

GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR . . . OCTOBER NOTES

Mary and I will be in Scotland (my first time there) from September 30th to October 13th. Mary, who is a free-lance editor, has been hired by National Geographic to update their Guidebook to Scotland. I'm glad to tag along as her helper and also to have the opportunity to explore the early religions, pre-historic sites, and churches of Scotland. Please keep us in your prayers for a safe and productive trip. The Rev. Carolyn Johns and the Rev. James Silver will be filling in.

Our prayer shawl ministry is thriving. Knitters are knitting, the congregation is praying over them and scores of them have been given to church members, friends of church members, and others who are friends of friends. Below are two of the most recent thank you notes I have received.

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl and for your kindness and support during this challenging time. The prayer shawl has already brought me comfort during several trying moments—reminding me that there are many people who care for me and a greater power at work in my life who will see me through. Please extend my gratitude to your extended church circle whose loving hands truly do bring joy and comfort during difficult times.

Thanks you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl and for all you prayers and good wishes. We are happy to say that our Zane is now 2 lbs 10oz! While we do not know what the future holds, we will put it in God's hands and continue to pray. Thank you for joining us!

You can see how our prayer shawls have a powerful impact, comforting, supporting and reminding the recipients of God's love. Please do not be shy in requesting a prayer shawl for anyone who you think would find it helpful. This is a ministry for members and also those outside our doors. Feel free to take one from my office at any time if you would like to deliver it in person, or I am very glad to do so.

Last year we began a tradition of a member of the church preaching in the fall. On Sunday, October 23rd, Mike Gorzoch will enthusiastically take up the challenge. Not only is Mike a long-time dedicated member of First Church, but for years he has been involved in larger church, inter-faith, and community issues. He brings much religious experience and even more wisdom.

One final word: Stewardship. Please prayerfully consider your pledge—knowing that First Church is a wonderful church home that open-handedly supports God's work and depends on your generosity—and then do your best to move the saddle bags to their next appointed home. If you have received a letter instead, again we ask that you prayerfully consider to what extent you can underwrite the potent ministries of First Church and return your pledge as soon as possible. Gifts to God always benefit the giver and the receiver! Many blessings to you.

In Christ's love, Kendrick

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Confirmation Kick Off

On September 18th, we celebrated the Blessing of the Confirmands during the Worship service. It was a very touching ceremony with candles being lit we honored "their individual journey, and prayed that the light of faith, hope and love will illuminate their path as they draw nearer to God". Following the service we shared pizza for lunch, talked about the confirmation schedule and had a few exercises in "getting to know each other".

I am hoping to schedule some "outside of church" activities for our middle/high schoolers. It would be so helpful if interested students and parents would plan to join me in the parlor after Worship on October 2nd. We could have a short brainstorming session and I could get an idea about what kind of activities would be of interest!

And a special thanks to the CE Committee and Don DelCegno for hosting a wonderful Rally Day picnic!

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



It's nominating time again and we're beginning to work on the Nominating Slate for 2017. Maybe you've been 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 include you on one. Please talk to me at coffee hour about Working Group opportunities.



USHERS AND READERS NEEDED

Would you like to be an Usher and/or Reader? Please sign up! Ushers and readers are needed for October and November. 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



FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

It has been a couple of months since our last update to you on the progress of the Search Committee but much has occurred. Before I get to that, I want to thank the members of the committee for their commitment to our work as everyone has spent much time and energy reflecting on the numerous candidates for Senior Minister which we have seen so far. I encourage all of you to thank the members of the group for the work done so far on behalf of the entire congregation.

As you may recall from our last update to you, we have been reading the profiles of candidates over the past four months and so far have seen about thirty. These have been narrowed down to about ten which we felt had a good mix of experience, talents and passions which match the needs of First Church. We recently conducted phone interviews with these individuals and next will narrow this group down and invite the smaller group to New Britain for a more extensive interview.

Many people have been asking when we think we will complete this process. I can tell you that we are not rushing this process. We will continue our process in a deliberate and thoughtful manner to be certain that the person we ask to be our next Senior Minister is right for us. We deserve this!

We will be having a second hour congregational meeting soon to give you an opportunity to hear more from us and for you to ask us questions. In the meantime, I encourage you to speak with any of the members of the Search Committee with any ideas, questions or concerns you may have.

Your Search Committee,

Michael Chamberlain
Mike Gorzoch
Sylvia Lucas
Arlyd Munoz-Snyder
Don Robertson
Beth Sticca (co-chair)

John Gemmell
Margo Hunt
June McCarthy
Deborah Ortega
Mike Duncan (co-chair)



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 2nd, 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 bulletin October 2nd.



BREAD BAKING THANKS

Thank you to Martha Moses, Lois Zink, Arlyd Munoz-Snyder and Lois MacFarlane for baking during the month of September. Joyce Anderson will be baking for Sunday, October 2nd, Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, October 9th, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, October 16th, Lois MacFarlane will be baking for Sunday, October 23rd, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, October 30th, Arlyd Munoz-Snyder will be baking for Sunday, November 6th, Lois Zink will be baking for Sunday, November 13th, Martha Moses will be baking for Sunday, November 20th, Mabel Yeterian will be baking for Sunday, November 27th and Margo Hunt will be baking for Sunday, December 4th and Mary Norris will be baking for Sunday, December 11th.

Bakers are needed for Sunday, December 18th 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.



IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Kirsty Naples and her family. Kirsty's mom passed away in Scotland earlier in the week. Cards can be sent to 170 Blake Road, New Britain, CT 06053.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Walter MacFarlane, who is facing some health challenges, but improving. Good wishes can be sent to 60 Butternut Lane, Kensington, CT 06037.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Ted Duncan, who has faced some health issues. He has been moved to a new room and well wishes can be sent to Jerome Home, 975 Corbin Ave, room 403, New Britain, CT 06052.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Claire Collins, who is recovering from some health challenges. She is moving to Bel-Air Manor, room 10, 256 New Britain Avenue, Newington, CT 06111.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with Karen Wantek, who is recovering from some recent health issues. Her address is 68 Vivian Drive, Berlin, CT 06037.

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.



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

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. Kendrick



“ADOPT A SCHOOL”

It recently came to the attention of our Missions Group that an area school, The New Britain Transitional Center, could use some help in trying to carry out their programs. The children in this school are from Kindergarten through Grade 8.

Along with the participation of the Sunday School, whose theme this year is “A Spark in the Dark”, we hope to brighten the lives of both the students and teachers at this school.

In the next few months, there will be a collection box in the Narthex and cards with the items listed on them, so that you can participate in this worthy project.

The following items are on their “Wish List:

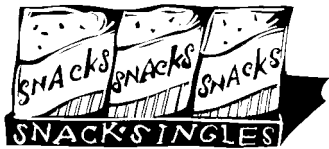
- | | |
|--|---|
| White Polo Shirts | Paper Towels |
| Khaki or navy pants | Kleenex |
| Underwear for grade K students | Paper |
| Craft activities | Office supplies (especially copy paper) |
| Sports balls | Water Bottles |
| Health & Beauty items (shampoo, nail polish, hairspray, etc) | Winter hats and gloves |
| Costco Gift Cards | Restaurant Gift cards |
| Dunkin Donut Gift Cards | |

If you have any questions, please speak with Lynn DelCegno or Judy Robertson.
~ Missions & Congregational Life



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 upcoming Sundays . . . October 16th, November 20th and December 18th.



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.

As always, your donations may be brought to the Sunday worship service or dropped off during the week when the office is open.

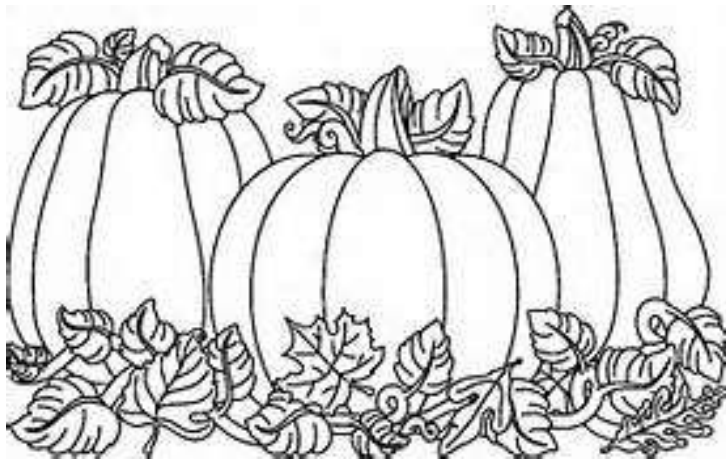
~Missions & Congregational Life



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. On Saturday, October 15th, 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.”



FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL!

On October 29th, from 1 – 4 p.m. First Church will host the 2nd annual Fall Family Festival! There will be something for everyone – crafts to make, food and beverages to purchase from local vendors, games, face painting, pumpkins to decorate Trunk or Treat, 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! There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers in the narthex. If you have any questions, please ask!
Beth Sticca and Sharon Chamberlain



FIRST CHURCH ART GALLERY

If you missed the Gallery Opening last Sunday, please stop by and enjoy the September / October exhibit in the Parlor. “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.



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



INVITATION TO OUR CHAPEL

Our Chapel is open for a private moment before Sunday's service or during the week. You are invited to come early and take a moment to thank God for a good week or for help with a challenge



WEBSITE AND VIDEO

Please go to our website, www.firstnewbritain.org, for more information. Also, to view our new video which is linked to the New Britain and Berlin Chamber of Commerce websites.



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!



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



SIGN UP SHEETS

Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex or during Coffee Hour. Please use them to sign-up for the following . . .

- Bread Baking . . . please sign up on any available date, to bake two welcome breads.
- Ushers and Readers . . . please sign up to read or to usher on select dates or for a whole month
- Fall Family Festival . . . please sign up to help with this fun day.

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.



Wishes for a Happy and Safe Halloween!



OCTOBER CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- October 2 Guest Preacher, the Rev. Carolyn Johns, Communion Sunday, World Communion Sunday, Neighbors in Need Offering, Carillon Prelude, Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School
- October 4 Tai Chi meets Tuesdays at 1 pm
- October 6 NB Women's Club Program and Adult Choir meets Thursdays at 7:30 pm
- October 9 Guest Preacher, the Rev. Jim Silver, Worship in the Sanctuary with Shepherd Sermon and Sunday School
- October 10 Columbus Day, Building Closed
- October 15 Blessing of the Animals, 11 am
- October 16 Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and Council meeting, 11:15 am
- October 19 NB Women's Club Board
- October 23 Lay Person Sunday, Mike Gorzoch Preaching, Baptism, Annie Reynolds, Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School
- October 24 Newsletter deadline
- October 29 Fall Family Festival, 1-4 pm
- October 30 Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School
- October 31 Happy Halloween!



PONY EXPRESS REMINDER

Just a reminder that trail bags were handed out on Stewardship Sunday, September 25th. 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. Families who were "missed" on the route, shut-ins and geographically scattered families have been mailed a letter with a pledge card. The Pony Express program provides maximum participation in raising funds to support the work of the church. Thank you to all for your participation.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...

Joni Anderson-Senk & Joe Senk
Christopher and Peggy Porter

October 3rd
October 10th



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
- 20 Mary Norris
- 21 Christopher Abraham
- 24 Martin Depoian
- 26 Bill Furman
Lorraine Corfiati
- 28 Don DelCegno
Nancy Ogren

OCTOBER 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|--|--------|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| <p>2 ~ Guest, Minister , the Rev. Carolyn Johns, 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</p> | 3 | <p>4 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p> | 5 | <p>6 NB Women's Club Program 7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p> | 7 | 8 |
| <p>9 ~ Shepherd Sermon with Guest, the Rev. Jim Silver 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 7:00 pm. Alanon</p> | <p>10 Columbus Day ~ Building Closed</p> | <p>11 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p> | 12 | <p>13 7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p> | 14 | <p>15 11 am. Blessing of the Animals</p> |
| <p>16 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</p> | 17 | <p>18 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p> | <p>19 9-noon NB Women's Club Board</p> | <p>20 7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p> | 21 | 22 |
| <p>23 ~ Lay Person Sunday, Mike Gorzoch Preaching and Baptism, Annie Reynolds 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 7:00 pm. Alanon</p> | <p>24 10:00 am. Newsletter Deadline</p> | <p>25 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi 7:30 pm. AA (men only)</p> | 26 | <p>27 7:30 pm. Adult Choir</p> | 28 | <p>29 1-4 pm. Fall Family Festival</p> |
| <p>30 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 7:00 pm. Alanon</p> | <p>31~ Happy Halloween!</p> | | | | | |