



The NBC Anchor

Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT

860.536.7129 www.noankbaptistchurch.org



MAY 2019

Church World Service Blanket Sundays

May 5 & 12



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.

Last winter in Indianapolis, CWS provided (through Central Christian Church) heavy-duty blankets for families without homes. The church opened their doors each night to give people a comfortable place to sleep, safe from icy temperatures. CWS blankets made bedding, a warm shelter and hope for life possible. Last year over 174,000 CWS blankets and kits were distributed throughout the world—Syria, Serbia, Haiti, Honduras, United States and Puerto Rico.

Cards will be available in the Narthex on May 5 and May 12 (Mother's Day). Your support for this important project is much appreciated!

Sunday, May 12

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!



NBC Music Fest 2019

Friday, May 10 @ 7:00 pm



Join us on Friday, May 10 at 7:00 pm for our NBC Music Fest. Following the great success of the special May 2018 NBC Anniversary concert which featured the deep talent pool of NBC musicians in a wonderful concert of wide-ranging music, and due to popular requests, a new NBC tradition has begun!



Living biblically isn't always what it is supposed to be. In late March, President Trump tweeted out a change in policy regarding Israel. He announced the U.S. would recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights—since 1967 an occupied territory along the northeastern border with Syria that Israel has sought to permanently annex. For most media, it was an insignificant news story compared to the other headlines of the week—provocative, perhaps, but not even as noteworthy as the administration's relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem a year ago. Yet, for his American evangelical base, it is another important advance in counting down to Armageddon, a cataclysmic event believed to usher in the Second Coming of Christ and end our sinful world. This is End Times theology 101.

Though it's not proclaimed here at Noank Baptist, End Times theology is more mainstream in America than many realize, with a significant following among conservative Christians and a rising influence on the nation's foreign policy. The President is not well-versed in it, but those around him are. Vice-President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo are only two within the Cabinet who are devout evangelicals whose confessional thinking is shaped by a "premillennial" belief that Christ will return in the clouds to judge the earth and inaugurate a messianic age of 1000 years (cf. Rev. 20:2). In this fervent evangelical subculture, sophisticated analyses integrate biblical prophecy with current events which are heard weekly from many pulpits and apparent in opinions on present politics, inspired by an eager anticipation that headlines will soon reflect what is already "revealed" in scripture.

A cynical mind might dismiss this, but a wise one will recognize how those in powerful positions can influence choices and orchestrate policy to fit their theological worldview. For instance, diplomatically, there was no reason to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, but theologically among evangelical Christians (and orthodox Jews) it is widely considered a messianic "sign" portending the fulfillment of scripture.

"For evangelical Christians the embassy move is part of eschatology," the expectation of what will transpire at the end of times," explained Rabbi David Rosen, director of the American Jewish Committee's Department of Interreligious Affairs. "The return of the Jewish people to their ancestral homeland and the reestablishment of Jewish sovereignty in Jerusalem is seen as a stage ultimately leading to the full messianic era."

(Religious News Service, May 14, 2018)

The climax of this doomsday narrative in popular Christianity is Armageddon, which refers to the mountain adjacent to the valley of Megiddo, where a cosmic war of good versus evil is prophesied to occur (Rev. 16:16). Geographically, this is in the northern part of Israel—Mount Carmel rising along the Mediterranean near modern Haifa, and the valley (or Plain) stretching to the east/southeast. For ancient Israel, this area was a strategic military outpost to control the major trading route along the coast and the location of many decisive battles. Eschatologically, it is repurposed as the location where a final confrontation between the forces of good and evil takes place before Christ intervenes and judges the world. It may be hard to take this seriously when it gets conveyed as something akin to "Game of Thrones," but it's a portrayal of a cosmic warrior that starkly contrasts the teachings contained in the Sermon on the Mount. But then, I suppose, it comes down to which version of Jesus one prefers.



I do worry about political leaders implementing policies based on this warrior theology. The "end of the world", as it's viewed, may not only be a consequence of their actions, but most concerning, it's *the inspiration* behind them! Oddly enough, harming the planet and its population is viewed as a divinely-destined religious hope. It's not unrelated to the apocalyptic violence fueling terrorism.

With so much at risk, it begs the question: why do devout Christians believe this is substantively the same God who inspired Jesus to teach his followers to love their enemies and do good to those who harm them? The main problem with treating the Bible like a roadmap for current policy is that it takes little account of the history or context of either scripture or the current realpolitik of the Middle East and treats both Israel and its neighbors as mere props for an aspiration to fulfill their interpretation of prophecy. Retired Rear Adm. John Kirby (formerly of the U.S. State Department) is one among many who have expressed alarm:

"The very idea that there is something biblical to the conduct of diplomacy -- that foreign policy is some sort of evangelical endeavor and that the American president is the champion of Judeo-Christian values alone -- gives comfort to extremists who see the West as crusaders and unease to those who look to the United States as the protector of both religious and civic freedom. What [US leaders] said is not only embarrassing; it's dangerous and irresponsible." (CNN, March 23, 2019)

Such alarm is warranted. If the extremist positions of the Netanyahu government are further buttressed by even the hint of a theocratic foreign policy conducted by the U.S., these two could very well ignite a conflagration throughout the Middle East that exceeds anyone's current fears. If so, it would be very difficult for either party to claim the mantle of "righteous and good" in a cosmic battle.

Frankly, much of the biblical basis for End Times theology is questionable anyway, since it is largely cherry-picked out of Hebrew texts referencing the Babylonian exile 500 years before Christ. Even the imagery out of Revelation and other Christian texts relate mainly to being divinely vindicated and delivered from the imperial authority of Rome at the end of the first century CE. It's certainly possible to draw parallels to the present, but it's fundamentally wrong to presume the writers had a 21st century audience in mind. Biblical prophets preached to their present moment even when they appeared to forecast the future; to see it as prophecy yet to be fulfilled turns scripture into little more than a Ouija board.

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News from around the Church Family



Our 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:

Katy Andersen Nelsen, Vicki Burdick, Doreen Dickerson, Tuck Jones, and Jen Fake.

We express our love and condolences to the family and friends of **Robert Williamson, Sr.**, who passed away on March 28. A wake and funeral were held at NBC over the weekend of April 5 & 6, commemorating his life and his military and community involvement, including serving as the Grand Master for the CT Masons.

Congratulations to **Sophie Galouzis**, who once again was the top trampoline athlete in the state in her age bracket. She goes on to the Eastern U.S. regionals.

Also, several of our youth were invited participants in the Eastern Connecticut Regionals for choir and band. Congratulations to our talented musicians!

Please remember our homebound and those in rehab/nursing care: **Errol Crossman** (at home), **Betty Guhl** (Fairview), and **Cindy Booth** (Sunny Lodge, New London).

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For this reason, it's foolish and deadly to use the Bible to choreograph current policies, especially when projecting upon the present world an ancient eschatological vision that confounds even the greatest of sages. The only ones who would welcome such doomsday drama are political and religious nihilists who really don't care about building regional trust and peace, only eliminating their enemies. To follow such a baneful path in these times may well provoke a cosmic consequence, but the end these devout Christian leaders plan for will be nothing like they fervently imagined.

Graduates for 2019



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

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!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

August 5—August 9

9 am to 12 pm

Kids ages 4-12

Bible Blast to the Past will take your kids on an amazing time-travel journey to experience stories that show the INCREDIBLE, FAITHFUL, INVINCIBLE, UNCONDITIONAL, and REAL love of God. Kids will know they can count on God’s Love because God IS love (1 John 4:16)!

Kids’ lives will be changed and they will be inspired to courageously change loves around them. **Register online NOW at noankbaptistchurch.org.**





Palm Sunday
Before the worship service, the children paraded exuberantly down the aisle waving their palms to the delight of the congregation



Easter Sunday 2019

Rain couldn't stop NBC's Easter Egg Hunt. About 200 upside-down cups were scattered throughout the Vestry. It was lots of fun to discover which ones had the eggs hidden under them and which ones didn't! A big THANK YOU to Heather Harris, Catherine Bates, Marge Murdock, Kelly Gordon Taylor, Marti Bradshaw and Lizzie Lewis for planning and hosting a wonderful Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt.





One Great Hour of Sharing Offering June 2019

Everywhere we turn, it seems there are communities in conflict and chaos around our world. We hear of families being separated from their homes or each other because of disasters. Maybe it is because of a volcanic eruption in Indonesia, or because of wars and political turmoil in Syria and East Africa, or because of violence in Central America. Daily we hear of such needs and our hearts pull us toward God.

We, the Church, are called to be God’s compassion at work in the world, helping to rebuild and create a better world for all. The world we are being called to create may seem beyond what we can imagine. **But it is a world that God can imagine.**

The offering will be received during communion on June 2. Offering envelopes will be sent with the June Newsletter and will also be available in the pew racks during the month of June.

2019 CHILI COOK OFF

Noank Baptist Church Vestry on Sunday, May 19

A chili cook off is being planned for Sunday, May 19 after worship service. We are asking that members of the congregation bring their favorite chili made with meat, chicken or vegetables. Southwest casseroles or salads are also welcome. There will be a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex soon so you can sign your name and the type of chili that you will be making.

If you have any questions, please contact Deb Garmon at 860-449-8708.



THINKING AHEAD!!!! 7 MONTHS AND COUNTING

With spring here, we will be looking forward to planting vegetables and herbs for the Holiday Bazaar. We are always looking for cucumbers to make pickles and also fruit to be made into jelly. When you pick fruit or vegetables for yourself, pick a little extra for the church bazaar.

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 jars and produce donations help defray the cost of jellies and pickles. **We are especially asking for quart size old style canning jars which use clips and rubber rings..**

If you can help, contact Jane Templeton to let her know if you have rhubarb or other produce from your garden to share. You can contact Jane at 860-691-2004. Thanks in advance!

Corner Closet

We have emptied the store of winter clothes just in time to replenish your wardrobe. We have spring clothes in abundance. During the month of May, if you mention Noank Baptist Church, you can select a free blouse!

We accept clean, gently used clothing and small household items during the hours of operation.. The Corner Closet cannot accept electronics, furniture or any large items due to limited space.

We have been in business for over 50 years. Our goal is to help the many needy and homeless people in the Noank area, as well as overseas.

The Corner Closet is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm





Noank Rowing Club Pasta Supper Fundraiser, May 3

The Noank Rowing Club will be holding a pasta supper on **Friday, May 3 from 5-6:30 pm** in the church vestry. There will be four sauces to choose from, 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 in Noank. Throughout the year, NRC provides opportunities for both youth and adults to row, learning the best techniques, as well as to race competitively.

Tag Sale at Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church May 3 & 4 from 9 am to 2 pm



PBBC will be having their annual tag sale on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 (Bake Sale on Saturday only). The tag sale will take place between 9 am and 2 pm. on both days There will be two floors of “treasures” to choose from. There will be antiques, furniture, art, books, music & movies (CD & VCR), garden and kitchen tools, glassware, clothes, shoes, jewelry and crafts. Come and see what you “cannot live without”!!!!



Mystic River Chorale May 5 at 3:30 pm St. Mary Mother of the Redeemer Church

Join Mystic River Chorale for the 35th Season of wonderful music on Sunday, May 5 at 3:30 pm at St. Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church, 69 Groton Long Point Road, Groton. Hear the rarely-performed Easter and “Pentecost” portions of *Handel’s Messiah, Parts II and III* with the Mystic River Chorale & Orchestra. Tickets are \$25 (adults); \$20 (seniors/military); \$15 (students). To purchase tickets, call 860-460-1487 or visit www.mysticriverchorale.org.

Thames River Community Service Annual Luncheon, Auctions Sunday, May 5 @ 11:30 a.m. at the Mystic Marriott Tickets \$45



Come and support the 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. Silent Auction begins at 11:30 am followed by Luncheon and Live Auction. Please note your choice of Beef, Fish, Chicken or Vegetarian in special instructions at check out. Reserve your ticket today at www.trfp.org, or call (860) 887-3288.



April Council News

The Council held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 3 with 14 members present.. The Rev. Paul Hayes offered an opening prayer.

The minutes from the March 6, 2019 council meeting were accepted with a couple of typos corrected.

The church calendar was reviewed and updated to add the Rowing Club fundraising dinner on May 3 and Chili Cook-off on May 19.

Pastor Hayes provided a written report noting his many activities during the month. The season of Lent has added more to his already full schedule with Tuesday evening Bible Study with 12 to 15 people attending each week. Since the study includes an introductory video presentation, he had to purchase a 32 inch flat screen TV and new DVD player. The expense was reasonable though and will be useful for other things, such as a photo DVD presentation at funeral receptions. Pastoral care has kept him very busy with another large memorial service with Celebration of Life for Alicia Crossman and funeral with wake and Masonic ceremony for Bob Williamson, Jr. Pastor Hayes is also very busy wrapping up the Nominating Committee for the Alliance of Baptists, which he chairs, and the Global Baptist Peace Conference planning. He has also been fielding questions about the recently installed solar panels from interested congregations. After Easter he heads to Washington DC for the Annual Gathering of the Alliance of Baptists with the Rev. Val King leading worship and preaching on April 28.

Finance reports that the checking account remains healthy although expenses exceed income, which is not unusual for this time of year. Debbie

Bates will be signing checks for this quarter.

Spiritual Life noted that folks of all ages gathered together to enjoy the fellowship and fun of Lenten Pretzel making, "truly an intergenerational event". Currently there are three campers officially registered for Camp Wightman and an additional five planning to attend. A new colorful brochure is in the works, an effort being led by Catherine Bates with the Christian Education Committee. Thanks to the Deacons for purchasing several new Children's Bibles to fill the hymnal racks in the sanctuary. Approximately 40 children enjoyed Easter Craft Night with thanks to Lisa Knobloch and the volunteers. Plans are in process for Easter morning with two celebrations for the children during the service, one for the nursery and one for children ages 5 and up. Two separate Youth Group events are planned, one for the high schoolers and one for middle schoolers. A new art exhibit will be set up in the Parlor, (aka "Studio 175") with the theme of "Let's Build Bridges". The choirs are all gracing the sanctuary with exceptional music for the season. The MAEC Choir Festival is on Sunday, April 6 at Union Baptist Church. The 2nd annual NBC Music Fest is planned for Friday May 10. Please let Rick Wyman know if you'd like to add your talents to the celebration.

Property reports that the solar panels are installed, awaiting final inspection. A new motor was installed for the organ which seems to have resolved the problems. Something needs to be done about the WiFi which is inadequate especially now with an increased need for the Solar Panels. Various possibilities are being investigated. Investigations into obtaining an emergency defibrillator are also underway. Training in its use will be required when it is available.

Community Life and Outreach notes that four volunteers from NBC attended the Ledgelight Health District food safety class, which is required for all volunteers to the Groton Community Meals. Noank Community Support Services notes new live-in staff at Main Street House. There will be a Gala fundraiser at the Mystic Museum of Art on May 4 to celebrate Derby Day. OSCA is 10 years old and has a new director, Lynda McCrea. They are seeking new members and more volunteers. There is especially a great need for people to provide rides.

The nursery school board has been active. An open house is planned for this Thursday with the new teacher. The search for a second teacher for next year is under way. The new teacher attended Craft Night with her children.

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 *Betsey Goetsch*
Joan Butler
Staff Relations: *Nancy Treadway*
At Large: *Sherrie Neilsen*
Deb Thompson
Ed Watson
Michael Whitehouse

Cont'd from previous page

The updated Church History has been completed. The council approved the professional printing of 100 copies of the history, which includes photos, at a cost of up to \$250. Recommendations of printers were provided and Bonnie will investigate the best option.

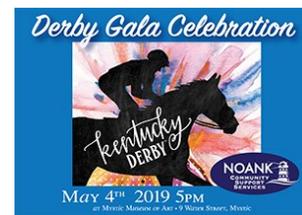
The council approved Michael Whitehouse moving forward with plans to set up a Podcast of the Sunday Service. He will contact someone who is experienced in doing this and get more details and get a basic plan set up.

The first quarterly business meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24 beginning with a pot-luck supper at 6 pm in the vestry, followed by a hymn sing and then the meeting beginning at 7 pm. All are encouraged to attend.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend. Full council meeting minutes are available upon request.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bonnie Banks, Clerk

Noank Community Support Services Kentucky Derby Gala May 4 @ 5:00 pm



On Saturday, May 4, NCCS will be holding its annual Kentucky Derby Gala Fundraiser at the Mystic Museum of Art, 9 Water Street, Mystic to support the mission of NCCS (hats & bowties are encouraged). NCCS is dedicated to improving lives by providing specialized and individualized services, the development of healthy relationships, access to resources, connection to the larger community, and hope for the future.

There will be live music from Desiree; lawn games; live stream of the Derby; beer, wine & cocktails; hors d'oeuvres by Go Fish & Breakwater; best dressed completion; live and silent auction. Tickets are available for \$60 in advance or \$70 at the door per person. For additional information, visit noankcss.org.



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.