

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MANSFIELD – June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7pm Choir	2	3
4 10:15am Worship	5	6 10am-Noon Staff Meeting	7 1pm-2:30 Book Group 6pm QCRR Volunteer Meeting	8 7pm Choir	9	10
11 10:15am Worship Congregational Meeting 3pm Take Note! Concert	12 9am –1pm Sewing & Service	13	14 1pm-2:30 Book Group	15 6pm Choir Picnic	16 Tri-Conference Annual Meeting 10am-Noon Set-Up for Breakfast	17 Tri-Conference Annual Meeting 7am-11 Monthly Breakfast
18 10:15am Worship	19	20	21 1pm-2:30 Book Group	22	23	24
25 10:15am Worship	26	27	28 1pm-2:30 Book Group	29	30	

To the Members of the First Church of Christ in Mansfield, (Congregational), United Church of Christ, greetings:

You are hereby notified and warned that the Congregational Meeting of the First Church of Christ in Mansfield, Congregational, UCC, will be held on Sunday, June 11th, 2017, immediately following morning worship, in Fellowship Hall, at which time the following business will be transacted:

Article I:

Opening Business:

Reading of the Warrant

Determination of a Quorum

Opening Prayer

Presentation of the Minutes of the January 29th, 2017 Annual Meeting, and the May 7th, 2017 Congregational meeting.

Article II:

To hear and act on the Reports of Officers, Ministries, Boards, Committees and Organizations of the Church.

Article III:

To consider proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

To approve the establishment of a 7-11 member Governing Board.

Article IV:

Nominations and Elections

Article V:

To approve changes to the Behavioral Covenant and to adopt a Conflict Resolution Process.

Article VI:

To transact any other business proper to come before the church.

Article VII:

Closing, Vote to Adjourn, and Benediction.

This meeting was called under section 2(b) of Article IX of the Constitution of the Church at a Steering Committee meeting with the Moderator and both Pastors. This consensus was accomplished January 25th, 2017.

Artemis Damble, Clerk

Posted: May 25th, 2017

JUNE 11^H CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 11th Congregational Meeting: Celebration and Visioning. Come to the congregational meeting where we'll be celebrating the ministries of First Church over the past year, looking forward to our ministries in the coming year, and making sure that the people who are tasked with leading those ministries have your support. We'll elect some new leaders and thank the ones rotating off. We'll consider the proposed amendments to the constitution, bylaws, and behavioral covenant, and the proposed conflict resolution procedure. And, maybe the best news of all, we've promised to be out of Fellowship Hall in time to let Take Note rehearse for its afternoon concert, so you can count on the meeting being no more than an hour long.

WORSHIPPING, LEARNING, AND SERVING THROUGH JUNE

Beloved of God,

The month of June begins with two of the Church's great Feast Days, the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and honoring the mystery of God's identity in the Holy Trinity. We then transition into a long period of Ordinary Time that carries the worshipping community all the way until the end of the year. During that time, we will focus on the stories of our mothers and fathers in faith as we reflect on the matriarchs and patriarchs in the books of Genesis and Exodus and the teachings of Jesus as contained in the Gospel of Matthew. The stories of Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, Rachel and Jacob and Leah under the theme of "The Mamas and the Papas." We know, however, that with God, there is no ordinary time... our daily lives are lived in expectation of the Extraordinary One breaking in with comfort, challenge, and opportunities to serve.

Sunday, June 4, 2017 + The Feast of Pentecost

In Worship we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the birthday of the Church. We welcome new members into covenantal membership and gather to be fed for ministry around Christ's Welcome Table. In Worship Circle we reflect on the Holy Spirit's presence in Acts 2.

Acts 2. It is significant that the outpouring of the Spirit seems to be on the entire community rather than just the close-knit group of disciples. Do you see the Spirit as a gift to the whole community, or just the church? Where in your own experience, have you seen the Spirit at work outside of the church? What signs of God's Spirit are emerging or exploding in your own life and in your faith community?

A Prayer for the Week...

Perplexing, Pentecostal God, you infuse us with your Spirit, urging us to vision and dream. May the gift of your presence find voice in our lives, that our babbling may be transformed

into discernment and the flickering of many tongues light an unquenchable fire of compassion and justice. Amen.

Sunday, June 11, 2017 + The Feast of the Holy Trinity

In Worship, we celebrate the mystery of God made known to us in three ways in Genesis 1 and Matthew 28:16-20. Worship Circle gathers with the theme, "Formed in Love." Following Worship, our congregation meets to vision and elect leadership at our June Congregational Meeting.

Genesis 1:1—2:4a This creation narrative has a sense of excitement written into its structure, its form – this... and this....and this....and this.... – implies a storyteller eager to tell something wonderful. When you look at creation through the eyes of a loving creator, how does it change your view? How might a sense of wonder in creation change our relationship with it? How can we bring a sense of wonder to the stories we tell about Earth and all that lives in and on it?

A Prayer for the Week...

God, whose fingers sculpt sun and moon and curl the baby's ear; Spirit, brooding over chaos before the naming of day; Savior, sending us to earth's ends with water and words: startle us with the grace, love, and communion of your unity in diversity, that we may live to the praise of your majestic name. Amen.

Sunday, June 18, 2017 + The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

In Worship, we listen for God's Word in stories of hospitality and commissioning in Genesis 18 and Matthew 9. Our Worship Circle begins a summer series called, "The Mamas and the Papas" as we trace the stories of our ancestors in faith through the books of Genesis and Exodus.

Matthew 9:35—10:8, (9–23) Despite the significant role religion played in the lives of the people of Israel at this time, the people were feeling bereft of God – perhaps they knew what it should feel like to be in relationship with God, but did not experience it in their daily lives, including their daily religious practice. The heart of compassion was lacking. This can still be the way people experience the church.

In what ways does the religious practice of the church get in the way of people having a meaningful relationship with God? In what ways are people welcomed and encouraged into the realm of God?

A Prayer for the Week...

God of the prophets and apostles, you greeted old Abraham and Sarah with news of wonder and life. Send us into the world to preach good news, as Jesus did, heal the sick, resist evil, and bring the outcast home. Amen.

QCRR UPDATE

Sunday, June 18, 2017 + The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We listen for God's Word in stories of abandonment and accompaniment in Genesis 21:8-21 and Matthew 10:24-39. Worship Circle focuses on the story of Hagar and Ishmael in Genesis 21.

Matthew 10:24-39 Jesus' words "Have no fear" are repeated three times in five verses, yet Jesus describes circumstances that could be frightening to many people. Do you hear this passage as good news? as challenge? as warning? as assurance? How do you think Jesus disrupts the peace of the world today?

A Prayer for the Week...

To fulfill the ancient promise of salvation, O God, you made a covenant with our ancestors and pledged them descendants more numerous than the stars. Grant that all people may share in the blessings of your covenant, accomplished through the death and resurrection of your Son and sealed by the gift of your Spirit. Amen.

Peace to you,
Joe

FIRST CHURCH INFORMATION YOU NEED

- **The acclaimed a cappella vocal ensemble, Take Note!** will be performing in concert here at First Church of Christ on June 11th at 3pm. Free will donations will be gratefully accepted at the door. Please come and enjoy their talent!
- **Tools for Hope Collection will take place on Father's Day, Sunday, June 18th.** Contributions to Tools for Hope mean Church World Service will be ready to help people around the world gain the resources and develop the skills necessary to sustain themselves and their families and to build viable communities.
- We're 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.

On May 3rd our new refugee family, the Nabhan's, arrived from Istanbul Turkey. They are a family of 5 originally from Aleppo Syria. They had been living in Istanbul for the past three years.

They are now living in a lovely old Victorian home in Willimantic. The home was furnished previous to the family's arrival, with major support from WAIM as well as various individuals and faith communities. Volunteers converged on the house and completed most of the set-up within two days.

The family members are Arabic speaking Muslims. They are also familiar with Turkish having picked up the language while living in Istanbul.

Their first weeks here have been filled with cultural training at IRIS in New Haven, health screenings, walking to local appointments, WRTD bus orientation, kindergarten orientation, and formal ESL classes as well as ESL in their home taught by QCRR volunteers.

The family is very eager to learn English and the dad is looking forward to joining the work force. We are exploring a number of possible employment opportunities in Willimantic that may actually be close enough for him to walk to work.

Although we have several Arabic translators we are always interested in signing up new volunteers. Please let Ann or myself know of anyone you know who speaks Arabic.

Our first family, the Al Dalati's, are approaching their one-year anniversary of their arrival to the U.S. The dad is working nearly full time hours at a local restaurant and the mom is working part time as a cafeteria assistant. We are pursuing employment for the mom since her job will be ending for the summer months.

The family is preparing to move to housing that is more in-line with their budget. Both Willimantic and Mansfield/Storrs are possibilities for new housing. Again, if you know of anyone with an available rental please forward the information to Ann or myself.

Peace,
Steve and Ann

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

June

06/02	EVA EATON KATELYNN DAMBLE
06/05	JO-ANN WAIDE-WUNSCHERL
06/08	JANICE CHAMBERLAIN
06/09	EDIE WORRELL PAT FELLETTER
06/12	EMMA LANE
06/20	LORIS MASTERTON
06/21	ELIZABETH SCOT
06/22	MARLENE WENNER
06/23	TOM GIARDINA
06/28	DAVE LITTLE
06/30	SARAH RENN

**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

Emily Salman

Church Office Hours

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

Tel.: (860) 423-9008

E-mail : firstchurchmansfield@snet.net

Website: www.myFCC.info

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www.facebook.com/FCCMansfield