

JUNE 2016 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
Lorie Ann Boveroux, Christian Education Coordinator

Dorothy W. Pickens, Soloist

Louise Evans, R.N., Parish Nurse

Lucille Baver, Moderator

Diane Henderson, Vice-Moderator

Dawn Brezina, Financial Secretary

David Brezina, Church Clerk

Joanne Wickson, Office Administrator

Shari Herman, Interim Bookkeeper

Calap Brown, Sexton

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

**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

OUTLOOK DEADLINE ~ We welcome contributions to our monthly newsletter and invite you to share information, or even something more creative! The **SUMMER 2016 Outlook** will be published at the end of June. All submissions, special announcements, articles or events **provided on, or before, the DEADLINE of Wednesday, June 15** 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.



PASTOR TODD’S OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm or by appointment.

A SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE ~ By: Pastor Todd Shipley

“ON THE VERGE OF COMPREHENSION” by *Stephanie Paulsell*, May 04, 2016

I'll be leaving Rome soon. I walk around the city, trying to memorize it: the angels on the Sant'Angelo bridge, purposeful and grave; the arms of the colonnade cradling St. Peter's Square; the redbud trees lifting their branches like offerings. I hope to go home changed, but I don't yet know what that change will be.

Before I leave, the church will celebrate one more great feast: Pentecost, that festival of communication and understanding. Licked by tongues of flame and filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus' disciples found themselves suddenly able to speak in many different languages and be understood by native speakers, "devout Jews from every nation under heaven." What seems at first like a reversal of Babel becomes something even better: God's reaffirmation of the variety of languages in which human beings speak of the things that matter most. On Pentecost, rather than scattering in confusion, people of many tongues gather close and listen together.

It feels right to mark the end of my time here with the feast of Pentecost. The story that Acts tells is the stuff of my dreams, in which suddenly I can speak Italian fluently and understand all the Italian spoken to me. When such things happen in waking life, they feel like miracles. I remember receiving a letter from my sister, years ago, soon after arriving in Bogotá, Colombia, for a year of study. "My host mom and sister are talking in the kitchen," she wrote, her pen flying across the page, "and *I can understand what they are saying!*"

My experiences with comprehension are more sporadic. Sometimes I can understand every word in a sentence and still not know what the sentence means. I feel like Edgar Allen Poe's narrator in "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," trying to follow the logic of his brilliant friend, Dupin: "I seemed to be upon the verge of comprehension, without power to comprehend—as men, at times, find themselves on the brink of remembrance, without being able, in the end, to remember."

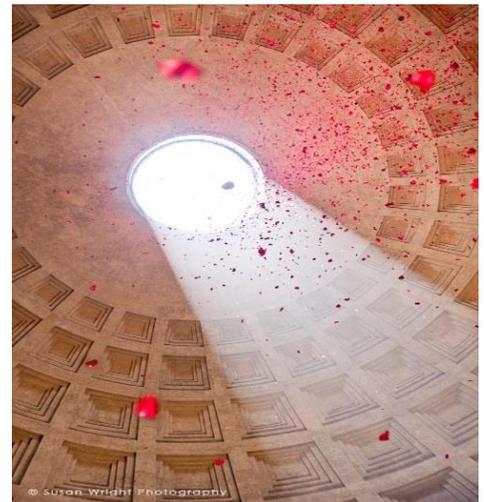
"Upon the verge of comprehension" seems to me a good description of where we stand between Easter and Pentecost. Who can claim to be wholly fluent in this season's mysteries and impossibilities, to comprehend fully its appearances and disappearances? Even those who heard the disciples preaching in their own mother tongue still had to ask: "What does this mean?"

Comprehending "God's deeds of power"—the freeing of Jesus from death, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit—requires more than finding the equivalent expression in our own language. Comprehension does not arrive, once and for all, once we have looked up all the words. We glimpse the meaning of Easter intermittently in the life we share with others. Those who heard the disciples preach on Pentecost comprehended the message in their own language. But that was only the beginning. It was in the life they lived together that their answers to "What does this mean?" began to take shape. And it was the life they lived together that inspired others to try to answer that question as well.

This Pentecost, people from many nations will fill the Pantheon in Rome, and I hope to be among them. We will celebrate the mass together—some of us understanding the liturgy word for word, some of us understanding only the gestures and forms, and some of us encountering a Christian celebration for the first time.

At the end of the service, Roman firefighters on top of the Pantheon's dome will pour red rose petals through the oculus, the large opening in the center of the dome which allows light to move through the building as the earth turns. The oculus has never been covered. It has stood open like the threshold between heaven and earth no matter which gods were being worshiped beneath it. Looking up through it at the unadorned sky, we might be standing in any moment in time, next to all who ever stood beneath it and lifted their faces.

In the Pantheon on Sunday, some of us will hear the gospel proclaimed in our own language; some of us will hear it in a language we do not understand. But when



the rose petals begin to fall, they will make us one for a moment like the Parthians, Judeans, Romans, Arabs, and others who heard the gospel in their own tongues. We may not know each other's languages, but when the rain of rose petals begins, we will have our faces turned in the same direction. "What does this mean?" that first Pentecost congregation asked, and they kept trying to find out—in breaking bread together and praying for each other, in studying together and enjoying each other's company, in the sharing of their possessions and caring for those in need out of that abundance. On the verge of comprehension, we are called not to perfect understanding, but to the imperfect life of community. On the threshold of what we understand and what we do not, there is room for our comprehension to be shaped by solidarity, room for us to keep our faces turned toward love.



Please remember our homebound in your prayers or with a note:
 Barbara Bailey, Hazel Berger, Dolores Colaiacomo, Elsie Rapposch,
 John Ray, Katie Schneider, Mitch Wein and Nellie Wirth.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ~ By: Lorie Boveroux, Christian Education Coordinator



The weather is beginning to get warmer and the days are getting longer. Summer must be coming soon. Hopefully by the date this is published it will be warm and beginning to feel more like summer.

I am very happy to report that our attendance is rising. My goal for the end of the school year was to have all children present in the congregation willingly go to Sunday School. I am happy to see that this has happened much sooner than I had hoped. Both youth and children have been participating in lessons and activities together in the classroom and in the fellowship hall.



Please remember that you are always welcome downstairs to visit and volunteer. In the past few weeks, we have studied prayer, how we all fit into God's puzzle and have honored the women of the church on Mother's Day. We have studied the Pentecost and thanked God for the gift of the church.

As we begin the process of ending the formal school year, I am planning in earnest to revitalize curriculum and

expand opportunities for our youth. This summer is when the real work will start for me. I will be attending the Yale Divinity School's Youth Ministry Initiative this summer in an effort to facilitate the creation of dynamic youth programs and ministries at Unity Hill United Church of Christ.

Please feel free to email me at lboveroux@gmail.com with any questions or if you are interested in volunteering to work with our children or youth.



CHURCH UPDATES

KENNEDY CENTER CRAFTS ~ Wednesday, June 8 11:00am - 2:45pm

OVEREATERS' ANONYMOUS INTERGROUP MEETING ~ Tuesday, June 21 at 7:00 pm

GEORGE'S HILL



George's Hill will be on Thursday, June 9 from 11:30am - 1:00 pm
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 lunch and a fun program. 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!**

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Anthony Caltabiano, Jr., owner of Tony's Huntington Inn, for supplying our lunch on Thursday, May 12.



CHURCH COUNCIL ~ By: Moderator, Lucille Baver

Church Council Meeting will be on **Monday, June 13** at 7:00 pm.

Committee Reports to Council are due in church office by **Monday, June 6.**

DIACONATE ~ By: Patricia Bowman, Chair

The next meeting for the Diaconate Committee is Tuesday, June 7 at 1:30 p.m.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE ~ By: Brenda Finizio, Chair

We continue to provide **food for the needy in the Trumbull/Bridgeport area** and plan to have a summer food drive to collect additional donations as this is a time of need for families with children out of school.

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) We are currently collecting in May for "**Strengthen the Church (STC)**," a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the United Church of Christ. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries, developing their spiritual gifts and leadership skills for the church of the future. Funds also support full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard, along with grants to help churches communicate the "God is still speaking" message.

Haiti Mission Trip The Haiti Mission Trip Fundraiser was a success. We raised a little over \$1,800 to go toward the expenses of the trip.

Our next fundraiser is going to be a car wash – date and time to be determined.

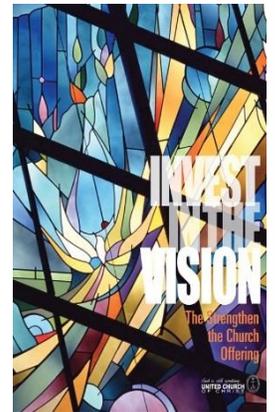
The volunteers for the trip have been preparing and establishing objectives for what we want to accomplish while in Haiti.

Building Repair Needs: electrical work, paint, set up water pump and build a wall in front of the church to block sand from road coming into the sanctuary.

Special events and trips: to deliver needed items to local hospital, spend time with students and families and provide them with food and donated items.

Work in progress: floor – cement being laid down

Thanks for all the support from Unity Hill Members and Missions Committee Members. Your generous gifts and time are greatly appreciated.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE ~ By: Sharon Brezina, Chair

We are in full swing with SPRING and heading into Summer!!! Flowers are blooming and the church clean-up has been done.

On May 15th a small strong group gathered after church to make a difference on the outside. It looks beautiful – new mulch was laid all around the church and flowers were planted in the new planters at the front entrance.

We also placed plants and flowers around the bell and the sign at the bottom of the hill.

It was great teamwork done by:

Patty Bowman
Mary Acri
Dot and Steve Pickens
Emily, Kaelyn, Sharon and David Brezina
Pastor Todd, Eden, Cooper and Paulette Shipley



A special thanks to Pastor for changing the light bulb in the sanctuary ... the things you do for your job! B&G thanks you all for taking the time out of your busy schedules to help beautify our lovely church. Some humor.... "Somebody said that there are only two kinds of people in the world --- there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord!" ... and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning!"



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

FELLOWSHIP OF UNITY HILL ~ By: Dot Pickens, President 2015

- ~ We served a great meal on April 27 at Golden Hill Community Supper – it was a new recipe and everyone enjoyed it. We say a very special thanks to the following who always go above and beyond in our mission to feeding the hungry and homeless at Golden Hill United Methodist Church. They are: Wally & Ed Yeager; Renate Krakovich; Marsha Piper; Louise Evans; the Chery Family; and Carole & Allen Fanslow. Cost of the meal was only \$90 and 126 first-timers and then others enjoyed seconds for a total of 166. Great job everyone!
- ~ We will be cooking at 2 pm and serving dinner at 5 pm at Golden Hill Community Supper Program on Wednesday, June 22. Additional help is always needed and greatly appreciated. Please contact Dot Pickens for information if you can help. For over 30 years, Golden Hill UMC has offered a free supper between 5 - 6 pm on every Wednesday, never missing a meal. What might be known as a soup kitchen to some, provides a good free meal to anyone who joins us.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ~ By: Carole Fanslow, President

- ~ Executive Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 7 at 11:00 am.
- ~ 15 members and friends enjoyed our luncheon out on May 17 at The Lazy Dog Tavern in Stratford and all had a lovely time. Good food, good company and lots of leftovers for supper!
- ~ Also on May 17, the Executive Board met and made plans for the upcoming year. Our first function and a day for fun will be a tour of the Pez Candy factory in Orange on Thursday, September 1 – tour at 1pm. Our 2016 luncheons will be on Thursday, October 27 (change of date) and Thursday, November 17 and our Christmas Tea will be on Thursday, December 1. Our new program flyer will be out in September. All our meetings are always open to the men and women of Unity Hill UCC, and, of course, friends make the day even more special. Watch for details.



COMMUNITY GROUPS AND HAPPENINGS

WORSHIP SERVICE AT MIDDLEBROOK FARMS

Thursday, June 2 at 2:00 pm led by Deacons Carole Fanslow and Waltraud Yeager.

149th ANNUAL MEETING OF CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE UCC

ANNUAL MEETING on June 10 and 11 to be held at the University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford; Keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder.

TRUMBULL INTERFAITH COUNCIL

The Clergy and Laity Supper is the next event at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 28 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. TIC will hold their next monthly meeting on September 7 at 7:30 pm at Unity Hill UCC.

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF GREATER BRIDGEPORT

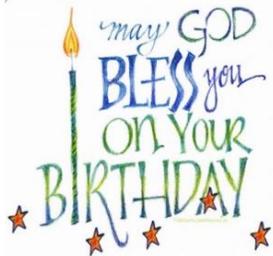
The 71st annual meeting was held on May 12 at Trumbull Congregational Church.
Pastor Todd Shipley was elected to the Board.

42nd ANNUAL C.R.O.P. HUNGER WALK

The CROP Hunger Walk is now history – a complete listing of walkers, traffic and registration people plus the amount raised will be published in the summer Outlook, but thank you in advance for a job well done, and thank you to Marsha Piper and Dot Pickens for coordinating the walk for Unity Hill.

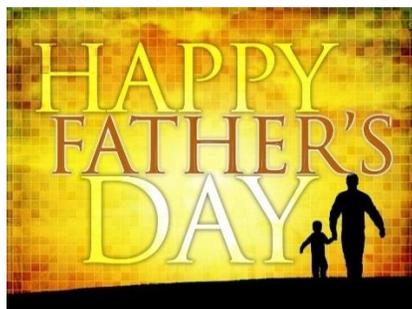
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY IN JUNE !

6/7/1958 Carole & Allen Fanslow	6/22/1968 Bob & Janice Coulson
6/8/1957 Louise & Charles Evans	6/25/1949 Florence & George Brezina
6/19/1948 Dorothy & William "Courty" Vars, Jr.	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN JUNE !

3 Nellie Wirth	16 Shakira Marrero	30 Gayle Morrissey Robles
9 Florence Brezina	28 Frank Heffelfinger	30 Aurielus Cole
12 Eden Shipley	29 Duane Bailey	30 Mandi Rondon



A FATHER'S DAY PRAYER

God, bless all the fathers in the world. We ask that You guide them to be good role models and loving to their children. We also ask that You help them to be a father like You are. Give them the grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way. Amen.

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 3-9pm PCCT	3 8am-12pm PCCT	4
5	6 Committee Reports to Council Due in Office	7 11:00am Women's Fellowship Executive Board meeting 1:30pm Diaconate Meeting	8 11:00-2:30 Kennedy Center	9 11:30-1:00 George's Hill 3-9pm PCCT	10 8am-12pm PCCT 12pm 149 th Annual Meeting CT Conference UCC	11 until 4pm 149 th Annual Meeting CT Conference UCC
12	13 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	14	15 DEADLINE FOR SUMMER OUTLOOK	16 3-9pm PCCT	17 8am-12pm PCCT	18
19 	20	21 7-8:30pm Overeaters' Anonymous Intergroup Meeting	22 2pm Cook; 5pm Serve Golden Hill UMC Community Supper Program	23 3-9pm PCCT	24 8am-12pm PCCT	25
26	27	28	29	30 3-9pm PCCT		

***“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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