



Sunday Worship, August 28, 2022, 10am

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

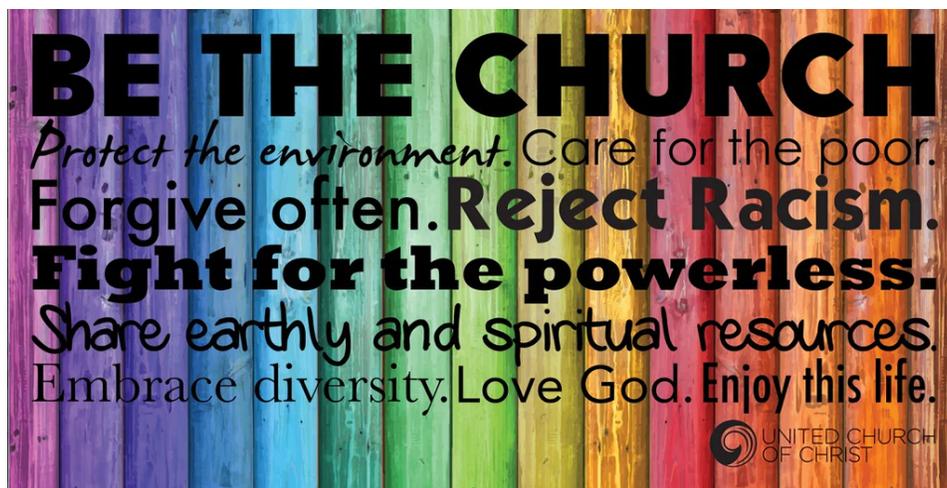
**As you know, we are now gathering
both in-person and online.**

**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.**



2022 Youth Local Mission Project Update

Well, as quickly as it came, the week went! While I will let the youth and adult volunteers share more later, I thought I'd share the rundown of some numbers to give you some ideas on what happened over the last 4 days!



- 14: The number of youths, ages 10-18 we had participate in the Service Week
- 4: The number of adults who slept over with the youth at Killam's Point
- 6: The number of adults who chaperoned during the day
- 72: The number of back-to-school backpacks delivered to IRIS
- 25: The number of men's backpacks delivered to Project M.O.R.E.
- 250: The number of snack bags delivered to Columbus House for their Outreach Program
- 4: The cases of water delivered to Columbus House for their

Outreach Program

- 500: The number of hygiene kits packed for the guests at St. Thomas More Soup Kitchen
- 200: The number of craft kits distributed at the CDR Family Night
- 9 meals, prepared and served by the youth and volunteers and amazing fellowship shared

If you start doing the math, just with the items we packed and delivered, we have reached, directly, **over 1000 people**. It was a time of hard work, fellowship, good food, silliness, swimming, hiking and so much more!

There are not enough thank you's in the world to express our appreciation for the support from the community at FCC Branford and United Parish, Brookline, MA. It was an amazing opportunity that we will never forget and look forward to sharing with you all soon!

In Peace,

Kerry Stewart

Faith Formation Coordinator

kerry@firstcongregationalbranford.org

August 28, 2022

Prelude: *Medley of Christian Hymns* - Al Daniels

Introit: Phil Rinehart

Liturgist: Peggy Keck

Hymn of Praise: *Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise*

Anthem: *Come Home to Jesus*, word & music by Al Daniels

Scripture Reading: Peggy Keck

1 John 5:9-13 <https://bible.oremus.org/?ql=528468414>

Sermon: *How Bold and Free We Become When We Trust Eternal Life*

- Rev. Frank Basler

Hymn of Reflection: *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

Offertory: *Rescue the Perishing*, words by Fanny Crosby, music by William J. Kirkpatrick - Al Daniels

Hymn of Dedication: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Postlude: *Lift Up Ye Gates Eternal*, Diemer - 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!**



Rev. Frank Basler

Rev. Frank Basler

Our guest minister Sunday August 28th will be the Rev. Frank Basler who is an ordained minister in the CT Conference, UCC. He serves as a "dialogue partner" with clergy and is the facilitator of an ecumenical community of practice for senior ministers. He is also building a psychotherapy practice. A periodic contributor to the SNEUCC email

newsletter, *Starting With Scripture*, he wrote this week's Reflection: *The Last Shall Be First*.

Rev. Basler's experience has spanned from the ministry to the corporate world. Following seminary, he founded the Rochester Downtown Ecumenical Ministry, an "industrial mission." After five years of work in that mission, he left to attend business school, studying organizational behavior. He then worked for over 25 years as a consultant with corporations, nonprofits, and churches on organization effectiveness and leadership development. In 2015 he was called to be Ridgebury Congregational Church's two-year Term Minister and was ordained the following spring.

A graduate of Yale University, Union Theological Seminary, and the M.I.T. Sloan School of Management, he also holds a Certificate in Psychoanalysis from the Westchester Institute.

We welcome him to lead our worship this week at FCCB.



2022 Racial Justice Summit

I'm excited to share an opportunity with the congregation. Our UCC Conference (the Southern New England Conference) is hosting a racial justice summit. On September 24, 2022 people will gather to on devising strategies to confront racial inequity in local congregations and communities.

You can register at the following link, but please tell the church office if you plan to attend.

<https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/16394185>

Rev. Joseph Perdue
Senior Minister



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 September 8th & 22nd (there are no sessions in August).

Please join us!

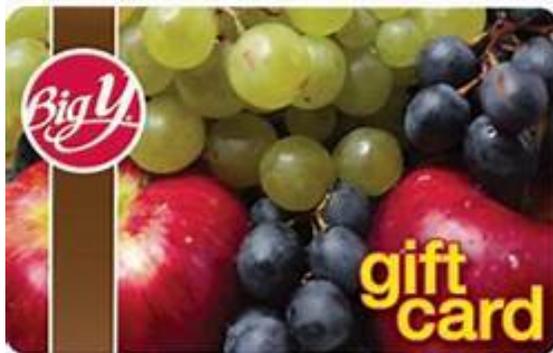


Book Group

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 - 33 Business Park Drive

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.

SHORELINE VILLAGE CT



The Shoreline Village Connecticut (SVCT) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help older people to age in their own homes. It is a part of the national Village movement which began twenty years ago and has spread throughout the world. Current trends indicate that most older people prefer to stay in their own home until it is no longer possible. SVCT provides the opportunity for “younger” seniors to fulfill their need for public service by assisting older members, before they themselves need services.

SVCT is primarily a volunteer organization, with one part-time service coordinator and is in its tenth year of operation. Along with offering services such as transportation to members, SVCT offers a variety of activities designed to engage elders in social interaction, recognizing that isolation and loneliness are major contributors to decline as people age. We offer a book club, walking groups, yoga instruction, social gatherings monthly for conversation, in addition to two large social events per year. Lectures on the arts and various community informational programs complement our services. Several members of the congregation are members.

Safety in the home is essential to preventing falls, the nemesis of older people. SVCT is able to provide a safety assessment to members and non-members and to offer limited financial support for such things as handrails and small home modifications.

The backbone of the organization is our volunteers. These individuals drive members to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other appointments as needed. They are also available on short notice to help with small tasks such as changing a light bulb or helping with a computer glitch.

For information about joining the Village or becoming a volunteer you may contact Sylvia De Santis at 747-5939 or Kathy Fox at 203-488-8684



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 the 93rd Birthday of Mom/Meme Moore by Bill & Sharon Reynolds.



For Our Prayers This Week

We give thanks for...

The return to normalcy - step by step

We grieve with...

The family of Thomas E. Spivey, Sr. (Linda Mitchell's father) who passed away on Friday, August 19th.

Ongoing prayers for...

Nora Fetcho (friend of Pat Carroll's sister), Richard Barker, Wilbur Wogahn (Paula Pedbereznak's/Tommy's grandfather), Helen Jasinka, Reg Vetrano, Jean Andros, David Reynolds, Ethel Marchesseault (Linda's mother) and Linda's Brother-in-law Charlie, Barbara O'Keefe, Marissa, Betsy Boynton, Ruth Greco (Mae Genovese's sister), Zak and EmmaRae Carroll, Alberto Tirry (friend of Deb Laudano), Jeff Buggee, Philip Rinehart, Bianca Dorsi (Aunt of Betsy Dorsi), Janice Roberts (FCCB CDC), 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, August 28

10:00 am Worship Service - Meetinghouse

Monday, August 29

Tuesday, August 30

Wednesday, August 31

Thursday, September 1

Friday, September 2

Saturday, September 3

Sunday, September 4

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 Japan.



Pray with Japan, August 28, 2022

Lectionary Selection: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Prayers for Japan

Dear God,

We pray for all who are grieving today. Our hearts ache too often from news of lives taken so suddenly and violently by guns or other weapons. We pray for the family, friends, and supporters of former prime minister Abe, whose life was taken by gunshot earlier this summer. We also pray for the suspect and his family. God, be with the leaders of Japan to choose policies that help the poor and those who have struggles in life. We lift up all of the social workers and other helping professionals who assist those who are in need. We give thanks for your vision of a world where abundance is shared. Give us the strength and the heart to share what we have and work to correct the injustices in our society. We especially pray today for our partners in Japan who work for peace and justice and for a society where all are invited to the table.

We pray in the name of Christ,

Amen

Mission Stewardship Moment from Japan:

The whole world was shocked by the recent gun shooting and death of former Prime Minister Abe. As gun crimes are rare in Japan, nobody expects such a thing to happen here. The suspect's motive

was not political but is said to be a deep resentment toward the Unification Church. It is reported that his mother had made large financial contributions to this religious group which drove the family into poverty. The suspect then dropped out of college due to financial reasons. It is also becoming clear that the Unification Church has had long ties with Abe's Liberal Democratic Party. Although the seriousness of the crime should by no means be condoned, details about the suspect reveal a story of a troubled life. He had a history of unstable employment and had attempted suicide in the past. He had recently quit his last job, had run out of money, and was planning to end his life.

The students in my fieldwork course pictured here are involved in organizations that work to assist people with various needs, including those who have experienced despair. They work, for example, with those suffering from substance abuse or trying to keep clean and sober, children of non-Japanese parents having language difficulties at school, single mothers struggling to keep food on the table, and with people who have severe physical disabilities or illnesses. These students give hope that we can work toward a more caring society where no one is estranged, and all are invited to an abundant life. The Bazaar Café ministry, the YWCA, and many congregations of our partner church in Japan are involved in such work. Thank you for your prayers and ongoing support of our partnership through Global Ministries.

Prayer and Mission Moment by Martha Mensendiek

Mission Partners in Japan

- Asian Rural Institute
- Doshisha University
- Emmaus Center
- J.F. Oberlin University
- Kobe College
- Korean Christian Church in Japan
- Miyagi Gakuin Women's University
- National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ)
- Tohoku Gakuin University
- United Church of Christ in Japan

[More about Japan](#)

Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Japan:

Martha Mensendiek serves with Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan.

*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 Martha Mensendiek*

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/>



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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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