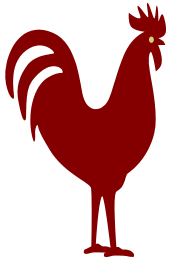


CHURCH NEWS  
Vol. 64, No. 9



# 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](http://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](http://www.firstnewbritain.org) for staff contact information

Copies of sermons and additional newsletters are available in the information rack outside the church office.

*WELCOME BACK!*

*RALLY SUNDAY IS SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2016.*

*WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THEN!*

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

## GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR

Dear First Church Friends,

The new church program year stands before us beckoning with a smile and wide open arms for us to engage fully. What possibilities, what opportunities, await us as individuals and as a congregation? Do miss the “We are First Church” booklet. One thing for sure: we will be better people because of our involvement with First Church and First Church will be a better church because we offer up our unique spirits to be part of it.

My sermons this summer focused on some of the heroes of faith. As important as they were to moving God’s plan forward they were so much like us: strong and committed and at the same time flawed and broken. Scripture is clear: we are clay animated by the breath of God. As such, humans are interesting hybrids. Amphibians live in water and on land. We are at home in the material and the spiritual world. It’s a complicated, imperfect business being a human, but the direction from our Lord is that our purpose is to love as he has loved. The early Christian theologians had a very practical yet profound saying, “Love and then do what you will.” Love is a high charge and how it is lived out is left to us to figure out and discharge. One thing for sure: our church community welcomes us, supports us, encourages us and inspires us to love at full strength. I very much look forward to sharing this new season with you.

In Christ’s love,

Kendrick

## TWO OTHER THINGS TO NOTE FROM KENDRICK

### 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.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### R-A-Double L- Y D-A-Y

Spells Rally Day! Hope you have all had a restful and fun filled summer. Our first day back to Sunday School will be **Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**. And of course, as is our tradition, the Christian Education Committee will be hosting the potluck picnic after Worship. Please plan to bring a side dish to share and we will do the grilling!



You may recall First Church sponsored a team that participated in the CT Race In The Park, Mother’s Day weekend. We received a very nice thank you letter from the CT Breast Health Initiative for our participation – we raised \$545! The letter is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Great job Team First Church!

On Children’s Sunday, we said good bye and thank you to Samantha Arasimowicz, for her years of toddler room supervision. On Rally Day, we will welcome Nicole Perrotta as our new toddler room supervisor. Nicole is a member of First Church, and a junior at Berlin High school!

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



# Confirmation

Our next confirmation class will meet September 2016 through May 2017. Students are typically entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade when they begin, but exceptions have been made. Confirmation Orientation will be held on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 am, after worship. Please contact Sharon Chamberlain for more information.



**FIRST CHURCH ART GALLERY**

Please join in welcoming our September / October artists on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11-11:45 am, in the parlor, following worship. "Sisters in Cloth" is a group of 14 art quilters living along the CT shoreline. Originally formed as an interest group in the Guilford Newcomers Club, Sisters has grown to include other local art quilters. The group shows its work throughout the year in local exhibits and occasionally in traveling exhibits covering Europe, Australia and Japan.

The Sentinelle Project, their exhibit, began with the acquaintance of founding member Diane Wright with Australian textile artist and teacher Dijanne Cevaal printed onto her own hand-dyed cotton original linocuts inspired by her European travels. Dijanne imagined these figures to be sentinels, standing watch around the world. Many of the Sentinelles gathered here have, indeed, traveled around the world.

This is a busy day at First Church, with a Council meeting and Confirmation Orientation meeting, if you could stop by before your events, it would be much appreciated. I would like to show our support for this group by having as many attend as possible, especially from the church. To facilitate this further, we will be holding Coffee Hour in the parlor only during the opening reception. Tables will be set up in the memorial garden or outside the parlor for those who like to sit and chat.



**C**ooperation

**H**armony

**O**ppportunity

**I**nvolvement

**R**esponsibility

What could be better than that?  
Rehearsals begin on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30.  
ALL are welcome ~ Why not join us?



**USHERS AND READERS NEEDED**

Would you like to be an Usher and/or Reader? Please sign up! Thank you to all who have signed up to usher for September. Readers are still needed. 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



### IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

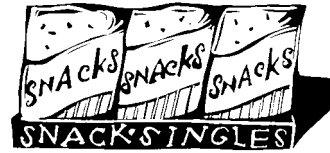
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Walter MacFarlane, who is facing some health challenges after a recent surgery. Good wishes can be sent to 60 Butternut Lane, Kensington, CT 06037.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Ted Duncan, who is recovering from surgery to repair a broken hip. Well wishes can be sent to Jerome Home, 975 Corbin Ave, room 107, New Britain, CT 06052.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Claire Collins, who is recovering from some health issues. She is in Bel-Air Manor, room 10, 256 New Britain Avenue, Newington, CT 06111.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with June McCarthy, who is recovering at home from recent surgeries. Cards can be sent to 48 Beths Avenue, apt. 36, Bristol, CT 06010.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Brian Paskewich, son of Joni Anderson-Senk, who is recovering from knee surgery. His address is 27 Olney Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Kirsty Naples' mom, who is having health issues.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Edith Miller, whose brother, Chester Hinton, passed away August 3, 2016. Cards can be sent to Edith at 252 Stanwood Drive, New Britain, CT 06053.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Nathaniel "Nate" Brickhouse, manager of the Osgood Food Pantry in New Britain, who passed away on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember that these are perfect 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.



### 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 and coupons are welcome with an expiration date of up to six months. 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!



### OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to all who brought in food donations, including "summer salad items", during July and August.

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

Donations may be brought on Sunday 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



### BREAD BAKING THANKS AND EXTRA LOAVES NEEDED

Thank you to Lois Zink, Margo Hunt, Teri Grecki and Lois MacFarlane for baking during the month of August. Martha Moses will be baking for Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, Arlyd Munoz-Snyder will be baking for Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, Lois MacFarlane will be baking for Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, Joyce Anderson will be baking for Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and Arlyd Munoz-Snyder will be baking for Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Bakers are needed for Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and all Sundays after, with the exception of Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. 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!

### 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



### PLEASE USE OUR SUNSHINE POST OFFICE

We have had lots happening in our First Church Family over the summer. 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

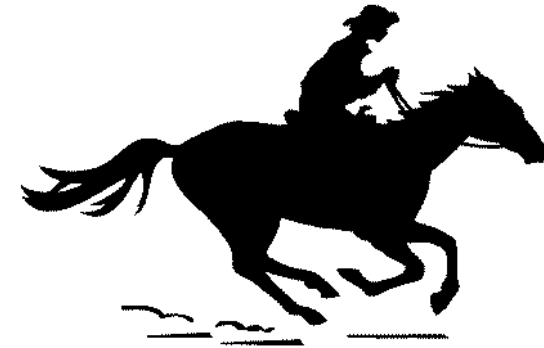
Please remember that our prayer shawl ministry is an outreach ministry. Yes, prayer shawls are for those in our congregation who are ill or grieving. And, they are also for people outside our membership. So if you have a family member, a friend, or a co-worker who you think might appreciate a soft, warm 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



### FIRST CHURCH T-SHIRTS

First Church T-shirts are still available for church members to wear as they attend church and outside events. We hope you will proudly wear your "First Church ... On a Mission" shirt and show that we are an active and caring church in our community. Please see Judy Robertson if you are interested in one. Suggested donation to purchase a shirt is \$5. ~Missions & Congregational Life



### STEWARDSHIP

Pledging supports all we do and can be for Christ. Stewardship, then, is serious business for the church, BUT we can have fun doing it. This year we will be using the Pony Express Stewardship Program.

Before I explain that, let me first encourage you to reach deeply into your pockets and give according to your means. Yes, First Church has a diminished membership role. But even if it is a small church there is no question that it is a good church, an active church, a strong church. I have been so impressed by you—your care for each other, the joy you find in each other, and the work you do for the community. First Church is worthy of your full support. The less we have to take from our endowment this next fiscal year, the more will be available for moving forward with a new pastor and new possibilities. God has hopes for this precious community.

Now to the plan . . . same as last year. As with the original Pony Express mail system of the Old West, the key to success is a common objective and the knowledge that each individual must do his or her part to complete the endeavor. Those early riders were steadfast and courageous and so are we.

The Pony Express program utilizes a relay system among local, active members and families of the church. The families are divided by geographic area into Saddlebag Routes of six to ten families each. A Saddlebag is prepared for each Route, bearing a Route list and containing a Stewardship reading booklet and pledge cards for each family in an unsealed envelope. A saddle bag has two pouches. For our purposes one side will have a blank card to be filled in and the other side will have the complete ones in a sealed envelope so that all is kept confidential. The decision is made in the privacy of your home with no one looking over your shoulder.

Teenage youth and elementary-age children are welcome to play their part. Unless the parents prefer otherwise, young people fill in their own commitment cards and place them in the Saddlebag along with the parent's card.

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The Pony Express Run has a time period of approximately two weeks, during which the saddlebag is relayed from one family to the next on the Route List. On the Sunday the Run begins (September 25<sup>th</sup>), the first family receives the saddlebag and then has two days to read the enclosed material, fill out their pledge card, seal it in the envelope, putting it in the second pouch, and then hand deliver it to the second family, which uses the Bag within 48 hours and delivers it to the third family, etc. until it has made the complete circuit.

A key Pony Express worker, called a Trail Boss, oversees the relay of the Bag on the Route. He and his family are the first family on the Route List and the first family to use and relay the saddlebag. One Trail Boss is needed for each Route. The Trail Boss will also physically move the saddlebag along the route if an individual is unable. The Station Agent supervises the Trail Bosses, checking every two days to make sure of the saddlebag's movement along the route. When the Route has been completed, the Trail Boss returns the Saddlebag to the parish office where they will be tallied by the Station Agent. On Appreciation Sunday (date to be chosen), there will be a final report on the success of the campaign.

Later, each participating family is mailed a Thank You Letter that confirms the amount on the commitment cards. Families on the Routes who were "missed" during the Run are mailed a letter with a pledge card and a return envelope. Shut-ins and geographically scattered families are mailed a letter, prior to the saddlebag relay, with a commitment card and a postpaid return envelope. We can also mail a letter at your request.

The Pony Express program provides maximum participation in raising funds to support the work of the church. It gives everyone the opportunity to help with the campaign in a convivial and rewarding way.



### **MEN'S BREAKFAST, SEPTEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>**

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. Our first breakfast of the program year is Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 am. We hope to see you there!



### **BACKPACK GIVEAWAYS**

On Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, over 30 backpacks and many, many school supplies, donated by our congregation and coordinated by our Missions Working Group, were given away to area youth. Timothy and Torrence Conaway, two cousins who live in New Britain, sponsored the event at the Blaze Barber Shop on West Main Street. Students entering kindergarten through eighth grade were eligible to receive free backpacks along with an ample amount of supplies, and about 200 bags were distributed. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that this event was held and the two cousins were most grateful for our donations and generosity. Torrence Conaway said that the intention of this program is to send the message "we're going to prepare you to be successful". Thank you to all of you who helped many children start the school year with a smile!

Judy Robertson



We received a note from the Rev. Alice Graham, Executive Director of Back Bay Mission, in Biloxi Mississippi, that a gift was made to them in honor of First Church of Christ, Congregational, New Britain, by Richard and Susan Morey of Berkley Heights NJ. Back Bay's ministry positively transforms the lives of thousands of low-income individuals every year. Through our emergency assistance, disaster recovery, affordable housing construction, homeless outreach and community development programs, we were able to make profound and lasting contributions to our Mississippi Gulf Coast community. The gift made in our honor helps them to do that, for which they are tremendously grateful.



#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

James and Melissa Belanger	September 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Lois and Walter Macfarlane	September 16 <sup>th</sup>
Heather (Robertson) and Scott Neumann	September 16 <sup>th</sup>
Carol and Stuart Sisco	September 27 <sup>th</sup>



#### SEPTEMBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>: Guests, the Rev. Dwight Juliani and Christopher Solimene, Carillon Prelude, Communion Sunday and Last Worship in the Chapel
- Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>: Labor Day, Building Closed
- Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>: Adult Choir resumes and will be held every Thursday
- Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>: Rally Sunday, Worship returns to the Sanctuary, Sunday School resumes and 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour Picnic
- Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>: Tai Chi returns and will be held every Tuesday
- Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>: Men's Breakfast, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School, Gallery Opening, Confirmation Orientation and Council meeting
- Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>: Deadline for October newsletter
- Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>: Stewardship Sunday, Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School



#### HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING ...

1	Karen Canora
2	Donald Hunt
4	Thomas Petrisko
8	Maria Simao
10	Joyce Petrisko
15	Aaron Mangan Shawn Mangan
20	Eric Csinsi Eric Morneau B.J. Duguay
22	Kyle Michaud
23	Hannah Petrisko
25	Barbara Nichols
29	Marcus Gashgorian
30	Phyllis Virelli



Happy Autumn!

## SEPTEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
<p><b>4 ~ Guests, the Rev. Dwight Juliani and Christopher Solimene and Communion Sunday</b>  <b>9:45 Carillon Prelude</b>  <b>10:00 am. Last Worship in the Chapel</b></p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	<p><b>5 ~ Building Closed, Labor Day</b></p>	<p><b>6</b>  <b>9:15 am. Staff Meeting</b>              7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	7	<p><b>8</b>  <b>7:30 pm. Adult Choir</b></p>	9	10
<p><b>11 ~ Rally Sunday</b>  <b>10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Hour Picnic</b></p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	12	<p><b>13</b>  <b>9:15 am. Staff Meeting</b>  <b>1:00 pm. Tai Chi</b>              7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	<p><b>14</b>            NB Women's Club Board</p>	<p><b>15</b>            5-9 pm. UCC Supper meeting    <b>7:30 pm. Adult Choir</b></p>	16	17
<p><b>18</b>  <b>8:30 am. Men's Breakfast</b>  <b>10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School</b>  <b>11:00 am. Gallery Opening</b>  <b>11:15 am. Confirmation Orientation</b>  <b>11:15 am. Council meeting</b></p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	<p><b>19</b>  <b>10:00 am. Newsletter Deadline</b></p>	<p><b>20</b>  <b>9:15 am. Staff Meeting</b>  <b>1:00 pm. Tai Chi</b>              7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	<p><b>21</b>            9:30-11:30 am. Conference Committee on Ministry?</p>	<p><b>22</b>  <b>7:30 pm. Adult Choir</b></p>	23	<p><b>24</b>            8 am. – 5 pm. CT Women of UCC Retreat</p>
<p><b>25 ~ Stewardship Sunday</b>  <b>10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School</b></p> <p>7:00 pm. Alanon</p>	26	<p><b>27</b>  <b>9:15 am. Staff Meeting</b>  <b>1:00 pm. Tai Chi</b>              7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p>	28	<p><b>29</b>  <b>7:30 pm. Adult Choir</b></p>	30	