ages welcome! We have room for about 15 acts so please call or email Chris ASAP, usmap@sbcglobal.net or call 860-389-1363!



REPORTS AND MEETING

Annual Reports are available in the Narthex and church office. There's also a final copy of the Balance Sheet available to take.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2016, following Worship; a luncheon will follow. ~Judy Robertson, Council Secretary



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!



IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

- Happy news for the Chamberlain Family! Weston Michael Bellis was born on Monday, January 25, 2016. Parents are Brian and Kate (Chamberlain) Bellis and grandparents are Sharon and Mike Chamberlain. Kate's address is 10265 Peony Lane, Waco, TX 76708-5733. Congratulations to all!
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the Davis Family of Newington, on the passing of Jeffrey Davis on January 16, 2016. Jeff was our Sexton here at First Church, about fifteen years ago.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the Furman family, as Bill and Lynne's great nephew, Ben, a teenager, battles heart issues.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the Sticca family on the passing of Beth's father-in-law. Cards can be sent to Beth and Tom at 83 Birdseye Road, Farmington, CT 06032.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane Sittambalam, as she faces some health challenges. Her address is 1903 South Ocean Blvd, #1002, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582.
- Happy news for the Gorzoch Family! Elliott Vaughn Francis was born on January 4, 2016. Parents are Natalia (Gorzoch) and Riston Francis and grandparents are Maria Simao and Mike Gorzoch. Congratulations to all!
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Lynne Anderson, who is recovering from some recent surgery. Well wishes can be sent to 272 Spring Meadow Lane, Keswick, VA 22947.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Beverly Rackliffe, and family, on the passing of her husband, Dr. Robert Rackliffe. Services were held here on Wednesday, December 30, 2015. Cards can be sent to 144 Farmington Chase, Farmington, CT 06032.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Charlotte Ohanesian, and family, on the passing of her husband, Jacob. Calling hours will be held here, at First Church, on Tuesday, December 29, 2015, at 10 am. A Funeral Service will be held following the Calling Hours, also here, at 11:30 am. Cards can be sent to Charlotte, 61 Ten Acre Road, New Britain, CT 06052.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Sarah Flythe, whose uncle passed away. Her address is 80 North Mountain Road, Unit B, New Britain, CT 06053.
- 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 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 and leave it in the mailbox. 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.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who baked bread during the month of January . . . Teri Grecki, Lois Zink, Joyce Anderson, Margo Hunt and Joyce Furman.

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, AnneMarie Duncan will be baking for Sunday, February 28th and Arlyd Munoz-Snyder will be baking for Sunday, March 6th.

Bakers are needed for Sundays after 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.



THE OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY . . . NEEDS AND THANKS!

To date, thirty-six cans of soup have been collected; along with many bags of other grocery items. Thank you to all!

February will be "Pasta and Sauce" month. Some ideas are mac and cheese, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, any boxed pasta and packaged or canned pasta. As always, any and all donations are welcome Sunday and during office hours.



In a letter received from the Prudence Crandall Center Director of Development, Carolyn Jasper, wrote, "On behalf of Prudence Crandall Center, thank you for the wonderful donation of holiday coffee cups beautifully filled with goodies, as well as the handmade hats for the clients we serve! What a caring way to bring joy to others in need during this season of giving. Your thoughtfulness demonstrates to our families that the community supports them during this very difficult time in their lives, helping ease the path as they move forward to a new life, free from abuse. We are so grateful to all of our friends at First Church!"



THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

A check in the amount of \$342 was sent to Back Bay Mission from the Thanksgiving Offering. We received the following letter from them:

"Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission! Your gift to **Friends of the Mission** makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Your gift is at work helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing a homeless person with an apartment, giving someone enough food to make it to their next paycheck, and many other ways. Most importantly, your gift is at work making sure that Back Bay Mission is here to provide a safe and welcoming environment to everyone who comes through our doors. Thank you for partnering with us through your generous gift. We – and those we serve – are ever grateful."

Grace and Peace, Rev. Alice Graham, Executive Director

P.S. Thank you for your continuing support of Back Bay Mission!

A check in the amount of \$420 was also sent to Family Promise, from our Christmas Eve Offering. Family Promise is a national program that offers transitional housing and a broad range of services for homeless families. In the past year, there has been an ongoing effort to create a "Family Promise" network in our area with the support and backing of the faith community in the Greater Hartford area.

Thank you all for your generous giving during the holiday season!

~Missions & Congregational Life



PRAYER SHAWLS

Mike Leona, a section leader in the choir until recently, was given a prayer shawl after the death of his grandfather. In a thank you note the Leona Family wrote "Thank you so much for your kind expression of sympathy and for the prayer shawl you gave Michael. He has shared it with his grandmother, who finds it very comforting."

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



MEN'S BREAKFAST, SUNDAY JANUARY 31ST

Calling all men to join us for breakfast at 8:30 am, on (usually) the third Sunday of each month. We 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. The schedule was thrown off a little during the holidays; the next breakfast is on Sunday, January 31st. Other upcoming dates are: February 14th, March 20th, April 17th and May 22nd.



USHERS AND READERS NEEDED FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

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. Ushers and readers are needed for February and March. 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



PLEASE USE OUR SUNSHINE POST OFFICE

We have had a lot happening in our First Church Family lately. Following the Apostle Paul's call to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep," (Romans 12:15), we have greeting cards for you to write to someone who has been mentioned during our "Prayers of the People" or in "Our First Church Family" or anyone you would like to reach out to. Cards, pens, and an address book are available during Coffee Hour, on a card 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



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO . . .

Joan and Tom Thomas	February 14 th
Don and Judy Robertson	February 18 th
Paul and Janet Culton	February 21 st



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



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.
- Ushers and Readers . . . please sign up to read or to usher on select dates or for a whole month.
- Baby Shower . . . please sign up if you will be attending our Baby Shower for Tanya, our Carillonneur, on Sunday, February 7th, after worship.
- Chili Cook-Off . . . please sign up if you are planning on entering or attending our Annual Chili Cook-Off on Friday, February 5th, at 6:30 pm.
- Multigenerational **B-I-B-L-E Wheel of Fortune**, please sign up if you plan on attending on Wednesday, February 24th.



HAPPY NEWS!

Our Carillonneur, Tanya Lukyanova, is having a baby in early March, and it's a girl! The women of the church are invited to a **BABY SHOWER** for Tanya on Sunday, February 7 in the Fireside Room immediately following the service. We are presenting Tanya with a gift card from Babies R Us, and we invite you contribute toward the gift card. There is an envelope in the office for your donation of either cash or a check payable to: Betsy Turbacuski. (Individual gifts are welcome as well, but Tanya requests no diapers, please).

A light lunch will be served at the shower. So that we can plan, we request that you RSVP by February 1st by either signing up in the office, or by contacting Betsy at betsy.turbacuski@axa.us.com, or by calling 860-967-6263.

Let's thank Tanya for all her beautiful music every month! (By the way, the carillon music will continue each month. David Maker, who has performed on our July series, will fill in for Tanya while she's on maternity leave.)



FEBRUARY 2016 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- February 2 Tai Chi, meets Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm
- February 4 Adult Choir meets Thursday evenings, 7:30 pm
- February 5 Annual Chili Cook-Off, 6:30 pm
- February 7 Carillon Prelude, Communion Sunday, Super Bowl Sunday Grinder Pick-Up, Souper-bowl Collection, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and 2nd Hour Shower for Tatsiana Lukyanova, Carillonneur
- February 10 Ash Wednesday, 6 pm Supper and 7 pm Worship
- February 14 Happy Valentine's Day, Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School
- February 15 Building Closed for President's Day
- February 17 NB Women's Club Board
- February 21 Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and Council meeting
- February 22 Newsletter Deadline, 10 am
- February 24 Lenten Supper 6pm and Lenten Program: "B-I-B-L-E Wheel of Fortune", 6:45 pm
- February 28 Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING

- 1 PETER OHANESIAN
- BRIAN THOMAS
- CHARLES MANGAN
- DAVID NIEMAN
- 4 GEORGE NAJARIAN
- GORDON CULTON
- 7 EVELYN BERG
- 8 JAMES GOWER
- 11 ALISON DUNCAN
- 12 BEA CRUMB
- 14 KENDRICK NORRIS
- MATHEW PHILLIPS
- 17 AMY BELLIVEAU
- 19 JOAN THOMAS
- 20 KEVIN SISCO
- JAY JONES
- 22 BERNIE PRUE
- 23 MICHAEL MANGAN
- STELLA GRANT
- 24 RYAN ABRAHAM
- 25 MARTHA MOSES
- 28 JONATHAN SCOTT



Happy Valentine's
Day!

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	<p>2 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi</p> <p>7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	3	<p>4 New Britain Women's Club</p> <p>7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p>	<p>5 6:30 p.m. Annual Chili Cook-Off</p>	6
<p>7 ~ Communion Sunday and "Souper-Bowl" Collection Super Bowl Grinder Making and Pick-Up 9:45 Carillon Prelude 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 2nd Hour Shower for Tatsiana Lukyanova, Carillonneur</p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	8	<p>9 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi</p> <p>7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	<p>10 ~ Ash Wednesday</p> <p>6 pm. Dinner provided by Business and Finance & Building and Grounds</p> <p>7 pm. Ash Wednesday Worship in the Chapel</p>	<p>11 7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p>	12	13
<p>14~ Happy Valentine's Day 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School</p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	<p>15 ~ Building Closed, President's Day</p>	<p>16 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi</p> <p>7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	<p>17 New Britain Women's Club Board</p>	<p>18 7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p>	19	20
<p>21 8:30 Men's Breakfast 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 11:15 am. Council meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	<p>22 10 am. Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>23 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi</p> <p>7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	<p>24 6 pm. Lenten Supper 6:45 pm. Lenten Program, B-I-B-L-E Wheel of Fortune</p>	<p>25 7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p>	26	27
<p>28 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School</p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	29					