

## CHURCH NEWS

Vol. 63, No. 12

# 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)

**DECEMBER 2015**



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

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

### NEW CHURCH SEXTON

After reviewing applicants and holding interviews, the Personnel Committee, Karen Canora, Mike Duncan and Beth Sticca, along with Kendrick and Steve Csinsi, Chair of Building and Grounds, have selected a new Church Sexton. Glenn Anderson will replace Bill Furman, when he retires on December 31, 2015. Glenn, who has been an active church member and vital part of the First Church Family, will be welcomed into our First Church Staff, as well.

***“ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE.”***

*Ephesians 3:17*

## GREETINGS FROM THE PASTOR: CHRISTMAS HOSPITALITY

Advent is the time when we begin our spiritual journey to the manger. It's a journey that is most often filled with nostalgia, hope and joy. However, the first Christmas was not quite as romantic as we've made it. The world was not very hospitable to Mary and her child—no warm bed or bath, a mad dash to Egypt to escape Herod's evil plans, and ultimately a cross. Except for the years in Nazareth, the Gospel tells of a homeless existence of a man relying on the temporary and tentative hospitality of friends and strangers.

Christmas, we like to believe, is a time to be at home, a time to open our homes to family and a time to welcome and be welcomed by friends and acquaintances. Yet the occasion for all this hospitality is a story about homelessness. Far too many people around the world have no home. The warm comfort of hearth and home is an exception rather than the rule. Many are refugees, many are soldiers, many are too poor, many are alone in nursing homes, and many are mentally ill and homeless. Some have homes that look merry enough on the outside but suffer from self hatred, domestic violence or grief. The tragic fact is that in so many ways this world is still as inhospitable as it was to Mary and Joseph.

But Christmas is about God's initiative and God's hospitality. John Calvin, the great French reformer of Geneva in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, reminds us:

We see what a start God's son enjoyed, what a cradle received Him. Such was his manner of birth, for He had put on our flesh to the end that He might empty himself for our sake. So He was pushed into a stable and lodged in a manger, denied a place of hospitality among people, that Heaven may lie open to us, not only a place in which to lodge, but as an eternal home—a land and inheritance, that that angels should receive us to dwell with Him.

God offers to us a home, a membership in a family, and a community that is eternal: "My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people (Ezek 37:27; see also Rev. 21:3). Deep within our souls, God's gracious acceptance and warm welcome naturally gives rise to the joyous and hearty singing of Christmas carols: "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come."

But there is more. God's hospitality also stands as a Christmas judgment upon us—that the world "mourns in lonely exile here." God's hospitality stands as a Christmas call to us—to search out and welcome our homeless sisters and brothers here and around the world in whom Christ still greets us. "Let every heart prepare Him (Christ) room." Also, let every heart prepare a welcome for those most in need. Make such sharing and giving a family Christmas tradition and give generously to our Adopt-A-Family mission, Sock Basket, Osgood Food Pantry "holiday essentials" collection, Christmas Offering for Family Promise and UCC Christmas Fund collection for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. Together we can welcome in very tangible ways those who have been cast aside as the Holy Family was so many years ago.  
In Christ's love, Kendrick

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Fa La La La La in Fellowship Hall!

Mark your calendars for the annual **Advent Workshop! Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 6 p.m.** If you have attended before than you know what a great time is had by all ages – if you haven't, now's your chance! Food, crafts, music, and **FELLOWSHIP!** Soup and sandwiches will be available for \$2 a person, crafts for \$3 a person, and wreath making for adults for \$5 each. See you there!

During worship on **Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** the children of First Church will present their Christmas Program entitled "Mary Did You Know?" We hope you'll enjoy the seasonal story!

Sharon Chamberlain  
Coordinator of Christian Education



### MUSIC ALL AROUND!

Some tuneful invitations for YOU:

- Breakfast Concert, Sunday, December 6 at 11:30 a.m. MIKE LEONA, tenor. Mike is our Choir's Tenor Section Leader. He is graduating from CCSU this month, and will be moving to North Carolina where he will be studying nursing at Duke University. Come and hear highlights from his recent spectacular Senior Recital, and thank him for his great service to our choir!
- Please note the new time for our annual Lessons & Carols service, at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 20. The Choir is working very hard to prepare an afternoon of beautiful music. Invite friends and neighbors! **Readers are needed** for this service! Please contact me ASAP to volunteer, or when I contact you, please say "YES!"
- The Choir invites all who would like to join us to sing on Christmas Eve. We will meet to rehearse at 9:00 p.m., and sing at the 10:00 p.m. service. So that we will be ready for you, please let me know no later than Sunday, December 20.

Merry Christmas to all!  
Jim Gower  
musicfcc830@gmail.com  
Or call 860.229.3709

## LEADERSHIP 2015

(Who, me?)



### SOCIAL AND SERVICE CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, Social and Service will have their annual Christmas luncheon at 12 noon. Baked ham will be served and guests are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share with the group.

Following lunch, we will have our “Twas the Night Before Christmas” grab bag (please purchase a gift with a value of up to \$10) and we will then do a service project for our shut-ins from our church. All are welcome – please come and share in our fellowship!

~ June McCarthy and Judy Robertson

### MISSIONS & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE . . . CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



### ADOPT-A-FAMILY GIFTS

Once again we will participate in the “Adopt-A-Family” program sponsored by the Friendship Center. With our help, we can help families in our community have a joyous holiday by providing gifts, which will be given to clients in their Outreach program. Look for our “gift tree” in the Narthex during Advent for gift ideas.



### 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 26 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

THE 148<sup>TH</sup> Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ, was held October 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> at Newington High School, Newington. CT.

The Friday evening section of the meeting was highlighted by an address by Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Rev. Dorhauer spoke of his personal Call to serve Christ, first as a Roman Catholic seminarian and then as a UCC ordained minister serving in several Missouri churches and later as the Southwest Conference’s Conference Minister. Rev. Dorhauer spoke about leadership, this conference’s theme, and to paraphrase him; “Years ago leadership came from a well-educated clergy that was fully prepared for it. However, in these times, this no longer works by itself and leadership now must be creative, and innovative to not only deploy these leaders but also in the way we prepare them for their life’s calling.”

On the Saturday morning session, Rev. Kent J. Saladi, the Connecticut Conference Minister, echoed Rev. Dorhauer’s sentiments and added that we must work together, not only in our churches, but between churches and even conferences. For example, there is now a Southern New England agreement that will be used by the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences to have missions, work groups and other conference-related work performed jointly in regional, national and even international settings. Rev. Kent also talked of Leadership Development and Congregational Vitality. What are they? Rev. Kent defines the former as “**To identify, affirm, nurture, network and build the capacity of clergy and lay leaders.**” The latter is identified as “**How are our churches making an impact on the community and the wider world?**” Both issues are “food for thought” for all congregations!

There was only one resolution this year (I’ve personally seen as many as ten at a conference meeting). It was submitted by the Rocky Hill Congregational Church and it concerned adult adoptees being given “the right to access their original birth records and true and accurate information” about their origins. The motion passed, but not unanimously, and now goes to the UCC National Synod for consideration (see me for more info if you’re concerned).

It has been my honor to represent First Church for approximately eight Annual Conferences in total. The format of the meetings is changing and a new once-a-year Annual Meeting will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 10 and 11, 2016, at a site to be announced. I encourage all that are interested to sign up for the next conference and witness the loving, caring and joyful experiences that only this conference can give. God’s Work and Spirit at these events must truly be experienced!

**Who, me? Yes, YOU!**

Don Robertson,  
Delegate



### IN OUR FIRST CHURCH FAMILY

- Our thoughts and prayers are with Millie Crumb who is recovering after a recent hospitalization. Cards can be sent to 22 Overlook Ave, New Britain, CT 06053.

This is an opportunity 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. A birthday list and birthday cards will be provided, also.



### WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> we received new members Amanda and Stephen Costa, who live in New Britain and attend with their toddler, Raelyn. Please welcome them to First Church!



### FIRST CHURCH WEDDINGS

In the past month we've had First Church members get married here and at other locations. Our congratulations, prayers and best wishes are with the following:

- Justice and Edwin Irizarry, who were married on October 23, 2015, here at First Church of Christ.
- John and Alexandra Thomas, who were married on October 24, 2015 in Pomfret, CT. John Jr., is the son of members Kathy Thomas and John Thomas, Sr. and grandson of Tom and Joan Thomas.
- Kristen and Alexander Hadded, who were married in Groton on November 14, 2015. Kristen is the daughter of Joni Anderson Senk and niece of Nancy Anderson and Joy and Glenn Anderson.



### THE OSGOOD FOOD PANTRY . . . NEEDS AND THANK YOU!

For November we asked members to bring in "Thanksgiving Food Items" to be donated to the Osgood Food Pantry. We collected stuffing, canned green beans, corn and sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce as well as pasta and other staples. Thank you!

During December we will be collecting similar items, **Holiday Meal Fixings** . . . see below for suggestions. As always, any and all donations are welcome Sunday and during office hours.

### Holiday Essentials

PEAS  
 CORN  
 YAMS  
 CARROTS  
 LIMA BEANS  
 PEARL ONIONS  
 GREEN BEANS  
 TURKEY GRAVY  
 CANNED APPLES  
 CANNED PUMPKIN  
 MASHED POTATOES  
 GIFT CARDS FOR TURKEY  
 NAP



### COOKIE WALK

Back by popular demand, on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> we will be having a "cookie walk" in Fellowship Hall following the worship service. This will be your chance to purchase delicious home-made cookies for Christmas from our wonderful First Church bakers! Please contact Judy Robertson if you would like to participate in this event, either by baking or helping out on the day of the event.

# Candlelight Festival of Lessons & Carols

Traditional Christmas carols sung by the congregation,  
old and new Christmas anthems sung by the choir,  
familiar Scripture readings telling the ancient and ever-new  
story of the birth of Jesus.

**Sunday, December 20**

**4:00 p.m.**

*Light supper follows in the Fireside Room.*

## NOTE the NEW TIME!

As an outreach to the Greater New Britain community, we are offering this program in the afternoon, rather than the morning service as we've done in the past. This is your opportunity to invite family, friends, and neighbors to take an hour out of the hectic season to:

*sing the carols  
enjoy the music  
reflect on the meaning of Christmas  
share fellowship of a meal together*



## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas Offering has been designated, this year, to go to Family Promise; to help with organizing and providing necessary resources to begin their program which will help homeless families in the area. This offering is collected at the Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, service and there is a special envelope marked "Christmas Offering" in your box of giving envelopes. If you do not have these, a special envelope will be included in the bulletin for you to use.



## THE UCC CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

On Christmas Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, we will give and receive our annual gifts to The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund—a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that grants us an opportunity to recognize and honor those who have served and continue to serve in lay and authorized ministries of the United Church of Christ. The offering has been collected for 111 years; and because of the generosity of UCC congregations and individuals, the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program was able to provide assistance and directly impact the lives of 900 persons during 2012.

These special funds are used for: Christmas thank-you checks given to retired clergy/lay church employees; monthly pension supplementation and quarterly health insurance supplementation for lower-income retired UCC clergy/lay employees; emergency grants for active or retired UCC clergy/lay employees. Please give generously by using the special offering envelopes that will be inserted into our worship bulletins on Sundays, December 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.



## ANNUAL MEETING

Please save the date . . . our Annual Meeting and lunch will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2016, following Worship.



### **FOOD BASKETS FOR THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM**

We will, again, provide Thanksgiving food baskets to five families of the Outreach Program of the Friendship Center, thanks to First Church members. Thank you to those who stopped by the table in the Fireside Room during coffee hour and picked up food item cards. A reminder that these items are due TODAY, Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you again for helping make Thanksgiving a special day for our neighbors in need. ~Missions & Congregational Life

### **MOMS WISH LIST TREE**

Thank you again to all who donated to the MOMS wish list tree. Our church has had a long association with the MOMS program. We were able to collect diapers, creams and wipes, potty seats, adult toiletries, gloves/mittens, hats, women's slipper socks and children's underwear. We also received 15-20 coats, plus hats and mittens, from the coat drive. Thank you again for showing them our care and support.

### **PRAYER SHAWL THANKS**

In a thank you note addressed to the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Polly Chamberlain, Mike's sister and Sharon's sister-in-law, wrote . . . "The prayer shawl you sent, via my sister-in-law Sharon, is so very beautiful! I also appreciate the sentiments of being strengthened and blessed that came with it."

### **LEAF RAKING THANKS**

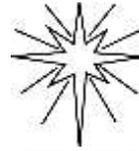
Thank you to everyone who came out for leaf raking on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turn-out and a lot was accomplished. Many hands made for light work. ~ Steve Csinsi and Bill Furman

### **ANNIVERSARY THANKS**

In a thank you note from George and Gail Najarian, they wrote "It was a pleasant surprise to receive so many well wishes from our Church family on our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Give everyone a hearty thanks and Happy Thanksgiving to all."

### **THANK YOU FROM THE BELANGERS**

In a thank you note from Jason and James Belanger, they wrote to the Hospitality / Funeral Committee to thank them "for all your help setting up, serving and cleaning up throughout the luncheon after our mother's service. We greatly appreciate all of your generosity and kindness."



### **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

On December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10 pm, please join us for a Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Carols, Candles and Communion. The special Christmas Offering will go to Family Promise.



### **BREAD BAKING!**

Thank you to Joyce Anderson, Lois Zink, Amanda Costa, Margo Hunt and Joyce Furman for baking during the month of November. Lois MacFarlane will be baking for Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, Justice Bowser will be baking for Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, Mary Norris will be baking for Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, Amanda Costa will be baking for Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Arlyd Munoz-Snyder will be baking for Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and Teri Grecki will be baking for Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Bakers are needed for Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and all Sundays (except 2/7/16 and 2/14/16) 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.



### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

The deadline for the submission of annual reports is Friday, December 18, 2015, at 10:00 am. This is also the deadline for the January newsletter. Please send them by e-mail (firstnewbritain@snet.net), if possible. This gives me about two week's time to get them done, factoring out the Christmas holidays. They will be handed out to members on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact me at 860-229-3709 or at firstnewbritain@snet.net. Thank you! ~ Kristine Lewko, Office Manger



### FROM THE FINANCIAL CLERK . . .

- **CONTRIBUTIONS . . .** Please remember that all contributions must be in the Church office or postmarked no later than December 31, 2015, in order to be shown on your 2015 Giving Statement for tax purposes. Many thanks to all who support the church's finances.
- **2016 PLEDGE ENVELOPES . . .** Dear Friends and Supporters of First Church: In an effort to be better stewards of the church's funds and of the environment, we will continue the change, made for last year's Giving Envelopes, associated with your pledges. If you pledged to contribute weekly, you will still receive the boxed envelopes, as we have used in the past. If your pledge is for monthly, quarterly, or annual giving, you will be receiving a packet of envelopes. The quantity will be determined by your pledging frequency. Feel free, at any time, to request additional envelopes for your contributions - simply leave a note with your name and address or giving number in the Sunday collection plate or email / send a note to our Financial Clerk, Bernie Prue, fccnb830accounts@snet.net. It is possible that your giving number may change to accommodate this, but your giving history will be moved to the new number.



### 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!



### 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.



### NAME TAGS

Name tags are in the Narthex and we ask that you take a minute to fill one out and wear it each Sunday morning. This will be helpful to members and visitors, since we are beginning a new program year and have some new and returning faces in church.



### PLEASE USE OUR SUNSHINE POST OFFICE

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

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



### CALLING ALL USHERS AND READERS FOR DECEMBER!

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 are still needed for December and a reader is needed for December 27<sup>th</sup>. 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



### NOMINATING

It's nominating time again and we are beginning to work on the Nominating Slate for 2016. Maybe you're 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 have you included on one. Please talk to me at coffee hour about Working Group opportunities.

Karen Canora



Dear Friend,

It's that time of year and the New Britain-Berlin Rotary Club is selling Holiday wreaths for \$25. These wreaths are made of fresh greens and adorned with bright artificial red apples, pine cones and a large red bow. They are 20-22 inches in diameter and are decorated by workers at CW Resources, a vocational program for workers with disabilities. The funds raised from the sale of these wreaths go toward scholarships for graduating high school seniors from New Britain and Berlin. Our club awards over \$10,000 in scholarships every year. We also support the Rotary-Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Meal drive.

Place your order with me and I will personally deliver your wreath(s) shortly after Thanksgiving. Your checks may be made out to "New Britain-Berlin Rotary Club".

Thank you for your support of this important program.

Michael G. Gorzoch  
Rotary club of New Britain-Berlin  
mikegorzoch@aol.com  
860-612-0305



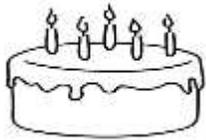
### DECEMBER 2015 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> Tai Chi, meets Tuesday afternoons at 1 pm
- Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> NB Women's Club & Adult Choir Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm
- Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> Carillon Prelude, Second Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and Advent Workshop 4 – 6 pm with Soup and Sandwich Supper
- Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour Program, Kendrick Norris: A Fresh Look at the Christmas Story
- Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> Deadline for Poinsettia orders
- Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> Newsletter Deadline and Annual Reports Due, 10 am
- Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent, Men's Breakfast, 8:30 am, Christmas Fund offering, Children's Program, Council meeting and Festival of Lessons and Carols, 4 pm
- Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> No Tai Chi
- Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve (Office closes at noon), 9 pm Choir and 10 pm Christmas Eve Worship, Communion and Christmas Offering
- Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Merry Christmas!
- Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> Building closed for the holidays through January 4<sup>th</sup>
- Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> First Sunday after Christmas, Worship in the Sanctuary, Sunday School and Retirement Party for Bill
- Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup> No Tai Chi
- Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve

*Reminder . . . we will have very limited office hours from December 29<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, PLEASE call before coming in.*



Our thoughts, prayers and best wishes are with Betty Sweeney, who celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday, November 16, 2015.



**HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING**

- 3 KRISTINE LEWKO
- 4 DAMIEN RODRUGUEZ
- 6 JACK NEUMANN
- 7 PETER OSHANA
- 8 MOLLY CHAMBERLAIN
- 11 STACY DORR
- 13 STANLEY HELBERG
- 14 NANCY AUST
- 15 JAKE TERRIO  
CONNOR McELRAVY
- 16 PENELOPE PEASE  
DON ROBERTSON
- 17 GARY TRZASKO  
REV. JACK COOK
- 18 JEFFREY COOK
- 20 ANN CALVERT
- 22 KATHLEEN THOMAS
- 27 JONATHAN SNYDER



*Wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful,  
Happy and Healthy New Year!  
~From everyone at First Church*



**MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS**

Orders are now being accepted for Memorial Poinsettias, which will be placed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. A few plants will remain through Epiphany, others will be delivered to those who have been sick or cannot come to church, or you may choose to take yours home. If you would like to make a \$12.00 contribution to the flower fund, in remembrance of a loved one, please fill out the form below and return it with your check payable to First Church of Christ, by Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The names of these people will be listed in the December 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Worship Bulletins and the January Newsletter. Thank you.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You may deliver my plant(s) to a shut in:      Yes                      No

I want to take my plant(s) home:                      Yes                      No

## DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi  7:30 pm. AA (men only)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> New Britain Women's Club Program  7:30 pm. Adult Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6 ~ Second Sunday of Advent and Communion Sunday</b> 9:45 Carillon Prelude 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour Breakfast Concert, Mike Leona 4 – 6 pm Advent Workshop, with Soup and Sandwich Supper 7:00 pm. Alanon	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9:15 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi  7:30 pm. AA (men only)	<b>9</b> 12:00 pm. Social and Service Christmas Party	<b>10</b> 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13 ~ Third Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour with Kendrick, "A Fresh Look at the Christmas Story" 7:00 pm. Alanon	<b>14</b> 10 am. Poinsettia Order Deadline	<b>15</b> 10:00 am. Staff Meeting 1:00 pm. Tai Chi  7:30 pm. AA (men only)	<b>16</b> 9-noon NB Women's Club Board	<b>17</b> 7:30 pm. Adult Choir	<b>18</b> 10 am. Newsletter Deadline  10 am. Deadline for Annual Reports	<b>19</b>
<b>20 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent, Children's Program, Festival of Lessons and Carols and Christmas Fund Offering</b> 8:30 am. Men's Breakfast 10:00 am. Children's Program in the Sanctuary 11:15 am. Council meeting  4:00 pm. Festival of Lessons and Carols and Supper 7:00 pm. Alanon	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 am. Staff Meeting No Tai Chi  7:30 pm. AA (men only)	<b>23</b>	<b>24 ~ Christmas Eve, Building Closes at noon</b>  9 pm. Adult Choir 10 pm. Christmas Eve Worship, Communion and Christmas Offering	<b>25 ~ Building Closed, Merry Christmas!</b>	<b>26</b> Building Closed for the holidays through January 4 <sup>th</sup>
<b>27 ~ First Sunday After Christmas</b> 10:00 am. Worship in the Sanctuary and Sunday School 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hour Retirement Party for Bill Furman 12:00 noon New Jerusalem 7:00 pm. Alanon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> No Tai Chi	<b>30</b>	<b>31 ~ New Year's Eve</b>	<b>Jan. 1 ~ Building Closed, Happy New Year!</b>	

*Reminder . . . we will have very limited office hours from December 28<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>, PLEASE call before coming in. Thank you!*