

*The
North Branford
Congregational
Church*



*OCTOBER
2021*

Pastor's Letter

My Dear Church Family:

As you know, I'll be concluding my ministry with you at the end of this month, and this letter to you will therefore be my last. While my parting words could have reflected on the successes of our six years of shared ministry, for which I'm grateful to God and to you, I've chosen instead to focus forward, and have selected several words to truly be my parting words to you, words that I hope will become part of your church vocabulary...

Pivot – The pandemic gave us a new meaning of the term *pivot*, as businesses and organizations found the need to reinvent the way they operated, and how quickly they adapted became a measure of their future success. In much the same way, I believe NBCC needs to pivot, to recognize the changing landscape, the varying spiritual and religious needs of different generations, the various ways we can “do church”, and the importance of being creative and innovative in how we proclaim “The Word”. I'm not suggesting abandoning long-held and wonderful traditions and Christian beliefs, but I am suggesting the benefits of pivoting, by developing new ways to feed the (spiritually) hungry, help the poor (in spirit), and reach out to all those in need, both inside and outside our church doors – and yes, each of us has needs, including you and me.

Disrupt - We sometimes get so comfortable with our culture and our lifestyles that we can forget Christianity began as a countercultural force, a voice crying for reform and transformation in the wilderness of conformity and sameness, a challenge to injustice and hatred, an appeal to love, a disruption to religion as usual. For years, when I thought of the term *disrupt*, I immediately thought of stories of a disruptive child in school, or a disruptive employee. But today, disruption can also be a good thing, when something is radically different and positive, as in the way smart phones totally disrupt how we had previously communicated and gathered information. So, as a member of NBCC and as a Christian, what can you do to be disruptive in a good way, living out your faith, living in to your faith, and living more like Jesus?

Unify – In John 17:21, Jesus prays for his disciples “that they may all be one.” That message of *unity* is so important that our denomination, the United Church of Christ, adopted it as our motto. Evil and dark forces will do their best to be disruptive (the “bad” disruption), driving a wedge among members of faith communities or among persons of different faiths, tempting us to think we're more different than alike, creating fear and division. When we become polarized, we cannot fully function as the body of Christ, and the body suffers when all members are not expressing harmony and love, not worshipping and working together. Jesus recognized the danger, Paul later recognized it in his writings to the early church, and you must likewise recognize it today, since division is the opposite of multiplication, and a house divided cannot stand.

You are pilgrims on a journey, charting a course to a new Promised Land. And the father of one notable group of pilgrims, John Robinson, had these parting words for his flock as they prepared for a voyage to a new world: “The Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth out of his holy Word.” Or, as the UCC likes to say, “God is still speaking!” Yes, God is still speaking, and affirming North Branford Congregational Church time and again, convincing me that the best is yet to come for you; God is by no means finished with what he first created in North Branford! ***Pivot; disrupt; unify;*** and, know that God will always be guiding you, as a new chapter unfolds in your life as a church, and in the life of your church. May it be so, Amen.

Vance

JOIN US FOR

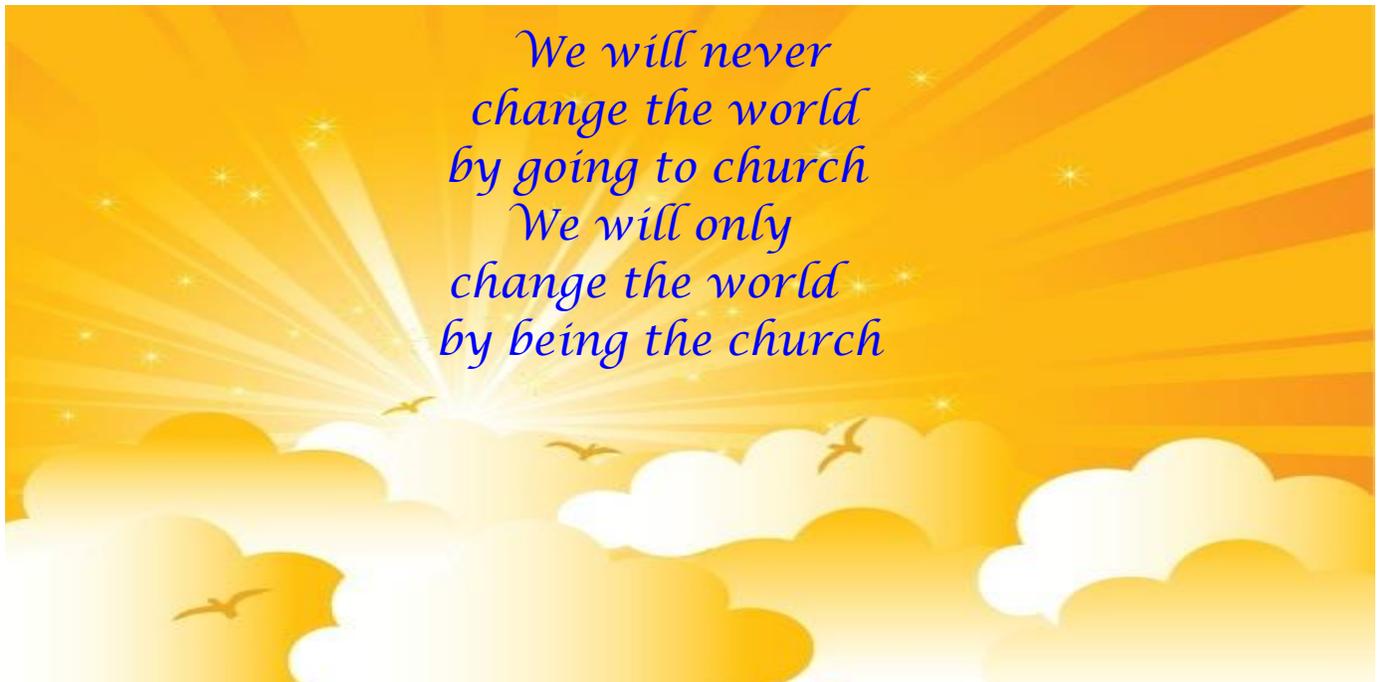


North Branford Congregational Church
Every Sunday at 10:00 AM

Come worship with us as we lift our voices to the Lord.
Reach out and invite a family member who has been
away from the church and/or a friend to share the day
with you!

REMEMBER

*We will never
change the world
by going to church
We will only
change the world
by being the church*





*A MOMENT
TO PAUSE*

We must treat each new day as if we are going on a new adventure, for we never know what God has in store for us as we turn each corner in our lives.

~ fran v. giambalvo



GODS LOVE IS...

Self Starting – 1 John 4:10

Indestructable – Romans 8:38-39

Undeserved – Romans 3:23

Compassionate – Isaiah 49:15

Constant – Jerimiah 31:3

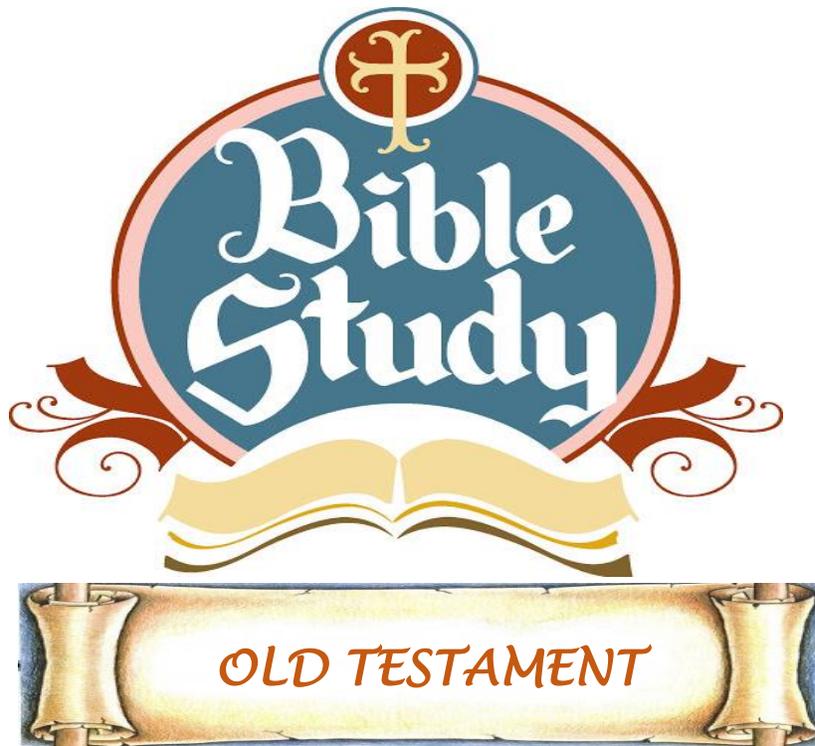
Immeasurable – Ephesians 3:18-19

Voluntary – Romans 5:18

A Gift – John 3:16

Made Possible by Jesus – John 1:14-18





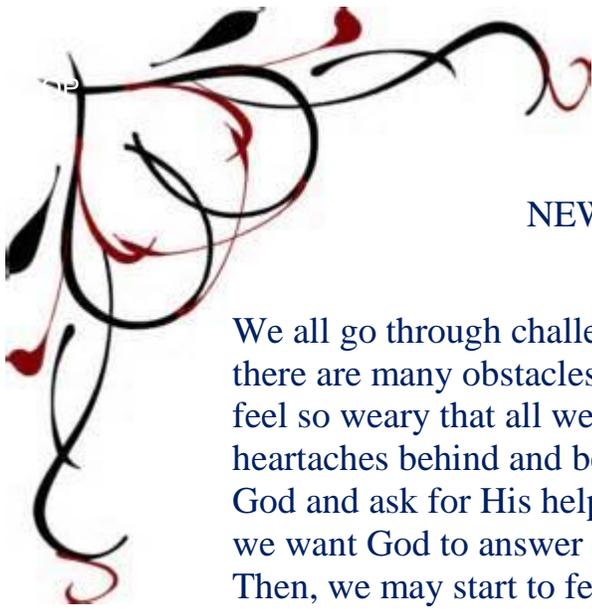
Please join us as we continue Bible Study on the Old Testament of "Leviticus."

Please join us, October 7 and 21 at 6:30 PM as we once again sit together with our - **Bible friends** - in our church Chapel to resume our study of the 'Old Testament'.

Any questions please email Jennifer: bellmad1@aol.com

Please note:
EVERYONE MUST WEAR A MASK





NEW BEGINNINGS

We all go through challenging times in our lives. Sometimes there are many obstacles we have to endure which make us feel so weary that all we want is to leave the old worries and heartaches behind and begin again. That is when we turn to God and ask for His help. At times we keep praying because we want God to answer our prayers sooner rather than later. Then, we may start to feel the answer is never coming as we battle more obstacles in our path. Prayers sometimes take weeks, sometimes months, sometimes, even a year or two but God is not ignoring us. No, quite the opposite, he is waiting for us to listen and to stop being impatient! He is waiting for us to open our eyes and hearts, look up toward the heavens to let Him know we are ready. Only then can our prayers be answered.

All of a sudden, when we think all is lost, we wake up one day and find we have climbed a mountain! It is then we realize we had finally let go and put our difficult times in the hands of God, and we have let his voice in; a voice so sweet saying now is the time for you to move forward, for you have finally let me into your heart by putting your faith in me and by handing me your troubles. Embrace with heartfelt gratitude this new beginning I am placing before you.

God may take his time in answering, but know,
He will always make tomorrow come.

~ fran v. giambalvo



Online Giving

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, bellmad1@aol.com 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!”

MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER

Worship committee will meet - October 4 at 7:00 pm
Leadership Board meeting - Tuesday, October 12 at 6:30 pm

CLOTHING SHED IS NOW OPEN

The clothing donation shed is located in the parking lot of the church, it's designed to give our members and neighbors a uniquely clean, convenient, and well-cared-for option to donate their used clothing. St. Pauly Textile Inc., the company that has provided the shed, partners with businesses and various organizations to distribute donated items both here in the U.S. and worldwide, where they're ultimately re-worn by people who need them. NBCC receives funding for donated clothing, allowing us ways to maintain and expand our ministries.

TOPS

TOPS exercise program meets every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

TO CONTACT THE PASTOR

Please know that you can contact Vance by calling him for an urgent need, pastoral conversation, or if you have information that would be helpful for him to know about our church family and the wider community. Leave a confidential message for Vance on his office phone (203-488-8456, ext.1), or you may call/text his cell phone (860-480-3307).

GET TO KNOW OUR CHURCH

Live Streaming Worship On-Line! Are you are unable to attend Sunday Worship but would still like to feel the closeness of your church family? Just click on the following link below to watch our Worship Live on Sunday Morning at 10:00 AM. With this link you can also watch a recap of any past Sunday worships you might have missed. **Remember, your church family is never far away!** Click on this link - www.Facebook.com/CTNBCC



OCTOBER

- 3: Lewis Reid*
- 6: Alberta Traub*
- 9: Stephanie Small & Margaret Holcomb*
- 12: Victor Tarry*
- 17: Miles Vongher*
- 28: Sandra Artkop*



Forgotten anyone in our birthday list
please call the church office
and let Fran know!





CHILDRENS



Halloween Fun Word Search

bat
black
broom
cat
costumes
ghosts
halloween
hoot
monster
moon
mummy
night
owl

pumpkin
scare
skeleton
spider
spirits
spooky
vampire
witch

g h o s t s b a t n t
b o l h s p o o k y p
v o b a w i t c h o u
a t l l b r o o m w m
m q a l n i g h t l p
p j c o s t u m e s k
i n k w a s c a t p i
r s k e l e t o n i n
e j e e m u m m y d f
i m o n s t e r q e v
m o o n o e s c a r e



OCTOBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 7:00 pm NA
3 10:00 am Worship Communion Sunday	4 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Worship Meeting	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 6:00 pm TOPS	7 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:30 PM AA	8	9 7:00 pm NA
10 10:00 am Worship	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Leadership Meeting	13 6:00 pm TOPS	14 7:30 pm AA	15	16 7:00 pm NA
17 10:00 am Worship	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 6:00 pm TOPS	21 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:30 pm AA	22	23 7:00 pm NA
24 10:00am Worship 31 10:00am Worship	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 6:00 pm TOPS	28 7:30 pm AA	29	30 7:00 pm NA

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.

Assisting them in their ministries are:

Church AdministratorFran Giambalvo

LEADERSHIP BOARD:

PastorVance Taylor

Moderator Joanne Palmieri

Business ManagerJonathan Bodwell

TreasurerJennifer Ramsay

Recording Secretary Laurie Vincent

Worship.....Gerry Borgerson & Arnie Palmieri co-chairs

OFFICERS:

Financial SecretaryNancy Bodwell

Asst. Financial Secretary.....Ginny Montelius

Clerk.....Marcia Duenkel

Church office hours are Wednesday—Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
(or with the Pastor at your convenience), 203.488.8456

Parish Visitor articles must be in the office by the 15th of the month
Please leave in the church admins mailbox in the office, or
e-mail to nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net,

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