

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MANSFIELD – February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1pm-2:30 Book Group 6pm QCRR Volunteer Meeting	2 7pm Choir	3	4
5 9am 1 st Hour – Awakening of Hope 10:15am Worship	6	7 10:30-Noon Staff Meeting	8 1pm-2:30 Book Group	9 7pm Choir	10	11
12 9am 1 st Hour – Awakening of Hope 10:15am Worship	13 9am –1pm Sewing & Service	14	15 1pm-2:30 Book Group	16 7pm Choir	17 9-12 Set-Up for Breakfast	18 7am-11 Monthly Breakfast
19 9am 1 st Hour – Awakening of Hope 10:15am Worship	20	21	22 1pm-2:30 Book Group 6:30 Steering Committee	23 6pm Choir Picnic	24 7pm Gina Chamberlain presentation on the Transpacific Partnership	25
26 9am 1 st Hour – Awakening of Hope 10:15am Worship	27	28				

FIRST CHURCH FAITH FORMATION IN FEBRUARY...

During the month of February the Church continues the season of Epiphany, a time when we recall the revelation of Jesus as the Light of the World and of his call to be sharers in that Light with the world.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Hour continues its discussion of *The Awakening of Hope* with "Why We Live Together." This is a modern catechism exploring the practice of Christian faith through interviews with modern disciples. There is no reading or homework required... just come, watch, listen, share, and learn! In Worship, we gather around Christ's Table to celebrate Holy Communion and listen for God's Word in Matthew 5:13-20 as Jesus calls his followers to be salt and light in the world.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Hour carries on its discussion of *The Awakening of Hope* with "Why We Would Rather Die Than Kill." In Worship, our reflections on the Sermon on the Mount continue with Matthew 5:21-37 and Jesus' teachings on intention and relationship. In Worship Circle, our children gather with the theme, "From the Heart."

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

First Hour concludes its discussion of *The Awakening of Hope* with "Why We Share Good News." In Worship, we consider one of Jesus' most challenging teachings, to love our enemies in Matthew 5:38-48.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

In Worship we celebrate the Transfiguration of Jesus (the revelation of Jesus as God's child to some of the disciples) in Matthew 17:1-9. In Worship Circle, our children gather with the theme, "Dazzling Bright."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, ASH WEDNESDAY

We gather at 7pm to begin our Lenten journey to the cross and to the empty tomb by marking ourselves with ashes and recalling our dependence on God.

FIRST CHURCH INFORMATION YOU NEED

- **Ann will be taking time off** February 2-21; Joe will cover all pastoral needs while she is away. His cell phone number is **608-354-3686**.
- **We are a Tuna Church!** This means you are invited to put a can of tuna fish into the net bag in Fellowship Hall every once in a while. We're committed to providing 30 cans of tuna each month to our local food banks, so add a can of tuna to your shopping list. Your help is greatly appreciated! Please look for dolphin-safe tuna. It is better for all God's creatures! Also, please be aware when purchasing tuna that Greenpeace indicates that Chicken of the Sea brand uses destructive fishing practices. We are also collecting canned fruit.
- **Care Cards:** Each week we suggest several people or groups who might be strengthened with notes of caring prayer and love. Stationery is provided. We invite you to take a quick minute during fellowship time to write a note, put the recipient's name on the envelope and leave it on the table to be mailed Monday morning. Thank you for this demonstration of our connectedness and love!
- **Haven't heard your favorite hymn in a while?** Let Ann know what it is and she'll try to work it into a worship service sometime soon.
- **About our Peace and Justice Candles:** These candles first appeared in our chancel sometime near the beginning of the War in Iraq. Their meaning has been enlarged to prompt prayers for peace with justice throughout the world; for all who work for peace and justice; and for all who lack peace – refugees, veterans, those who suffer violence of any kind, the oppressed, all who await peaceful freedom from mental, physical, emotional or spiritual ills, and those who have no one to pray for them.
- **Reminder:** if you need to reach Pastor Ann or Pastor Joe for an emergency, please call their cell phones: **Ann - 781-223-4914 and Joe - 608-354-3686**. Emails and texts are also another quick way to get in touch with them. They check office messages on days they are at church and irregularly on other days.

SAVE THE DATES

The Steering Committee will be meeting over the next few months to finalize the draft of our new bylaws and to prepare for discussion on a recommendation to establish a new governing board for the church. It is important that we get feedback from members as we draft these proposals - so please plan on joining us for the following discussions:

MARCH 12

Second hour to discuss Draft Bylaws

APRIL 30

Second hour to discuss recommended board structure

TENTATIVE - MAY 7

Congregational meeting to vote on by laws, new board structure and nominating process for the new board

JUNE 11

Annual program planning congregational meeting with vote on new board members and other business to come before the church

Please feel free to reach out to any members of the Steering Committee for questions or feedback. Steering Committee Member are:

- Ava Little
- Jim McGaughey
- Deb Richards
- Dave Hovorka
- Janna Pedersen

EPIPHANY SHOPPING LIST FOR FEBRUARY

We are again collecting personal care items to help support our local outreach programs. The items will be distributed among the following organizations: **No Freeze Shelter; Holy Family Shelter; Domestic Violence Program and Natchaug Hospital.**

These items must be new and can be donated any Sunday during Epiphany.

Epiphany 5 – February 5th

Shampoos & Body Lotions (Travel Size)

Epiphany 6 – February 12th

Face Clothes & Hand Towels

Epiphany 7 – February 19th

Hair Brushes & Combs

Epiphany 8 – February 26th

Twin Size Sheets

THIRD SATURDAY BREAKFAST

Our 3rd Saturday breakfast will continue this February on 2/18 from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. Please consider joining a fun group of volunteers to help prepare, cook, serve, and clean-up from a wonderful selection of **GOOD MORNING GOODNESS** that includes the following:

- Spinach/Cheese Omelet or
- Your choice of eggs (scrambled, over easy, medium, or hard)
- Sausage
- Potatoes
- Pancakes
- Fruit
- Juice
- Coffee/Tea

Third Saturday breakfast is a wonderful way to have fellowship together so consider inviting a friend or neighbor to our table.

The cost for breakfast is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for children under the age of 12.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

02/03	LIZ BOSCO
02/04	NANCY HOVORKA
02/07	CHRISTINA GROVER BILL BRIGGS
02/09	ALEX DOMINIQUE
02/11	KRISTINA ELIAS-STARON MICHAEL SHIRSHAC
02/14	ROBERTA SMITH
02/15	BARBARA GIARDINA CYNDI WELLS
02/18	RUTH BERUBE
02/19	GLORIA BENT
02/21	GRACIE BLADEN
02/25	JOYCE BERUBE
02/28	KYLIE DAMBLE

**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

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.