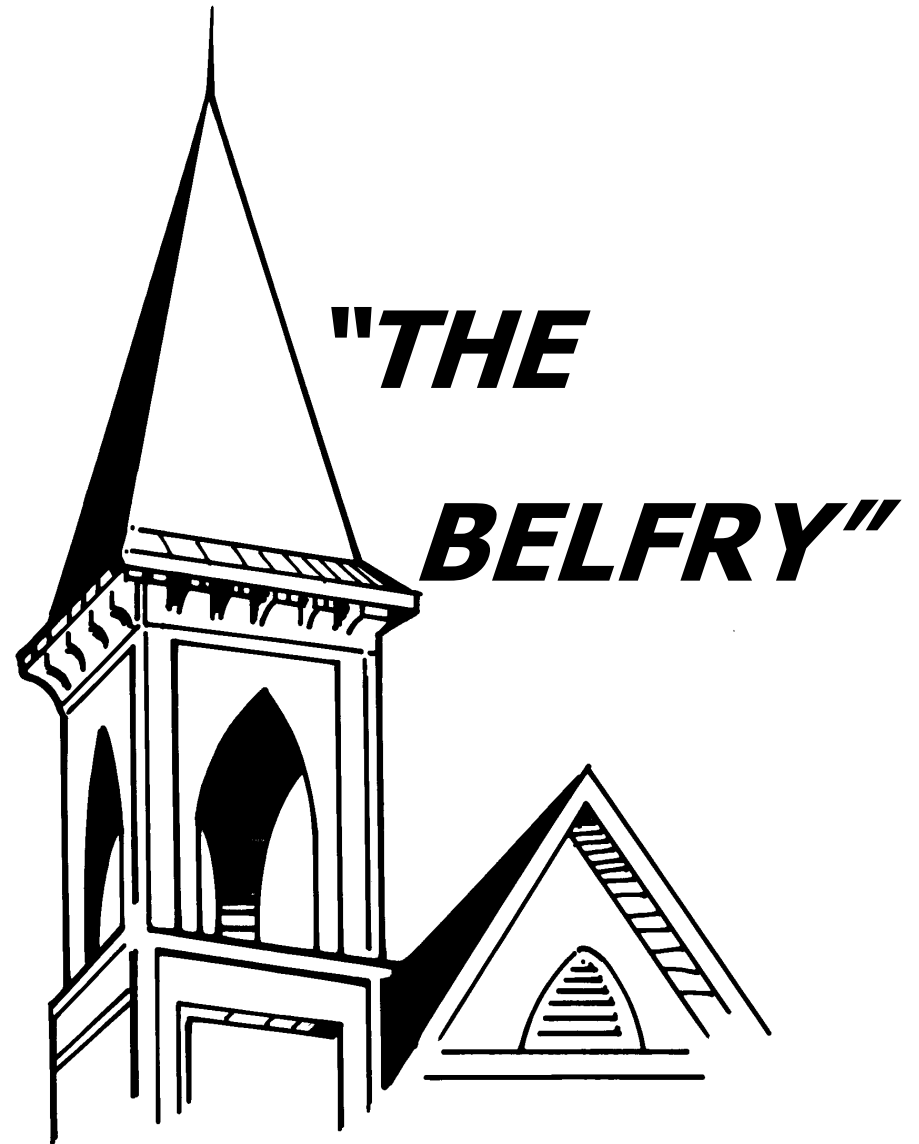




JANUARY

2012



"THE BELFRY"

HUNTINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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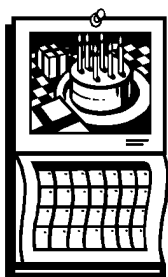
E-mail: hcc@snet.net

The Rev. Lucille L. Fritz, Minister

James T. Bruni, Organist/Choir Director

Kirsten E. Keith, Christian Ed Associate

Karen S. Boroski, Editor/Office Manager



Birthday Greetings to the following who will celebrate during the month of January:

- 2 Karen Boroski
- 4 Sara Frolish
- 5 Emil Faber, Ruth Pesavento
- 6 Jim Ferris, Marie Mitchell, Kevin Glynn
- 7 Alex Oppel, Louise Manger
- 8 Sarah Koenig-Dzamko
- 13 Bill Nicholas, Melissa Dawley
- 14 Kaitlin Ronning, Barbara Henderson, Donna Witkowski
- 15 Sarah Keirstead, Eric Zelanin
- 16 Gail Melanson
- 17 AJ Hatfield, Andy Keith, John Pesavento, Kathryn Bailey
- 20 Mark Alterio
- 21 Steve Ronning
- 22 Brooke Roberts
- 23 Dana Witiak, Denise Melsenti
- 24 Laurie Ronning, Rita Boland, Wendy Zelanin, Karen Kellogg
- 25 Lori Alterio
- 26 Sheryl Heyse
- 27 Annette Kreitler
- 28 Cara Passaro
- 29 Holly Fassbender, Roger Friend, Margaret Holcomb
- 30 Sue Lindley, Rich Griswold
- 31 Deborah Reeves

The Belfry Article Deadline for the February 2012 issue is January 19th.

Congratulations to the following couples who will celebrate wedding anniversaries in January:

- 2 Jill & Merle Chase
- 3 Debbie & Robert Margolies
- 6 Jean Belyea & Barry Skinner
- 11 Linda & Bob Sember
- 14 Lynda & Rick Heiden



**THE 288th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
HUNTINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE
ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING OFFICERS,
ACCEPTING THE 2012 BUDGET,
AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT PROPERLY COMES
BEFORE THE MEETING.**

SNOWDATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012

FROM OUR MINISTER...

Dear Folks,

As a new year, 2012 is upon us, I think about all that has happened this year in the world. One thing that has struck me over and over again is the rudeness and negativity that seem to be growing stronger every day. People are more likely to insult than to praise, blame than to take responsibility. Even as one war in our world has ended, new ones are brewing, threatening to come to fruition at any moment. The world's economy is precarious at best, bringing out the worst in people. It's easy to become discouraged, but these words resonated with me:

As Christians, we need not buy into this flood of negativity and anxiety. We have our eternal God to rely on, whose Realm breaks through even now in small and large ways.

May 2012 be a gentler, kinder, more positive, more loving and more peaceful year. And, may we take to heart these words from Mary Palmer, as she rephrases St. Francis:

*To the ice of hate, may I be an ax of love.
To frostbitten injury the salve of pardon
To cold waters of doubt a bridge of faith
To the dark soil of despair a seed of hope
To the snowstorm of sadness a shelter of joy
To long nights of darkness a lantern of light.*

Blessed New Year to you all.

Peace,
Rev. Lucille

REV. LUCILLE'S PRAYER DAYS

Rev. Lucille will be having her prayer days on Thursdays, January 12th and February 9th. Please let her know if you have a prayer concern you would like her to lift up.

***The Church Staff of
The Huntington
Congregational Church
wishes all a very
happy & healthy holiday.***

Rev. Lucille

James

Kirsten



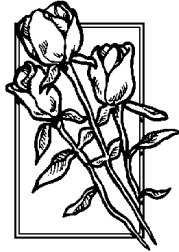
Lori

Gail

Karen

For the Beauty of the Church

A sincere “thank you” to all those whose flowers brought added beauty to our worship services this past year! If you would like to dedicate flowers to a loved one for this coming year, sign up for your special date of the year or you may call our Flower Chair, Judy Tucker at 203.929.5174 or the church office (203.929.1223) for Karen to sign up for you. No payment is needed until the week before your date – Cost: \$40.00. You may take them home after the worship service or designate that you would like them delivered to a homebound member.



Also, if you would like to remember a loved one with a bulletin dedication, sign up on the bulletin poster located on the office window in the alcove (\$15.00).

Angels for Adoption/Under the Tree Project

The members of the Mission Committee would like to thank all those who participated in our Angels for Adoption/Under the Tree Program to help adults and children.

Thanks to your generosity many needy families from the Birmingham Group had a brighter Christmas.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

Women's Fellowship will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All women of HCC are invited to attend.



“Dear friends,

Sunday, December 18th is a day I will not soon forget. The staff bonus check, the clock with dedication, the extremely generous cash gift, the beautiful cake and reception in Fellowship Hall, not to mention the kind words from all of you certainly made the day so special. I especially enjoyed playing the piano for you, as it is something I miss so very much. I hope to play again!

*Sincerely,
Bruce Hartel”*

“My Church Family,

My many thanks for the personal cards and gifts, office greetings, and the monetary gift given to me during the Christmas season.

I wish you all a very Merry and blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Blessings,
Karen Boroski”*



The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport Highlights – January 2012



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ecumenical worship
~ January 22, St. John's Episcopal Church, 768 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport 06604 at 7 pm. This year's theme is **"We will all be changed by the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ"** (cf. *1 Cor 15:51-58*). Please contact Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt at brianbodt@ccgb.org or 203.334.1121, ext. 233 for more information.

CCGB's Spring Fling FUNdraiser, Friday, March 2, 2012 ~ at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre: **Face to Face – A Tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John**. Tribute artists **Joey Riedel** and **Michael John** join forces to capture both legends in a high energy, interactive show, with a killer Rock N Roll band. The **2012 Faith and Community Award** will be presented to St. John's Episcopal Church, Bridgeport. Tickets at \$65 per person include sumptuous appetizers, wine, beer and other beverages during the reception preceding the performance. People are encouraged to bring their own picnic-style dinner to enjoy during the show. Invitations will be mailed at the end of January and posted at www.ccgb.org. Hope you will join us for a really FUN evening!

Project Learn (turning students into scholars)

Project Learn has once again been chosen as one of three community programs to benefit from the funds raised by **Fabrics and Fabrications** – a Quilt Exhibit at Southport Congregational Church, which will take place from March 1 thru March 3, with a Preview Party on Thursday, March 1 from 6 to 8 pm. Celebrating their 10th anniversary, this year's theme is **Reuse, Recycle and Rejoice**. Quilts will be displayed in the Sanctuary and Chapel. There will also be a Fabrications Boutique offering handmade needlepoint, quilted and knitted treasures for sale. For more information, visit www.fabricsandfabrications.com. Come enjoy the exhibit and support Project Learn at the same time!

CO-OP Center

CO-OP Center announces its sixth annual Arts from Prison Auction to be held in March (details to follow) at the 305 Knowlton Street gallery in Bridgeport. All artwork is donated by inmates participating in the Community Partners in Action's Prison Arts Program. All proceeds will go toward the CO-OP Center Scholarship Foundation which provides partial scholarships to Housatonic Community College for ex-offenders. For more information, contact danbraccio@ccgb.org.

The Janus Center for Youth in Crisis is currently seeking community Host Homes. A Host Home is a family, household or individual who voluntarily opens its home for a youth between the ages of 11-17 years old who is in need of temporary shelter, board and care. They offer the youth a stable and caring environment and provide him/her with a constructive and consistent living situation, while Janus Center staff helps to foster reconciliation between youth and their family. If you have the heart to help youth in need, please contact Dale Holder at daleholder@ccgb.org or 203.334.1121, ext. 221 for more information.

Please save these dates:

- ◆ The **2012 Annual Youth Conference ~ Sunday, March 25, 2012 at Sacred Heart University** from 1:30 to 6 pm ~ designed to engage members of your senior high youth groups ~ through facilitated dialogue, the teens will explore a "hot topic" – details to follow. **Contact Larri Mazon, lwamazon@gmail.com** or 203.334.1121, ext. 255 or 203.710.7342 (cell)

The Church needs your Help and Generosity

HCC is facing a severe budget shortfall.

The church Council has the task to make recommendations for the Congregational Meeting for a balanced budget at their Jan. 10th meeting.

You can help by doing one of the following:

- **If you have not sent in your pledge card please do that ASAP**
- **If you did not raise your pledge for 2012 please reconsider and submit a new pledge card.**
- **To close the budget gap we need EVERY family to increase their pledge and giving by \$10 per week.**

May God's spirit move every one of us to respond.

CHILD CARE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The Huntington Congregational Church Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 22th and the Christian Education Committee will provide child care for children 6 months (Child Care room) - grade 7 in the library during the meeting.



If you are the chairperson of a committee, your signed annual report should be into the office **by Sunday, January 1st**. It would be helpful if your report is e-mailed to the office at hcc@snet.net.

Due to the many extra steps that need to be taken after your report is handed in, your promptness will be greatly appreciated.

**Annual Meeting: January 22, 2012 following worship.
CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDE**

CHURCH CANCELLATION: When inclement weather occurs, these methods will be used: Channel 8 – TV or on their website www.wtnh.com.

HCC Delegate Report:

HCC is a member of the statewide UCC CT Conference and the regional Fairfield East Association. Linda and Gordon Harris along with Lois Ricker as alternate serve as delegates. We attended three meetings this year. The CT Conference meeting was held this Spring at the Naugatuck Congregational Church with Gordon, Lois, and Rev. Lucille attending. In May the Fairfield East Association meeting was hosted by HCC. A tremendous meal was prepared and served to all of the delegates by Women's Fellowship.

On October 26th a Fairfield East meeting was held at the United Congregational Church of Bridgeport. At this meeting the budget was presented and passed with funds pledged toward Silver Lake Youth scholarships among other things. The program for the evening was provided by Senior Minister Rev. Sara Smith and members of her congregation. It was a Celebration of Worship highlighting their Music Ministry. In addition Community Life Director, Eleanor McCormack, detailed the Norma F Pfriem Urban Outreach Initiative. (www.NormaFPfriemOutreach.org) This is a volunteer driven organization in downtown Bridgeport that brings hope to the community through service and support programs. This is a relatively new mission of the United Congregational Church of Bridgeport. It provides many varied opportunities for service to those who are truly in need. The program includes a weekly supper, community gardens, clothing closet, and "Project Learn" an after school outreach. Anyone wanting more information please contact us.

Adult Study

The Adult Study group will resume on January 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the Library. We will be continuing our look at the Gospel of Mark. For more information, please contact Rev. Lucille.

Pastors, Congregations, Lay Leaders,

We kindergarteners, standing on tip toe, on the front pews of the great sanctuary in my home church, looked like angels in our snow white surpluses, so lovingly ironed at home beforehand. As the Christmas pageant drew to a crescendo, the organ and choirs burst into a magnificent rendition of “Joy to the World.” At that very second, we angels thrust our electric candles heavenward, stretching as tall as we could manage. It was like we thought by sheer force, we could project the light and joy of Christ’s birth into every corner of the universe!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Thanks to your generosity, our Connecticut Conference is able to thrust high that light and joy- needed in our time every bit as much as in 1st Century Palestine. We do this by resourcing you and your congregation to minister in highly effective ways for the 21st Century, and by representing you in the ministry and mission of the United Church of Christ at home and around the globe.

A significant portion of the funding for this work comes from your gifts to OCWM (Our Church’s Wider Mission), and right now, OCWM receipts look significantly reduced from this time last year. It is your giving that facilitates the ministry of your regional minister, makes possible other Conference staff and services, supports the Sherman Street office and a portion of Silver Lake’s program.

As a kindergartner, I could not have imagined the complexity of the challenges facing the Church in the 21st Century. Yet, our simple message of light and joy remains the same. Because of you, Christ’s ministry through your congregation and our Connecticut Conference remains bright and joyful, a beacon of hope piercing the darkness. For all of us at the Connecticut Conference, and the entire UCC, thanks for helping us thrust our candles high in an exuberant...

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Charles L. Wildman, Interim Conference Minister

Prayer List

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Minister | Barbara Supernaw | Bruce Hartel |
| Rev. Lucille L. Fritz | Ines Queiros | Jean Dalaker |
| <i>C. E. Associate</i> | Tim Kiernan | John Crum |
| Kirsten E. Keith | Ann Hatkoff | Robert Olsson |
| <i>Organist/Choir Director</i> | Gina Raucci | Kaden Mills |
| James T Bruni | Brianna | Jeff Boniface |
| <i>Office Manager</i> | Margaret Holcomb | Mary Glynn |
| Karen S. Boroski | John Corsano | Barbara Ann Walls |
| <i>Moderator</i> | Jacquie Mari | Dick Dormer |
| Sheri Hatfield | Annette Bashar | Fran Wadeka |
| <i>Deacon Co-Chairs</i> | Grace MacDonald | David Zelanin |
| Ray Oppel & | Robert Nicodemus | Colleen Hogue |
| Gail Schoennagel | Gary | Tom Marrison |
| <i>Business Chair</i> | Harry Minot | Tara Simantel |
| Rob Reeves | Joe Caputo | Ralph Gainer |
| <i>Sunday School</i> | Sal Tuttlolmundo | Doris Roscoe |
| <i>Co-Superintendents</i> | Bob & Ruth Johnston | Al Waters |
| Christie Bailey/Ace Ricker | Jack Alessi | Mackie Alba |
| <i>Women’s Fellowship</i> | Kate D’Alessio | Tim Leonard |
| <i>President</i> | Michael Scoopo | Lorraine Bruni |
| Linda Sember | Dorothy LaCour | Debra |
| <i>Sr. High Group Advisors</i> | Rose Carcova | Andrew Stein |
| Kim Adler/Sheri Hatfield | Kim Adler | Valdon Barrer |
| <i>Huntington Center</i> | Alec Wildhaber | Glenda |
| <i>Nursery School</i> | Patrick Raymond & family | |
| Lori Witiak, Director | Betty Lucas | Philip Jones |
| 9:30 am | Marilyn Lamy | Craig Vincent |
| <i>Sunday Worship/</i> | Bill Stewart | Clarke Reeves |
| <i>Sunday School</i> | Juli Lindsay | Debbie Kandro |
| <i>& Child Care</i> | Zacariah Pappas-Fernandez | |
| | Lt. Dymitri A. Dutkanicz-Afghanistan | |



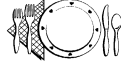


JANUARY 2012



huntingtonuccblog@gmail.com, US Holidays

Jan 2012 (Eastern Time)

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|-------------|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Rev. Lucille vacation New Year's Day 9:30am - Worship/C  | 7pm - CE meeting 7:30pm - Zumba | 9:30am - Circle III 7pm - Committee 7:15pm - Business | 7pm - Choir | 10am - Rotary-FH 6:30pm - TOPS 7:30pm - Karate-FH |  | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 9:30am - Worship/S | 7:30pm - Zumba | 9:30am - Circle III 7pm - Council | 7pm - Choir | Lucille's Prayer Day 10am - Rotary-FH 6:30pm - TOPS 7:30pm - Karate-FH | Spoooner House meal  | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 9:30am - Worship/S | Martin Luther King. 7:30pm - Zumba | 9:30am - Circle III | 7pm - Choir | 10am - Rotary-FH 6:30pm - TOPS 7:30pm - Karate-FH | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 9:30am - Worship/S 10:30am - Annual 1pm - J Chase-FH | 7:30pm - Zumba | 9:30am - Circle III | 7pm - Choir | 10am - Rotary-FH 6:30pm - TOPS 7:30pm - Karate-FH | | 12noon-J Chase-FH |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 9:30am - Worship/S 1pm - Shelton | 7:30pm - Zumba | 9:30am - Circle III | 7pm - Choir | Groundhog Day 10am - Rotary-FH 6:30pm - TOPS 7:30pm - Karate-FH | | |

You may view the Belfry & Calendar on our website at www.huntingtonucc.org