

January 2017 Outlook

Unity Hill United Church of Christ

"Where God's Love Grows a Family"



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The Reverend M. Todd Shipley, Pastor

The Reverend Harold C. Smith D.D., Pastor Emeritus

Dorothy W. Pickens, Soloist

Louise Evans, R.N., Parish Nurse

Lucille Bayer, Moderator

Diane Henderson, Vice-Moderator

Lorie Ann Boveroux, Christian Education Director

Shari Herman, Interim Bookkeeper

Dawn Brezina, Financial Secretary

David Brezina, Church Clerk

Joanne Wickson, Office Administrator

Calap Brown, Sexton



Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



OUTLOOK DEADLINE ~ We welcome contributions to our monthly newsletter and invite you to share information, or even something more creative! The **FEBRUARY 2017 Outlook** will be published at the end of January. All submissions, special announcements, articles or events **provided on, or before, the DEADLINE of Wednesday, January 18** will be included.

PASTORAL CARE If you, or someone you know, is hospitalized, please call the church office (203-374-8822) to let us know. Hospitals **do not** notify us when a parishioner is hospitalized.



Please remember our homebound in your prayers or with a note:

Barbara Bailey, Hazel Berger, Dolores Colaiacomo, Elsie Rapposch, John Ray, Katie Schneider, Rev. Harold C. Smith, Mitch Wein and Nellie Wirth.

A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE ~ By: Pastor Todd Shipley

“Rebirth” – an excerpt from “The Edge of Evening” by Rudyard Kipling

**IF any God should say,
"I will restore
The world her yesterday
Whole as before
My Judgment blasted it"—who would not lift
Heart, eye, and hand in passion o'er the gift?**

**If any God should will
To wipe from mind
The memory of this ill
Which is Mankind
In soul and substance now—who would not bless
Even to tears His loving-tenderness?**

**If any God should give
Us leave to fly
These present deaths we live,
And safely die
In those lost lives we lived ere we were born—
What man but would not laugh the excuse to scorn?**

**For we are what we are—
So broke to blood
And the strict works of war—
So long subdued
To sacrifice, that threadbare Death commands
Hardly observance at our busier hands.**

**Yet we were what we were,
And, fashioned so,
It pleases us to stare
At the far show
Of unbelievable years and shapes that flit,
In our own likeness, on the edge of it.**

Rudyard Kipling, drenched in anxiety over a world war, writes this poem wondering that if a God could give humanity some options to start again who among us would refuse?

We worked together as a spiritual family over Advent and Christmas to make our experience holy by imagining a new name for ourselves...what would God rename us if we were to say yes to the Divine Plan for our lives and ignore for a moment our ego's plan. Would the fruits of our lives change? Could we create more Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love instead of despair, chaos, fear or hatred? We believe the answer is yes, of course, no matter how much doubt in true transformation we have ... the final answer is YES! because we are reading this article. Because we showed up for Advent. Because we believed in promise of Christmas enough to show up and sing of the new being Jesus.

Even as you read this just before the celebration of Christmas, much of the world remains in a chaotic state. Small wars continue ...

BUT we believe in a God that can accomplish all Kipling imagines and more.

Can you let God do something with you that even you cannot predict in 2017?

CHURCH UPDATES



Join us to celebrate the birth of the Christ child
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ~ Saturday, December 24
5:00 pm Family Service and
11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Communion
Lots of Christmas music and a display of memorial Poinsettias.

In addition, come and join us for a
CHRISTMAS DAY HYMN SING
Sunday, December 25 at 12 Noon
For more info, call the office at 203-374-8822.



CHRISTMAS CARD FROM UNITY HILL UCC MEMBERS

Instead of sending out individual Christmas cards you can choose to sign the "Blanket Fund of Church World Service" card, and send your Christmas Blessings to everyone. Your \$10 will be donated to CWS Blanket Fund, which helps people in times of disaster. Sign the card on the Missions bulletin board in December, or call the church office to add your name and you can mail a donation.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR SIGN-UPS FOR 2017

Remember to check the sign-up sheet to help fill out the dates. Also select any special dates you would like to celebrate with your church family. Contact the church office to reserve a future date. No time to shop or bake? Consider donating money instead to help us purchase food items to fill in as needed.



In the spirit of Matthew 25:35-40 we seek to take care of each other as Jesus spoke to the disciples: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in ..."
Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in? ...'
The King will reply, "Truly I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."



IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER ~ Listen on the Radio to WICC (600 AM) or WEBE-108 (107.9 FM) or watch WTNH-TV Ch. 8 for church cancellation notices or go to www.ctweather.com to sign up to be notified instantly of any cancellations. If Trumbull schools are closed or dismissed early, our office will be closed also. Here's how you can sign up to get free e-notifications via text and/or email when we post a cancellation on www.ctweather.com (Ct Weather Inc. – local, tri-state & national weather)_Go to www.ctweather.com; Hover over E-notifications (top choice in 3rd group at top of home page) Pick the group you want notifications from and click on it ... Unity Hill UCC is in "public organization" Fill out the bottom of the form to sign up. Any questions, call Joanne in the office at 203-374-8822.

2017 ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP ~ Please contact the office if you would like to register for the 2016 Flower calendar list to have flowers placed on the altar in memory or celebration of your loved ones - \$30.00 for 1 and \$50.00 for 2 arrangements. It will be up to you to remit payment directly to Langanke's. Thank you so much.



CELEBRATION CORNER!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!! Emily Brezina and the Seymour Pop

Warner JV Cheer team has been very busy this season. In October, they came in first place at the CT State JV Cheer Competition – and for the 2nd year in a row became CT state champions. Being state champs got them a police escort through town after the competition - a once-in-a-lifetime experience! At Regionals in Springfield, MA the Seymour JV Cheer came in 2nd which earned them a place to compete at Nationals held in ESPN at Disney World in Florida. Their hard work and dedication paid off when they were awarded 2nd place in the nation for their division (up 4 places from last year). This team took 5th in 2015 at the same competition. They showed the world what they are made of and had fun doing it. Congratulations to Emily and her team for showing the spirit that it takes to be a gracious winner!!! We are all so proud of you.



GEORGE'S HILL

Next get together is Thursday, January 12 from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm.

George's Hill is a social engagement group for persons with memory problems or early dementia and their caregivers, where they can meet with other people with similar problems, for a fun program and lunch, which is provided. To register, please call the church office at 203-374-8822 or sign up on our web site. Our motto is: **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**



DIACONATE ~ By: Patricia Bowman, Chair

The next Diaconate meeting is on Tuesday, January 10 at 1:30 p.m.

MUSICAL UPDATE ~ NEW MUSICAL COORDINATOR

Please join the Diaconate in welcoming David Yi, our new Music Coordinator at Unity Hill. David comes to us from the Yale School of Music where he is pursuing a Master of Musical Arts in Conducting. He has a wealth of talents to share. While in college at Southern Methodist University in Dallas he was involved in choral programs and served as Director of Music at several area Methodist churches. If you haven't heard him play in our sanctuary yet, come and enjoy his artistry during Sunday worship. As the new year starts he will be working with singers, both adult and youth so look for new opportunities to bring joyful song to the Lord.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ~ By: Sharon Brezina, Chair



HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

CHURCH COUNCIL ~ By: Moderator, Lucille Baver

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING on Monday, January 9 at 7:00 pm

COMMITTEE REPORTS TO COUNCIL are due in church office by **Monday, January 2.**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~ By: Lorie Bouveroux, Christian Ed Coordinator

Our Church School students have been working their way through Advent, anticipating the coming of our Lord. During our sacred time together we light the advent candle and tell the story of the candle and try to reflect on its meaning in our lives. This is just a part of what we are doing downstairs.

We always begin our time together lighting the Christ candle on our altar. We reflect on God's presence in our lives. Then we begin our time together with a craft. In most Sunday school programs the craft is usually done last. We do it first. Our kids share stories about their week, about their siblings and about school and family while they are working. I have always thought this was a good way to start.... And the added bonus is that the craft is ready to take home after our time together. We craft together at the round table at the bottom of the stairs. We are actually running out of space as we have welcomed Zander and Alexis into our group this past month.

After that we gather in front of our altar and the Gospel reading from this week is read aloud from a children's interpretation of the Bible. We have time to reflect and share on the message. If there is time, we move to the carpet for a game.

The kids know the routine well and it works for us. They are flexible enough so when I fine tune or add something it does not cause chaos.

On December 7th I was fortunate to attend the Yale Divinity School's workshop on Joy in Youth Ministry. It is wonderful to have a chance to meet with other people that are involved in formation across all branches of Christianity and learn of new ways to reach our youth.

Lorie Boveroux



MISSIONS COMMITTEE ~ By: Brenda Finizio, Chair

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done"
Proverbs 19:17

We had a phenomenal year in 2016 and the church should be very proud of what we accomplished. Here are the Mission Committee 2016 highlights:

- Support for Council of Churches – Uniting people and serving.
- Collections for four major Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM):
 - One Great Hour of Sharing
 - Strengthen the Church
 - Neighbors in Need
 - Christmas Fund
- Support for Greater Bridgeport Council of Churches
- Healthy food drive
- Weekly food donations
- Collections for school supplies and backpacks to needy teens
- Haiti trip to restore and rebuild church and school
- Thanksgiving baskets to members and families in community
- Blanket of Hope Fund collection.

We look forward to continuing to serve the needy in our church, community and throughout the world. 2017 is going to be a great year with new initiatives in place for outreach programs.

Thank you for all your support this past year and continued support in 2017.

God Bless. The Missions Committee: Brenda Finizio, Carole Fanslow, Marsha Piper Christina Finizio

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE ~ By: Sharon Brezina, Chair

Well we did it.....Unity Hill has two beautiful handicap accessible bathrooms. Top to bottom they were rebuilt. New floors, walls and fixtures ... and they look great!! Minus the fact we'll have to get used to the Women's bathroom being where the Men's room was and the Men's being where the Women's room was – this is a great improvement. Thanks to all the Parkers - Dad included - and crew for doing a terrific job on the bathrooms! (We'll have some before and after pictures next month!)

We'd like to thank Joanne and Calap for helping to decorate our building for the holidays. It looks beautiful - ready for the season.

Thanks to Hank for repairing the sign on the hill. You volunteered your time to fix it and B&G really appreciates your helping out ... as always. Also for keeping on top of the front door repair and cleaning the boiler room we sure do keep you busy, Hank. We can't thank you enough!

In the upcoming months, B&G will be looking into new security cameras, signage for the hill and removing some dead bushes from the back.

The fall cleanup was done by our grounds crew - they did an awesome job too.

Remember - if you have any spare time and would like to help around out building that would be great - we have many projects that can use attention....a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

B&G hopes everyone has a very Happy and Healthy 2017! God Bless, Steve, Trevor and Sharon



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ~ By: Carole J. Fanslow, President

- ~ No Meetings in January or February except for the Executive Board on Thursday, January 5 at 12 noon, with a snow date of Thursday, February 2, with Louise Evans, hostess.
- ~ We begin the year at 12:00 noon on Thursday, March 16 with a "Soup and Sandwich" Luncheon hosted by Lucille Bayer. We each will bring our own sandwich and enjoy Lucille's soup and dessert. The fee for the luncheon is \$5.00. Marie Seavey will give Devotions. Marilyn Faber R.N. from the Parish Nurse Program at St. Vincent's Hospital will discuss "Contagious Health." Come and learn how to "Catch Health." All women and men from our church and friends are invited to attend. A sign-up sheet will be posted in February.

FELLOWSHIP OF UNITY HILL ~ By: Dot Pickens, President 2016

- ~ Sunday, December 11th we had our annual Christmas Party at the Blue Goose Restaurant in Stratford. Eighteen people attended and we all had a great time socializing and exchanging grab bag gifts. Thanks to all that attended.
 - ~ Our next turn to provide the meal at **Golden Hill Community Suppers** will be on Wednesday, December 28; We will cook at Golden Hill UMC starting at 2:00 pm and serve at 5:00 pm. Help is always needed and appreciated. Please contact Dot Pickens for more information. Many thanks to our volunteers that served on October 26 at Golden Hill United Methodist Church: Ed & Wally Yeager, Ron Finizio, Marsha Piper, Renate Krakovich, Marie Seavey, Carole & Allen Fanslow. More than 100 people enjoyed our entrée. Cost of the meal was \$200+. Also, thank you to those that stayed or supported our Hunger Luncheon on Sunday, November 6. Proceeds from this event will help towards another meal.
 - ~ Our next commitment for Community Suppers is on Wednesday, February 22nd.
- Any questions, please contact Dot Pickens.

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND HAPPENINGS

TRUMBULL INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Monthly meeting is on Wednesday, January 4 at 7:30 pm at Long Hill United Methodist Church, Trumbull.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

Delegates Meeting will be on Thursday, January 12 at Messiah Baptist church, Bridgeport.

MIDDLEBROOK FARMS WORSHIP SERVICE

Next worship service is Thursday, January 5 at 2:00 pm with Deacons Wally Yeager and Carole Fanslow.

MERCY LEARNING CENTER



MERCY
LEARNING
CENTER

At Mercy Learning Center, located at 637 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, is looking for volunteers to teach English Language Learners, as well as reading and math in its one-on-one or small group tutoring program. Tutors meet with their students at the Center twice weekly, for two hours each session.

The Center is open Monday-Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Over 900 students benefited from the MLC tutoring program last year. A one-day training session is required for all new tutors; teaching experience is not necessary. Upcoming training sessions will take place on Friday, January 6 and Friday, January 27, 2017 from 9:00 – 3:00. Lunch will be provided. For more info, or to register for a training session, please contact Lynn Gabriel or Sandra Santy, Tutor Coordinators at 203-334-6699 or Email: lynn.gabriel@mercylearningcenter.org or sandra.santy@mercylearningcenter.org

HEALTH CORNER

10 SNOW SHOVELING SAFETY TIPS By: Anna Fleet ~ <http://www.activebeat.com> (January 30, 2014)

Snow is great—if you're a snowman! But then again snowmen don't have to shovel when Jack Frost and Mother Nature conspire to drop a big heavy drift of snow on your driveway. How you tackle that mound of winter may leave you with a lengthy injury, severe muscle strain, frostbite, or a heart attack. That's why we're giving you the cold scoop on snow shoveling safety...

- 1. Prevent a Back Injury** ~ Shoveling a driveway full of wet, heavy snow is extremely physically demanding, particularly if you're not regularly active as it is. That's why it's vital to approach the chore of shoveling yourself out as a workout or a strenuous work task. Shoveling can be hazardous and those with bad backs risk strains, pulls, and misalignments, so do yourself a favor and take it slow, ask for assistance, invest in a snow blower, or wear a back brace and take frequent breaks if you have a history of back issues.
- 2. Stretch and Warm Up** ~ As mentioned, shoveling a driveway can burn up to 500 calories, more for super long, super wide driveways. And that is considered a workout. So do your body a favor and warm up with some stretches before you begin shoveling. A body full of tight inactive muscles and a cold winter's day can almost guarantee a muscle pull.
- 3. Dress Warmly** ~ On cold winter days, being outside for any length of time requires warm, dry, lightweight layers that keep in your body heat, but are still comfortable for shoveling. A pair of thermal underwear under your pants is a wise idea, and an upper layer that wicks away perspiration from the skin's surface will prevent frostbite or a chill.
- 4. Protect Extremities from Frostbite** ~ Skin exposed to cold weather is the most prone to frostbite. Typically, the extremities—including the ears, nose, fingers, and toes—are most at risk. So wear a warm winter hat that covers your ears, a scarf that shelters your mouth and nose, and mittens that shield your hands and fingers from frostbite. Also, waterproof, winter boots should protect your feet and ankles from wetness and provide traction on slippery surfaces.
- 5. Invest in a Lightweight Shovel** ~ When you consider the weight of all that snow, a lightweight, but a heavy-duty shovel won't add to each scoop and put stress on your lower back and hamstrings. Stick with a shovel that is under 3-pounds with a handle long enough so that you don't have to crouch down uncomfortably to get a good grip while shoveling.

6. Lift With Your Legs ~ Remember, even if you have a strong back, the cold temperatures will increase the risk of a muscle pull. So push with your shovel, don't lift, and if you do have to scoop and toss snow onto a pile, use your legs and not your back to support the heavy load. Also, avoid a muscle strain by twisting away suddenly from the direction your facing to toss snow over your shoulder.

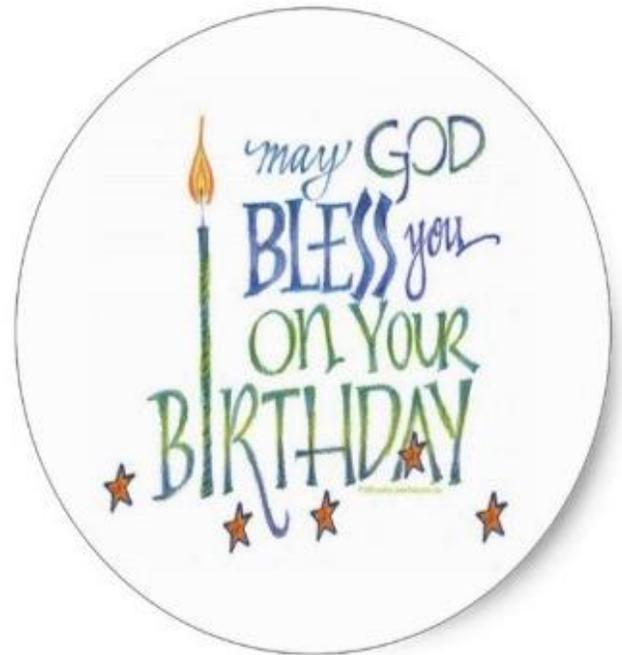
7. Take Breaks ~ Clearing a long driveway demands a lot of physical exertion. Something you may not be used to if you don't exercise regularly. So take it easy on yourself and take breaks when you're feeling winded or sore. And be sure to go inside for a hot beverage and to warm up if you feel numb to cold.

8. Pace Yourself ~ After months of inactivity, you wouldn't run a 5K race without stopping, would you? That might seem ridiculous, but so is a strenuous hour of shoveling a driveway. Basically, each scoop of snow is a weight, and even though you're eager to get back inside where its warm, you should never risk your health or an injury to get the job done faster.

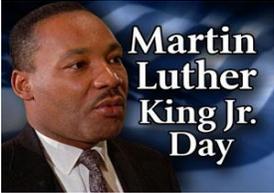
9. Ask For Assistance ~ Don't be shy to ask for help with snow shoveling duties, particularly if you're older, have an existing heart condition, or aren't physically fit enough to shovel your own driveway. Ask a family member or offer to pay a neighbor with a snow blower to clear the snow from your stairs, driveway, and front walk.

10. Prevent Slips and Falls ~ Each year, roughly 120,000 American adults suffer injuries associated with snow and ice removal. The majority of those accidents are slips and falls that could have been avoided with proper footwear with traction, and simply by using a de-icing product on slippery surfaces prior to shoveling.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN JANUARY	
1 Ruth DeNomme	14 Shari Henderson
4 Shane Paolozzi	14 Mabel Buttress
5 Dolores Colaiacomo	18 Jonathan Sanchez
6 Trevor Bowman	18 Daniel Finizio
8 Bess Spencer	22 Lisa Panebianco
9 Vicky Buttress	23 Brooklyn Rondon
10 Indira Wong	25 Louise Evans
11 Rev. Harold C. Smith	30 Alicia Pickens
13 David Vars	



JANUARY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2 Committee Reports to Council due by today	3 1:30pm Diaconate Meeting	4	5 12:00pm Women's Fellowship Executive Board 3-9pm PCCT	6 8am-12pm PCCT	7
8	9 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	10	11 11:30-2:30 Kennedy Center	12 11:30-1:00 George's Hill 3-9pm PCCT	13 8am-12pm PCCT	14
15	16 	17 7-8:30pm Overeaters' Anonymous Intergroup	18 OUTLOOK DEADLINE	19 3-9pm PCCT	20 8am-12pm PCCT	21
22	23	24	25	26 3-9pm PCCT	27 8am-12pm PCCT	28
29	30	31				

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2016

Given By

Lucille A. Baver
Patty Bowman,
Marilyn Noble & Family
The Brezina Family
Sharon, David, David G.,
Emily & Kaelyn Brezina
Robert & Janice Coulson

Ruth DeNomme

Carol Dunn & John Rossi

Arline Dzialo
Louise Evans
Carole & Allen Fanslow

Gail & Don Gorlo
Diane, Cindy & Shari
Henderson & Ilse Plitt
Walter & Rita Hurzeler
Ann Myrece & Bill James

Sandra Osten
Marsha Piper
Gayle Robles & Linda Polito

Marie Seavey
Rev. Harold C. Smith, D.D.

Janet & Bob Tanner

Mom, Dad & the Vars Family
Rose Vars & Family

Given By

Walter & Rita Hurzeler

In Memory Of

Florence Nelson
Barry Bowman, Lynn Gardner

George Brezina
Joan Groves, George Brezina & Teresa Sievers

Alice & Frank Coulson;
Josephine & Anthony Merly
My Parents, Frances & Joseph Zak;
My Husband, Raymond DeNomme
Carol's Parents, Eleanor & James Dunn;
John's Mother, Anita Dupras
Eleanor Sitlinger & Florence Nelson
My Husband, Charles & My Son, Gregory
Our Parents, Charlotte & Frank Foehrenbach;
Elsie & Allen Fanslow
Ruth & George Schuler
Edward & Richard Barber; Ellwood Plitt

Our Parents; John Scholl; Madeline Hurzeler
Walter & Mary Schwartz;
Willy & Marion LaLiberte
Frederick Osten
Parents, Ben & Marge Conte
Son & Nephew, Frank Patrick Morrissey;
Our Grandmother, Amalie Nelle
My Husband, Alton Seavey & Son, Keith Seavey
Hedwig A. & Harold E. Smith, Julia F. Smith,
Dorothy Beard Smith, Caroline S. Carraway,
Dorothy Gehlback, Mildred E. Swain
Parents Helen & Frank Demovick;
Son Ted Tanner

Janice Vars
Roger Vars

In Celebration Of

Matthew, Kimberly, Rob, Colin, Madison and
Angela





***“No matter who you are
or where you are
on life’s journey,
you are welcome here!”***

***Unity Hill United Church of Christ
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