

OCTOBER 2017 OUTLOOK

Unity Hill United Church of Christ

“Where God’s Love Grows a Family”

364 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT 06611

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Phone: 203-374-8822 Fax: 203-374-1120

The Reverend M. Todd Shipley, Pastor

Lucille Baver, Moderator

Diane Henderson, Vice-Moderator

Shari Herman, Bookkeeper

Dawn Brezina, Financial Secretary

David Brezina, Church Clerk

Dorothy W. Pickens, Soloist

Louise Evans, R.N., Parish Nurse

Joanne Wickson, Office Administrator

Calap Brown, Sexton

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Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
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OUTLOOK DEADLINE ~ We welcome contributions to our monthly newsletter and invite you to share information, or even something more creative! The **NOVEMBER 2017 Outlook** will be published at the end of OCTOBER. All submissions, special announcements, articles or events **provided on, or before, the DEADLINE of Wednesday, OCTOBER 18** will be included.



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



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

Hazel Berger, Dolores Colaiacomo, Elsie Rapposch,
Katie Schneider, Mitch Wein and Nellie Wirth

FALL PRAYER CAMPAIGN

Every church is concerned with growth. Members are concerned about this not only for financial reasons but spiritual ones as well, and the same is true for our specific church - Unity Hill. A pastor's main concern regarding growth is that it is done in the right way, meaning, 'a faithful way,' and the same is true for your specific pastor. To grow while being faithful to the Church's true mission is hopefully the goal of every church, both pastor and members alike, and it requires reflection and prayers of discernment.

Hopefully prayer and authentic discussion will lead to answers for questions such as:

How is our church specifically gifted in transmitting the gospel message?

Who needs our church's specific form of Christian healing and worship?

And once these questions have been answered, 'How do we find these people?'

I hope you will join me this fall in praying for the answers to these questions. Every Sunday during our Prayers of the People we will be asking God to answer these questions and also asking God to help these people find their way to Unity Hill's doorstep.

Yours,
Pastor Todd



BIBLE STUDY ~ from October 1st to November 15th

**From the Garden of Eden to the Garden of Gethsemane:
A Look at Prayer and Meditation throughout the Bible.
Classes Every Sunday at 9:00am with a second
opportunity on Wednesday at 6:00pm**

- 10/1 and 10/4**
- 10/8 and 10/11**
- 10/15 and 10/18**
- 10/22**
- 10/24**
- 10/29 and 11/01**
- 11/5 and 11/8**
- 11/12 and 11/15**

- Praying in the Garden of Eden (Genesis)
- Patriarchs at Prayer (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob)
- Prophets at Prayer (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel)
- NO CLASS**
- Praying in the Desert (Jesus' 40 days of trial)
- Lord, Teach Us to Pray (The Lord's Prayer)
- Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane (Jesus confronts the Will of God)
- Praying at Pentecost (The Disciples in the Book of Acts)

CHURCH UPDATES

COLUMBUS DAY ~ Monday, October 9 ~ Our office will be closed for the holiday.

JOANNE WILL BE AWAY ON VACATION from Tuesday, October 10 through Friday, October 13;
She'll be back in the office on Monday, October 16.

Wally Yeager and Linda Polito will be covering the office while she's gone.

TODD WILL BE AWAY ON VACATION from Friday, October 20 through Sunday, October 22.

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

Our thoughts and prayers are with our office manager, Joanne Wickson and her family on the loss of her brother. **James A. Dennean, III**, age 60, of Colchester, VT, previously of Stratford, died on Sunday, August 27, 2017 in Colchester. Jimmy, beloved son of mother Anne (Sullivan) Dennean of Stratford and the late James A. Dennean Jr., was a carpenter by trade and a caregiver at heart. He loved some things passionately: his children and grandchildren, his mother, the Grateful Dead, the NY Giants, the Baltimore Orioles, and the beautiful state of VT. All will miss him dearly and are very happy he is now at peace.



GEORGE'S HILL

Thursday, October 12 from 11:30 am until 1 pm, *including lunch*.

Our second-year anniversary celebration ~ 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. We meet on the second Thursday of every month. Our motto is: **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**



CHURCH COUNCIL ~ By: Moderator, Lucille Baver

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

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING on **Monday, October 9 at 7:00 pm.**

DIACONATE ~ By: Patricia Bowman, Chair

Diaconate will be meeting on Tuesday, October 3 at 1:00 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ~ By: Sharon Brezina, Chair

THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY BASKET BONANZA!!! ~ Sunday, November 5th at 1:00 pm.

It's that time of year again. This can be a great fundraiser for the church. Having everyone help would surely make it a success!!! This year we are forming a committee to help out, so if you would like to be on the committee – I promise to make it fun!! Contact me or tell Joanne – she will tell me. Hope everyone can help ... one way or another. Thanks.

Places needing help: * Baskets needed ... lots and lots! * Set-up / take down
* Advertising and Community Donations * Food

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE ~ By: Sharon Brezina, Chair

Hello Unity Hill UCC students for 2017-2018, welcome to Fall! Looking forward to getting started. We chose a new study guide for the children this year, it's called "Hands On."

The write-up on the program says What if Jesus could teach your kids? He can...through us!!! Jesus was the master at using creative objects—like coins, fish, and lilies—to connect eternal truths to everyday life.

With this Hands-On Bible Curriculum, kids experience the same powerful connections between Scripture and everyday life by engaging all five of their senses. The Bible comes alive! Kids don't just hear God's Word—they experience it!

In addition to gizmos, we'll use unique games, snacks, and crafts to help kids learn about God. Kids retain more by interacting with a lesson instead of just hearing it. Discovering the Bible will be a fun, hands-on experience that gets kids excited about Sunday school. We are hoping this program engages the kids and helps them feel the stories. Can't wait to get started!!

October 14th is the Harvest Fair - we would like every child to volunteer an hour to help run the games for other kids. Should be fun – a signup sheet is downstairs.

We want to thank all the kids who worked so hard to clean up the teaching rooms, and all the adults who also helped out.

So happy to get rid of some old fixtures to make way for new ones. Starting to look great! Thanks!

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE ~ By: Carol Dunn

B&G Committee: Henry Parker - Chair, John Rossi and Carol Dunn

Fall is right around the corner and Building & Grounds is gearing up for the Fall clean-up season.

- The church should be a place of peace and a safe haven for worshipping and experiencing God's love and grace away from the conflicts of the world. But what happens when crime and violence breach the church doors? B&G is attempting to make the building more secure. We have started by locking the office doors at the end of each day. The last one out is supposed to lock the Church door and alarm the Church. However, we have found the alarm on and the Church door unlocked several times, meaning anyone can gain entry to the Church, rob and/or just sit and wait for someone to come in. Please understand, we are living in a different world today.
- A rain sensor has been installed on the sprinkler system so that the sprinkler system does not go off when it rains. The system has been reset to water the lawn on Monday, Wednesday and Friday instead of seven days a week. This should save on the water bill as well as the sewer usage bill.
- We will be having the front door refinished, replacing the Dutch door going into the Nursery, and replacing the exterior door going into the boiler room from the outside. This should be completed by end of October.

“Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn.”

Elizabeth Lawrence

MISSIONS COMMITTEE ~ By: Brenda Finizio, Chair

Matthew 25:35-40 ³⁵ *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,* ³⁶ *I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

³⁷ *"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?'* ³⁸ *When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?'* ³⁹ *When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

⁴⁰ *"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.'*

Current Missions Work

- Funds for Hurricane Harvey
 - Salvation Army – One of the highest rated charities. Their mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.
 - UCC Disaster Relief for Hurricane Harvey

- Funds for other Disasters – To be determined, collections, match & funds from budget
 - Hurricane Irma – Caribbean, Florida
 - Earthquake – Mexico
 - Hurricane Jose and Hurricane Maria

- Mission Giving this Summer
 - Haiti – Funds for medical concerns, education, needed supplies
 - Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport
 - UCC, Our Churches Wider Mission
 - Healthy Food Drive for local communities
 - Support for needed members
 - CT Police – K9 Unit

- Upcoming Actions
 - Continued assistance for victims of natural disasters
 - Support for communities in need
 - Collections for Our Churches Wider Mission, Strengthen the Church
 - Thanksgiving donations for needy members
 - Partner with Bridgeport Rescue Mission Thanksgiving Food Drive

Thanks for your support.

Brenda Finizio, Missions Chair

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

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

- ~ Our new program brochure for 2017-2018 is hot off the press. Thank you, Joanne! Lots of great programs are planned for the year – our meetings are always open to all members and friends.
- ~ Our October 19th program at 12:00 noon will feature Officer Richard Carlson and from the K9 unit – Rico. Hostesses for the luncheon are: Louise Evans, Carole Fanslow and Rose Vars. Devotions by Rose Vars. Luncheon is \$7.50 or bring your favorite covered dish to share. Sign up on the bulletin board or call the office.
- ~ The next meeting of the **Executive Board** will be on Thursday, October 5 at 12:00 pm. Hostess is Renate Krakovich.



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

At a summer gathering at Marie Seavey's home on Sunday, August 27, we decided on the following dates:

- ~ The group will cook on October 22 after church for the next Golden Hill Community Suppers and our Hunger Luncheon
- ~ Our next turn at **Golden Hill Community Suppers** will be on Wednesday, October 25 - additional help is always needed and appreciated! Come to cook at Golden Hill United Methodist Church at 2:00 pm or to serve at 5:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Dot Pickens or Allen Fanslow.
- ~ Another Hunger Awareness Luncheon is set for Sunday, October 29 after worship. Please stay and enjoy a great lunch, and at the same time help to defray the cost for our next Community Suppers meal. Adults \$6.00; Children under 12 \$3.00
- ~ On Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 pm, the group will gather at Blue Goose Restaurant in Stratford for their annual Christmas Party. Cost is \$30.00 per person. Complete details on bulletin board at church. Don't forget a grab bag gift! More information from President, Dot Pickens. The more the merrier!

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND HAPPENINGS

MIDDLEBROOK FARMS WORSHIP SERVICE

Worship service at Middlebrook Farms in Trumbull will be on Thursday, October 5 at 2 pm led by Deacons Waltraud Yeager and Carole Fanslow.

TRUMBULL INTERFAITH COUNCIL



THANKSGIVING SERVICE

- ~ **Monthly Meeting** of Trumbull Interfaith Council will be Wednesday, October 4 at 7:00 pm at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 200 Shelton Road, Trumbull.
- ~ The **Annual Thanksgiving Service** will be on Sunday, November 19 at 4:00 pm at Congregation B'nai Torah, 5700 Main Street, Trumbull. Bring non-perishables.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

Delegates' Quarterly Meeting on Monday, November 13 at a place to be announced.

FAIRFIELD EAST ASSOCIATION

Fall Meeting is in Danbury on Wednesday, November 1.



PIPESCREAMS

Pipescreams is coming! Sunday, October 29 at 4:00 pm at First Congregational Church in Stratford, sponsored by the American Guild of Organists.

READ ALOUD DAY IN BRIDGEPORT SCHOOLS

The 32nd Read Aloud Day is Thursday, October 19 from 9:30 – 10:00 am. Do you like reading to our children? Then Read Aloud Day sponsored by School Volunteer Association is right for you. Call 203-275-1120. You may select a school and grade in our Bridgeport school system.

HEALTH CORNER: Give Your Drugs a Checkup

Give Your Drugs a Checkup: Reviewing Your Medication List Can Prevent Errors

Drug-safety experts recommend throwing all your pill bottles into a bag at least once a year and taking them to your doctor or pharmacist for a thorough drug checkup. That "[brown-bag review](#)" of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, as well as vitamins and supplements provides a chance to check for duplicate meds, excessive doses, and dangerous interactions, and for you to ask questions.

For insight on how easy it is to talk with pharmacists about your drugs and to see how well they caught potentially dangerous interactions, we sent 10 secret shoppers to 45 pharmacies across the U.S. and had them ask about a list of drugs they were "taking."

They included three prescription drugs (the blood-pressure medication hydrochlorothiazide, the blood thinner Coumadin, and the sleeping pill Ambien) and two OTC drugs (baby aspirin and Aleve PM, a combination pain pill and sleep aid).

Shoppers reported that in most cases (84 percent), pharmacists appropriately warned them about the risk of bleeding when taking Coumadin, Aleve PM, and aspirin together. Flagged less often was the potential for next-day drowsiness when combining Ambien and Aleve PM, or nighttime dizziness from the blood-pressure drug hydrochlorothiazide, Ambien, and Aleve PM.

Our shoppers also recorded observations about their experiences, noting that overall the pharmacists were helpful.

Here are some tips from them, as well as some from pharmacists at leading drugstore chains:

Make sure you talk with the pharmacist. In half their visits, shoppers first met a clerk or pharmacy technician at the counter, not a pharmacist.

Schedule an appointment. The pharmacists did a pretty good job of spot-checking problems when our shoppers just showed up at the counter. But experts say that for a full brown-bag review, you're better off reserving time with your pharmacist or doctor.

Ask about insurance. None of our shoppers had to pay for their walk-in visits, and CVS and Target told us they also do free comprehensive reviews. Other pharmacies, and your doctor, may charge for full reviews, but most often it's only your regular insurance co-pay. Medicare allows free yearly reviews with a doctor, and for many Medicare Part D patients taking multiple meds, a pharmacist, too.

Be thorough. Cover the basics for each medication or supplement, such as what it's for, how long you should take it, what it costs, and any side effects and potential interactions. Also ask about [nondrug options](#) that might be safer, and whether you can switch to a lower dose.

NATIONAL CHECK YOUR MEDS DAY

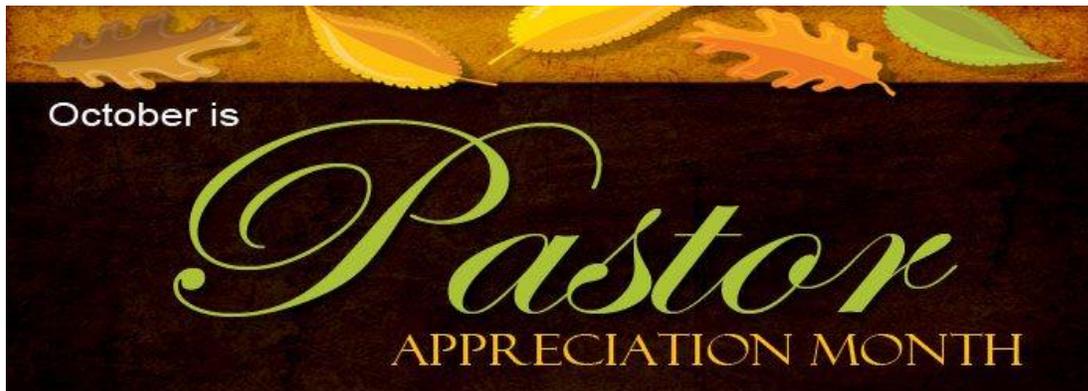
Consumer Reports, working with the Department of Health and Human Services, has proclaimed **OCTOBER 21, 2017 “NATIONAL CHECK YOUR MEDS DAY.”**

A number of pharmacies—Costco, CVS, Sam’s Club, Target, Walmart, Albertsons, and many independents—have agreed to support the effort. Some may even have extra staff on hand to help you review your meds. Ask your local pharmacy whether it is participating.

Good to know: Asking your doctor whether there are meds you can stop taking could result in at least one less prescription, according to CR’s recent nationally representative survey.

By Teresa Carr, Consumer Reports August 03, 2017

<https://www.consumerreports.org/drugs/consumer-reports-best-buy-drugs/>



“Moments of GRATITUDE come when you realize that you are given exactly what you need in every moment and that the BIGGER PICTURE is not what says in front of you right now, but what is STILL TO COME.”

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN OCTOBER!
October 3 Joanne and John Wickson



October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Bible Study	2 Reports to Church Council Due	3 1pm Diaconate Meeting	4 6pm Bible Study 7pm Trumbull Interfaith Council Meeting	5 12pm Women's Fellowship Executive Board Meeting 2 pm Middlebrook Farms Worship Service	6	7
8 9am Bible Study	9 Columbus Day Office is closed 7pm Church Council Meeting	10 Joanne on vacation	11 Joanne on vacation 6pm Bible Study	12 Joanne on vacation 11:30am George's Hill	13 Joanne on vacation	14
15 9am Bible Study	16	17	18 OUTLOOK DEADLINE 6pm Bible Study	19 12pm Women's Fellowship Covered Dish Luncheon	20 Todd on vacation	21 Todd on vacation 2-3:30pm Overeaters' Anonymous Intergroup Meeting
22 Todd on vacation - No Bible Study 12pm Fellowship of UH Cook for Community Suppers	23	24	25 2pm Cook; 5pm Serve Golden Hill Community Suppers Program 6pm Bible Study	26	27	28 12-4pm Overeaters Anonymous Workshop
29 9am Bible Study 11:30am Hunger Luncheon FUH	30	31 Halloween				

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN OCTOBER!

2 Diane Henderson	10 Joanne Wickson	24 Keith Gorlo
6 Richard Parker	11 Sherri Miller	27 Jeff Baez
7 Scott Barwick	17 Danielle King	30 Dave Brezina (Dad)
10 Syndee Barwick	17 Bill Csire	30 Kaelyn Brezina





UNITY HILL UCC'S HARVEST FAIR

Saturday, October 14 ~ 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Join us in this fun event. The fair will feature a farmer's market, crafts, children's activities. Junk-in-the-trunk, food and many other fun activities. It's the perfect fair for families who want an alternative to the big fairs and commercial midways. *Donna of Dee's Designs will be displaying her one-of-a-kind house and garden art. Her designs are crafted from glass and dishware from all different eras. She upcycles these pieces into beautiful angels, flowers and owls. Get a head start on your Christmas shopping with these unique and decorative creations!*



If you can help by donating a gift for the raffle or a baked good, it would be helpful.

Pastor's Luncheon ~ Pork Sandwiches, Dessert & Drink ~ \$10.00

***"No matter who you are
or where you are
on life's journey,
you are welcome here!"***

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