

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MANSFIELD – January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:15am Worship	2	3	4 7pm Heartsong 1:00pm-2:30 Book Group	5 7:00pm Choir	6	7 9am-2pm League of Women Voters
8 9am 1 st Hour – Awakening of Hope 10:15am Worship	9 9am – Noon-Sewing & Service	10 10am Service for Louise Hawkins 7pm Ministry Leadership Teams Meet	11 1:00pm-2:30 Book Group	12 7:00pm Choir	13	14
15 9am 1 st Hour – Awakening of Hope 10:15am Worship 2 nd Hour – Guest Speakers from Natchaug Hospital	16	17	18 1:00pm-2:30 Book Group	19 7:00pm Choir	20 1pm-3pm Set-Up & Prep for Breakfast	21 7am-11 3 rd Saturday Breakfast
22 9am 1 st Hour – Awakening of Hope 10:15am Worship 2 nd Hour – Budget Meeting	23	24	25 1:00PM-2:30 Book Group 6:30pm Steering Committee	26 7:00pm Choir	27	28
29 9am 1 st Hour – Awakening of Hope 10:15am Worship immediately followed by Congregational Meeting	30	31				

JANUARY PASTORAL CARE

Ann will be traveling from January 6th - 21st, vacationing in Spain with Tom as part of his sabbatical period. The Steering Committee has discussed this with Ann and Joe, and Joe will be covering his usual responsibilities as well as pastoral care emergencies. Joe can be reached at **608-354-3686**. She'll be traveling domestically in February and March also; exact dates will be communicated in a timely manner.

BEHAVIORAL COVENANT REVIEW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The three Ministry Teams spent time at a retreat in November reviewing the church's behavioral covenant and discussing its applications. Consensus emerged that the basic concepts and terms are well stated and remain appropriate. There was agreement that we need to increase awareness of its provisions. The teams also felt that it would be more appropriate if the supplemental "suggestions for living into the Covenant", which primarily address the Church's decision-making procedures should be made into a separate operational policy. Further, the Church would benefit from having a clear dispute resolution procedure which could be added to the current Safe Church policy. Deb Richards agreed to chair an ad hoc committee to develop those policy proposals. Anyone interested in participating in that effort should contact Deb at debrichards@charter.net.

MINISTRY OF CARING MISSION ACTIVITY

Mission activities at First Church of Christ are part of Caring Ministry. We are charged with keeping the congregation informed of human needs, locally and globally. We have an annual budget of \$3000 which is distributed among local organizations. There is a liaison from First Church to each of the local organizations we support. Among these organizations are the Covenant Soup Kitchen, the Domestic Violence Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, the Holy Family Shelter, Mansfield Human Services, Natchaug Hospital, the No Freeze Shelter, the Windham Access Agency and Windham Area Interfaith Ministry (WAIM). In addition to financial contributions, we promote congregational participation in the area-wide activities that support the missions of these organizations. We collect and distribute food, clothing, furnishings and supplies to local organizations and individuals in need. To meet our global responsibilities, we help the congregation participate in United Church of Christ (UCC) fund raising campaigns such as Neighbors in Need, Church World Service, and One Great Hour of Sharing.

We thank Julie Menard for help from the Community Engagement Program at the Department of Social Services for distribution of the items we collect.

It is our plan for this year to have members of the local organizations attend a Second Hour to present to us the mission and services of their programs.

On January 15, 2017, we will have a presentation by Natchaug Hospital. Thank you to Carol Drescher for arranging this opportunity to learn about the services provided by Natchaug Hospital and how FCC might help them in their efforts.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: HELP BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER HOST A FELLOWSHIP HOUR

As we look ahead to 2017, we think about the process of building the Beloved Community. There are no shortcuts - people need to spend time getting to know each other, caring for each other, and learning to reconcile differences. Hosting a fellowship hour is one way to encourage people to take time to chat with each other after church. That helps us build a strong community. If you'd like to help in this way, go to our [online sign-up sheet](#) or just reply to this email with your availability for any Sunday in 2017.

Joe is making the coffee, so all you have to do is bring goodies and clean up. And you'll have lots of help on both!

As always, thanks for all your contributions to making First Church a welcoming place.

KITCHEN COMMITTEE THANKS YOU!

The kitchen committee would like to thank our members and all who have helped many times over the past few months. You have stepped up to help us with the unusual numbers of receptions we have provided here at First Church. We are so fortunate to have such willing helpers on a moment's notice.

Thank you to all!

Carol McMillan & Elizabeth McCosh-Lillie

FIRST CHURCH FAITH FORMATION IN JANUARY...

Sunday, January 1, 2017

We celebrate the New Year and the season of Christmas by gathering around Christ's Welcome Table, singing more Christmas carols, and listening for God's Word in Matthew 2:13-23.

Sunday, January 8, 2017

First Hour begins a new series, "The Awakening of Hope: Why We Practice a Common Faith." The first week's topic is, "Why We Eat Together." This is a DVD-based series with no reading requirement... just show up and join the conversation! In Worship, we celebrate Epiphany! the coming of Light into the world, our call to shine with the Light of God's love, and recall the visit of the Wise Ones who followed the star to Bethlehem. We listen for God's Word in Matthew 2:1-12. We be celebrating the gift-giving Wise Ones by collecting twin-sized sheet sets for area shelters.

Sunday, January 15, 2017

First Hour continues, "The Awakening of Hope: Why We Practice a Common Faith." with "Why We Fast." We listen for God's Word as we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, his call of the first disciples, and our own call to follow in his way. Our children worship with the theme, "Live Brave." Following Worship, representatives from Natchaug Hospital will be with us to share about the important work they do providing mental health care in our community.

Sunday, January 22, 2017

First Hour continues, "The Awakening of Hope: Why We Practice a Common Faith." with "Why We Make Promises." In Worship, we begin our year-long journey with Jesus through Matthew's telling of his story as we continue to hear stories of the call to discipleship in Matthew 4:12-23. Our children worship with the theme, "A Call to Follow." Following Worship, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for an overview of the proposed 2017 budget to be considered at the next week's Congregational Meeting.

Sunday, January 29, 2017

First Hour continues, "The Awakening of Hope: Why We Practice a Common Faith." with "Why It Matters Where We Live." In Worship, we listen for God's word of blessing in Matthew 5:1-12. Our children worship with the theme, "Blest to be a Blessing." Following Worship, we gather in Fellowship Hall for our January Congregational Meeting.

3RD SATURDAY MONTHLY BREAKFAST JANUARY 21ST, 2017

We will be hosting our Monthly breakfast on **Saturday, January 21st from 7-11 am**. Please come out and join us for a delicious breakfast of eggs cooked to order or spinach & cheese omelet, pancakes, sausage, home fries, fruit and coffee/tea, juice. Cost is \$10 adult; \$8 senior and \$5 for children under 12. Call 860-423-9008 for information.

Volunteers are needed to help with setup and preparation the day before (1pm-3pm), final prep the morning of the event, servers, and of course the clean-up crew! **Bakers needed:** We're calling on our incredible First Church Bakers! If you're available to bake for the breakfast bake sale we'd love to include your favorite baked good in the sale. Bring items to the Church on Friday January 20th, between 1 & 3 pm.

SEWING & SERVICE

This month we can work on tying a quilt for a local woman's program needing blankets as well as starting others. We completed a flannel blanket in December as well as completing some hygiene kits. Items needed for more hygiene kits are: hand towels, nail clippers, wide tooth combs and quart size plastic bags to package them in.

THANK YOU NOTES

I want to thank you on behalf of my children and on my own behalf for such a generous detail of sharing in this beautiful time of the year.

For me it means a lot that you adopted and help my family so that my children had a beautiful Christmas.

Anayel, Aleluya, David, Jorge, Yazmin & Emmanuelle Sanchez

Thank you so much for the beautiful reception that you provided in honor of our recently deceased mother, Rita Hawkins. We have been close to your church for many years and thankful for your fine service.

Bill, Dick & Tom Hawkins

Thank you for your donation of \$200 to Natchaug Hospital's Annual Appeal. Your support over the past 15 years is deeply appreciated. Your donation, like all charitable contributions to Natchaug Hospital will stay within our network of programs to benefit our clients and students. It is on their behalf that I thank you.

Katherine McNulty, MA,CHC, CHRC, Regional Director

Thank you very much for your recent gift of \$217.00 to the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry.

We are very fortunate to live in a community whose members show care and concern for their neighbors who are struggling. With your help, WAIM will continue to offer accessible services to those who are most in need.

Thanks to you, WAIM continues to help people break the cycle of poverty and to make a safe and comfortable home for themselves and their families. We are very grateful for your kind gift.

Sincerely,
Victoria Nimirowski, Executive Director

Thank you so much for your recent support of the United Services' Domestic Violence Program. Your donation is critical to allowing us to continue our important community programs, and you can be assured your contribution will be used as you requested.

Sincerely,
Diane L. Manning, President/CEO

PICTURES FROM OUR ADVENT WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP



Clothing Needs at Natchaug Hospital

(Because of hospital regulations, clothing must be new)

Adults: Needs women's underwear in various sizes, bras, etc.; and men's underwear. Right now we need a large woman's winter coat.

For Journey House: We can always use these. (We get girls of all sizes; most would wear a woman's large or extra-large.)

Sweat shirts	Sweat pants	Sleep pants	Hats and gloves
T-shirts	Socks	Slippers	Underwear
Sports Bras	Leggings		

Child/Adolescent Unit:

Summer/Spring: Shorts T-Shirts Bras

Winter/Fall: Pants Sweatshirts Bras

(no hoodies or strings)

We also have many children come in without appropriate footwear. Any sandals/socks without laces in good condition are always appreciated. Thank you so much for thinking of us.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR
INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY
UPDATED JANUARY, 2016**

If inclement weather occurs during the week and results in:

- Mansfield Public Schools being CLOSED, the church office will be closed and all church programming will be cancelled.
- Mansfield Public Schools being DISMISSED EARLY, all events at the church for the remainder of the day / evening will be cancelled.
- When a DELAYED OPENING is announced, staff will use good judgment travelling to the office for scheduled work or meetings; they will work from home as prudent and communicate appropriately.
- If Mansfield Public Schools are NOT IN SESSION (vacation, professional day, etc.), staff scheduled to work that day will make prudent decisions.

Notification will be posted on:

- **WFSB - Channel 3**
- **FCC Facebook page**

If inclement weather occurs on Sunday morning, pastoral staff in consultation with lay leaders will attempt to make the decision by 7:30am. An email blast will be sent and the decision will be publicized on WFSB - Channel 3 and our Facebook page.

There will be times when worship will be held even though First Hour is cancelled.

**THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MANSFIELD (UCC)
(CONGREGATIONAL)**

Ministers

All the People of the Church

Pastors

Rev. Ann Plumley & Rev. Joseph Blotz

Music Director

Cathie Rowe

Organist

Erik Haeger

Office Administrator

Wendy O'Connor

Childcare Provider

Emely Salman

Church Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday, 9am-1pm – Closed Mondays

Tel.: (860) 423-9008

E-mail : firstchurchmansfield@snet.net

Website: www.myFCC.info

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/FCCMansfield