



The NBC Anchor

Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT

860.536.7129 www.noankbaptistchurch.org



MAY 2017

Church World Service Blanket Sundays



April 30, May 7 & 14

Our church will again be selling Mother's Day cards to benefit Church World Service as they provide blankets for families in need either in the U.S. or around the world. Blankets are provided after disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes or to refugees escaping war-torn countries.

The cards may be purchased for \$5.00 which will provide a blanket for a deserving person. The new cards show Nora McNiff who, starting at the age of four, decided to help her grandmother with a Blanket Sunday at her church in Marysville, MI. Three years later, she continues to remind her community to help those in need. "Being the hands of Christ is what I've tried to show her to be," says Nora's mom, Shay. "You are Jesus through your actions, not just through your works... be the hands and feet of Christ. That's a big thing in our house, and with Blanket Sunday, that's a great example of how she can do that."

We can be the hands and feet of Christ also by purchasing one or more Mother's Day Cards. It's so simple, even a child can do it! Encourage your children or grandchildren to participate!

Cards will be available in the Narthex on April 30, May 7 and May 14 (Mother's Day). Your support for this important project is much appreciated!

Mother's Day **Sunday, May 14**

This is our annual custom to gather to honor our mothers, who give birth to life! We remember those who have nurtured us in life and in faith in this time of worship. The children will present flowers as an expression of their love and appreciation.



Seeking Applications for Director of Co-Op Youth

The search for a new director is underway. This part-time position will coordinate the cooperative youth program between Noank Baptist, Union Baptist and Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Churches. The director develops activities/programs (4-5 every two months) for the youth group and communicates regularly with the three participating churches. For additional information, see the position description posted on the bulletin board outside the church office or call the church (860-536-7129).



Over the past few years, it seems everywhere I look there lies a confrontation of opposites. The tensions that arise when sides are taken and adversaries are demonized make it virtually impossible to gain a wider perspective beyond one's own. In common vernacular, it's an "echo chamber" where people reinforce their already established views with information and opinions which agree. Anything that differs is either dismissed altogether or distorted by ridicule and derisive commentary. The only "facts" that matter are those which justify one's own worldview and beliefs.

There are many underlying causes for this polarity (none of which are particularly honorable). Yet, the gamesmanship that often energizes it is utterly destructive, even if it provides some immediate and temporary gain. Ultimately, it erodes not only trust, but also a sense that there even exists a common good or interest. People get so angry and fearful of their rivals that they prefer never to deal with them at all. The sense of community invariably breaks down when the neighborhood is drawn and quartered into a list of friendly allies versus traitorous enemies. No one can escape the destructive result when the world is oversimplified into "good guys" who must defeat "bad guys."

I acknowledge my own complicity in this as I constantly struggle to hold onto important values of my faith without reducing them to the ongoing volley of political fire. I recognize that what I hold dear may not account for all the views and perspectives necessary in the formulation of what is best for the common good. This can be hard to accept or digest at times, but is important to remember, so that a wider and wiser perspective can be gained. Listening to others is a premium none of us can afford to lose in our community or country.

With that in mind, I penned a brief "nested meditation" for my personal benefit—one I will share with you. It speaks from my urgency to act in a time of great concern to me. It goes like this:

The time is right.

The time is right before us now.

The time is right. Before us now
is the opportunity to change.

The time is right. Before us now
is the opportunity to change what is wrong.

The time is right before us. Now
is the opportunity to change what
is wrong with the world.

The time is right before us. Now
is the opportunity to change. What
is wrong with the world is
our inability to trust God is present.

The time is right. Before us now
is the opportunity to change. What
is wrong with the world is
our inability to trust. God is present
even in those we believe are wrong.

May we remember this as we place the strength of community above the need to always be right. For God is greater than our limited worldviews and is present even in our rivals and enemies. To take time to discover this may be a source of redemption in a time when partisan division is only driving us to mutual destruction. For as we reaffirm at Easter, a redemptive spirit is always better than one that simply leads to ruin.



Our Church Family

News from around the Church Family

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who have had recent surgery, been in the hospital, received treatment, in rehabilitative care, or are recuperating at home: **Kent LaGasse, Ruth Hodgson, Patty Buck, Betty Brustolon, Gene Brustolon, Mary Brodhead, Tom Lewis, Dianna and Cecil Miller, Lori Lewis, Bill Gilmore, Fred Anderson, and Joyce Adamcewicz.**

Our sympathy is expressed to the family of **Bonnie Bishop Gordon**, who died recently in Florida. Bonnie grew up in Noank and was the daughter of the late Dorothy Bishop.

We were saddened by the sudden death of **Jim Clark**, who retired in 2008 as Executive Director of the Noank Baptist Group Homes (now Noank Community Support Services). Jim was a great friend of Noank Baptist and remained active in area services even in retirement.

We send our blessings and prayers to **Santiago Hernandez**, who permanently moved back to his native Puerto Rico to be closer to family. Sandy was a part-year resident who, along with his late wife, **Joan**, was active in the church and will be missed.

Pastor Hayes concluded his tenure on the Board of Directors of the Alliance of Baptists—a board on which he has served for the past four years. The Alliance is one of our congregational affiliations, with individual and congregational membership throughout the U.S. and Canada and ministry partners around the world.

Please remember our homebound and those in rehab/nursing care: **Ruth Hodgson** (Pendleton), **Errol and Alicia Crossman** (at home), **Betty & Gene Brustolon** (Bayview, Waterford), **Ken Knobloch** (at home), **Betty Guhl** (Fairview), **Millie Jensen** (Fairview), and **Cindy Booth** (Sunny Lodge, New London).

Sunday Flowers

Remember to honor a loved one by purchasing flowers for the chancel on Sunday. There is a sign-up sheet in the outer office on the wall. Please indicate if it is in memory of/honor of/celebration of a person or persons and who the donor is. The cost of the flowers \$25. When making out your check, please indicate "Sunday Flowers" on the memo line.



Graduates for 2017

High School and college graduations are almost here for another year. If you know of any graduates, please contact Gloria in the church office at 860-536-7129 or by email: admin@noankbaptistchurch.org. Please indicate which high school, college or other education program, as well as information pertaining to the degrees earned and employment.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Thames River Community Service & Martin House Annual Luncheon, Auctions, & Anniversaries Sunday, May 7 @ 11:30 a.m. at the Mystic Marriott Tickets \$45

Come and support these important community services that help the homeless in our region.

Thames River Family Program teams up with Noank Baptist to serve homeless and under-sheltered families with residence at our Church Street House.

Reserve your ticket today at www.trfp.org, or call (860) 887-3288.

Children and Family Ministries



Easter Craft Night 2017

A wonderful time of making Easter crafts was enjoyed by about 30 children. It is amazing what they can create with just a few odds and ends.

SAVE THE DATE!
MAKER FUN FACTORY
Vacation Bible School
July 31—August 4



REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE MAY 1

Just leave it to a Child! Malia is showing Frank how to properly clean the floor in the Vestry.



Palm Sunday

The Sunday School children participated in the procession of the palms. We also enjoyed hearing the bells performed by Oliver, Conner, Avery, Erin and Clare



Easter Sunday

The Youth Choir sang during worship and then everyone went downstairs for crafts, parties and ended up outside with an egg hunt. What a wonderful day it was!!!!



**CENTER FOR HOSPICE CARE
MEMORY WALK 2017**



Where: Mohegan Park, Norwich
When: May 13, 2017
Time: 9 am registration/check in—10 am Walk

Bring your family and friends to WALK this three-mile course in memory of a loved one and to support the Center for Hospice Care, serving the community for over 30 years.

The WALK is fun-filled and inspiring. Refreshments are provided and the day includes a raffle and Mother’s Day plant sale.

Funds raised will help provide programs that enhance the quality of life for terminally ill patients and their families. All monies raised stay right here in southeast Connecticut helping our families, friends and neighbors.

For additional information, visit www.hospicesect.org or call 860-848-5699.



Pasta Supper Fundraiser

**Friday, May 5
5:00—6:30 pm**

Come join us on **Friday, May 5 from 5-6:30 pm** in the church vestry for a pasta supper. There will be four sauces to choose from (red sauce with meat, red sauce without meat, pesto sauce and white sauce), salad bar, dessert and beverage. The cost will be \$9 (adults); \$5 (12 years) & free (under 3 years). The Noank Rowing Club (NRC) is a non-profit community organization for all ages and abilities based out of Spicer Park on Beebe Cove, Noank. Throughout the year, NRC provides opportunities for both youth and adults to row, learning the best techniques, as well as to race competitively.



**THINKING AHEAD!!!!
7 MONTHS AND COUNTING**

Now is the time to plant vegetables and herbs for the Holiday Bazaar herb table! Don’t forget to scour yard sales for “cheap” jelly and pint canning jars, and if you have some jars that you purchased at the bazaar last year, please return them to the church office. All jar and produce donations help defray the cost of jellies and pickles.

Almost any fruit can be made into jelly—pick some extra for the church bazaar when you pick for yourself. Let Jane Templeton know if you have rhubarb or other produce from your garden to share. You can contact Jane at 860-691-2004. Thanks in advance.

We are looking for volunteers who would consider helping either on the various tables and especially with the Silent Auction.

Please contact Betsey Goetsch if you can help





Spring Work Day At Camp Wightman

**Saturday, May 6, 2017
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Please mark your calendar and spread the word. Join others who love Camp by helping to get the property ready for the summer season. Please bring a rake, paintbrush, hammer and nails and prepare to rake, paint, repair, build and clean.

Call the camp office at 860-376-2179 x 10 to reserve a spot for yourself, your family, your work group or your church. We will have a great lunch prepared and offer the opportunity to fellowship with others who love Camp Wightman like you.

Camp Wightman Summer Staff Hiring

Camp Wightman is in the midst of completing summer staff hiring and needs your help. They seek young adults, ages 18 years+, who have completed at least one year of college and who desire to serve God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with children and youth. Any college students who are looking for something **more** than just a job? Please contact Camp Wightman at 860-376-2179 so they can talk with you about their plans for Summer 2017.

Mystic River Chorale

Presents

***One World
One Voice***

***Sunday, May 7, 2017
At 3:00 pm***

***Frank Martignetti,
Frank Zilinyi & Elizabeth Read
conducting***



Mystic Congrega-
Broadway and Main Streets, Mystic, CT
Reserve your tickets now at
www.mysticriverchorale.org or
860-460-1487

Corner Closet

Time to replenish your wardrobe for summer?
Come in and see what we have for you!

We accept clean, gently used clothing and small household items. The Corner Closet does not accept electronics, furniture or any large items due to limited space.

We have been in business for over 50 years and have helped many needy and homeless people in the Noank area, as well as overseas.

The Corner Closet is open Wednesday and Saturday from 10 am to noon and Friday from 1-4 pm.



In Mission with Dan and Sharon Buttry
ABCUSA Global Specialists in Conflict Transformation



The Mexico City Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers (TCTT)

We are half-way through our 10-day Training of Conflict Transformation Trainers in Mexico City. We have participants from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, and the United States. This is our first TCTT in Latin America. A number of our participants are from the indigenous people groups of Mexico, Guatemala and Chile. We also have a lot of religious diversity: Baptist, Catholic, Anglican, Pentecostal, Mennonite, and one follower of indigenous religious traditions.

Among the participants are many of our International Ministries colleagues: Steve and Nancy James, Ricardo Mayol-Bracero, Deliris Carrion Joseph and Moise Joseph, Mercy Gonzales-Barnes, Peter McCurdy as well as our IM Area Director for Ibero-America and the Caribbean Adalia Gutierrez Lee. IM missionary Dwight Bolick sent four Chileans for the training. Dwight had invited me to Chile a few years ago to do CT training among the Baptists, as well as at the University of Temuco and among the Mapuche people. The participation of the Chileans, including 2 Mapuche leaders, is a further step in our missionary efforts for peace and reconciliation in Chile.

The conflicts have been very diverse. Colombia has just adopted a peace accord to hopefully put a long, brutal war behind them. In Honduras and Guatemala gang violence leaves as many dead as the earlier Central American wars. In Chile the Mapuche people have had their rights abused for so long, and resistance is growing that sometimes breaks out into violence. Old war histories have left many people traumatized, and though the fighting may be over the wounds haven't healed. There is overwhelming grinding poverty in many areas with international corporations exploiting the resources but giving little to the people who grow the crops, mine the minerals, or work in the factories. Immigration has been a big issue in many places, especially in Mexico with the recent changes in U.S. policies. Many people have been uprooted from one place or another and become lost and sometimes terribly exploited.

There is a growing ecumenical network for peace and justice that **Ricardo Mayol-Bracero** is working alongside--the Continental Christian Network for Peace. The Guatemalan directors of CCNP are with us in the training. So there is already a lot of discussion among participants about how to continue working together, weaving what they have learned from the TCTT into their efforts across Latin America.

In February we did an Arabic TCTT, and now we're doing one in Spanish. Plans are underway for a Russian TCTT drawing people from across the former Soviet Republics. To pull these trainings off I need co-facilitators who can carry on the work in these various languages. It's so satisfying to me to see graduates from our earlier trainings take the leadership in these new areas. We're seeing a movement grow and spread using Biblical teaching and values with experiential tools to equip God's people for the works of building justice, protecting human rights, forging peace, healing the traumas of war, and reconciling shattered communities--all in the name and power of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.





Church Council

April Council News

The Council held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 with 16 members present. Pastor Hayes offered an opening prayer.

The minutes from the March meeting were approved with one correction.

Pastor Hayes provided a written report of his many activities including activities for the season of Lent, leading up to Holy Week beginning next Sunday. One of the highlights of the month was hosting the MAEC Choir Festival, which went well. He also spent some time hosting Ricardo Mayol as he visited churches introducing his new work in Latin America. He continues to be involved with a search for a Co-Op Youth Director. Four youth completed the Baptism class and will be Baptized later in the year. A membership class will also be starting up after Easter. Pastoral care has been a priority with several people in the hospital or needing attention, including Mary Brodhead, who fell at the church.

The Co-Op Youth Director search committee continues to meet regularly. Plans for integrating the Safe Church Policy certification are being discussed.

Finance reported that income was again less than expenses for the month but there remains plenty of cash on hand at the moment to pay bills and make mission payments on time.

The Children and Family Ministry remains very busy with plans for the children to participate in the Palm Sunday Procession and an Easter Egg Celebration planned for Easter Sunday. Eleven children are registered for Camp Wightman and Lizzie Lewis will be a counselor. Vacation Bible School, again co-hosted by Union Baptist Church, is being planned with information expected to go out soon.

The Adult Bible Study meets weekly with a discussion group of five to eight people generally in attendance in the chapel.

The Credo class continues on the second Sunday of the month, averaging 10 to 12 people in attendance.

The new Art exhibit, titled *God in the Garden*, will be set up on Palm Sunday.

The cover letter and application form for the Brodhead Scholarship was reviewed and letters will be sent out to upcoming graduates from the church soon.

Work on the Habitat House on Yetter Road began on March 18th.

Property coordinators will resume work on projects underway soon with plans to finish the driveway on the list. The east-side building leak is still being stubborn but hopefully the issue has been identified and will be fixed soon. Mary Brodhead was recently identified as the liaison for Church Street House but volunteers have agreed to fill in during her recovery. The semi-annual inspection of Church Street House will be done soon.

The first quarter Business Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 26th with a potluck supper at 6 PM followed by a hymn sing and the meeting starting at 7PM.

The next Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 7 PM**. All are welcome to attend.

Full council meeting minutes are available upon request.

Respectfully Submitted
Bonnie Banks

Council Members

Moderator: *Charles Anderson*
 Clerk: *Bonnie Banks*
 Treasurer: *Jane Templeton*
 Asst Treas: *Debbie Bates*
 Finance: *Nancy Gilmore*
Carol Spunar
 Property: *Adrian Johnson*
Jonathan Lane
 Spiritual Life: *Valerie King*
Mary Harris
 Comm Life: *Betsy Goetsch*
Steve Gordon
 Staff Relations: *Jennifer Johnson*
 At Large: *Nora Andrews*
Katy Nelsen
Oliver Porter
Heather Galouzis



Dolley Madison to Visit Noank

Noank Baptist Church

Thursday, May 11, 2017—2:00 PM

\$15/per person

This is a fund raiser for OSCA!

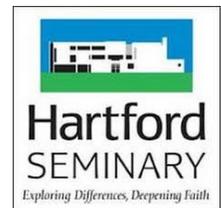
Patricia Perry, professional historical interpreter appears as Dolley Madison. Of the early First Ladies in the United States, Dolley Madison, wife of James Madison, fourth President of the United States, has been considered the most colorful!

Tickets are now available!

Contact Stephanie at (860) 271-1681, Nancy Codeanne at (860) 536-9253, OSCAforSeniors@gmail.com for tickets

Introduction to Islam for Non-Muslims

Come explore the Muslim faith, practices, scriptures, and Muslim organizations in the Greater Hartford area. The four session seminar (for audit or credit) will take place on the four Saturdays of June (6/3, 10, 17, 24) at Hartford Seminary, 77 Sherman St. in Hartford. The instructors will cover Muslim beliefs and practices, issues faced by Muslims living in the U.S., the vital roles that women play in Muslim communities, and current interfaith efforts. For more information, go to www.hartsem.edu.



The Charles Wesley Singers at Union Baptist Church

Wednesday, June 21 @ 7:30 pm

The Charles Wesley Singers was founded by Rev. Walter Edmonds in 1988 and is now directed by his daughter, Polly Edmonds-Baldrige. The chorus of 60-70 youth singers will perform *Hear My Prayer* by Mendelssohn, an excerpt from Randall Thompson's *The Peaceable Kingdom*, as well as other sacred melodies.

Noank Baptist is asked to help out with housing for the singers, as well as any other help to assist our friends at Union Baptist with this event. Our Co-Op Youth group will be helping out. If you can add your two hands, please contact Robin Crandall by email (robinc6868@gmail.com).