



The NBC Anchor

Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT

860.536.7129 www.noankbaptistchurch.org



MARCH 2019



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2019

Cultivating Leaders Equipping Disciples

HEALING COMMUNITIES

Galatians 6:9-10

The theme for the America for Christ Offering 2019 is an appeal to “*Healing Communities*” based on Galatians 6:9-10. This offering will begin on **Sunday, March 3** and continue throughout the month of March.

Through generosity, American Baptists minister as God’s heart and hands, healing the broken and the downtrodden. Congregations and individuals serve on the front lines of local communities, opening wide our doors, intervening amid the messiness, healing the broken-hearted and caring for other amid disaster and devastation. Through our caring actions, Jesus touches those who are hurting and dying.

Your gifts to the AFC Offering impact thousands through ministries with marginalized children, disaster response, prison re-entry and aftercare, immigration and refugee resettlement, public witness and advocacy, resources that equip Christian leaders, chaplains who bring comfort to those in hospitals and nursing homes, and so much more.

America for Christ Offering 2019 envelopes are attached to this newsletter and also can be found in the pew racks at the church throughout the month of March. Please be generous with your offering.

The Season of Lent

The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 6** with a service at **6:30 pm**. This is a meaningful time for reflection to begin the season of Lent. All are welcome. The 40 days of Lent will lead us to Holy Week—prepare yourself spiritually by being present in worship, and open to God’s guidance.



Entering the Passion of Jesus

**Tuesday Night Bible Study beginning March 12
7:00 pm in Spicer Chapel
(Books for Purchase (\$13) through Pastor Hayes)**

With the insights of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt University Jewish New Testament scholar, Pastor Hayes will lead a discussion exploring the stories of the Passion from the vantage of Jewish teachings and tradition. Each session will include a ten-minute DVD introduction by Prof. Levine, followed by a guided discussion of each text. We will meet for six weeks beginning Tuesday, March 12. Come to a fascinating study of Christian texts through Jewish eyes.



When our children were young, like most parents we were lovingly tolerant of household messes to a point. On occasion, toys might be left out, beds unmade, perhaps even some dirty dishes left on the counter and not tucked away in the dishwasher. Whenever this was the case, the expectation was that the disorder would disappear within a short time. Better yet, follow the daily routine taking responsibility and care of your personal belongings and space so that everyone could live happily ever after. With expectations like this, I was certain the living environment would never get crazy out of hand.

Once in a while, children's toys would not be put back into their proper place and my tolerance was replaced with a warning that, if they didn't take care of their mess by bedtime, then I would take care of their toys in my own way (something they discovered by the time they woke up). This occurred on two occasions a few years apart. At those times, out came the black garbage bags which were filled with all the "excess" toys. They would remain hidden in the attic until the girls asked about them and, if they agreed to be responsible, their favorite toys would slowly return one at a time over the course of the ensuing weeks. It was a way to teach an effective lesson without me having to get upset or remain angry. Taking care of their belongings and home environment was their way of expressing gratitude for what they had.

I thought about that practice when the "Green New Deal" was announced a few weeks ago with much caustic reaction. Modeled on the New Deal of the 1930s, it is an ambitious call to action, as the resolution states:

(A) to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers;

(B) to create millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States;

(C) to invest in the infrastructure and industry of the United States to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century;

(D) to secure for all people of the United States for generations to come—

(i) clean air and water;

(ii) climate and community resiliency;

(iii) healthy food;

(iv) access to nature; and

(v) a sustainable environment; and

(E) to promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous peoples, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth (referred to in this resolution as "frontline and vulnerable communities")

Critics argue it is a grab-bag of expensive, progressive programs, but it amounts to nothing more than an attitude adjustment, since no programs are currently proposed. At this point, proponents present it as a commitment to clean up the environment and help create a safe and just society.

As I see it, economic disparity will always be subject to debate in a capitalist system. But a commitment to clean up our environment should not have to be. The incentives to take care of the air, water, and land should be obvious: we all live healthier lives when we clean up our messes and protect natural resources. A cleaner environment is in everyone's interests. If we don't take responsibility within an appropriate time, then we will lose what we have and will suffer with consequences that will be catastrophic and overwhelming.

When I heard about the GND, I thought about the lesson for my children. The divine Presence through Nature is the "parent" whose tolerance is giving way to a global warning: the "forgiveness" of natural regeneration is becoming less possible and likely. We have reached a crisis on climate change (a common term among scientists is "climate panic") that requires concerted and dedicated actions. If we dismiss the alarm, then it will result in the precious loss of resources or irreversible damage to a setting we've cherished. The mess we're in is obvious: rising global temperatures, diminishing sea ice, devastating storms, overwhelming plastic pollution in our oceans impacting sea life, loss of habitats for both flora and fauna, and greater overall stress on the planet. It appears that Nature is teaching us a lesson by now taking away much of what humanity has taken for granted—perhaps forever, or as long it takes us to change our ways. What seems smack-face foolish is that too many Americans prefer to dismiss the problem altogether than collaborate on concerted ways to clean up our messes.

I've always had faith in humanity's ability to tackle problems and fix them. Innovation and conservation have been of tremendous benefit to our collective household. I just worry that when it comes to the environment, humans are wasting precious time while the messes get worse, rather than better. If this continues, then like my daughters, by the time we finally wake up, we will wonder where all that we once enjoyed has gone.



Children and Family Ministries

“Soup”er Bowl Sunday



A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated cans of soup over the past few weeks. We collected 176 cans of soup which surpasses other “soup”er bowl collections!!! The children brought the soup down to the front of the church in wagons where Pastor Paul said a blessing. The soup was then taken to the Groton Food Locker.



“Talent Show by Kids for Kids” March 3 – during Sunday School

Kids Concert, “Make a Joyful Noise” is ramping up this year to invite kids with all different talents to perform in addition to the musicians. Rumor has it that we have a dancer, a magician, and maybe even a few surprises.

Camp Wightman 2019 “Live the Story”

Time to register for summer camp!

“An essential part of camp is spiritual growth. Campers come from many denominations or may have no church affiliation. Campers experience music, worship, drama, Bible exploration, and prayer to touch their hearts. Kids spend time sitting around a campfire, gazing at starry skies, exploring trails, floating in the lake, and bonding with friends. Here campers can safely extend love and acceptance to others, and listen and respond to God’s call.”

Noank Baptist Church supports Camp Wightman and can assist families to offset the price of the programs. Program descriptions and registration forms can be found online at campwightman.org. If you have questions about Camp Wightman, need assistance with registration, or want more information about NBC camp scholarships, please call Sue Robinson at 860-536-7129 ext. 306. Thank you for your interest and support of this wonderful summer camp and we expect each camper will enjoy a marvelous and memorable experience!

Pretzel Sunday, March 10

We will be making Lenten Pretzels on the First Sunday of Lent, March 10, in the Vestry after worship. Pretzels have an important meaning during Lent. Pretzels were made as far back as the 5th century as a Lenten food in Italy, Austria, Germany and Poland. The Latin word (*bracellus*), meaning “little arms”, eventually became the word pretzel. The dough was shaped to look like two arms crossed in prayer. All are welcome to come down to the Vestry and try your hand at making these wonderful pretzels and even getting the chance to eat them.



Future 2019 Children & Family Ministries

March 3—“Talent Show by Kids for Kids”

March 10—Lenten Pretzels for all ages (after church)

April 2—Easter Community Craft Night

If you have ideas for Children’s Ministry or would like to volunteer, please contact Sue Robinson.

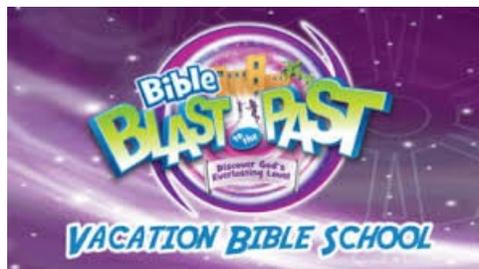
Easter Community Craft Night at NBC Tuesday, April 2, 2018 from 6:30-8:00 pm

This annual craft night includes crafts for all ages from 3-18! Snacks and beverages will be provided for a fun night. The admission is free and so are the crafts. Bring your children, grandchildren, step-children and your neighbor’s children! All are welcome.



DON’T FORGET— THIS IS A COMMUNITY EVENT

SAVE THE DATE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Noank Baptist Church August 5 - 9, 2019



FUSION YOUTH MINISTRY



Changing Things Up!!

To better serve you, we are going to try out a new structure to give our age groups so more comfortability with their peers. Our monthly youth meeting will now be separated into high school and middle school groups, giving everyone a chance to be with their respective peer groups. Hope it will encourage you to come and join us more often!

Youth Meetings **NEW SCHEDULE**

High School Meetings

March 17—Union Baptist Church
 April 7—Noank Baptist Church
 May 12—Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

Middle School Meetings

March 31—Union Baptist Church
 April 28—Noank Baptist Church
 May 26—Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church

All meetings will be held from 4-6 pm

MYSTIC IRISH PARADE

Sunday, March 24, 2019—12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

We will be marching in the Mystic Irish Parade again with UBC. Join us for an afternoon spreading holiday cheer and letting the community know about our group! Meet at UBC at 12:00 to carpool over to the parking lot at the Mystic Seaport where the parade will organize.



SuperCharged Trampoline Park

Friday, April 5, 2019—4-6 pm

Let's bounce around! We will spend an hour at the trampoline park at SuperCharged Trampoline Park.

GoKart racing optional for those old enough. More details to be announced! Cost TBD.



Noank Community Support Services
 (formerly known as Noank Baptist Group Homes)

Noank Community Support Services Executive Director, Regina Moller, was the guest of Sen. Chris Murphy at the State of the Union address recently held in Washington, D.C. to present her case for support of Noank Community Support Services that was deeply affected by the recent government shutdown. Support Services not only have the group homes, but also have a young adult nine-bed shelter, known as the Main Street House, that was started with their own money in September 2017. The recent shutdown put this facility on “life support”. Research shows that young adults do not do well in traditional adult shelters and they are seeing good results—none of the 26 young adults served so far has returned to homelessness.

Regina and her colleagues applied for, and received, about \$340,000 from the state Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and aims to get young adults into permanent housing. Due to the government shutdown, the documentation was left on a desk at the office in Hartford where no one was working. Supplies were running out at the Main Street House and Regina had to put out a distress call for donations of nonperishable food, paper goods and cleaning supplies but if the funding was held up for a significant length of time, they were at risk of closing the facility. Regina is concerned that her nonprofit may lose some of its grant funding.

In statements and interviews, U.S. Sens. Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal and U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney vowed to help the Groton nonprofit and others get the money they are owed. Courtney said he has heard from other nonprofits experiencing similar problems and also said that he is happy to urge the Hartford HUD office to prioritize Noank’s final grant form.

One of the tenants at the Main Street House said that “it is easy to become homeless. People think of it as only being an old man without a house, but it can come at any age and any time. You have to be prepared and grateful there are places willing to help”.

During March, there will be a sale every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at the Corner Closet located on the corner of Main and Pearl Street from 10 am to 1 pm. The store has women’s blouses, pants and dresses and also men’s pants and shirts. There are shoes for men, women and children. We also have kids clothes, along with coats and books. The small housewares are varied. Do come and visit us!!!!

Help Needed for the upkeep of the Chandeliers in the Sanctuary
Tuesday, March 5 @ 10 am

The time has come to change the light bulbs and wash the chimneys of the two chandeliers in the sanctuary. We will lower the chandeliers one at a time—we need at least 10 people for this project—two people in the attic as the light is lowered (not too fast-arm length) and others to remove the chimneys, wash them, replace them and screw in the new light bulbs. Your help is need at **10 am on Tuesday, March 5**. If you can help, please email, call or see Betsey Goetsch.

6th Annual Interfaith Film Series

A Question of Faith

The **2019 6th Annual Interfaith Film Series** is presented in collaboration with the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding, the National Conference for Community and Justice, The Hartford Seminary and the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art.

Join us for three films that inspire interreligious discussions.
Guest speakers will lead post-movie Q&A sessions.



Sunday, March 3 at 2 pm
THE BAND'S VISIT

A band comprised of members of the Egyptian police force head to Israel to play at the inaugural ceremony of an Arab arts center, only to find themselves lost in the wrong town. Comedic drama. Now a smash Broadway play.

The Festival continues the following week with:



Sunday, March 10 at 2 pm
OF GODS AND MEN (DES HOMMES ET DES DIEUX)

An order of Trappist monks live among the Muslim population in a quiet corner of Algeria. As the country is plunged into civil war in the mid-1990s, the men of God must decide whether to stay among the impoverished residents who have been their neighbors or flee the encroaching fundamentalist terrorists. Based on actual events.

The final film will be Black Robe:



Sunday, March 17 at 2 pm
BLACK ROBE

A young Jesuit priest seeks to convert the Indian tribes in Canada while also trying to survive the harsh winter.

FILM TICKETS:

Admission \$10; Seniors (62 plus) & students (18+w/school ID) \$9; members \$7.

The films will be held at Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, 600 Main Street, Hartford.

Directions and parking information at thewadsworth.org.

Church Council



February Council News

The Council held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 with 16 members present. This was the first meeting of the new council, so all members were introduced.

The Rev. Valerie King offered an opening prayer.

Council Members

Moderator: *Charles Anderson*
 Clerk: *Bonnie Banks*
 Treasurer: *Jane Templeton*
 Asst Treas: *Debbie Bates*
 Finance: *Jennifer Johnson*
 Carol Spunar
 Property: *Adrian Johnson*
 Jonathan Lane
 Spiritual Life: *Valerie King*
 Shannon Weigle
 Comm. Life *Betsy Goetsch*
 Joan Butler
 Staff Relations: *Nancy Treadway*
 At Large: *Sherrie Neilsen*
 Deb Thompson
 Ed Watson
 Michael Whitehouse

The minutes from the January 9, 2018 meeting were accepted with a few corrections. A request was made by members to have all reports sent to the clerk by Tuesday morning, the day before the council meetings, so that they can be sent out on Tuesday afternoon to allow everyone to review them in advance of the meeting.

The church calendar was reviewed with a correction made to remove the “CREDO, This I Believe” session for the month of February.

Finance reports that the checking account is currently very healthy with salaries and benefits on target and overall expenses slightly under budget. Two large donations were received that were designated to be added for the endowment account.

A report from Spiritual Life noted that 176 cans of soup were collected for Souper-Bowl Sunday. Several fun activities are planned for the coming months including a Valentine’s day celebration, talent show and Lenten Pretzels. The Fusion Youth Group met at NBC in mid-January with the February meeting at PBBC. Some schedule changes are being discussed to consider separate gatherings for the Middle School and High School aged participants to provide more meaningful interactions.

Lay readers for Sunday services are still needed. Worship and the Arts will leave the current art display, “Looking to our Future” up in the parlor until spring. They are looking for ideas for future displays. Although Rev. Murdock is no longer teaching the adult Bible study class on Sundays, the class remains active with John Goetsch and Michael Whitehouse coordinating the program.

The property manager reports that the solar panels are expected to be installed in early March. Some work for the installation will need to be done in the outer corner of the chapel and music room. Some work will be done on the fence and barriers in the upper parking lot for the nursery school. The Nursery school is undergoing some significant changes with a new Board of Directors being formed and other organizational changes planned.

Some prayer shawls will be donated to MAEC for distribution as needed.

The first draft of the photo directory is being reviewed with a few corrections to be made, but it looks very good and hopefully will be available soon.

The next Council Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 7 pm.** All are welcome to attend. Full council meeting minutes are available upon request.

Respectfully Submitted,
BONNIE BANKS, clerk