



The NBC Anchor

Newsletter of the Noank Baptist Church, Noank CT

860.536.7129 www.noankbaptistchurch.org



SEPTEMBER 2021

Guest Preacher Sunday, September 5 – Rev. Tom Carr

Rev. Tom Carr, recently retired from the Second Baptist Church of Suffield, Connecticut, will be our Guest Preacher on September 5th. A longtime advocate for environmental justice and a founder of the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network, Carr is dedicated to positive, hopeful action on behalf of the earth.



Homecoming Sunday, September 12 Fall Programs and Sunday School Begin!

We are cautiously returning to our Sunday morning programming. Morning worship for all ages begins at 10:00 am with the children and youth breaking midway through for Sunday School. We have an exciting year planned with crafts, music and activities to fill your child's life with the love of God. The choirs will be tuned up for a spectacular year of music!



SENIOR CHOIR

The Senior Choir will begin its new year on **Thursday, September 9 at 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary**. New members are welcome and veteran members are encouraged to return. Erin Wyman is our music director and accompanist and Rick Wyman is our choir director. If you are interested in joining our Senior Choir, contact Erin at erinwyman@sbcglobal.net.

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will begin its new year on **Sunday, September 12 at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary**. We hope to see new faces this year. We will have new ideas, new friends, new music and perhaps some surprises. If you are a student in grades 3 to 12 and like to sing, we are looking forward to seeing you. Our choir rehearsals are each Sunday after worship and we sing in church every other Sunday. Erin Wyman is our choir director.



Jazz Sunday. September 19th

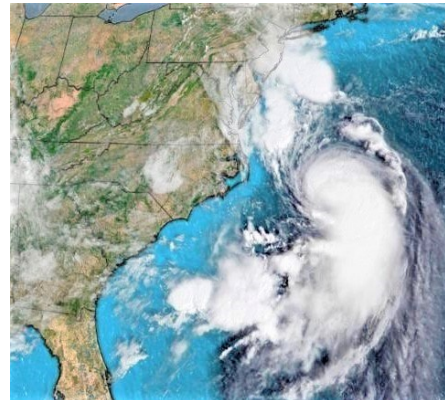
Time to celebrate with the joyous sounds of Dixieland Jazz as members of the U.S. Coast Guard Band and friends from the area lift our spirits. Make sure you are present and invite your family and friends to this special time of worship.



Sometimes, the most important lessons come to us in times of overwhelming challenge. I write this on the morning after the region was hit by tropical storm Henri, which hours earlier had threatened us with hurricane-force gusts and an entire season's rainfall. It also came ashore within ten miles of Noank! This was atypical for us, in that few storms of this magnitude reach New England and, because it arrived on a Sunday, it forced us to cancel a *summer* service (when have we ever done that?). Once again, we are in abnormal times.

I've lived half my life near the ocean, so I've come to respect the destructive power of nor'easters and major maelstroms. A year ago, the entire state suffered significant damage due to Isaias (it even prompted us to install a generator in our house in Madison). I feared an even worse scenario with Henri because of its potential strength and our proximity to landfall. It felt as if disaster was inevitable, worse than we had known before. I imagined all sorts of dreadful outcomes and consequences (too many tales from 1938, I suspect), even if we took prudent measures to mitigate wind and water damage. When the storm came, all we could do was hunker down and pray that everything would be less severe than we feared and more manageable with the cleanup.

The morning after, that's exactly what occurred. The storm was far less impactful than anticipated. When the skies cleared, it was easy to believe our prayers were heard and that divine favor was shown upon us. Yet, this kind of faith is destined for disappointment, since its self-serving premise is that God's place is solely to keep one from all harm (not to mention the false delusion that our prayers are more worthy than those offered by others farther to the east). Prayers are indeed helpful when they calm us and give voice to our worries, but despite our desire, they are not transactional, as if God is expected to shift wind currents to rescue us. Instead, prayers serve us better when they help us look for and appreciate the little graces that are present in whatever outcomes we face.



What we can affirm is that with every perplexing plight there are also moments of startling grace. When we focus on doom and gloom, this will blind us to the unexpected ways mercies show up and play a part in any crisis. It might be through whatever prompts us to prudently prepare in advance or in the help that comes afterward when we are struggling to put our lives back together. Throughout the crisis, it is evident with the immediate concerns we can address more readily that, cumulatively, might seem overwhelming but are manageable when reduced to individual moments and tasks. Additionally, many other mercies come through timely phone calls of support and concern, unexpected resources, or an unforeseen turn of events that baffles

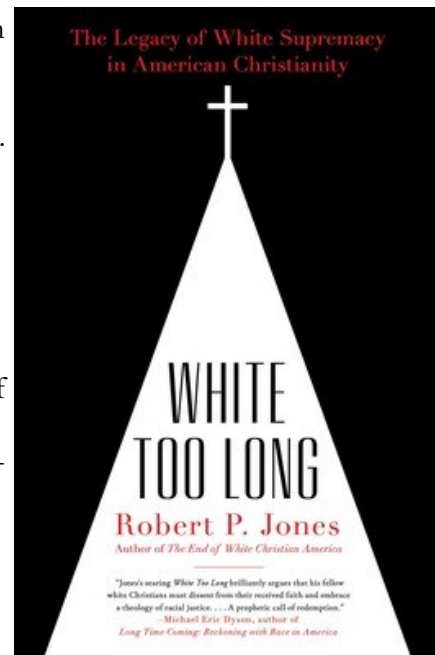
even the experts. Sometimes, grace is apparent in the strength and resilience we muster to cope with setbacks or obstacles that could break the human spirit. This isn't formulaic and guaranteed in a way that should make us naively overconfident or complacent, but it is to say, we are not left to face challenges on our own without the providential support that arises from outside ourselves. It does require us to be conscientious, responsible, and willing to prepare for anything that comes our way, but it offers us the assurance that life can be gracious to us when we need it most.

Religious tradition tends to portray these moments of grace as merely the benefits of faith, as if the divine response is only attuned to those who believe. I suspect that's far too limiting; these graces are readily apparent in everyone's life. The difference is, faith allows us to perceive such support or outcomes as not merely good fortune, serendipitous chance, or deserved privilege. They are, instead, the benevolent grace of God which helps us repeatedly in ordinary ways throughout the journey we call our life. Such grace is what I like to call a "holy coincidence," which is appreciated as a helpful hunch in one moment or an unexpected hand of help in another or a serendipitous relief and joy in yet another. Grace is far more abundant than we may realize. All we need do is appreciate it for what it is, much like I did this morning, and then smile and give thanks.

Paul

White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity
Tuesday evenings on Zoom: beginning September 28 - November 9

Critical Race Theory has prompted both support and reaction in the public square. Yet, what really is at stake? At its heart, CRT merely examines the way American society has been plagued by systemic bias and racism since before its founding. More importantly, churches have played a significant role in fostering racism on many levels. Robert Jones's recent book, "White Too Long," will be the basis for this class led by Pastor Hayes--one that will meet online Tuesday evenings due to COVID protocols. Jones examines the way racism has been inherent to much of American Christianity and why it is the responsibility of whites "to reckon with this legacy for sake of themselves, their Christian faith, and the nation. It is not just the future of white Christianity but the outcome of the American experiment that is at stake." Jones is the founder and CEO of Public Religion Research Institute and a leading scholar and commentator on religion and politics. A signup sheet will be available in the Narthex or you may contact the church office if you would like to register for the class.



The Mystic River Baptisms and Annual Church Picnic



Those baptized in the Mystic River include

- Vanessa Ghanous
- Heather Harris
- Nathan Johnson
- Ian Weigle
- Sydney Weigle





Children & Family Ministries

Join US!

It's a new Sunday School year!

NBC's dedicated volunteer Sunday School teachers are excited to teach the stories of Jesus, share God's amazing love, and help your children and youth discover what it means to be part of a Christian community.

We can't wait to see you!

Nursery (Downstairs)

Birth-4 years old

Sheri Harris and Volunteers

Primary (Downstairs)

Grades K-2

Marti Bradshaw

Intermediate (Vestry)

Grades 3-5

Kelly Taylor and Shawn Thorp

Middle School (Upstairs)

Grades 6-8

Shannon Weigle and TBA

High School (Choir Room)

Grades 9-12

Catherine Bates

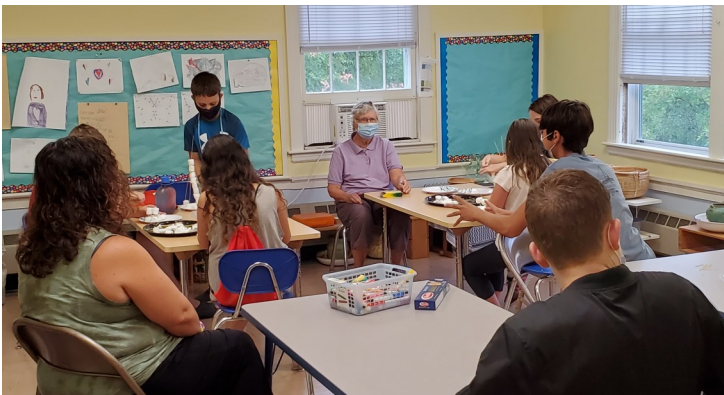
Covid mitigation strategies will include universal masking, physical distancing, air purifiers in the nursery and each classroom, as well as hand sanitizer. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sarah Arriaga at 860-536-7129.

GREAT BIG beautiful WORLD

Vacation Bible School was a success! 18 kids came out to learn about God’s creation and how to be responsible caretakers of this world. Our stellar volunteers ensured a wonderful week culminating in a visit from the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, who brought a variety of animals to show the kids some of the cool animals God created!

A huge **THANK YOU** goes to Faith Allen, Emily Bell, Keeley Bell, Marti Bradshaw, Sarah Dufton, Heather Harris, Noah Johnson, Sally Knippel, Logan LeMay, Frank Lewis, Marge Murdock, Lauren Podurgiel, Kelly Taylor, Hannah Thomas, Monroe Thomas, Shawn Thorp, Austin Thorp, Brandon Thorp, and Rebecca Watson who provided a safe, fun space for everyone to explore God’s Great Big Beautiful world! A **THANK YOU** also goes to those who donated snacks and plants to make VBS a truly memorable experience!







How time flies ...

Best Wishes to the Goody-Mateo Family!

It has been five years since Jaime, Jessica, Jaime Jr, Julian and Jayce moved into Church Street House. They will be moving on at the end of August. We wish them great success with their new restaurant in Montville, Donatello's With a Twist. Check out their menu on Facebook.

Church Street House is a mission of the church and most recently, NBC has partnered with Thames River Family Program (TRFP) to provide housing to families in need for up to five years. The Community Life and Outreach Ministry is working with TRFP to help another family this fall.

Memorial Garden Update

After a change in membership and delays due to Coronavirus, the Memorial Garden Ministry Team has been meeting on a regular basis to discuss plans for some much needed updates and repairs to return the garden to its previous beauty. This summer there have been a number of interments and available plots are currently limited. Stay tuned for information regarding updates and ongoing maintenance of this special space. The Memorial Garden is intended as a place for celebration, meditation and the interment of cremated remains. Gifts for the support of ongoing maintenance of the Memorial Garden are always welcome. If you want further information about the Memorial Garden, please contact Jane Templeton, business manager of the Memorial Garden Ministry Team. Current members are Bonnie Banks (chair), Jane Templeton (business manager), Deborah Hadden (treasurer), Doug and Sandy Mansfield, Richard and Linda Santoro. If you would like to join this important team, please contact the church or any of the members noted above to discuss opportunities.

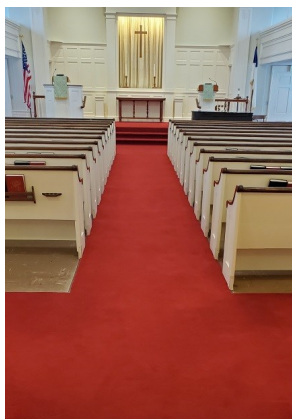


A Reminder from the Hospitality Volunteers

You are welcome to borrow items from the church (tables, chairs, kitchen items, wheelchairs and walkers) but please be sure to fill out the sign-out sheet in the outer office.

Thank you.

Check Out the Beautiful New Carpet in the Sanctuary



Thanks to everyone who researched, arranged and approved the new carpet installation, especially sexton Frank Lewis and the property coordinators on the church council, Steve Kanyock and Rich Santoro, who ensured that it was a job well done.*



* Now more than ever it might be worth remembering and appreciating the 1857 Noank Baptist Church members who voted to prohibit tobacco spitting on the floor. Amen.

WORLD MISSION OFFERING, OCTOBER 3

Join with us, as we work cross-culturally to invite people to become disciples of Jesus Christ and to proclaim, through both word and deed, God's reign of justice, peace, and abundant life for all creation.

During the 2021 World Mission Offering, you can see highlights of the work of Global Servants Ketly and Vital Pierre in the Dominican Republic, as they provide education, Bible studies, language classes, a micro-loan program, legal counseling, and more for Haitian immigrants facing inequity and maltreatment in the Dominican Republic. You can hear from Global Servants Alise and Mark Juanes, as they talk about their ministry of practical care and love for the hill tribe children in Chiang Mai, Thailand. You can also see the impact of Global Servant Ricardo Mayol-Bracero's ministry, as he serves and stands alongside communities in Latin America trying to access clean water and air. Through these three ministries you will have a glimpse into what God is doing through International Ministries' 120+ global servants, 900+ volunteers, home staff, and 250+ international partners in 70 countries. Visit their website, www.internationalministries.org, to learn more.



The offering will be received on October 3rd. Offering envelopes are available in the pew racks throughout the month of October and in the outer office.

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday, October 3rd. This year, because of Covid, the church will supply the cornucopia for all.

NBC Day Nurse School Resumes September 13



Allison Zyrlis and Heidi Ferrier are preparing for the 2021-2022 school year. If you know of anyone who may be interested in enrolling their child, please contact Allison at allieson13@yahoo.com.

MEALS FOR OUR FRIENDS AT ST. FRANCIS HOUSE

As a mission of the church, we are committed to helping Cal Robertson by providing a meal each Wednesday for St. Francis House where Cal lives. Volunteers are needed to prepare a meal for six individuals. If you can help, please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the narthex or contact Betsey Goetsch at 860-235-2729. If you can prepare a meal but find it difficult to make the delivery, Betsey will make arrangements. If you are unable to cook but would like to help financially, contribute to the cost of a dinner for the group.



Fellowship Hour Postponed for Now

Our after-worship fellowship gatherings are postponed until the time when we can enjoy them safely. When we resume, baked goods are appreciated and you are welcome to donate items to the freezer in the kitchen.



CROP WALK OCTOBER 17

The MAEC CROP Walk will begin at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Pearl Street in Mystic at 1 pm and continue to Noank Baptist Church where there will be snacks and water available. Join with us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need today and sustainable food security for tomorrow. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Harris at magooch5@sbcglobal.net.

Preparations Continue for the Holiday Bazaar

Date: November 20th



Your Help is Needed

As we continue to plan and prepare for this year's bazaar, your help is needed. Listed below are some of the traditional tables we plan to have and ways you can help:

- Jewelry - We are accepting jewelry donations now. Please leave jewelry in the NBC office.
- Knitting – Contact Bonnie Banks regarding questions or for ideas for the table.
- Candy Table – Contact Heather Searlovera for information and/or recipes for those that want to donate.
- Jams/Jellies/Preserves – Contact Jane Templeton if you have any extra garden harvest that can be turned into delicious, preserved items for the bazaar. And thanks for all the returned jars – as always, keep them coming!
- Christmas/Holiday – Have any holiday decorations that are still in good shape but maybe no longer suit your décor? Drop them off at the NBC office.
- Silent Auction - Thinking of donating Items or services for the Silent Action? Please leave donated items in the Chapel and – this is important - fill out the form you'll find on the podium. It really helps us organize the auction. Please note – our silent auction is always huge and amazing, however we may have to invoke space limitations this year to keep the crowds as spread out as possible. Just something to consider as you consider your treasures for donation.
 - * Ideas for items: antiques, new/unused gifts.
 - * Ideas for Services: yard cleaning, boat trip/sail, homemade soups or pies, be creative!

VOLUNTEERS are what is needed most. Applications are not necessary. Just let us know your availability – before (set up), during (help at a table), after (clean up), or dedicate all day!! A few hours of your time during the bazaar would be great.

Everyone's participation would be greatly appreciated!

Chairpersons – Beth and Steve Kanyock

Noank Baptist Church, a small church with a generous spirit!

From a letter from American Baptist Churches USA:

August 10, 2021

“On behalf of the American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary, it is my pleasure to congratulate you and your congregation on being ranked #66 in United Mission giving throughout the entire denomination of approximately 5,000 churches for the calendar year ending December 31, 2020! Congratulations and thank you for your generous support of \$15,000 in 2020!” In addition, we contributed nearly \$12,000 more to ABC-related agencies and missions.



The Flower Committee

The Flower Committee is eager to help you commemorate life events by providing floral arrangements for the sanctuary each Sunday. A calendar has been posted in the outer office on which you can sign up to sponsor flowers. The suggested donation is \$25.00. Checks may be made payable to Noank Baptist Church, with Flowers on the memo line. If you would like to become a member of the committee, please get in touch with Wendy Schnur. We would love to have you join us.

SEPTEMBER AT THE CORNER CLOSET

Open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10am-1pm

The Corner Closet has had a busy summer. Thank you for all of your wonderful donations! The profits have helped people set up their first apartments, provided clothing to needy families, supported the Riverfront Children’s Center’s program to fund vacation trips, as well as paying for the new river rock between the accessible ramps in front of the church.

We are featuring fall clothing for women, men and children as well as shoes, books and small housewares. We look forward to seeing you soon! Masks are required!

FIDGET MATS AND TWIDDLE MUFFS

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is expanding our creativity to knit and crochet mats and muffs with different textures and tactile activities to keep hands busy. The sensory items are designed to soothe the agitated fidgeting of people with dementia or autism. The finished items will be delivered to local emergency rooms.



Please contact Bonnie Banks if you are interested in helping out. She can supply patterns, yarn and a variety of add-on items to share.

The knitters and crochet people are also hard at work preparing beautiful items for the knitting table at the holiday bazaar. Please feel free to contribute too!



Groton Community Meals Update

GCM has been busy preparing approximately 90 take-out meals each Monday evening for curbside service at Faith Lutheran Church in Groton. Plans for the fall are being finalized to serve a second meal at a Thames Magnet School on Wednesdays and negotiations are underway to return to the Groton Senior Center on Monday evenings in January.



There are a lot of variables going into this and the COVID rate is the key. GCM is also hosting a fall flower/planting fundraiser through Flower Power. You can get more details and place orders at <http://GCM.fpfundraising.com>.

HATS FOR HOPE

This is the 11th year that Sandy Mansfield and other volunteers have been giving out warm hats for people in need. Over 3,000 hats have been given to cancer hospitals, homeless shelters, schools, and individual cancer patients and the needy in our area. The hats can either be knitted or crocheted (no wool please). We need hats for newborns, small children and adults. Please contact Sandy Mansfield at 860-445-6208.



COMMUNITY PROFILE - CHIP ANDERSON

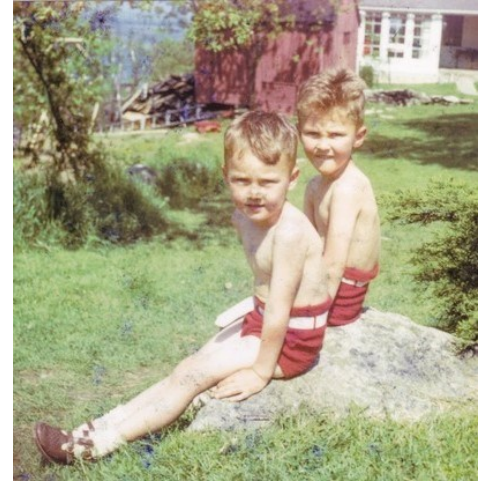
Robert P. Anderson, Jr. (Chip) is a Noank Baptist Church Deacon and long-time member of the church. Chip agreed to answer a few questions about his life and faith for this new monthly article.

How long have you been coming to NBC?

I was in the cradle roll and came to services as early as 1939-40. I was here for Sunday School before the service started every year until I went to boarding school.

Was there a particular pastor or event in your early days at NBC that influenced your future path?

William Millar was a nice guy, but fairly narrow in his musical taste. At an early age, I got to know music by Johann Sebastian Bach but because Mr. Millar believed Bach was a Catholic, he decided Bach's music wouldn't be played at the church. That seemed very shortsighted to me. But I did have a lot of respect for Ben Rathbun who was very involved in the church. I looked up to him a lot.



Freddy and Chip Anderson at 30 Brook Street

What is it about the church that makes it a meaningful part of your life today?

I've always had a strong feeling that this is a family. The people in the church foster a great feeling of togetherness. I especially believe that members share a commitment to one another.



Anderson Family, 1949

How do you nurture yourself spiritually?

In in early 1960s, I heard a recording of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*, which set to music eight anti-war poems by Wilfred Owen. I was very moved by that recording and it led me to consider pacifism. Later I went to a six-day seminar in Fitchburg, Massachusetts about Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I studied articles and books by him and read two biographies of him, one by his best friend, Eberhard Bethge. Meeting him was one of the greatest blessings of my life. My interest in Bonhoeffer has flourished for the rest of my life.

Other persons I have studied with special interest and taught in the Adult Bible Class were St. Augustine's "Confessions", John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" – both books, and Martin Luther.

Can you describe a way you have given back to the community?

I took on a more active role in the community in the late 1960s as Noankers explored options for caring for older residents who could no longer live at home. After various plans fell through, George Ford was willing to sell the land along Elm Street and I was responsible for the legal work to create Mystic River Homes. At around the same time, I donated the Legion Hall (now Main Street house) to the church, and it opened as a therapeutic group home. The teenage girl residents needed a safe place to live, a home where they could gain active living skills and succeed away from what were all too often dangerous family situations. Mary was also very involved with the restoration of Main Street House. Many church families played a role in the girls' social life and they were often invited home to dinner – I even took them sailing.



Mary and Chip Anderson, 2018

Do you have any advice for younger members of the church as they head out to make the world a better place?

Don't aim too high. There are needs right here. You don't have to look far.

NBC Mission Update

Seminario Intercultural Mayense



For more than a decade, the Noank Baptist Church has supported the work of the Seminario Intercultural Mayense (SIM) in southern Mexico. Paul and Wendy Hayes, Beth and Steve Kanyock and Chris Butta all traveled to Chiapas in 2010 to explore the remarkable ministry of the then-directors, Ricardo and Doris Mayol, who in turn came to NBC later that year to tell their story. The following year, Pastor Hayes convened the Mission Partnership Team for the Mayols, helping to guide and enhance communications with them and their supporting churches. Paul led another group to Chiapas in 2011 that included Marge Murdock.

Our beautiful communion tablecloth was made by the Mayan Women's Cooperative Ministry, incorporating important Mayan symbols that celebrate the bountiful world.

SIM's MISSION

The SIM promotes the constitution of subjects, the formation of networks around solidarity initiatives in particular for women and young people, and the conjunction of efforts in favor of the coming of the kingdom here on earth of a more inclusive, generous and participatory like the one our Creator dreamed of.



SIM supports indigenous women in ministry in some of the areas with the deepest needs in remote and poor communities in and around Chiapas. SIM volunteers collectively address inequities and build sustainable development projects that focus on the reality women and children are facing.

Throughout the pandemic, SIM recognized the isolation and growing marginalization of families in remote villages and worked to address those inequities, concentrating especially on health and education. Children in rural villages not only lack the technology resources (phone, internet, up-to-date computers and televisions) for remote learning, but the curriculum is in Spanish and indigenous children must learn Spanish as their second language before they can even participate. SIM volunteers have worked to keep students ages 6-12 at grade level in spite of high hurdles, especially in math and Spanish education.

In an all too common scenario in southern Mexico, indigenous people leave their home villages for imagined economic opportunities but then suffer severe discrimination in larger towns and cities in northern Mexico. SIM works with families to find a way to prevent displacement and preserve their culture, setting people up for success within their own communities.

The present leadership of SIM comes from the indigenous communities of Mexico, particularly Mayan. Dalia Juarez is the SIM Coordinator and educator; Eleazar Encino, who has been to Noank Baptist with Ricardo Mayol, directs the agricultural programs of SIM while also helping communities address the effects of climate change. Aurelia Jimenez manages the breadmaking ministry and food distribution throughout the Mayan communities. They, and others, serve as in the classroom and as onsite mentors for students and churches in Chiapas. In 2011, Rev. Frank Murdock donated many of his theological books to the seminary library. Annually, we gladly and generously support SIM through our mission budget.





Council News

Council Members

Moderator: *Sherrie Neilson*
Clerk: *Marti Bradshaw*
Treasurer: *Jane Templeton*
Asst Treas: *Debbie Bates*
Finance: *Nancy Gilmore*
Shirley Sebastian
Property: *Steve Kanyock*
Rich Santoro
Spiritual Life: *Mary Harris*
Shannon Weigle
Comm. Life: *Betsey Goetsch*
Joan Butler
Staff Relations: *Nancy Treadway*
At Large: *Nora Andrews*
Doreen Dickerson
Beth Kanyock
Barbara Williams

The NBC Council continued to meet virtually for monthly meetings on July 7 and August 4. Members presented written reports ahead of time and were available to answer questions in the meeting. Here is a summary:

The Council discussed the updated Ledge Light Health District guidelines, requiring masks for all indoor activity, including worship.

The church has been very busy with memorial services. Thanks to all the people, especially the sextons and hospitality committee, for the hard work for these services and receptions.

Five baptisms took place in the River on Sunday, August 15, followed by the annual church picnic.

Nine ABCCONN clergy are participating in an online class addressing white racism, from June 1 to the end of July. Pastor Hayes is hoping to schedule one here for those who would be interested in the fall or winter.

The Child Safety Policy task force is working to formulate a Child Safety Policy. The task force is comprised of Marti Bradshaw, Shannon and Paul Weigle, and Sarah Arriaga.

Vacation Bible School was August 2-6. Eighteen children attended and celebrated a successful, modified VBS. Thanks to all the volunteers and to Sarah for all their dedication and hard work.

September 12 is Homecoming Sunday.

The Deacons led the worship service on August 1 and it was well received.

The carpet installation in the sanctuary took place on June 28. It looks great!

The task force for the exterior repair/window replacement work (Adrian Johnson, Debbie Bates, Paul Connor, Rich Santoro, Steve Kanyock, and Charlie Anderson) has been formed to define the scope and cost of the job.

The plan to finance this major project was presented to the congregation at the Quarterly Business meeting on July 25.

A task force will be formed to address the issues brought forth concerning the church gardens and landscaping.

The kitchen licensing issues (dishwasher closure; refrigerator handle/closure) are continuing to be addressed, hopefully to be resolved soon.

Groton Community Meals is planning a "Soup-a-thon" for November 5 at the Elks Club in Groton. Also at www.flowerpowerfundraising.com spring bulbs are available to benefit the Groton Community Meals.

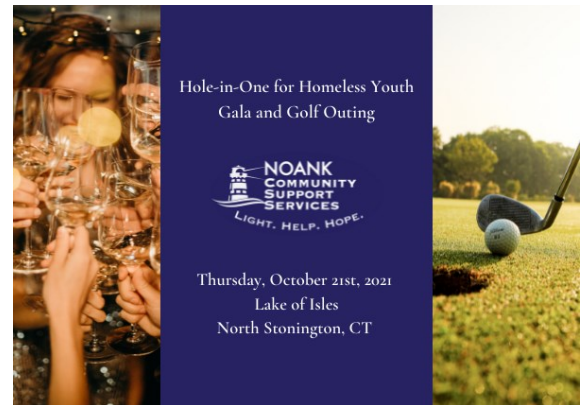
The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2021.

Noank Community Support Services Benefit, October 21st HOLE-IN-ONE FOR HOMELESS YOUTH

The first annual “Hole-in-One for Homeless Youth” Social and Golf outing will take place at Lake of Isles Golf Club and Resort. This outing benefits Noank Community Support Services (NCSS), a private nonprofit with nearly 50 years of experience providing shelter in home-like settings for youth and young adults. NCSS also provides ongoing support for those living with chronic mental illness, trauma recovery support for children, and community housing assistance throughout Eastern CT.

NCSS has planned a fun day of golf and an evening celebration with live music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Connect with fellow community members and support life-changing services provided by NCSS. By attending you will help to provide vital personalized care and a place for our community's most vulnerable youth to call home.

NCSS operates a transitional shelter dedicated to housing homeless young adults in NBC's Main Street House. The staff supports the young adults in their housing and employment searches in order to assist them in securing sustainable and secure housing and advancing career goals. The aim is to make their experience with homelessness be rare, brief, and non-recurring. For more information about the program and the event, see the NCSS website, www.noankcss.org.



NEW LONDON Homeless Hospitality Center

There are volunteer opportunities at the shelter as well as at the new Housing Resource Center in New London. The Center needs volunteers with computer skills to manage the flow of clients at reception. Help Desk volunteers can also provide mentoring to guests who might benefit from assistance with anything from getting mail to applying for a job.

The shelter also needs brand new adult men's and women's underwear of all sizes to have on hand when guests find themselves in need of this basic necessity. Thank you for your gift of dignity. For more information about how you can help out, visit www.nlhhc.org.

The Riverfront Children's Center Annual 5K Run/Walk, Saturday, September 18



RIVERFRONT
CITY OF GROTON
5K FOOT PURSUIT

The City of Groton, Groton Police and Groton Parks and Recreation are partnering with Riverfront Children's Center to bring back the popular 5K Run/Walk. We will provide a family-friendly event that appeals to all ages and abilities. Strollers, wheelchairs and wagons are welcome! Bring the whole gang and help support Riverfront Children's Center's vital early childhood education programs. Refreshments will be provided to all participants. Popular food trucks will be present with all your favorite snacks to refuel and there will also be several raffle items from local businesses. 5K shotgun is 9:30 AM, Family walk begins at 10:15AM. For more information and to sign up, visit www.riverfrontchildren.org.

**American Baptist Women's Ministries
Iron Sharpens Iron: 70th Birthday Celebration
Sunday, September 19, 2021, 6:00 pm**

Join American Baptist Women's Ministries on Sunday, September 19, 2021, at 6:00 PM EDT, as we celebrate 70 years of ministry with an online celebration! Our keynote speaker will be the Rev.



Dr. Pamela Durso, president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Durso has long used her voice as an advocate for women ministers and leaders, calling on Baptist churches to re-imagine their futures, to re-think their leadership, and to re-create their identities. She is committed to assisting congregations, organizations, ministers, and leaders as they move toward embracing more creative, entrepreneurial ways of living out and sharing the gospel.

ABCCONN's Annual Gathering, Saturday, September 25th, 9am-12pm

***I in Them, and You in Me, Complete Unity*
(John 17:23)**

Registration is open for ABCCONN's 197th Annual Gathering and we want to "see" you there! Though we'd hoped to gather in-person, due to the ever-evolving pandemic concerns and out of the safety of everyone, we've pivoted to a mostly virtual experience. All ABC-CONN family and friends are invited to attend the Annual Gathering for a time of worship, inspiration, fellowship and learning. The cost to attend is \$25.00 and click [here](#) to register.



ABCCONN
Annual Gathering
September 25, 2021

Virtual or In-Person
Union Baptist Church,
Hartford



**Alliance of Baptists
Virtual Fall Gathering
October 23, 2021
12:00 to 1:30 PM**

The Alliance of Baptists is a vibrant movement of people, faith communities and ministry partners who are deeply passionate about ecumenism, partnership in mission, relentless hospitality and racial and social justice. For more information, please visit www.allianceofbaptists.org.