

“First Church News” (USPS 196-120) is published monthly from January through December by First Church of Christ, Congregational, 830 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06052. (Tel: 860-229-3709; Fax: 860-826-7079, e-mail [firstnewbritain@snet.net](mailto:firstnewbritain@snet.net)).

Periodicals postage paid at New Britain, CT 06052.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to First Church News, 830 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06052.

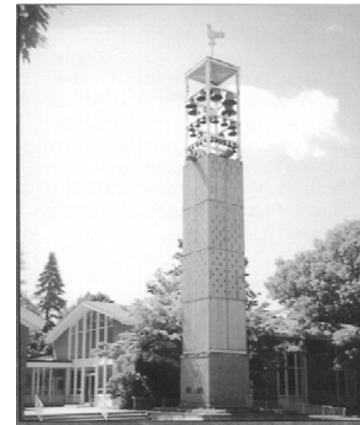
First Church website - [www.firstnewbritain.org](http://www.firstnewbritain.org)

# 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)

### May 2010



#### OFFICE and GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am – Noon

#### PROGRAM STAFF

The Rev. Jack Cook, Senior 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.

#### UPCOMING DATES

- Mondays during May, at 7 pm ~ Adult Bible Study
- May 2 ~ “Sneaker Sunday”. Join the Missions Team in a Food Walk immediately following our worship service. All money raised will go to the Friendship Center.
- May 2 ~ Gallery Opening, Artist Joan Traverso
- May 15 ~ Church Growth Workshop, led by the Reverend Dr Michael Penn-Strah, our South Central Regional Minister, from 8:45-1:30.
- May 22 ~ First Church Tag Sale, from 9 - 2.
- May 23 ~ 1754 Society Brunch, , 11:30 am

**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,

In the old days, we used to call these Sundays *after Easter Sundays in Eastertide*, but now we call them Sundays *of Easter*, to reflect the fact that *Easter* is not single day but an entire liturgical season. Easter lasts fifty days; white is the color throughout; and *joy* is the central theme. Forty days after Easter Day (May 13), we celebrate Ascension Day; and the Day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Easter (May 23) closes the Easter season. During this fifty-day season, we leave the fasting of Lent behind.

Pentecost, borrowed from the Jewish calendar of feasts, was transformed by the experience of the church described in Acts 2 and now commemorates the descent and gift of the Holy Spirit. We often refer to this day as the birthday of the Christian Church. The color of the Day of Pentecost is red, in vivid recollection of the tongues of fire described in Acts 2.

Then the Sunday after Pentecost is Trinity Sunday (May 30), a festival in observance of one of the foundational doctrines about God in our *Trinitarian* Christian tradition. White is the color of the day.

This season of Easter and month of May hold many exciting events here at First Church, which I hope you are planning to attend—

- Sneaker Sunday on May 2 with all contributions going to the Friendship Service Center of New Britain.
- The CT Conference UCC Annual Meeting in Madison on May 8.
- Mothers' Day on May 9.
- Membership Growth Workshop on May 15.
- Baptism Sunday on May 16.
- Tag Sale on May 22.
- Pentecost and Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering on May 23.

Let me share with you a prayer for this season of Easter—

“We praise you, O God, that by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, you have delivered us from the power of death, making us alive to serve you. Free us from pride of self that we may live in community with one another and with all your people. Free us from fear of the principalities and powers of this world that we may live and speak with courage, guided by your Spirit. Keep us rooted and grounded in your love, and fill us with the power of your Spirit. Be gloried in our life together; through Jesus our risen Savior. Amen.”

See you in church! Blessings always!

Jack

## COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

For the first time this year we have had a few days in a row with temperatures in the 60-degree range. This means that Spring is right around the corner and it cannot come too rapidly to suit me! Soon we will be celebrating Palm Sunday, then Easter and along with these Church celebration events come sunny days and the season's message of renewal.

Speaking of renewal, the Property sub-group has met and they are in the process of lining up contractors for the work that will be done to the Fireside Room and the lighting enhancement to the Choir Loft. As I noted last month, we will also be doing some work to the Courtyard adjacent to the Parlor and Fellowship Hall.

The Eight-To-Eat groups are set and will soon be enjoying meals together at each other's homes and restaurants in the area. It's a great way to get to know your fellow members and have a good time while doing it.

Lastly, I am also looking for one or two persons to help with the Nominating Committee. Most of the work is done by telephone in the Fall, but we have to set up the committee at this time of the year. If you are interested, please contact me at home (860-225-1124) or e-mail me at [donrober1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donrober1@sbcglobal.net). Thank you.

Don Robertson  
Church Council Chair

### UPCOMING CHURCH MEETING DATES

May 3 Endowment Meeting, 3:30 pm  
May 4 Missions and Congregational Life Meeting, 7 pm  
May 11 Diaconate and Worship Meeting, 7 pm  
May 17 Aston Fund Meeting, 10 am  
May 25 Council Meeting



### FIRST CHURCH SOFTBALL

If you are between the ages of 16 and 99 . . . Please come join the First Church Softball Team. Games are played Monday and Wednesday nights with the NEWBRAIC (formerly NEWBRACC) League. Please see Peter Gacek after Church, if you are interested in joining or for more information.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*It's That Time Again!*

Graduation season is just around the corner. If someone in your family is reaching that milestone this year, please email me the information by May 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be published in the June, First Church newsletter. Please include their name, son/daughter of, (or mother /father of!), where they are graduating from and what their plan is after graduation.

It may seem like it happened a loooong time ago, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the participants of the Palm Sunday children's presentation. The adults and the young people, the behind the scene volunteers and the main characters, you were wonderful! And a special thank you to **Jim Gower**, who wrote both the music and the lyrics to our song "Hosanna to the King of Kings". It was beautiful!

Registration forms for this summer's "**Good News Clues Detective Camp**" will be available in the church office beginning Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Camp dates are July 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. Spaces are limited and enrollment will become open to non-church members on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

As always, our church school students will be playing a major role in the worship service on Children's Sunday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. We will begin working on the material and assigning parts during class time May 2<sup>nd</sup>, and every Sunday after that – with the exception of Memorial Day weekend. Please make every effort to have your child(ren) be here if they would like to participate. They can do some amazing things...but only if they know their parts!

Wow! Congratulations to Andrew Baker, Audrey Belliveau, Evan Belliveau, Travis Lavigne, Hannah Mangan, Nicole Perrotta, Megan Perrotta, Sarah Perrotta and Austin Zemsta for perfect church school attendance in the month of March! Keep up the good work!

See you in church,  
Sharon Chamberlain  
Coordinator of Christian Education

### YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

- The Youth Group from First Church and Berlin Congregational will be participating in *Rebuilding Together* on April 24, 2010 and have 9 going, so far.
- Youth Group will meet in May, at Berlin Congregational.

## CHURCH NEWS

### OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

Kirsty Naples had her twin girls first thing Wednesday morning, March 31<sup>st</sup>, via c-section. Lisa Emma is 6 pounds and 12 ounces and Isla Joy is 5 pounds and 11 ounces. Everyone is fine and should come home today, Easter Sunday. Congratulations to everyone and especially Big Brother Cameron.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Ruth Gobar, who passed away on Friday, April 9, 2010. Funeral services were held this past Wednesday, April 14, 2010.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

On Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, First Church will be having their "Huge Tag Sale". In order to make this event run smoothly and raise money for the church, we will need your help both before the sale and on the day of the sale. There will be a sign up sheet in the office – you will only have to give a couple hours each day that you volunteer. Please help make this a successful event for our church.

Tag Sale Committee

### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SUNDAY

On Pentecost Sunday, May 23, we shall give and receive our annual Strengthen the Church Special Mission Offering. This is one of our four United Church of Christ annual offerings intended to help build our denominational future. Strengthen the Church grows the UCC by funding The Stillspeaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation—especially among women and people of color. Directed to our own CT Conference, Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry, these gifts help invigorate congregations, foster new leaders, and grow the UCC's presence as a community of extravagant welcome. Please give generously on May 23—the birthday of the Christian Church!

### NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

We hope to receive new members into our family of faith in the near future. If you would like to join First Church at this time (or would like to consider membership), please contact Rev. Cook or call the church office at 860-229-3709. All are invited!

### OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY

We continue to be blessed by your generous donations. Thank you all for 14 bags of groceries this month. We continue to collect cereal, baby food and jelly. Next month we will be collecting soap, powder, toothpaste, deodorant, suntan lotion and food.

### 2010 OPEN DATES FOR MEMORIAL FLOWERS

The fourth Sunday of August and the first Sunday of April are now available as permanent, annual, openings for memorial altar flowers. The fifth Sunday of August and fifth Sunday of October are open for this year only. Please contact the church office (860-229-3709) if you are interested in any of these dates. Thank you.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHURCH GROWTH

**Can our church grow?** Recent demographic studies indicate that 60-75% of the population in our Connecticut communities are “de-churched”—people who have grown up in the church but left it as adults. Even though they do not attend church regularly, the majority of these folks describe themselves as “spiritual,” meaning they believe in God, they pray regularly, and they read the Bible and participate in some kind of regular devotional experience. Many of them say they would probably attend a church if someone they know invited them!

How can we reach out to the de-churched people in our community? Come to a Church Growth Workshop on Saturday, May 15, from 8:45-1:30 and find out! The workshop will be led by the Reverend Dr Michael Penn-Strah, our South Central Regional Minister. A sign-up sheet is at the front desk in the Church office

The Reverend Dr. Michael S. Penn-Strah has been our South Central Regional Minister of the Connecticut Conference since August 1, 2007. Dr. Penn-Strah received his M.Div from Chicago Theological Seminary and his Th.D. from Boston University. In more than 40 years as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ he has served suburban and inner-city congregations from 120-1200 members, including a new church start he co-pastored with his wife, Reverend Dr. Sara Penn-Strah.

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The early church, located in Asia Minor (now Turkey), lived among the pagans. They were a small minority with different beliefs and customs. Discover the passion and commitment early believers displayed, as they claimed Jesus in the face of fierce consequences and powerful adversaries. Yet, they would become a stronghold for God and Jesus. Certainly, they prospered (we’re here aren’t we?). How did they do it? Was their situation any different from ours? The effectiveness of the early believers is amazing and raises a host of questions with great implications for our world today.

Come and learn more . . . Mondays during April and May at 7:00 pm, in the parlor. Each Monday is self-contained, hence attending all sessions is not necessary. Ray Vanderlaan will be our guide on these excursions.

April 19 *The Salt of the Earth*, filmed in Sardis

April 26 NO CLASS

May 3 *Where Satan Lives*, filmed in Pergamum

May 10 *The Mark of the Beast*, filmed in Ephesus

May 17 *Hot or Cold*, filmed in Laodicea

May 24 *Fool Proof Living*

### "1754 SOCIETY" SPRING BRUNCH

All current and prospective members of the 1754 Society are invited to a brunch on Sunday, May 23 in the Fireside Room after church services. The event will begin at 11:30 a.m. and conclude at 1:00 p.m. Information about the 1754 Society will be presented and questions answered. There will also be a presentation about the history of First Church and a discussion on several current financial/estate planning topics. If you have any questions see Brendan Conry, Steve Anderson or Mike Gorzoch.

Please sign-up or contact the church office at 229-3709 by May 16.

~Mike Gorzoch

### FUN GARDENING RETURNS

Got a green thumb? The FUN gardening group is seeking serious gardeners to “farm” eight vegetable garden plots near the playground at church. Plant veggies for personal use, share produce with family and friends, or share that overly abundant zucchini crop with the food bank.

This year the soil is prepared for eight (6x9’ approx.) plots. Cost \$20. Plots are available on first come basis, so be sure to get further details and commit with Judy Robertson or Nancy Cook.



### SNEAKER SUNDAY MAY 2, 2010

Everyone can join the FIRST CHURCH Team! Thousands of people will be walking against hunger in Hartford’s Foodshare walk on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

First Church adults, families and youth will have the unique opportunity to walk against hunger here in New Britain on SNEAKER SUNDAY, May 2 at 11:30 am. Wear your walking shoes to church. We will leave FCC after church, walk to Walnut Hill Park, make the loop and return to church for a provided sandwich lunch. Walk the 2+ mile course or walk as far as you wish at your own pace. Can’t join us on walk day? No problem! All pledges will go to the Friendship Center to help end hunger in New Britain. SIGN UP AT COFFEE HOUR . . . First Church can make a difference! Questions . . . ask the FIRST CHURCH Team Tri-Captains, Sharon Chamberlain, Mabel Yeterian and Nancy Cook, or anyone on the the Missions and Congregational Life Working Group.

Did you know.....Friendship Center facts

- \$30 cost of food for 1 person per month
- 225 meals served each day in soup kitchen
- 61,400 meals served a year in all programs

## GET TO KNOW YOUR WORKING GROUPS: CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### CHURCH SCHOOL

The Bible tells us that Jesus was a teacher of religion. One of his final instructions to his disciples was to teach. And they have, for the past two-hundred years in the church school. We have a real learning situation here at our Church School, which we can be proud of and can boast about. One of our concerns is “How can we involve the church school in the total life of the church?” Attendance is monitored. We are ahead of last year – Thank you Parents.

### YOUTH

Young people have been part of the church from its earliest days. But youth groups didn't develop until youth were set free by child labor laws. Today, they gather for study, recreation, outreach and camaraderie. To make this possible, we have joined with Berlin Congregational Church. They meet here once a month and in Berlin the off month. This arrangement is working. This youth get along fine and we are blessed with two excellent advisors. Two questions we constantly keep in mind . . . (1) “Can youth make a difference in the whole church?” and (2) “What is the role of the youth group in our church?”

### ADULT

Teaching was a dominant part of Jesus' ministry. Whenever adults gather in our church, the opportunity for Adult Education can take place. At present, we have Adult Bible Study in the spring and fall. The videos are filmed in the Holy Land and have proven to be very interesting, however, the attendance has been very light. Adult Education could take other forms of Faith Exploration and explore such topics as grief, leisure, living single or divorced, or even world issues, such as hunger, economics, racism, sexism, etc. In the back of our minds are always the questions of “How could we develop adult education?” . . . “What does the congregation want?” . . . and “How do we recruit more adults?”

### CONFIRMATION

This is the practice of preparing young people for membership in our church. To better prepare the Confirmands for membership, we have changed the requirements. We now have two sessions. Classes will begin October 3<sup>rd</sup> and will include Bible, God and the Holy Spirit. The second session starts in January and covers The Christian Way, Our Church, and Our Denomination.

### THANK YOU

Sharon Chamberlain – Coordinator of Christian Education  
Sarah Flythe - Coordinator of Youth Programming  
You both make our Christian Education the best in the state!

From the Christian Education Committee:

Julie Lavigne  
Scott Mangan  
Carolyn McElravey

Gina Ohanesian  
Kim Perrotta  
Charlie Slate

## DIACONATE WORSHIP AND GROWTH WORKING GROUP (DWAGWG)

Greetings from the DWAGWG,

The DWAGWG has made progress on a number of initiatives that have been in discussion over the past few months:

- Planning is under way for the Church Growth workshop on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We are still looking for about 15 additional people to attend the workshop so that we can customize the workshop to the needs of First Church. Please sign up in the church office or call the church office to be added to the list.
- The Music sub-group has been formed. Thank you to Peter Gacek, Merrily Gere, Evelyn Berg and Sarah Flythe for your willingness to serve on the Music sub-group.
- We have made progress on forming a Pastoral Relations working group. The names of the nominees will be presented at the April council meeting.

Lastly, we have been working on a framework/strategy so that we, as a church community, can be responsive to our members in need, such as, providing a ride to church, a personal visit, a phone call, flower delivery or even an occasional hot meal. Currently, the church office has no formal way to manage and communicate these needs to church members in a timely manner. Our goal is to form a pool of volunteers who can provide assistance, on an occasional basis, to members in need. We hope to establish a call tree or email network with 2 or 3 point people who will be contacted by the church office with specific requests for assistance. Again, it involves a brief contact to a member in need as the opportunity arises. If you have an interest in serving with this group, please contact Joni Anderson-Senk, Rev. Jack, me or anyone on the DWAGWG.

~ Bill Allen

On behalf of the DWAGWG members: Mike Chamberlain, Lois Zink, Peter Gacek, Joni Anderson-Senk, Sylvia Lucas, Mike Gorzoch, Mitch Miller, Steve Anderson and Meg Nieman.



# HUGE TAG SALE

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST  
830 CORBIN AVENUE  
NEW BRITAIN, CT



DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 22  
(RAIN DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 5)  
TIME: 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

RENT A SPACE FOR \$15 TO SELL YOUR GOODS  
(SUBMIT “RENTAL SPACE” FORM TO CHURCH)

OR

DROP OFF DONATIONS FOR THE CHURCH TO SELL  
WEEK OF MAY 16 (SUN. & MON. - THURS. 9 AM-1 PM)\*

\*Call Church Office (860-229-3709) if another time is needed.

Please only bring items that are in “sellable” condition

# SPACE RENTAL

FIRST CHURCH TAG SALE – MAY 22  
9 A. M. - 2 P.M.

COST: \$15

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: CASH \_\_\_\_  
CHECK PAYABLE TO FIRST CHURCH \_\_\_\_

WILL VEHICLE BE NEEDED IN SPACE?  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

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## RENTAL CONDITIONS

- 1) Set-up time is on date of sale from 7 a.m. – 8 a.m.
- 2) Renters are responsible for bringing all their own equipment (tables, chairs, etc.)
- 3) Renters are responsible for removal / disposal of any unsold items.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Lily Dedications

## Easter 2010

### *In Loving Memory of*

Andrew and Anna Aharonian  
Kimberly Alvarez  
Herbert E. and Irene Anderson  
Nancy and Norm Arenander  
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Reed Blake  
Donald Lindsey Booth (Son)  
Warren Lindsey Booth (Husband)  
Richard Y. Brown  
Thelma K. Buckley  
Kathryn Canora  
Jim and Freda Carlos  
Patricia Carter  
Charles Clapp  
Corey Colburn  
Dorothy Colburn  
Thomas J. Conry  
Gus and Ruth Controvellos  
Dr. and Mrs. Edward Dorian  
George Edward Dorian  
A. Stanley Duncan  
Catherine W. Duncan  
Bobby Faits  
Nicholas Faits  
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Flagg  
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Flagg  
Henrietta Frawley  
James Fulton  
Ethel S. Gane  
Lucille Gemmell  
Thomas Gemmell  
Thomas Gemmell  
Walter B. Gerould  
Hank Govertsen

### *Given by*

Don and Margo Hunt  
Don and Margo Hunt  
The Anderson Family  
Susan and John Rathgeber  
Walter and Lois MacFarlane  
Margaret H. Booth  
Margaret H. Booth  
The Furman Family  
Karel Buckley  
John, Karen and Jill Canora  
Phil and Margo Madore  
Betsy Turbacuski  
Don and Judy Robertson  
Samantha Baird  
Samantha Baird  
Carol and Brendan Conry  
Charles Mangan, Jr.  
Carol Dorian Calvert  
Carol Dorian Calvert  
Ted and Ann Duncan  
Ted and Ann Duncan  
Michael & AnneMarie Duncan  
Michael & AnneMarie Duncan  
B. J. Duguay & M/M R. Hallin  
B. J. Duguay & M/M R. Hallin  
Lorraine Corfiati  
Betsy Turbacuski  
Betty Sweeney  
John and Wendy Gemmell  
John and Wendy Gemmell  
Jim and Laurie Wilson  
Clara Ellen & Horace Van Dorn  
The Sisco Family

### *In Loving Memory of*

Leon Grant  
Violet Lucy Grigorian  
George and Ethel Horn  
Anna Phillips Holcombe  
Anita L. Hunt  
Esther G. Johnson  
Lillian Kappock  
Nazli Kerekian  
Violet Kitson  
Grace Duncan Lumm  
Mr. and Mrs. Hector MacFarlane  
Dick and Jeanne Madore  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Mangan, Sr.  
Jean Mangan  
John and Dorothy Minnicucci  
Anthony J. Monterosso  
Harry Zaven Najarian  
Suzanne Newton  
Sophie Petrisko  
Edwin Potter  
John C. Pritchard  
Helene and Adam Rathgeber  
Mildred Holcombe Riley  
Tom and Ellen Robertson  
Henry and Gladys Schragger  
Sandra Ann Schragger (Daughter)  
Edward B. Scott  
Ethel B. and Alexander H. Scott  
Hilda Steele  
Doris S. and John W. Sweeney  
Jack and Betty Tattersall  
Stanley Turbacuski  
Eleanor Van Dorn  
The Wehrli – Zemsta Families  
Geraldine Wermann  
Dwight Wilson  
Edith Wilson  
James M. Wilson, M.D.  
Yeterian Family

### *Given by*

Betsy Turbacuski  
Margaret & Martin G. Depoian  
Margaret H. Booth  
Lois Leavenworth  
Don and Margo Hunt  
Sylvia Wilson Lucas  
Ted and Ann Duncan  
Edward Kerekian  
Karel Buckley  
Ted and Ann Duncan  
Walter and Lois MacFarlane  
Phil and Margo Madore  
B. J. Duguay & M/M R. Hallin  
Charles Mangan, Jr.  
Charles Mangan, Jr.  
Don and Margo Hunt  
Michael Najarian  
Rene and Dody  
Schragger & Petrisko Families  
The Sisco Family  
Carol and Brendan Conry  
Susan and John Rathgeber  
Lois Leavenworth  
Don and Judy Robertson  
Parents of June, Joyce and Jay  
Sister of June, Joyce and Jay  
Helen Scott  
Helen Scott  
Grove Steele  
Betty Sweeney  
Michael Najarian  
Betsy Turbacuski  
Clara Ellen & Horace Van Dorn  
Patty and Mike Zemsta  
Kathy Allen  
Jim and Laurie Wilson  
Jim and Laurie Wilson  
Sylvia Wilson Lucas  
Mary Yeterian and family

