



...to engage and support people in FELLOWSHIP

First Church Finds Interim Pastor

The search committee for an interim pastor has recommended the Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka to the Executive Board as our Interim Pastor. She has accepted. Rev. Brenda has served as an interim pastor in over ten Churches in Connecticut and is highly regarded in Churches where she has served and with other ministers. We found her to be open, honest, sensitive, warm, friendly, and extremely smart. We are blessed to have such a capable person lead us as we prepare for our settled pastor. We thank each of you for your patience as we worked through the process of selecting and recommending Rev. Brenda.

The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka (pronounced “Peltz-Fahsha”) is in her 32nd year of ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. She has served for many years in intentional interim ministry in the Connecticut Conference, as well as having served as settled senior pastor at the First Church of Christ in Suffield, CT. Most recently she has served as the Interim Senior Pastor at The Spring Glen Church, UCC, in Hamden, CT. Her experience also includes several years in chaplaincy at Mount Holyoke College. Rev. Brenda is a graduate of Smith College, Yale Divinity School, and Chicago Theological Seminary, where she completed a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching. In the spring semester of the 2011-12 academic year, she will be assisting with a course in Pastoral Care and Counseling at Yale Divinity School. Rev. Brenda and her husband, Jeff Faszczka, are natives of Western Massachusetts, and have two young adult daughters: Tara, a retail manager, and Nina, a senior at Smith College. Jeff is retired from United Technologies Corp. and is a consultant in the aerospace field.

Our promise to the Interim Pastor: Congregational Support and Cooperation

The congregation and its lay leadership will support and cooperate with the interim pastor in all ways possible and will assume responsibility for:

1. Attendance at worship services and meetings;
2. Continued financial support for the congregation and its mission and ministries;
3. Support of the interim pastor as the representative of First Church of Christ,

Congregational in the community and the wider church;

4. Participation in the life of the Association and the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ;
5. Administrative support services;
6. Commitment to work on the “five developmental tasks”* of interim ministry;
7. Sustaining lay leadership and shared ministry;
8. Establishment of an interim ministry committee/transitional team (such as the Pastoral Relations Committee or a specially selected group,) to serve as a confidential support and advisory group for the interim pastor, to monitor progress in the accomplishment of developmental tasks and to act as a communication link between the interim pastor and the congregation as needed;

9. Acknowledgment of the pastor’s responsibility to maintain contact with his or her home congregation and Association.

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| * 1. Coming to Terms with its History | 3.3. Developing a Vision for the Future |
| 2. Enabling Leadership Changes | 4.4. Renewing Denominational Linkages |
| 5. Commitment to New Directions in Ministry | |



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SECOND HOURS FOR SEPTEMBER



Meet in the Memorial Room following worship. Nursery care provided until 12:15 pm.

September 4th – No 2nd Hour; Labor Day weekend

September 11th – Rally Sunday! (see page 7)



September 18th – Taking the Mystery out of Medicare (see page 6)

September 25th – Overview of the Interim Process: What are the steps a congregation follows in moving through the Interim Process and preparing for a settled minister?

Religious Education for September 2011

The Religious Education Committee is looking forward to an exciting year! We hope you can join us for **church school registration** and a **pancake breakfast** on **Rally Sunday, September 11 at 9:00 am**. This is the time to reconnect with other families and meet the teachers! There will be church school that day. Don't miss it!

Please consider signing up to help teach one of our Sunday school levels for our K-5 church school program. The school year starts on September 11th and finishes on Children's' Sunday June 10th. The commitment is for one Sunday per month (possibly two if there are 5 Sundays that month). The curriculum is provided; we just need YOU to help lead the lessons. Contact the office if interested.

Initiates Group to Begin! The Parents of all Initiate age teens (teens entering 8th and 9th grade or the equivalent age if home schooled) from both South Church and First Church are invited to attend a parents meeting at First Church beginning at 11:30 a.m. with Lena Pacheco our new Initiate's Leader.

Initiates Leaders needed! We are in need of two volunteers to help with this program. We would like one representative from each church (one female and one male preferred) to help lead this two year program. Initiates meets Sunday evenings at First Church from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m., 2-3 Sundays per month plus the occasional events. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Lorel in the church office. We are required to have at least two leaders. You do not need to plan the program but to rather assist our Youth Leader in leading the program. Thank you!



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9/11 Memorial Service

September 11th the Mayor will be having a 10th anniversary memorial service in remembrance of those who lost their lives on 9/11. The mayor has asked us to participate by ringing our church tower bell 4 times for 15 seconds each at the following times:

- 8:46 am The north tower was hit by American Airlines flight 11
- 9:02 am The south tower was hit by United Airlines flight 175
- 9:37 am The Pentagon was hit by American Airlines flight 77
- 10:03 am United Airlines flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania

The course of the history of the United States of America was changed on that cataclysmic day. Ten tragically eventful years have gone by. Let us remember and pay homage to all whose lives were ended or drastically and permanently changed on that terrible day and the days that have followed. The church will be open if you wish to come early that day.

Sandwich Board Help Needed

If you have a few minutes before and after church, we need someone to set up our **sandwich board** by the front walkway. If you are interested, please contact Lorel in the office at (860) 346-6657 x10 or firstchurchucc@sbcglobal.net.

First Church Banners

If you have a few minutes 10 times a year, we need two people to help change the banner that hangs above the choir. If you can help, please contact Lorel in the office at (860) 346-6657 x10 or firstchurchucc@sbcglobal.net.



Worship for Sundays September 2011

September 4

(Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost)

Worship with Communion

Exodus 12:1-14, Psalms 149
or Ezekial 33:7-11, Psalms 119:33-40,
Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-20

September 11

(Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Rally Sunday: Worship and Church School

Exodus 14:19-31, Psalms 114
or Genesis 50:15-21, Psalms 103:8-13,
Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

September 18

(Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Worship and Church School

Exodus 16:2-15, Psalms 105:1-6,
or Psalms 145:1-8, Jonah 3:10 – 4:11,
Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

September 25

(Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)

Worship and Church School

Exodus 17:1-7, Psalms 78:1-4,
or Ezekial 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalms 25:1-9,
Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32

*The Rev. Dr. Brenda Pelc-Faszczka,
Interim Pastor, preaching.*

Note: The lectionary is a three-year cycle of Scripture readings commonly used by many Christian churches. While the texts used in a particular service on any given Sunday may or may not be selected from that day's lectionary, the lectionary texts for each week are given here so that they may also be used for personal reading and reflection.



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HOLLY FAIR 2011



Please consider chairing this year's fair. You'd have Lori Orend as a co-chair & she knows the ropes! See Lori if you have questions or want to discuss this further.

Get the word out to crafters & artists that we have space for rent at the fair for \$40.00. They can contact Lori Orend for details at Loriorend@comcast.net

September Green Envelopes

The September Green Envelopes will benefit:

New Horizons, a 24 hour domestic violence shelter for residents of Middlesex County providing safe housing, basic needs, counseling, advocacy, and basic independent living skills training for women and women with children.

John Hall will be recognized for his ministry at the next Middletown Common Council meeting in Council Chambers in Middletown City Hall on Tuesday, September 6th at 7 p.m. All are welcome to join and celebrate.

Taking the Mystery out of Medicare: September 18, Second Hour

Join us for Medicare 101 – What you need to know about Medicare . Learn about Traditional Medicare Part A (Hospitalization), Part B (Medical Coverage for routine healthcare), Part C (Medicare Advantage Plans), Part D (Prescription Drug Plans), as well as, Supplemental (Medigap) Plans. Program will be presented by: Nancy Krodel, Deputy Director for Operations, Senior Resources/Agency on Aging and Sue Greeno, Choices Counselor with Senior Resources/Agency on Aging. If you, or a loved one, is approaching Medicare age or already receiving Medicare this presentation is for you!

Not Your Typical Fundraiser

Would you like to organize a fundraiser for the church through a program called scrip fundraising? People would purchase gift cards through the church, and receive dollar for dollar value which is what makes it so easy to sell. There is a list of local stores, gas stations, grocery, etc that participate. You purchase the gift cards you want and the participating store gives a percentage to the organization. The list shows what percentage each place gives. From their website www.glscrip.com: "More than fifteen thousand non-profit organizations all over the country are taking advantage of scrip fundraising, and you can too. Don't use cash or credit to pay for your regular household purchases, use scrip gift cards from Great Lakes Scrip Center." Please contact Lorel in the church office if you are interested.

Bee and Missionary Society

The Bee and Missionary Society will begin the new year with a meeting Thursday September 8th at 11 a.m. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided by Evelyn Cameron and Mildred Paddock. All women are invited to attend.



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SEPTEMBER MUSIC SCHEDULE

Wednesday, Sept. 7
Senior Choir - 7:30pm
Sunday, Sept. 11
Celebration Singers & Senior Choir -
9:20am
Monday, Sept. 12
Celebration Singers - 6:15pm
Heart in Hand Bells -7:30pm
Wednesday, Sept. 14
Senior Choir - 7:30pm
Sunday, Sept. 18

Senior Choir - 9:29am
Monday, Sept. 19
Celebration Singers - 6:15pm
African Drumming - 7:30pm
Wednesday, Sept. 21
Senior Choir - 7:30pm
Sunday, Sept. 25
Celebration Singers - 9:15am
Senior Choir - 9:29am
Monday, Sept., 26
Celebration Singers - 6:15pm
Heart in Hand Bells -7:30pm
Wednesday, Sept. 28
Senior Choir - 7:30pm

Be Part of Our Music Program

September is a time of renewal. A time to start new things after a much needed summer rest. Try one of our music groups and feel the fun, fellowship and challenge of doing something new.

- **SENIOR CHOIR** - sings traditional choral music and meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. This year the group will sing at Comcast at the end of October, participate in the annual Christmas Concert, and learn John Rutter's "Requiem" in the spring.
- **CELEBRATION SINGERS** - sings contemporary worship music and meets on Monday evenings at 6:15pm. The group sings about once a month in worship. They will sing at Comcast at the end of October and participate in the annual Christmas Concert.
- **HEART IN HAND BELLS** - we have four octaves of bells and play level 2 music. Some music reading would be helpful but is not required. This is terrific for building hand/eye coordination in a group setting. The group meets on Mondays at 7:30pm.
- **AFRICAN DRUMMING** - you will learn traditional drumming from the Guinea, West Africa region. The church owns a number of drums on which you can learn. This is great fun and a good stress reliever at the end of the day! This group meets on the first and third Mondays. The first Monday we meet at 6:15pm, and the third Monday we meet at 7:30pm.

For more information, contact Shari Lucas our Minister of Music at the church office, 860-346-6657 x11, or shari.lucas@sbcglobal.net <<mailto:shari.lucas@sbcglobal.net>>



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September Birthdays

- 9/5 Shari Lucas, 23 Wells Street Niantic CT 06357
9/7 Jacob Drew 826 Long Hill Road Middletown, CT 06457
9/14 Fiona Barrett 220 Main Street Durham CT 06422
9/15 Jake Pelligrinelli 4 Bretton Place Middletown CT 06457
9/16 Irene Robinson 193 Spencer Drive Middletown CT 06457
9/18 Hopson Wilcox 65 Prout Hill Road Middletown CT 06457
9/21 Oliveria, Kc 11 Pinewood Trail Deep River CT 06417
9/22 Kate Grady 38 Brechlin Drive Middletown CT 06457
9/23 Laurie Ladr 125 Dorothy Drive Middletown CT 06457
9/23 Jordan Brooks 724 Middle Street Middletown CT 06457
9/24 Donna Robida 15 Depot Hill Road P.O. Box 336 Cobalt CT 06414-0336
9/24 Evelyn Cameron 56 Shelley Road Middletown CT 06457
9/24 Betty Muir 398 Foot Hills Road Higganum CT 06441
9/25 Betty Barton 22 Honeysuckle Court Berlin CT 06037
9/28 Mary Ladd 109 Windy Hill Road Middletown CT 06457
9/30 Tre Davis III, 806 Mott Hill Road Glastonbury CT 06033

Notices for October Tidings due Wednesday, September 21st by NOON
to Suzanna Barrett at stamminen@wesleyan.edu

**PLEASE NOTE: If you can help Lorel collate the newsletter, please let her know.
She needs some people who would be willing and able to help her with this task
each month.**

