The North Branford Congregational Church OCTOBER 2020

Parish Visitor







NBCC church will open their doors for Sunday Service October 4 at 10:00 am.

It is important that all guidelines be followed for the safety of those attending to Worship in the Sanctuary.

- 1) Everyone must Pre-Register by emailing the church office at nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net or leave a voice mail for Fran, Church Administrator at 203.488.8456 no later than on Fridays by 12:00 noon to attend Sunday service.
- 2) Everyone will have their temperature taken before entering the sanctuary which must read not higher than 99.9
- 3) No One Will Be Permitted Inside the Church Without A Mask which must be worn throughout the service.
- **4)** If you plan to attend every Sunday, please let Jennifer Ramsay or Nancy Allen know. This way you do not have to pre-register through the church office.

Please note that in-person worship and programming may be suspended in the future in response to a rise in COVID19 cases, in accordance with guidance from the State of CT, East Shore Health District, and the CDC.

Please be sure to read the following Guidelines and Precautions which are especially important for the safety of those attending In-House Worship.

Guidelines and Precautions for In-Service Worship

- Screening questions to be answered by all persons prior to entering the building
- Masks covering nose and mouth to be worn at all times in the building.
- Maintain six-foot safe distance between members of different households
- Hand hygiene including use of hand sanitizer

In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary

- Pre-registration for attendance
- Screening questions and agreement to observe precautions completed in advance
- Screening questions and contact information confirmed upon arrival, and temperature taken
- Safely distanced seating between members of different households.
- Attendees bring a mask and hand sanitizer; masks worn covering nose and mouth at all times
- No passing of offering plates, prayer requests, or communion
- No singing or standing
- No physical contact in greeting
- Ceiling fans off, window fans directed outward
- Plexiglass shields in front of lectern and pulpit and between choir loft and congregation, deacon of the day and worship leader will remain on the pulpit

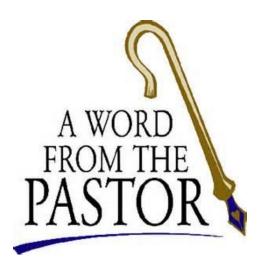
COVID-19 SCREENING QUESTIONS FOR ALL PEOPLE ENTERING THE CHURCH BUILDING

In the past 7 days have you or anyone in your household had new onset of:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever greater than 99.9°F
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle pains
- Fatigue
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea, nausea or vomiting

In the past 14 days have you:

- Tested positive for COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)?
- Been advised to stay home by a medical professional due to suspected COVID-19?
- Had anyone in your household test positive for COVID-19?
- Been in contact with anyone with COVID-19?
- Traveled outside of CT? Please provide us with locations of where you have traveled, and be advised we follow the most current CT Travel Advisory (for US travel) and CDC COVID-19 Travel Recommendations (for international travel)



"So, Vance, can you help us out for a few weeks?" During a recent time of worship, I shared that wonderful and fateful phone call from Arnie Palmieri. Back in September 2015, Arnie informed me how your pastor at the time had to regrettably resign in order to care for his grandson who was facing serious health challenges. Since 2007, I had been occasionally "supplying the pulpit" in North Branford while pastors were away or on vacation, so I knew the folks and they knew me, and sure, I told Arnie I'd be pleased to come back. But with God, a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like a day, or in this case, a few weeks are like five years! And so we joyfully celebrate our five-year anniversary, looking back on a journey where we lived,

laughed and loved as family, and a faithful family at that, strongly spiritual and always ready to show hospitality to friends but also to strangers, a family where there's always been room for one more at the table. A family that understood pain and healing, loss and recovery, and was always ready to serve one another and to serve Jesus Christ. And I was thrilled to be part of this North Branford family, this beloved community, combining my gifts with your gifts, truly seeing each of us as ministers, together proclaiming Good News, together bringing Christ to others and bringing others to Christ!

And like any marriage, we've had bumps in the road, and had lovers' quarrels. Sure, we've had disagreements where we've ended up feeling hurt, and we haven't always behaved well toward one another, but we are human after all! Yet, here's the thing: we are called as Christians to a different and higher standard, to seek forgiveness and to offer forgiveness (it's right there in the Lord's Prayer), to live in harmony, and to bring forth in our living the fruit of the Spirit, the topic of two recent sermons. If you missed those sermons, please take a look at our Facebook videos or check out Galatians 5: 16-26. Yes, as Christians, we have mutual obligations, mutual vows, mutual commitments to one another. We bind ourselves in faithful relationships, each to the other, and all to Jesus Christ. And that type of commitment is a covenant, a two-way street where we partner in doing the next right thing, all the while growing in the knowledge and love of Jesus. Such a covenant between us was established, and I've attached it to my letter, so you have the chance to again hear those mutual pledges we made "at the altar".

Please take time to read and reflect on our covenant, since you'll soon be asked to evaluate how you think I've done in fulfilling my pledges to you, and in serving you over these past five years as your pastor and your shepherd. And as you evaluate me, I invite you to also evaluate yourself, to reflect on the covenantal promises you made. How have you and God together been doing in practicing good stewardship, expressing Christian love, and boldly professing Jesus Christ in your words and works? How have you helped me and others as we unite in our common purpose of loving and serving the Lord? Please remember, the vows of our covenant are very much the vows of a marriage, and for the partnership to thrive and survive, each partner has to invest more than 50% in the partnership, and each partner must treat the other with compassion, love, and respect.

Together, we've built a firm foundation, albeit with occasional cracks that need our attention. But we've been affirmed by the Holy Spirit to continue doing great things together, to continue building this North Branford body, in partnership with each other and with Jesus Christ as our Head, and all to the glory of God. May it always be so.

Love, Vance

Covenant for Ministry Between the Settled Pastor and the Members of the North Branford Congregational Church, UCC

The call to Rev. Vance Taylor, extended by the North Branford Congregational Church, United Church of Christ: Having sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and believing that God has called us to share in the mutual ministry of Christ, the members of North Branford Congregational Church, United Church of Christ at 1680 Foxon Road, North Branford, Connecticut, at a regularly called meeting of this congregation held on [DATE], voted to enter into covenant with you to become a minister of this church as our Part-time Settled Pastor, beginning on [DATE]. All parties execute the following agreement in good faith.

Faith Foundation Founded in our faith, we together affirm the following:

Covenant. We are a church based in covenant. When a church calls a pastor, its members covenant to faithfully partner, each with the others, and all with the pastor and with Jesus Christ, in building up Christ's body in North Branford and beyond. Conversely, the pastor covenants to serve this church, its individual members, and Jesus Christ, drawing upon his ministerial gifts and leveraging other resources within and outside the church, in furthering Christ's mission in the world.

Stewardship. We are accountable for the wise use of the church's resources, both human and material; therefore, the church should be an intentional steward in the raising and the expenditure of funds, and in caring for all that has been entrusted to it; conversely, the pastor should be an intentional steward in the use and renewal of his life in ministry. We likewise are called to offer not only our financial resources for the up-building of this Body of Christ, but equally important, our gifts of time and talents, sharing freely of all we have received through God, and only through God.

Christian Love. Because the connection between pastor and people is a sacred trust, open, caring, healthy relationships are essential for the well-being of the local church. Salary and benefits negotiations, new and annual, should be carried out with candor and clarity, and with loving, supportive, mutual respect. As Christians, we are called to compensate all persons fairly, regardless of age, gender, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, disabilities, marital or family status. Likewise, responsibilities, expectations and performance of the pastor and the members in their calling to each other and to God must be joyfully embraced in our roles as disciples of Jesus Christ, and lovingly expressed through thoughtful and regular dialogue.

Evangelism. Individually and collectively, we are ministers of Jesus Christ, called to proclaim the Good News through word and deed.

Scope of Work The part-time Settled Pastor, in fulfilling his covenant, shall actively engage in:

- Sunday Worship: Preparation and leadership of Sunday worship including scripture study, crafting of liturgy and bulletin, sermon preparation, guiding lay liturgists/deacons/lectors, planning of music in coordination with organist and/or volunteers, preaching, offering of prayers, etc.
- Spiritual Formation: Invigorate faith formation and vitality through prayer, Bible study, adult and youth Christian education, and identification and sharing of helpful spiritual resources and opportunities with members; offering on-going guidance; making church, spirituality, faith and worship more relevant in the daily living of our members, so our members continue to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ.
- Faithful Financial and Organizational Engagement: Collaborate with church leadership by providing guidance and using your experience and gifts in maintaining and improving the church's organizational and financial health.
- Shepherding: Hold himself and others accountable for commitments made in fulfilling the mission of the Church; and, meet regularly with the Pastoral Relations Committee to address concerns and conflicts and to maintain and enhance relationships between the pastor, individual members and the collective membership.

- Pastoral Care: Provide pastoral care in collaboration with Parish Visitors team, particularly to those who are sick, elderly, or grieving.
- Life Events: Manage and officiate at baptisms, weddings & funerals.
- Ecumenism: Participate in wider church activities such as conference and association meetings and interaction with other area clergy, as time permits.
- Evangelism: Striving to bring Jesus Christ to the wider community, and bringing the wider community to Jesus Christ and the Church.
- Personal Spiritual Growth: Study, prayer and spiritual direction to increase faith and to improve skills in orders to lead, teach, preach better. At all times, the Pastor shall be accountable to the Leadership Board, Worship Team, and ultimately, to the congregation, for the successful completion of duties; and, maintain ministerial standing in his denomination.

At all times, the Pastor shall be accountable to the Leadership Board, Worship Team, and ultimately, to the congregation, for the successful completion of duties; and, maintain ministerial standing in his denomination.

Congregational Covenant The congregation, in fulfilling its covenant, shall co-discern, consult on, support, and assist the Settled Pastor in all of the above. and we further covenant in the following:

Freedom and responsibility of the pulpit: Notwithstanding any of the other pastoral responsibilities outlined in our church Constitution and Bylaws, in the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws and Manual on Ministry (noting the Minister Codes and The Church in Relation to Its Pastor in Section 1 of MOM), and in the Three-Way Covenant we establish together with the Consociation/Conference, in accepting pastoral leadership we also accept your freedom of expression in the pulpit as it pertains to matters of faith and faithfulness, trusting you to be responsible to the insight of scripture, the work of the Holy Spirit, the traditions of the United Church of Christ, and the contexts in which we live our lives.

Review of ministry: The Leadership board will appoint a team to conduct regular reviews to examine the priorities, visions, stresses, and effectiveness of both our congregation's ministries and of your ministry among us, to be scheduled every six months optimally, or once a year at a minimum.

Mediation procedures: Our church acknowledges that, even as we pledge our faithfulness to God, to one another and to you, there may be times when difficulties within our relationship begin to overwhelm us. In those instances, we covenant with you to seek the support, advice and wisdom of our Association or Conference Minister and our Consociation Committee on Ministry in order to restore the goodness of our relationship and the goodness that God has placed within it. Either you or our Leadership Board, representing our congregation, can request a Situational Support Consultation if, in the opinion of either, our ecclesiastical relationships are becoming ineffective or unhealthy.

Termination of pastoral call: Our church recognizes that relationships are always changing and that many reasons can lead to a separation. If you desire to terminate this call agreement, you are expected to give 30 days' notice to the Leadership Board as a professional courtesy and to continue to perform your duties during that time. The Leadership Board may vote to excuse you by written resolution from further performance of your duties once you have given notice. You will be paid only for the period of time you perform duties. The church may choose to terminate this agreement by a vote of the Leadership Board acting on behalf of the congregation (unless alternate procedures are outlined by church constitution and bylaws). Such a termination would not be made lightly or secretly, and we promise to consult with Consociation/Conference staff and/or to seek outside wisdom and assistance before such a vote.

Exit Interview: At the conclusion of this relationship, North Branford Congregational Church, UCC and the Pastor agree to participate in an evaluation of the Pastor's ministry. This evaluation will include the following:

An exit interview attended by the Pastor, Moderator, Chair of Worship Team, and Chair of Pastoral Relations Committee; and completion of evaluation process suggested by the Conference/Consociation staff.

Terms of Agreement We consider this position to be part-time. The terms of this call are contingent upon your holding ministerial standing with the New Haven East Consociation of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. Should ministerial standing be suspended, revoked or transferred for any reason, this agreement can be terminated immediately by, the Church Council representing our congregation.

Salary and Housing: Our church will provide an allowance of 2,700/month, which is non-taxable in accordance with Internal Revenue Service guidelines and which we will approve annually (with the amount specified each year in Church Council minutes) for tax purposes. Housing allowance is understood to include the costs of all utilities, maintenance and furnishings, in addition to the mortgage/rent for your primary residence.

Weekly schedule: We recognize that the demands of church life come at all hours of the day and night, and that the covenant with our church may require your attention 24/7 to matters beyond your control. We expect that your work schedule will average 20-25 hours weekly, understanding that additional hours may be required but will be examined if an excess of 30 hours per week becomes a habit for you or for us. Therefore, we wholeheartedly support your need to take time for self-care on a regular basis, and we encourage your faithful management of two days off per week for rest and rejuvenation.

Vacation: Our church provides you four weeks of vacation time during each 12 months of service, including four Sundays. The congregation is responsible for our programs, worship life and each other during your vacation. Service to the wider church (e.g. summer camp leadership, mission trips, and national/conference/association meetings) is not construed as vacation time. Vacation time does not roll over from year to year; vacation time that is unused at the end of a year is forfeited. Vacation pay will be prorated upon termination.

Personal and sick leave: Our church realizes that life is rarely predictable or easy; therefore, leave time is available to you for special circumstances. We expect that you will communicate promptly with the Church Council should these circumstances arise and leave time be needed.

In accepting this agreement, effective [DATE], we hereby attach our signatures, making the Covenant binding upon us in accordance with the above outlined terms, subject to the approval of the Leadership Board on [DATE].



Leadership Board Nominations for 2021 Church Year

Nominating Committee members are:

wendytarry@gmail.com Wendy Tarry - 203.208.1257 or arnjo 45@hotmail.com Joanne Palmieri - 203.488.1924 or gerry@borgerson.com Gerry Borgerson - 203.438.1116 mark@douglas-financial.com Mark Czarnecki - 203.458.3342

The Nominating Committee secures nominees for vacant Leadership Board positions each year (listed below). Since all positions are a one-year term, they are all up for renewal each year and may be re-elected to the same position from year to year. The committee brings the recommended nominees to the annual meeting for a formal vote.

The Nominating committee is seeking nominations for the following **Leadership Board positions for 2021**

OFFICERS: Moderator* Clerk* Treasurer* Business Manager* Financial Secretary* Specific job descriptions for these Officers positions can be found in the NBCC Constitution and By-Laws. Contact any committee member for a copy.

At Large Board Member(s): Two members may be chosen. Duties fall under the job description for the Leadership Board, also found in the By-Laws. The At-large members are voting members of the Leadership Board and work with the Officers and Worship Team Leader

Recording Secretary:

This position is mentioned as a member of the Leadership Board but has no specific job description listed in the By-Laws. Recording Secretary attends meetings, records minutes and is required to provide them within 48 hours. This is a non-voting member.

We encourage anyone who wishes to serve or nominate, to read the entire constitution and By-laws for a full understanding of how our church operates. Contact any of the committee or our church administrator, Fran Giambalvo for a copy.





Instead of asking God, "why are there so many unpleasant things happening in our world right now?"

Let us ask Him instead, "Lord, help me to understand."



The Branford Compassion Club will be holding its annual *Blessing of the Animals* at the North Branford Congregational Church, Sunday, October 4th at 1:30 pm. Everyone will remain in their cars and drive up for their pet(s) to be blessed. There will be a one-way traffic pattern with cars entering at Church St. and exiting onto Rt. 80 at the traffic light.

There is no fee and donations are welcome. There will be framed animal blessings that can be personalized for purchase.



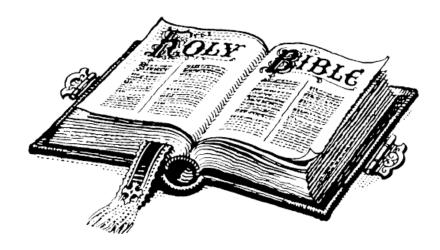


"Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." ~1 Corinthians 2:5

Please join us as we come together once again with our - *Bible Friends* - October 6 and 20 at 6:30 PM in the church Chapel. We will resume our study of sections 3 and 4 of the 'New Testament'

Any questions please email Jennifer: <u>bellmad1@aol.com</u>

Please note: EVERYONE MUST WEAR A MASK



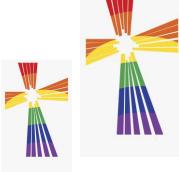
makes the circle

CHURCH COMMUNICATION

What Is the Church Pastoral Relations Committee?

Many of you may not realize our church has a Pastoral Relations Committee. We are a committee of five and the Pastor. We try to work out conflicts and differences in a way that is civil and informative so that both sides feel satisfied with the result. This is not always easy, but it is very necessary in helping the church to move forward in a positive way.

We will meet quarterly or more often if we have issues that need attention. If there is an issue you feel needs to be addressed, please notify a member of the committee. The members are: Donna Cropley, Arnie Palmieri, Laurie Vincent, Connie Miessau, Vance Taylor and Gerry Borgerson."







A colorful, adventurous world begins just as summer is leaving. It is called the season of Autumn. Now, if you just pay attention, you will notice that each day is changing around you. Yes, the adventure of Autumn is starting as different colors start to peek through our lives.

There is still some green left, but if we watch with faithful eyes, the adventure begins as life around us starts bursting with colors of red, orange, gold, and yellows. We start walking through harvest time filled with pumpkins, apples, and large, beautiful pots filled with colorful mums. As we stroll through these vibrant colors and happy times of Autumn, sometimes we fail to notice how little by little each day is changing as colors start to fade, trees start losing their leaves, and the crisp air turns a little bit cooler every day.

And so, it can be the same with our lives. Realizing it or not, even though some of us don't like change, it is happening to us on a daily basis. Just think how our world would be if everything stood one color and if our lives never changed and we become stagnant in our ways of thinking? Instead, let us put our trust in the hands of our Father, and embrace these small, everyday changes and know that they will make us stronger and wiser. Let us start by enjoying this beautiful picture of the changes of Autumn surrounding us right now!

~ fran v. Giambalvo



or Through the Mail

Due to the current state of affairs our pledges and other income has been way down. It would be extremely helpful if we can ask our members to try and keep up with their weekly donations. Please be aware due to the COVID-19, mail is still being delayed at times.

Thank you. Nancy Bodwell

Mail funds directly to the church:

North Branford Congregational Church P.O. Box 410 1680 Foxon Road North Branford, CT 06471 attn. church treasurer

Or by:

PayPal:

go onto our Facebook page and follow the directions or call Jen at 203.645.3107 if you need further instructions, nbcctreasurer@gmail.com

Let us keep in prayer that it will not be long before our church family can once again worship together.

If you have questions please contact: Jennifer Downer at 203.645.3107, <u>bellmad1@aol.com</u> or Nancy Bodwell at 203.481.9925, nancbodwell@yahoo.com



Some of us have been blessed with so much and it takes so little to reach out to say, "I am here for you!"

Food Bank Officially Closed

The North Branford Food Bank that was held from our church, on Friday afternoons, is permanently closed. The food remaining on the shelves were given out to 10 families who stopped by the past week. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported this mission to help others. And, to the women and men who worked this food bank for so many years so that no one would go without, Thank you!!

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, October 5 at 7:00 pm.

Leadership Board

The leadership Board's meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 PM.

Please Note: Open Shed Clothing Donation is Now Closed

St. Pauly Textile has closed "The Open Shed" for clothing drop off due to the Covid 19 virus. If and when they decide to reopen the box, we will let everyone know. Thank you for your support of this fundraiser for our church.

Would You Like To Become A Member

Anyone desiring to become a member of NBCC can do so by calling Vance at **860.480.3307** or the church office at **203.488.8456**





OCTOBER



6: Alberta Traub

9: Stephanie Small & Margaret Holcomb

12: Victor Tarry

17: Miles Vonghr

28: Sandra Artkop





Forgotten anyone on our birthday list please Call the Church office at 203.488.8456 and let Fran know!







HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH

G H Α Q 0 S E E K U X T 0 N X F C Z 0 F Z E R Q J H G Ε S S A M 0 N Z C E S 0 E R T U H D Т N U A H H T D S T X G A X L M C S E J S P S R Z 0 0 D B H R S C A R Y NI 0 0 K X WX K E RI P M A E W S E W P 0 M C C 0 G U N D U E C S R A N DY Y M M U M R T P N E J T T X A U T C 0 WE Ε DZ H 0 Z K S G X K M G Т C T Y H N B K Q X K 0 0 S S S E P U K R B Y R N N N S W R G R T OHN R X Q M Y Z G T QH 0 R P D 0 R X X QN W H M XZ G W E F D Z UA R J MU Y H S OP T В K K 0 0 WA B B T E A A 0 Y Z SHL QQP -1 T G N



Bat
Pumpkin
Halloween
Mummy
Vampire
Witch
Spooky
Trick or Treat

Fun
Ghost
Costume
Skeleton
Candy
Scary
Monster
Haunted House

















OCTOBER 2020							
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDY	THURSDAY 1	FRIDAY 2	SATURDAY 3	
4 10:00 am Worship Communion Service 1:30 Blessing of the Animals	7:00 PM Worship Meeting	6 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY	7	8	9	10	
10:00 am Worship	12	6:30 PM Leadership Board Meeting	14	15	16	17	
18 10:00 am Worship	19	6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY	21	22	23	24	
25 10:00am Worship	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Everyday...

~ pray for someone who is alone ~



The North Branford Congregational Church, UCC

1680 Foxon Road, PO Box 410, North Branford, CT 06471

The ministers of this parish are all of its members

OFFICERS and LEADERSHIP BOARD:

Moderator	Connie Miessau
Pastor	Vance Taylor
Business Manager	Jonathan Bodwell
Treasurer	Jennifer Ramsay
Financial Secretary	Nancy Bodwell
Asst. Financial Secretary	
Clerk	
Worship Team Leader	Donna Cropley
Recording Secretary	1 5

The church office will be closed until further notice. If you need to contact us, please leave a voice mail at 203.488.8456 pressing 1 for the minister and 0 for the church administrator, or email us at nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net. Your calls and emails will be returned.

e-mail to nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net, or fax to (203) 481-4822

Website: www.northbranfordcongregational.org

Find Us on Facebook Everyday @ www.facebook.com/CTNBCC

No Matter Who You Are,
No Matter Where You Are on Life's Journey,
You are Welcome Here!