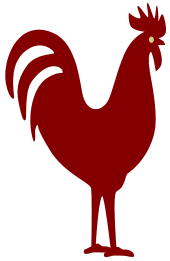


CHURCH NEWS
Vol. 64, No. 9



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

AUGUST 2016



SUMMER OFFICE 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.



PROGRAM BROCHURE

We are working on the updated 2016-2017 program brochure, which lists church information for the year and upcoming dates. If your working group or committee has any information to be included, please give it to Kristine by Monday, August 15th. Thank you!

“ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE.”
Ephesians 3:17

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR

A FEW THINGS TO NOTE

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

On July 31st, August 7th and 14th I will be offering a sermon-series on the Patriarch Jacob and his two wives Rebekah and Lea. These are fascinating individuals colliding with and serving God's purpose in the midst of their own dysfunction and brilliance.

On Sunday, August 21st, there will be a new kind of sermon time altogether. It will be titled, "Your questions answered." Certainly after all these years of listening to sermons you have questions about the Bible, about God, about the interplay of religion and society, about your denomination or anything else. This is your opportunity to ask. Unlike our hymn service, you do not need to speak at the service or even sign your name. You can be anonymous. Just write down the question and put it in the offering plate or basket in the office by August 15th. The more specific the question the more likely that I will address it from the perspective you're hoping for. I'm looking forward to sharing this time with you.

FUNERAL BOOKLET

Several weeks ago I preached about how doing some pre-planning for your death is an act of love for your family. Your family will want to get the final arrangements just right, just the way you want them. However, if there is nothing written down even in the midst of their disorientation and grief they will have a significant worry. They will be anxious figuring out what you would have preferred for the funeral, for the interment, for the disposition of your body. We have updated our funeral booklet and you will find many ideas about what decisions you should make, suggestions for your funeral service and other helpful information. You will find this booklet in the rack with the published sermons in the hall wall by the office entrance. We can send one out to you and are glad to file it for you.

VACATION

Mary and I will be away the last week in August and first week in September. We rent a cabin on Lake Keyser in Lovell, Maine and then we will be heading to Cape Canaveral. Mary's cousin, Rick Binzell, is one of the investigators for the latest NASA mission. They will send a spacecraft to an asteroid, land, map the surface, and return home with a piece of the asteroid which will help them understand the beginnings of our solar system. For more information, see: <http://science.nasa.gov/missions/osiris-rex/>. Amazing. Hopefully—if the weather behaves—we will be there for the launch. During these Sundays Chris Solimene will preach and the Rev. Dwight Juliani, former Senior Minister of First Church Madison, will help with communion on Labor Day weekend.

In Christ's love,
Kendrick

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



HUMBLE AND KIND...

32 children, ages 5 – 17, spent a week "Under The Big Top" at First Church's VBC! And what a wonderful week it was! The theme was about not being boastful, but being humble and kind. We learned about a number of people in the Bible who were already humble and kind and some people who needed to work on it! Many thanks to all those who helped make it such a successful week – Judy Robertson for being my assistant Tuesday morning, Jim Gower for tweaking the music for me, Kristine Lewko for playing Madam Zelda the fortune teller, Glenn Anderson for playing Fernando the fire eater, and Rev. Kendrick for playing Leonardo the lion tamer! Their performances were worthy of Academy Awards! I can't wait to start working on next year's theme!

Enjoy the rest of your summer, but be sure and mark your calendars for **Rally Day, Sunday, September 11th**!

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



Cooperation

Harmony

Opportunity

Involvement

Responsibility

What could be better than that?
ALL are welcome ~ Why not join us?
Please see Jim Gower for more information.



FIRST CHURCH SAFETY

In honor of Smokey Bear's birthday on August 9th, I would like to thank all members and users of our Church for keeping us safe and secure. Since our first service in 1961 we have maintained a safe facility. First church has many safety systems and an alarm system that monitors security, fire, and levels of toxic gasses. Our most important system is our congregation who take great pride in using our great building. We have fire extinguishers mounted throughout the building and a state of the art fire suppressor system in the kitchen. Please take a moment, at your next time in, to be acquainted where they are. Remember to always call 911 in case of a fire; your safety is the utmost concern. Please see Glenn Anderson if you have any questions or would like a tour of our facility. Thank you all for keeping us safe and having the best church in New Britain! Only You can keep our church safe.
Glenn Anderson



Confirmation

Our next confirmation class will meet September 2016 through May 2017. Students are typically entering 9th grade when they begin, but exceptions have been made. Please contact Sharon Chamberlain for more information.



IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Ted Duncan, who is recovering from surgery to repair a broken hip. Cards can be sent to Jerome Home, 975 Corbin Ave, room 107, New Britain, CT 06052.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Brian Paskewich, son of Joni Anderson-Senk, who recently broke his leg and damaged his knee. Well wishes can be sent to him at 27 Olney Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Claire Collins, who is recovering from some health issues. Her address is 100 Country Club Rd, New Britain, CT 06053.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Kirsty Naples' mom, who is having health issues.

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.



OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY

Judy just dropped off a car-load of food to the Osgood Food Pantry. Thank you to all who contribute to this mission.

We will be collecting "Summer Salad" items again for the month of August. So, we will be collecting non-perishable salad items including such things as pasta (elbow macaroni, shells, etc), pasta salad mix, mayonnaise, salad dressing, tuna fish, canned chicken, etc. Donations may be brought to the Sunday worship service or dropped off during weekday mornings when the church office is open. Thank you for your generosity and for helping those in our community. ~Missions & Congregational Life



THANK YOU AND A HOST IS STILL NEEDED!

Many thanks to Mary Norris, AnneMarie Duncan, Mabel Yeterian, Dot Santora and Teri Grecki for hosting Coffee Hour on the first four Sundays of July. AnneMarie Duncan and Mary Norris will host, again, on Sunday, July 31st.

A volunteer is still needed to host Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 28th. Sign-up sheets are available during coffee hour. Hosting a coffee hour is really very simple. It includes making a few pots of coffee, pouring some juice, and plating some cookies. All supplies will be provided. Please consider signing up. No hosts – no coffee hour. Thank you in advance for your help. ~Hospitality Committee



BREAD BAKING THANKS AND EXTRA LOAVES NEEDED

Thank you to Lois Zink, Lois MacFarlane, Martha Moses and Teri Grecki for baking during July. Teri Grecki will be baking again for Sunday, July 31st, Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, August 7th, Margo Hunt will be baking for Sunday, August 14th, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, August 21st, Lois MacFarlane will be baking for Sunday, August 28th, Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, September 11th and Lois MacFarlane will be baking for Sunday, September 25th.

Bakers are needed for Sundays, September 4th and 18th, and all Sundays after September 25th. 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.

We are also asking for some bakers to make some extra loaves to keep in the freezer to have when someone forgets it's their day, a baker is unable to come to church or extra loaves are needed. Just bring in the loaves and place in the marked box in the kitchen freezer. Thank you!



PLEASE USE OUR SUNSHINE POST OFFICE

We have had lots 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



PRAYER SHAWLS

Please 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.

We are still restocking our shawls, so we have some in reserve. If you have time to knit, packages of yarn are available any time in my office. ~ Kendrick



TAI CHI

Tuesday, July 26th, was our final Tai Chi class for the summer. Attendance has been very low, due to summer schedules and vacations. It will resume on Tuesday, September 13th, at 1:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you then.



USHERS AND READERS NEEDED

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. Thank you to all who have signed up to usher and read for August. Readers and ushers are needed for September. 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



SIGN UP SHEETS

- 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.
- Summer Coffee Hour . . . sign-up sheets are available during coffee hour for members to host a Sunday or two during July and August.



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. We ask that they be already cut out. 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!



SUMMER CHANGES

- **Sunday School and Worship . . .** Sunday School has ended and we have moved **Worship** to the air-conditioned Chapel. For the summer there will be child care in the toddler room and a supervised activity for children thru grade 5 in room 5. Please don't be a stranger!
- **Summer Office Hours . . .** Office hours will remain the same during the summer, from 9 am until noon. During the summer, it is always best to call first before coming in. Thank you!



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO . . .

Glenn and Joyce Anderson
 Barbara and Stanley Helberg
 Karen and John Canora

August 7th
 August 19th
 August 20th



AUGUST CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Sunday, August 7th, Carillon Prelude, Communion Sunday, worship in the Chapel and a supervised activity for Children through grade 5 in room 5
- Sunday, August 14th, Worship in the Chapel and a supervised activity for Children through grade 5 in room 5
- Sunday, August 21st, "You're Questions Answered", Worship in the Chapel and a supervised activity for Children through grade 5 in room 5
- Monday, August 22nd, Deadline for the September newsletter
- Sunday, August 28th, Guest, Chris Solimene, Worship in the Chapel and a supervised activity for Children through grade 5 in room 5



SAVE THE DATE . . . RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday School will resume on Rally Sunday and the Christian Education Committee will also host the Annual "Welcome Back" Picnic following Worship on September 11th. Please plan to bring a salad, a side dish or a dessert to share. Our "grill masters" will be cooking the burgers and hot dogs. This is the perfect event to enjoy food and fellowship with people you haven't seen all summer.



HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY

- 1 MARILYN SLATE
- 2 AARIN FLYTHE
- 4 CAROL BOWEN
- 5 MABEL YETERIAN
- 6 DAVE LERRO
- 7 MAURICE DAVIES JR
- 9 SMOKEY THE BEAR
- 12 AUSTIN ZEMSTA
- 14 SARAH JOYCE-GRIKIS
JOHN GEMMELL
- 15 HENRY SCHRAGER
- 17 KEVIN ANDERSON
- 18 HANNAH MANGAN
- 19 GEORGE STICCA
- 23 JOYCE FURMAN
- 24 LOIS MACFARLANE
- 28 LESLIE MURDOCH
- 29 GREGG ANDERSON
- 31 CLAIRE COLLINS

AUGUST 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	3	4	5	6
7 9:45 am. Carillon Prelude 10:00 am. Worship in the Chapel and a supervised activity in room 5 for children through grade 5 7:00 pm. Alanon	8	9 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	10	11	12	13
14 10:00 am. Worship in the Chapel and a supervised activity in room 5 for children through grade 5 7:00 pm. Alanon	15	16 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	17	18	19	20
21 ~ "Your Questions Answered" by Kendrick 10:00 am. Worship in the Chapel and a supervised activity in room 5 for children through grade 5 7:00 pm. Alanon	22 10 am Newsletter Deadline	23 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	24	25	26	27
28 ~ Guest, Chris Solimene 10:00 am. Worship in the Chapel and a supervised activity in room 5 for children through grade 5 7:00 pm. Alanon	29	30 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 7:30 pm. AA (men only)	31			