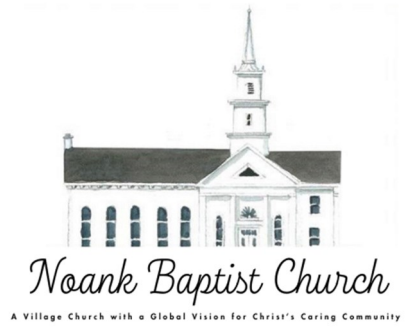


he NBC Anchor

Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT
860.536.7129 www.noankbaptistchurch.org



Christ is Risen. He is Risen, Indeed!

*Very early in the morning,
on the first day of the week,
they came to the tomb
when the sun had risen.
-Mark 16:2*



Mystic Chamber
Music Series

Mystic Chamber Music Series

The Mystic Chamber Music Series is dedicated to inspiring and growing audiences of all ages through engagement with chamber music performances in local historic venues. A 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, their mission is to make the highest caliber of classical chamber music artists accessible to a wide variety of audiences in southeastern Connecticut.

Sunday Worship, April 14

As a thank you for hosting their concert on April 20, the musicians will perform during our 10:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, April 14.

Concert *Sound of Four* Saturday April 20, at 7PM at NBC

The concert brings together masters of chamber music and new young talent to inspire us and foster a love for classical music. The concert will open with Dvorak's String Quartet No. 12, "American" one of the most iconic string quartet openings. The concert's second half will feature piano with Brahms Piano Quartet No. 3 in C minor. This work is one of the most beautiful of Brahms' compositions. For a YouTube preview, click [here](#). To purchase tickets, use the QR code or go to www.mysticchambermusicseries.com. For our church community, they are offering a discount - use code NBC2024 at checkout for 30% off the tickets. See you there!





Not-So-Empty-Tombs

As I write this article, I am full swing into the reverence of Holy Week with pastoral duties on hyperdrive.

Though I hope to pen my thoughts with divine reflection (or more accurately type), taking a moment to collect my spirit seems incomprehensible. Retrospectively, Easter is a sacred time for Christians around the globe to observe our foundational beliefs around the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Of course, this generalization tends to fall short of the actual events and reasons for this spiritual endeavor. With bunnies, baskets, and the occasional lost Easter egg, many have often wondered if we have gotten lost in commercialism. Does this mean we have forgotten to embrace the importance of this significance? I think not! Rather, I believe that our traditions are evidence of our wonderful resilience as human beings. We find ways to navigate our grief and empower our hopes. Whether you find comfort in a Cadbury egg (original please) and/or the delicious chocolate bunny, may your hope of resurrection bring light to all those not-so-empty-tombs. You know...those areas where we feel utter loss, extreme pain, and spiritual confusion. While we look forward to possibilities, all of us navigate areas that leave us frustrated and perplexed. Yet even in this struggle, we gather up all we can to fill those spaces with enlightened perspectives. Resurrection not only means life after death, but life while living. Whatever it means or doesn't mean to you, I empathize with all those "not-so-empty-tombs."

Take Haiti for example...Food insecurity is ravaging not only this entire population, but it extends across the surface of the globe. Recently, one of our congregants who serves Groton Community Meals relayed to me that a total of nearly 200 meals were distributed in one night at their last gathering. With this number increasing at an alarming rate, how can we inspire hope?" Looking within our congregation, Pastor Jimmy has some direct insight into the ongoings of Haiti. Hearing his prayers of concern touches every place of our hearts. We desire to do what we can to give hope to those experiencing hopelessness. Of course, this is just one of our efforts. As a church with ambitions for justice, we seek to encounter these "not-so-empty-tombs" with graceful compassion. May the Lord bless all of our endeavors to enter these sacred spaces.

Now...April is upon us. For the White Family, we look forward to warmer weather, greener scenery, and less WIND! We have enjoyed our first winter in Noank, especially the light snows. However, I know our crew is ready for some bright warm sunshine. As spring break is upon us, we look forward to an upcoming family getaway that will harken us to some surrounding states and its adventures. With that said, I also look forward to our next guest speaker on April 14th. For decades, Val Gordon has worked in a Christian ministry called Inter Varsity. She began attending NBC in 2023 with her family, all of which bring so much life to everyone around them. Please mark your calendars in support. Yes, we will be here too! But thanks to Val, we can enjoy our vacation with anticipation for an empowering message.

May we continue to enter the "not-so-empty-tombs" in our efforts for togetherness...

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal 6:2)

Blessings of Peace,

Rev. Junior White

Guest Speaker Val Gordon Sunday, April 14 Worship Service

Val Gordon is the Vice President for Integrated Strategy for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a national ministry serving college students. She lives in Mystic with her husband Geoff and their three kids.



Easter Sunday



Easter Morning was quite the celebration. The Adult Choir, Young Voices Choir, Youth Handbells, and brass players all participated in this very special service.

Children and Family



Volunteers Needed!!!

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 15-19 from 9am-12.

If you would like to serve at VBS, please contact Monica White at noankfamily@gmail.com

We will NEED teachers, youth guides, decorators, and snack makers!

Camp Wightman 2024 Registration is open! www.campwightman.org

It's time to register for Camp Wightman! Offering five sessions, the summer program is divided into cabins based on age. Campers will spend the week with their age groups participating in activities like fishing, boating, archery, crafts, and more while making new friends.

Noank Baptist Church supports Camp Wightman and can assist families to offset the price of the programs. If you have questions about Camp Wightman, need assistance with registration, or want a NBC camp scholarship application, please contact Monica White.





What an incredible evening at Glow in the Park! Thanks to all who attended, volunteered, brought candy, and/or shared information about the event!



Photo credits Gina Barber, Lauren Murphy and Emily Bell

Easter Community Craft Night



Deacon of the Month

April's deacon of the month is John Goetsch. If you are in need of prayer or any other assistance, he will be happy to assist you.

Spring Has Sprung at the Corner Closet

Newly donated spring clothing for men, women and children
Open Wednesday - Saturday 10-1

Miss a Sunday?



If you are traveling or not able to make it to NBC on a Sunday morning, you can still listen to Pastor Junior's sermons on your smartphone or computer. Each Tuesday we will add audio files of the most recent sermon to the NBC website, www.noankbaptistchurch.org/sermons.

Search for Noank Baptist Church on the Podbean app and LIKE and SUBSCRIBE!

SAVE THE DATE August 4, 2024 Summer Baptism in the Mystic River

♪ Shall We Gather at the River ♪

Whether you're interested in baptism or already on the schedule, please save the date for our next celebration of renewal. For more information, please contact the Pastor.



Support Church Street House's Affiliate program, TRFP

NBC's Church Street House is an important mission of our church and partners with Thames River Family Program to provide housing for a family with reduced rent and enhanced social support services so they can buy a house at the end of the five years here. The Charles family is now in their third year and taking the first steps towards accessing a first-time homebuyer's program with the continued support of TRFP.

Thames River Community Service also provides housing and support services to formerly homeless residents, primarily of New London County. Their mission is accomplished by promoting family and individual wellness, by empowering an achievable plan for successful independent living, to pursue significant employment, to acquire life skills and to maintain stability.

Come and see comedian Dave Reilly and help support this worthy organization! For tickets, check out www.trfp.org.

Start Fresh Volunteer Meeting



Tuesday, April 23, 2024,
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
All Souls Unitarian
Universalist Congrega-
tion in New London

With the anticipation of a new family arriving early summer, it is time to hold a long-awaited volunteer meeting. Please join us as we update each other on the work we are doing, discuss future plans, and enjoy connection and community. A light dinner will be provided. Questions? Please Contact: Sue Rummel (Rummelsue@gmail.com) or Vivian Samos (Viviansamos@comcast.net).

Spring Tag Sale
Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
1241 Poquonnock Rd
Groton.
860 445 6126
Sat. April 27
9 To 1 pm

- Decorative Useful Gifts
- NEW Crafts Sale
- Tools
- Art
- Books
- Toys
- Housewares Holidays
- Furniture Sporting Goods
- Linens Antiques
- Gardening Come Visit

Days for Girls International

Days for Girls International makes and distributes reusable feminine hygiene kits to women and girls around the world who do not have any products to manage their period. Our mission is help keep girls in school so they can complete their education and help break the cycle of poverty. Our washable liners last up to five years giving the girls the confidence to go to school without shame and embarrassment. Our Connecticut chapter is celebrating 10 years and we have made and distributed over 7,000 kits in 20 countries.

The donations we raise during this year, including the money from the pancake breakfast, will be used by the DFG Enterprise in Chumvi, Kenya. This business is owned and operated by women who make and distribute the kits to girls in school and women who are working. Our contribution will enable them to purchase more fabric and employ local sewers. I invite everyone to the breakfast. But if you can not make it, I always have a kit in my car and love to demonstrate how we make it and share the DFG story. Thank you.

Jean Scialabba



Pancake Breakfast

Hot coffee, orange juice, pancakes, sausage, eggs, and more!

APRIL 6, 2024
7:30-10AM

Ledyard Congregational Church
Fellowship Hall
722 Colonel Ledyard Hwy.
Ledyard, CT
Questions: contact Jean Scialabba @ 860-908-9051

All donations will benefit Days for Girls International CT Chapter in making and distributing reusable feminine hygiene kits for girls around the world!




17th ANNUAL WALK TO END HOMELESSNESS

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024
PARADE PLAZA, DOWNTOWN NEW LONDON
FESTIVITIES AT NOON & WALK STARTS AT 1 PM

