

## FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MANSFIELD – October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:15am Worship	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:00pm-2:30 Book Group	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:15am Worship	<b>9</b> 9am – Noon-Sewing & Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 1:00pm-2:30 Book Group	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8am-5pm Ebenezer Lutheran Church Workshop
<b>15</b> 10:15am Worship	<b>16</b> 6:30pm-9:30pm Julie Menard – WAIM Project	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 1:00pm-2:30 Book Group	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:15am Worship	<b>23</b> 9am – Noon-Sewing & Service	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 1:00PM-2:30 Book Group 6:	<b>26</b> 9am – 2pm Eastern Clergy Workshop 7:00pm Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:15am Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## STEWARDSHIP

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be." These are words Jesus spoke long ago and they are as true today as they were then. The ways in which we spend our money, the manner in which we use our resources, reflect our priorities and proclaim to the world what our guiding values are.

On Sunday, September 17, we at First Church began our annual stewardship campaign by reflecting together in Worship on how it is that the priority of this community and our spending were aligned, aided by several questions. Some of those questions were:

- Is my annual pledge at least 25% of what I spend each year on vacations?
- How does my pledge relate to the amount I spent on my last computer or smart phone?
- How does the retail cost of every piece of clothing I'm wearing compare to my weekly/monthly pledge?

These questions also guided an earlier conversation among our congregation's Governing Board as we made our own pledges and committed to turning in our pledge cards early. As a result of our conversations and reflections, our leadership team has increased our annual pledges for 2018 by an average of 18%, roughly \$500 per pledging unit. We now ask you, our fellow members, to reflect on the place First Church holds in your hearts and in your lives... we invite you to consider whether you can match our collective pledge increase of 18% of last year's pledge, or, perhaps, increase your pledge by \$500.

Sunday, October 15, we will gather again in worship, this time to celebrate the pledges made by our congregation and to give thanks to God for the opportunity to continue supporting the mission and ministry of Christ in Mansfield Center and in the world. We invite you to bring the enclosed Intention to Give/Pledge Card with you that Sunday that we might bless God for the abundance we have been given and to ask that our gifts might be multiplied. We look forward to celebrating with you then.

Peace to you,

The First Church Governing Board

## GOVERNING BOARD NEWS

The Governing Board met in September to review stewardship and finances, among other items. To date we're on track with the budget process. Thanks to everyone who has made an early pledge to our 2018 stewardship campaign and thanks to Pastor Joe for his leadership in this area!

Cheryl Chase, our treasurer, has helped immeasurably by advising us about consolidating our many small funds, a step we took last month. Carol Tetzlaff, a church member, has been extremely helpful working with our investment advisors at Ameriprise to ensure that funds are available should we need them.

The board continued the ongoing discussion of mission, which has been the subject of two Second Hour presentations. Pastor Ann distributed customized demographic profile reports that she had obtained from the national office of the UCC. The reports identify various characteristics of people living within a five-mile radius of our church, and were produced using sophisticated methodologies for information-gathering and analysis. We hope that understanding more about our local population, and perhaps gathering more in-depth data, we can help inform congregation members' ideas about mission.

Look for a possible additional workshop in the winter, possibly open to other churches and faith groups in the area, to explore ideas about mission for faith communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We are also investigating some of the ideas raised at the last Second Hour such as use of the parsonage.

## ANNUAL GOODS & SERVICES DINNER AND AUCTION

SAVE THE DATE! - NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

We need everyone to consider what they might like to contribute to this year's event. We are looking for items that someone might like to purchase for their use or to give as a gift, as the holidays are approaching. Typical items include gift certificates, meals, special trips or services, gift baskets, and whatever else you might dream of. We raised over \$5,000.00 last year; let's see if we can exceed that goal this year! Please see Donna Clauson if you have any questions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

**On Saturday Oct. 28, we will be attending the 'Climate and Creation Stewardship Summit'** from 9:30am – 4:30pm at Spring Glen United Church in Hamden, CT, The focus of this summit is on **water**, both on land and the oceans. It will consist of speakers, panels and workshops on different aspects of our current climate change crisis and other critical environmental issues as they relate to sea level rise, water resource management, ocean pollution, lead in urban water supply, energy conservation, biodiversity loss and impact of toxic chemicals on human health. Please see Julia Sherman for further details, she is willing to take others to the event.

**Trade your old light bulbs in for free LED's** - Saturday October 28 from 10am to 2pm at the Mansfield Community Center. Bring up to 5 of your incandescent bulbs up to the community center and they will trade them in for LED bulbs.

## FIRST CHURCH INFORMATION YOU NEED

- **We are a green Church!** We are still collecting reusable shopping bags, in good condition, to share with people who do not currently have these. Mansfield is headed towards a 'zero waste' goal. We will be proposing a ban on single use plastic at the checkout counter....be part of the positive change.
- **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!
- **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. Let's keep up the good work!
- **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.

## FALL GREEN TIPS

Though many people gear up to work on their gardens in the spring, fall is actually an ideal time for yard work. Here are a few ideas for bringing your garden to life in the fall without polluting the environment or wasting materials.

**Choose hand-powered or electric tools over gas.** As homeowners tackle the job of raking leaves, clearing gardens, and cleaning yard debris, they create a lot of noise and pollution. In fact, one gas-powered leaf blower can emit as much pollution as 80 cars! Instead of leaf blowers, use rakes; use hand-powered garden trimmers, and a push mower if your yard allows it. If you must use motorized tools, go for electric over gas-powered.

**Plant trees.** By the time autumn rolls around, summer heat waves are long past, rainfall is usually more plentiful, and new trees, bushes and flowers have a greater chance of surviving than they would if they were planted during a hotter season. Choose species native to your area as well as those that are drought and pest resistant and can grow in the kind of soil and amount of sunlight available on your property.

**Fertilize organically.** When preparing your soil for next year, add organic, slow-release fertilizers that will help enhance your soil over time. These fertilizers are made of natural materials, contain vital nutrients to help your plants grow, and prevent plants from getting nitrogen. Most garden stores today carry a wide variety of organic fertilizers; many catalog companies also sell organic products, or you can use the compost you processed yourself...

**Compost your leaves.** Falling leaves are beautiful *and* valuable. Instead of bagging leaves and leaving them out with the trash, collect and compost them to create nutrient-rich, organic soil that will be ready for use by the spring. Check out our tips at:

<http://www.earthshare.org/2009/08/collecting-compost.html>

**Can and store summer's bounty.** Canning is a time-honored way to ensure that your garden keeps giving all year round. Imagine eating soups, jellies, herbs, and salsas from your own garden all winter long!

Source: <http://www.earthshare.org/2008/09/shhhhhhh.html>

## THANK YOU FROM JOYCE DECYK

To My Dear Church Family,

I want to thank each and every one of you for the many get well and thinking of you cards.

I also can't thank the call to care people enough for the delicious meals left at my door.

You should also know that the many prayers that lifted me has not been in vain. I have been under very good care at Backus and at home.

I am so grateful to all that I don't have to fight this battle alone. I love and miss everyone and look forward to seeing everyone.

Love & Blessings,  
Joyce

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

10/02	PAMELA BRIDGEFORD ADAM SALMAN
10/06	MARK PHELPS
10/09	HENRY NEWMAN
10/17	WINSTON HAWKINS KYLE STEARNS
10/20	JOHN FISHER ALEX PHELPS
10/25	CHARLES PREWITT
10/29	GRETCHEN HALL
10/30	LINDA WENNER

### 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](mailto:firstchurchmansfield@snet.net)

Website: [www.myFCC.info](http://www.myFCC.info)

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