Sunday Worship, May 8, 2022,10am
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday

As you know, we are now gathering both in-person and online.

If you are worshipping at home, you may access the livestream of the service in one of two ways.

If you prefer to watch on youtube, the link and Bulletin will be in an email that will go out Sunday at 6am.

The service will also be live on the church's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalBranford/

Each Sunday, BCTV Cable 18 airs the worship service from the previous Sunday at 5:30pm.

Thank You!!!

There are not enough Thank You's to cover this past work weekend out at Killam's Point! Over 20 youth and adults gathered as Branford Builds and PF Youth Group outfitted Killam's Point with 10 new Picnic Tables. I cannot tell you how beautiful it was to watch. Seeing our youth learn, our seasoned adults teach, and safety be thought of all around. We got through it with Zero smashed fingers!! And lots of smiles, satisfaction and, of course, snacks!

A huge thank you to everyone who participated. We can't wait to share them with you at the All-Church Picnic!

May 8, 2022
Prelude: *Ricercar,* Scheidt - Phil Rinehart
Introit: *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, C. Alexander - FCCB Choir
Liturgist: Donna Giddings

Hymn of Praise: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*
Anthem: *Grace,* C. Hamlin - FCCB Choir
Scripture Reading:
Psalm 23 - *(Living Psalm for the Easter 4C, Good Shepherd Sunday: Psalm 23 was written by Rev. Justo González, II)*
Acts 9:36-43 https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=518618743
Sermon: *Resurrecting Community* - Rev. Joseph Perdue
Hymn of Reflection: *God of the Women*
Offertory: Phil Rinehart
Hymn of Dedication: *For All The Faithful Women*
Benediction Response: *Lord Let Us Now Depart in Peace,* Public Domain - FCCB Choir
Postlude: *Fanfare,* Mathias - Phil Rinehart

Your Offering

We are so very grateful for your generosity. It makes a real difference. Every little bit of your generosity counts and we thank you so much! FCCB, 1009 Main St., Branford, CT 06405 Thank you for being the Church!

Faith Formation Focus with Kerry

Faith Formation Focus with Kerry

Happy Mother's Day!! I hope everyone takes some time this weekend to reach out to those who have cared for us and helped influence us and say a big Thank You. Motherhood comes in so many forms and each of us has a hand, no matter how small, in influencing our Youth. My personal wish each year for Mother's Day is always peace in my own family and to be taken care of by someone else. Each year, whether that happens or not, I am grateful as it is a day that has been hard for me in the past. **Blessings on each one of you on this special weekend**.

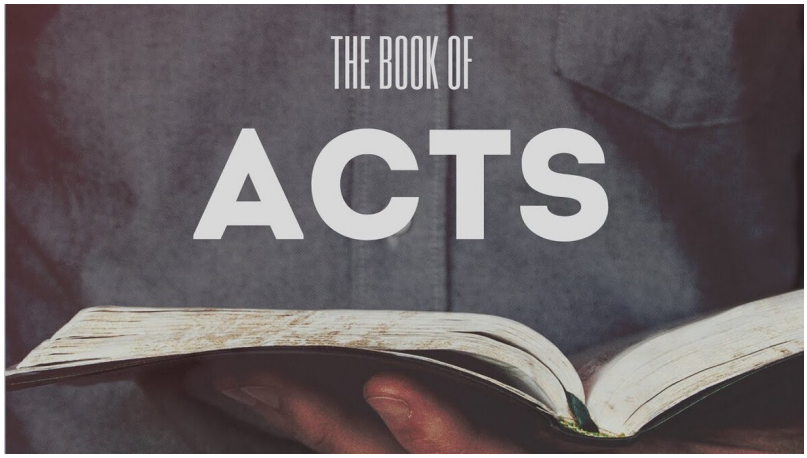
During Worship and our **Children's Time**, we'll be talking about a very "dangerous" Mother, Mother Jones. She was a Mother to millions of working men and women and had a direct role in children's welfare and labor laws. Come hear her amazing story! Another ordinary person who used their faith and beliefs to do extraordinary things. In our Sunday School time we will be working on a super special project as we look forward to Pentecost. Anyone who is feeling crafty is welcome to join us.

Our next PF Youth Group activity is the All-Church Picnic. It is our last fundraiser before our Local Youth Mission Project in August. We'll be meeting on Sunday, May 15th ahead of the picnic at Killam's Point at 2:30pm to set up and we should be done with clean up between 6:30 and 6:45pm. RSVP to Kerry so we can be sure we have enough hands to set up, clean up, serve, and run the games and activities.

Forms and sign-ups are now available for both the Lock-in from June 3rd-4th and the Local Youth Mission Service Project. They can be found here:
https://www.firstcongregationalbranford.org/pages/youth-ministry
The forms for both Youth and Adults are available.

In Peace and Partnership,

Kerry Stewart
Faith Formation Coordinator
kerry@firstcongregationalbranford.org



The Unexpected Acts of God: A Sermon Series for the Season of Easter

Acts is full of surprises. Things are not what they appear to be. Tyrants don't always win. Jesus appears in unexpected ways. Rules we thought were hard and fast no longer apply. That's why churches often focus on the Acts of the Apostles during the Season of Easter. Acts makes no promises about trying to prove or explain Jesus' resurrection. The book does, however, dare us to dream of what the God of Resurrection can do in our world today.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter May 8 *Acts 9:36-43* An obscure woman leads a group of Jesus' followers in a culture that is scandalized by women with authority. Her death triggers an outpouring of grief for all the ways she served her community, and for her work to unite different cultures in a common cause. Her new life shows us that in a post-Easter world, death is only ever a prelude to resurrection.

The Fifth Sunday of Easter May 15 *Acts 11:1-18* Pentecost, the climax of the crucifixion and resurrection narrative in Scripture has never ended. The Spirit continues to call people into a new, diverse community. God is still speaking, and the more we listen, the more we realize we belong to each other.

The Sixth Sunday of Easter May 22 *Acts 16:9-15* The new and struggling Church, led by unlikely outsiders, creates community even when those communities attract scorn from others. That witness, born from an empty tomb not far from a site of mass executions, knows how to take up residence outside the walls. That's usually where we have to go to meet God.

The Seventh Sunday of Easter May 29 *Acts 16:16-34* Jesus' followers' chance upon the dangerous, violent, and ugly world of trafficking and exploitation when they first enter Europe. In the regional center of Imperial power, they learn how dangerous a message of liberation can be to those in authority and choose love despite the risks.

Pentecost June 5 *Acts 2:1-21* All the extraordinary events in Acts and the history of the church can be traced back to this event. The church is born amid fire and chaos as the dreams of ancient poets and prophets come to life.

Mother's Day Diaper Drive

In support of the CDR Diaper Bank, we are collecting diapers of
All sizes on Sunday, May 1st and Sunday May 8th.
We, as the FCCB Community, do this annually to honor Mother's.

Diapers may be brought to Worship
or brought to the Church during office hours.
Donations can be left at the Reception Desk.
Financial Contributions may also be made by noting
"Mother's Day Diaper Drive" on the Donation.

Thank you!
The Discipleship Team

Horseshoe Crab Program

May 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Join this co-sponsored program with the First Congregational Church of Branford and the Branford Land Trust to learn about the ecology and importance of horseshoe crabs in our lives today. The program will be held at Love's Beach, part of Killam's Point Conference Center.

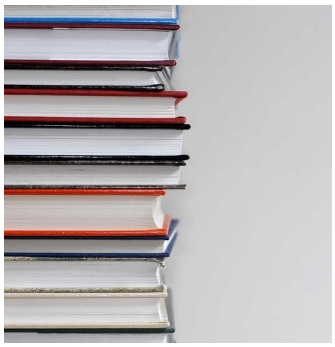
This program is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Please email info@killamspoint.org to register.

Knit, Purl and Pray

We will wear masks and be socially distanced in the Russel Room, but we can once again be together and catch up on the past 14 months. Anyone is welcome whether you can knit or crochet or neither. We can teach you. We make prayer shawls, baby hats, and work on our own craft projects.

We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 10:00 – 11:30. Our next sessions will be May 12th & May 26th.

Please join us!



Book Group

The book group will meet on Wednesday, June 1 at 7:00 pm in the Russel Room.

Barbara Colley

GROCERY CARDS WILL BE SOLD AFTER WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

Big Y Stop and Shop

Did You Know… FCC Branford makes 5% of every dollar on the grocery cards we sell?

If you buy a $100 grocery card, you get $100 in groceries, and FCC gets $5! It's that easy. This currently adds up to about $2000 income annually for FCC and could easily be more. We offer both $50 and $100 Stop and Shop cards and $50 and $100 Big Y cards. Cards are sold after worship every Sunday. Why not try it out and help support FCC?

THANK YOU

Kids Weekend Meal Pick Up

Weekend food for Branford children will be distributed at:

Feed Branford Kids Warehouse - 29 Business Park Dr.

Every Thursday, 5-6 PM

Free for all Branford Children

We are also distributing weekend nutrition through the elementary schools and the Branford Early Learning Center, and working on permission to do so at the High School and Middle School.

For further information, please go to www.feedbranfordkids.org, or find @feedbranfordkids on Facebook.

The Branford Microfund, Inc.

The Branford Microfund, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit whose mission is to help members of the Branford community, in need of assistance to see them through a financial emergency. Something a bank can't or won't do.

The Microfund offers loans of up to $3,000, interest free, with up to 30 months to repay. The loans are for unexpected, non-recurring expenses such as the purchase of a car needed to get to and from work, a major car repair, dental work, etc. The application process is confidential. All you need to show is the ability to repay the loan without interest in up to 30 months.

The FCCB Mission Board, the Branford Rotary Club, the Branford Community Foundation and others have made generous donations to the Microfund to fund its mission.

For additional information on how to apply for a loan or make a donation, go to www.branfordmicrofund.org . Brochures are also available in the Church office. Remember, all inquiries are completely confidential.

Betsy Gay
Norb Church
Chip Marsh

Sunday Flower Chart

If you are able to contribute $35 for flowers, please consider signing up on the flower chart located on the bulletin board outside the Russel Room. You can also call or send an e-mail and Missy will sign up for you. Include who/what you would like the flowers to be in honor/memory/celebration of.

Thank you so much for keeping our altar adorned, and our flower fund supported!

The flowers in our sanctuary were given in memory of all Mothers, by Jennifer McCaughtry

---

For Our Prayers This Week

We give thanks for…
The return to normalcy - step by step

Happy Birthday…
Jennifer McCaughtry – May 9th
Elizabeth Tobin – May 12th
We are so happy to have you in our lives!

We pray for our neighbors nearby and far across the globe...
For the people of Ukraine whole lives continue to be shattered by war
For the people of Poland and elsewhere who offer safe haven for Ukrainian refugees

Ongoing prayers for…
Reg Vetrano, Jean Andros, Sharon Reynolds, Ethel Marchesseault (Linda's mother) and Linda's Brother-in-law Charlie, Barbara O'Keefe, Tom Spivey (Linda Mitchell's father), Marissa, Betsy Boynton, Ruth Greco (Mae Genovese's sister), Zak and EmmaRae Carroll, Alberto Tirry (friend of Deb Laudano), David Lendler, Jeff Buggee, Philip Rinehart, Bianca Dorsi (Aunt of Betsy Dorsi), Janice Roberts (FCCB CDC), Rick Barker, Don Potter, William Chisholm (Teresa Sander's Grandfather), George Spear, Janet Young, Colin & Justin Williams (Linda Mitchell's cousins), Grace Chaplin (Paul's mother), Nancy

Dougherty, Joseph Arnson (Take-A-Vet Fishing Volunteer Care Member), Marge Nalewajek (Meghan St. Pierre's mother), Ella Furjes, and her mom, Gwen (Jennifer and Mareyna McCaughtry's friends), Cory Martens (Kelly Marten's brother), Jim Bolan, Rose & Tom Moore (Sharon Reynold's Mom & brother), Edward DeFrancesco, Dormer Family, Robert & Margaret Gehm (parents of Nancy Gehm), Martha Hickman (Lil Sakai's mom), Alison Hobbie (Betsy Gay's daughter), Sylvia O'Brien, Lou Wells

---

Life Among the Believers

Sunday, May 8
10:00 am Worship Service - Meetinghouse

Monday, May 9

Tuesday, May 10
7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal - Meetinghouse

Wednesday, May 11

Thursday, May 12
10:00 am Knit, Purl, Pray - Russell Room
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Meetinghouse

Friday, May 13

Saturday, May 14

Sunday, May 15
11:00 am New Members Class (following Worship)
4:00 pm All Church Picnic - Killam's Point

GLOBAL MINISTRIES - WEEKLY PRAYERS

Each week Global Ministries highlights the work our mission partners do in countries around the world. We're able to pray together for our partners and the people they serve, and learn a little about the ways they're bringing God's realm to earth today. This week we are invited to pray with the people of the Philippines.

Pray with Lesotho, May 8, 2022

Lectionary Selection: Acts 9:36-43

Prayers for Lesotho

God of deep love, of boundless grace, of fierce hope, this Mother's Day week we give thanks for those who brought us into life, who carried us and loved us even before we were born. Thank you for those who have nurtured and drawn out your spirit in us, who have held us as we discover whose we are and how you are calling us to be. We trust that you are moving in our lives.

We pray for those all over the world who are waiting to give birth, especially for those who are waiting in hospitals and health centers in Lesotho, away from the comforts of their own homes and families. Wrap them in your loving presence, and give them hope, courage, and strength as they, co-creators with you, bring new life into the world.

We give thanks for your faithful servants in all parts of the world who make up the living body of Christ. For healthcare workers who serve at remote posts. For volunteers who use their gifts to serve the church. We pray that LECSA's new leaders elected at its most recent synod meeting in April serve as lovingly and compassionately as your disciple Dorcas (Tabitha) and that our Basotho siblings continue to witness signs of the Resurrected Christ in their midst, in the work of the church and in their daily lives.

Amen.

Mission Stewardship Moment from Lesotho

We celebrate that the Waiting Mothers' Shelter at LECSA's Mohlanapeng Health Centre (MHC) has been in use for almost a year! Finished in June 2021, construction on the shelter began in 2019 but progress was slow due to the pandemic. Funding from Global Ministries made the project possible. As a new mom myself (our son, Samuel, was born in the past year) this project is particularly close to my heart.

MHC's Waiting Mothers' Shelter serves as a temporary home and respite for women who are waiting to give birth as well as those who have recently delivered. MHC is located in the mountains of the Thaba-Tseka district of Lesotho and serves 14 surrounding villages, some very remote. It provides much-needed perinatal care, as well as other important healthcare services to people in the region.

Because the terrain is so rugged in Lesotho and communities can be so remote, some women choose to leave their homes weeks before their due dates, travel to the health center, and stay at the shelter so that they are near medical care at the time of their labor and delivery. The shelter itself is a small, simple structure that includes seven beds and a bathroom. Currently, there are four women staying there, although the number is, of course, in constant flux. The mountains of Lesotho get very cold during the winter months – it occasionally snows! So keeping patients warm at the health center, especially mothers with new babies, is always a challenge from April to September. The shelter is usually warmer than the other wards on the health center grounds, so MHC is also using the space to house women and their babies after they have delivered.

LECSA has prioritized Waiting Mothers' Shelters at all three of its main health institutions. Actively working to decrease infant and maternal deaths by providing quality perinatal services to women, including those who are in remote mountain communities, is one of the concrete ways in which the church is living into its call to extend the love and compassion of the Risen Christ to those who are most in need.

Prayer and Mission Moment by Danielle Murry-Knowles

Mission Partners in Lesotho

- Christian Council of Lesotho
- Lesotho Evangelical Church

More about Lesotho

Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Lesotho
Danielle Murry-Knowles serves with the Lesotho Evangelical Church. Her appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, and your special gifts.
Make a gift that supports the work of Danielle Murry-Knowles

BCTV

This Sunday's service will be shown on BCTV next Sunday. BCTV Channel 18, 1070 for Comcast customers and Channel 6004 for Frontier customers at 5:30 pm on Sundays.

Notifications

Information Regarding The E-Spire

- **The deadline for an article to be published in the weekly e-spire is 12pm on Tuesdays.**
- Email articles to office@firstcongregationalbranford.org
- Those who have requested a paper copy now receive a copy of the weekly e-spire in the mail.
- The e-spire is only mailed out weekly if it can be done in a timely fashion.

If you have not received recent e-Spires, or would like to subscribe to our weekly newsletters, please let the office know and we'd be happy to help!

Find us on Facebook

Check out the church Facebook page! This is a public page for everyone to be able to see everything going on at OUR church.

Please be reminded that this page is open to the public and therefore no pictures should be shared of children unless the parents are asked

specifically. The FCCB Youth Ministries CLOSED GROUP is where pictures including children can be posted.

Click the link below to be brought right to the page and like it!

https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalBranford/

AMAZON SMILE DONATIONS

PLEASE shop at smile.amazon.com, and First Congregational Church can receive donations from AmazonSmile.

StartWithaSmile at smile.amazon.com/ch/06-6042800 for your purchases and Amazon donates to First Congregational Church.

©2022 First Congregational Church | 1009 Main St. Branford, CT 06405
www.firstcongregationalbranford.org 203-488-7201

Web Version Preferences Forward Unsubscribe

Powered by **Mad Mimi**®
A GoDaddy® company