



**Sunday Worship, June 5, 2022, 10am
Pentecost**

Music 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.**

June 5, 2022

Prelude: Phil Rinehart

Introit: *Gift to Be Simple*, FCCB Bell Choir

Hymn of Praise: *On Pentecost They Gathered*

Scripture Lessons: *1 Chronicles 16:9-11*

Hymn: *God of Grace and God of Glory*, vs 1 & 2

Scripture Lessons:

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye (Psalm 32:8). "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:26) and "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29-31).

Anthem: *I Sing Because I'm Happy*, arr. Rollow Dilworth - FCCB Choir

Scripture Lessons: *Psalm 107:21-32*

Hymn: *Eternal Father*

Scripture Lessons: *Psalm 150:1-5*

Hymn: *And They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

Scripture Lessons: *Psalm 98:1-7*

Hymn: *Chain Breaker*

Scripture Lessons: *Psalm 84*

Hymn: *Children of the Heavenly Father*

Scripture Lessons: *John 3:16-21*

Hymn: *The Old Rugged Cross*

Scripture Lessons: *John 14:26-29*

Hymn: *Homeward Bound*, Marta Keen, Arr. Jay Althouse - FCCB Choir

Hymn of Reflection: *God of Tempest, God of Whirwind (ELCA)*

Mission Moment

Blessing Music: *The Prayer*, D. Foster - Sung by Rachel Newman and Katie Jones

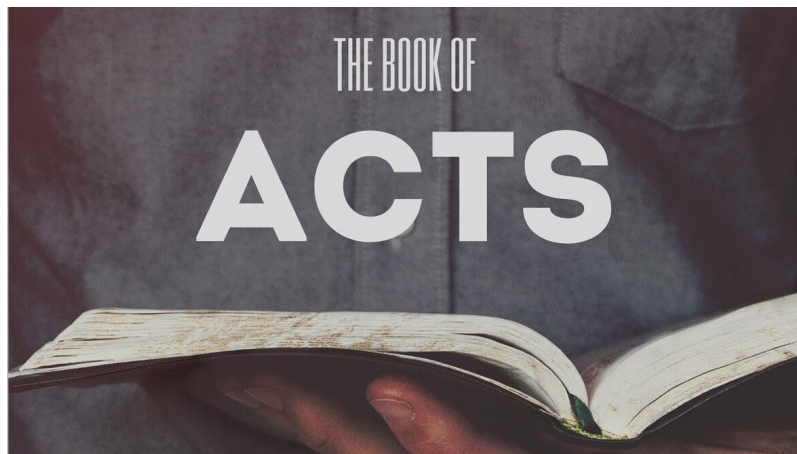
Hymn of Dedication: *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

Choral Benediction: *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*, R.V. Williams

Postlude: Phil Rinehart

Your Offering

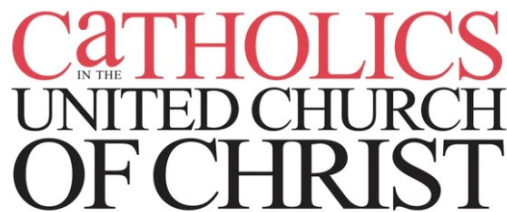
**We are so very grateful for your generosity. It makes a real difference. Every little bit of your generosity counts and we thank you so much! FCCB, 1009 Main St., Branford, CT 06405
Thank you for being the Church!**



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.

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.



Catholics in the United Church of Christ:

Denominations do not matter nearly as much as they did just a few decades ago. Moving from one denomination to another as one changes and grows is a fact of contemporary American life. One of, if not the largest groups of new members of UCC churches are former Catholics. In many congregations, including FCCB, 40% or more of new members grew up in a Catholic Church. What's more, many seminarians with Catholic backgrounds are preparing for ordination in the UCC. What's going on?

This study, requested by church members, will explore the many similarities and differences between the Roman Catholic Church and the United Church of Christ. We will discuss the reasons why many people leave the Catholic Church and celebrate the ways their perspectives and experiences have enriched our community.

We have historically paused our Faith Formation ministries at FCCB during the summer months, including adult education opportunities. We want to know the best time to offer our study on Catholics in the United Church of Christ. If you are interested in this topic, please fill out this survey and hand it into the church office.

I am interested in attending this study:

In the Fall _____

In the Summer After Worship _____

in the Summer, on a weeknight _____

I am interested in attending on Zoom if there is a hybrid option _____

CAMP TOTOKETT August 1-5, 2022



First Congregational Church of Branford founded Camp Totokett in 1996. Since its founding the camp has been held annually at Killam's Point, the Church's waterfront property in Branford. Camp Totokett is a free one-week summer camp for children from the Greater New Haven area. Camp offers a respite from stress, trauma and responsibilities which these

children face daily. Recognizing the impact of trauma and stress on children, Camp has begun to offer camp to a small number of refugee children, relocated to New Haven through Integrated Refugee Immigration Services (IRIS).

The camp staff is comprised mainly of community volunteers, including high school and college students, teachers, nurses, physicians and clergy. Volunteers are always welcome and are needed to make camp possible each summer. High school students who have completed Grade 9 are eligible to serve as Mentors and adults who either like to work with children in a specific age group setting or have other skills in areas of waterfront, fishing, arts and crafts, or music are encouraged to become a part of camp. We especially need help for the fishing program and, of course, always welcome monetary donations.

Please consider volunteering for this year's camp. You can find information about the camp and registration forms on the church website or you can contact Tim Dinneen (timothy.dinneen@gmail.com) or Hailey Nelson (henelson97@gmail.com), our directors.

Thank-you,

Barbara Colley (barbaracolley225@gmail.com)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BRANFORD

YOUTH LOCAL MISSION PROJECT

8/22-8/24

BEING THE CHURCH IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY: CREATION CARE

Let all you do be done in love

\$100* DAY PROGRAM
8:30AM-4PM DAILY

\$200* DAY + OVERNIGHT

*REQUESTED FEE PER PERSON.
NO ONE WILL BE TURNED AWAY
FOR FINANCIAL REASONS

ALL MEALS + SNACKS PROVIDED!

OPEN TO YOUTH ENTERING GRADES 5 AND UP- ALL ARE WELCOME!!

WHERE:
KILLAM'S POINT CONFERENCE CENTER
131 KILLAM'S POINT ROAD
BRANFORD, CT

WHEN: 8/22/22 8:30AM- 8/24/22 4:30PM

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TO SIGN UP OR GET MORE INFO
REACH OUT TO KERRY STEWART

KERRY@FIRSTCONGREGATIONALBRANFORD.ORG

203 488 7201 EXT. 106 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE



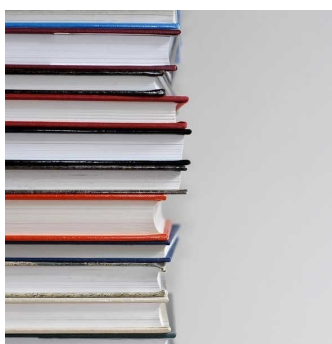


Knit, Purl and Pray

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 in the Russel Room. Our next sessions will be June 9th & June 23rd.

Please join us!



Book Group

The book for our summer reading is Lincoln Highway, by Amor Towles.

We will meet on Wednesday, September 7th 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 celebration of
Joe & Julia Perdue's 4th Wedding Anniversary.*



For Our Prayers This Week

We give thanks for...

The return to normalcy - step by step

Happy Birthday...

Neil Titcomb – June 6th

Laurel Van Wilgen – June 12th

We are so happy to have you in our lives!

Ongoing prayers for...

Carol Rutt, Lincoln Shaw (brother of Frank Shaw), 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, June 5

10:00 am Worship Service - Meetinghouse

Monday, June 6

Tuesday, June 7

7:00 pm Discipleship Team Meeting - Russel Room

7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal - Meetinghouse

Wednesday, June 8

Thursday, June 9

10:00 am Knit, Purl, Pray - Russel Room

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal - Meetinghouse

Friday, June 10

Saturday, June 11

Sunday, June 12

10:00 am Worship Service - Meetinghouse

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 Kenya.



Pray with Kenya, June 5, 2022

Lectionary Selection: Acts 2:1-21

Prayers for Kenya

Transforming God, like on the day of Pentecost when they all came together in solidarity, you filled them with your barrier-breaking Holy Spirit. Enable us as your church to be an unstoppable force in the world, breaking down unjust barriers that rob a person and community of their dignity. Help us to receive your Spirit afresh each new day. Amen

Mission Stewardship Moment from Kenya

The Three D's

Daughters of **D**ignity and **D**estiny

The Three D's work with vulnerable young women who are teenage parents. The initiative took place in Siaya County, West Ugenya ward. In many communities in Kenya, as well as other countries in Africa, young women face a multitude of challenges such as poverty, malnourishment, gender-based violence, a high rate of school dropout, etc. This initiative has a multifaceted approach. The young women and their families go through training in entrepreneurship, agricultural practices, nutritional/health, and life skills. The teenage mothers receive a scholarship to finish school and a mentor that will walk alongside them. The local agricultural office assists the families in starting a kitchen garden.

To help improve the nutrition of the young mothers and the family as a whole as well as being an income-generating project, the family receives chickens to rear.

Many young women in Kenya and Africa as a whole find themselves in a vulnerable situation in society. The Three D's initiative was designed to engage the whole community, including the school, the area chief, the parents, and religious leaders just to name a few.

The number of young women we had resources to fund was only 20. During the launch of the program, the members of the community were invited. We were overwhelmed with the number of requests from parents pleading that their daughters "must be included in this program." It is unfortunate we had to turn many of them away. We are praying for more resources that will enable us to have a second phase of the Three D's in the same location as well as in other parts of Kenya.

I often ponder what ingredients go into the Africa pot to make for a sustainable, impactful, transformative, community-led initiative? I saw the ingredients come together before my eyes. It is the community members joining hands and pledging to work together during the launch of the Three D's.

One government representative told the young ladies, "Development of our county cannot be actualized by a few. It takes an organic initiative like the Daughters of Dignity and Destiny which is reinforced by the whole of the community – religious leaders, government representatives, members of parliament, the chief, schools, family members, and well-wishers – working together to address the systems, values, and deeply held beliefs in society that cause and reinforce inequalities young women in society face. It takes every member of this community to join hands and root out these inequalities and gender-based violence within the community."

As we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the lesson I learned was Pentecost cannot be confined to a Sunday celebration once a year. It is the dynamic work of the Holy Spirit we experience every day. We see in the book of Acts how the Holy Spirit transforms the very core of Peter which causes him to expand his boundaries to be more inclusive. It was the work of the Holy Spirit that caused Peter to enter the space/home of the Roman Centurion Cornelius and they broke bread together. The deep symbolic act of sharing a meal established a relationship, they became spiritually bound to each other as one.

The launch of the Three D's, Daughters of Dignity and Destiny was Pentecost as the community came together as walls that divided and even castigated the teenage mother were broken. The 20 young women became our daughters who we honored and respected. In the words of one of the attendees at the launch, "We need and depend on you to finish school, go to University, and develop our community and country. We are willing to do whatever we can to assure you do well..."

Thank you, Global Ministers, for partnering with the community in this initiative. Thank you, Ward Administrator, Diana for your leadership, passion, and infectious belief that the transformation of the community is possible through the power of God working through us all. Thank you Siaya County, Ugenya Ward for your contributions to this initiative as we all joined hands to address the issues of gender justice.

Prayer and Mission Moment by Phyllis Byrd

Mission Partners in Kenya

- All Africa Conference of Churches
- National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK)
- Organization of African Instituted Churches
- Presbyterian Church of East Africa
- Programme for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa
- St Paul's United Theological College

[More about Kenya](#)

Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Kenya

Phyllis Byrd serves with the Organization of Africa Instituted Churches (OAIC) in Kenya. Her appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, and [your special gifts](#).

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!



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.



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