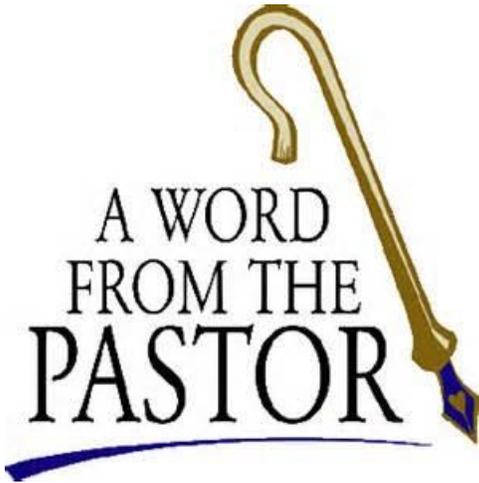


The North Branford Congregational Church
Parish Visitor
2020





Adaptability. The dictionary defines it as “the ability to adjust to new conditions” and also, “the capacity to be modified for a new purpose.” So, how able are you to adapt?

These past months have compelled us to adapt, have forced us into new ways of living, have brought us to places and times we have never before been. And Church has been no exception: our times of worship have used Facebook, Dropbox, speakerphones, and other equipment that’s been both a blessing and a challenge; our places of worship have included our homes, our cars, our lawns; our spaces of worship have included an empty sanctuary, the stained glass window of our chapel, a dining room table adorned with a cross and candle. Our meetings have likewise been physically distant, relying on Zoom and conference calls.

Yet here’s the thing: our faith is never-changing yet ever-changing. In Hebrews 13: 8, we hear, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Although Jesus Christ doesn’t change, he’s still a change agent in our world, redirecting our paths, and transforming and reforming each of us and all of us, to further God’s purpose and fulfill God’s will. I think of the countless stories from scripture where people have had to adapt to new circumstances and new conditions, such as the people of Israel heading into an uncharted Promised Land, or three Wise Men being told to modify their travel plans and return home by a different route, or Saul’s totally unexpected conversion on the road to Damascus, leading to Paul’s proclamation of the Gospel and the writing of many epistles. I also recall the story of the prophet Jeremiah’s visit to the potter’s house (Jer. 18: 1-8), and how the clay was reshaped into something very good through the careful work of the potter’s hands. The message was clear how we – the clay – can likewise be reshaped and repurposed, how the clay is very adaptable, and how God can refashion it (and us) for new purposes.

Yes, faithful followers have always been in the business of adaptability, responding to new situations and making course corrections, and also allowing themselves to surrender to God’s will and be divinely repurposed. And while change is inevitable, what sets us apart as Christians is how we respond to it. And that has to begin with hope, God-centered hope, not our own wishes for things to turn out as we desire. One of the founders of the practice of centering prayer, Thomas Keating, observed, “Theological hope is based on God alone, who is both infinitely merciful and infinitely powerful right now.” Keating adds how hope must be rooted in unbounded confidence in God, and in our continuing acts of self-surrender and trust in God. So, with trust in the never-changing God, we can surrender ourselves to God, and be totally open in adapting to new situations, and also be totally open to God adapting us, as we confidently and boldly move forward, in faith, focused on the spiritual and not the material.

In a recent story I shared from the Book of Acts, Paul has a vision, he “sees spiritually”, and receives assurance from God that he will be protected on his journeys, not only by God himself, but also by his sisters and brothers in the faith. In this ever-changing world, as we go about adapting and being adapted, let us also be assured of that same blanket of protection surrounding us, and the hope and trust that comes through a relationship with our never-changing God. And may we together say, “Amen!”

Love,
Vance



Cast Your Ballot

The Nominating Committee (Wendy Tarry, Joanne Palmieri, Gerry Borgerson and Mark Czarnecki) will be working to help positions in the church for the coming year. If you wish to nominate yourself or another church member for a position, please contact the chair of the committee, Wendy Tarry (wendytarry@gmail.com). We kindly request that all

nominations be made by November 1st.

Please note that according to our bylaws, officer positions all have a 1 year term length, which means that nominations for all positions are welcome.





Our life can be like a piece of artwork.
We just need to let our heart guide our
hand in whatever we draw, because this
is our journey.

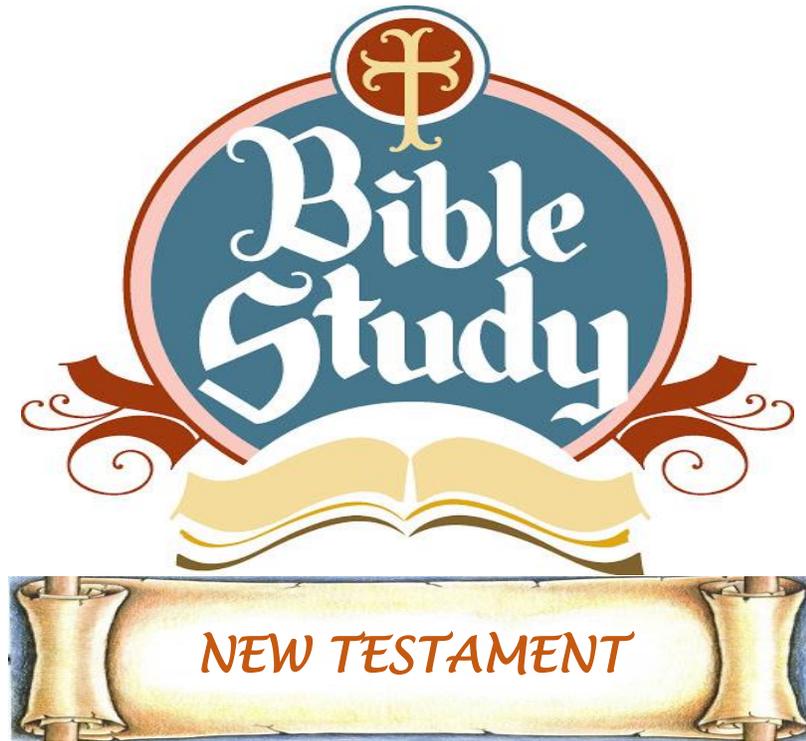
~ fran v. giambalvo



North Branford Congregational Church
Every Sunday at 10:00 AM

Until further notice our Sunday Services will still be held outside on the church grounds. On any Sunday that it rains please go to our Facebook page where we will livestream our weekly service.

Please pray every day that it won't be long before we can worship inside our church and gather with our church family in Fellowship Hall.



*“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.”*

~Hebrews 11:1

Please join us, September 1 and 15 at 6:30 PM as we once again sit together with our - ***Bible friends*** - in our church Chapel to resume our study of the ‘New Testament’.

Any questions please email Jennifer: bellmad1@aol.com

Please note:
EVERYONE MUST WEAR A MASK



September 11 a day we must all never forget to remember. A day someone tried to take our freedom away from us, but we stood together and let it be known that as Americans we are stronger than most!

No matter what happened on that day there is no way we will ever let our country down. For not only are we fighters when it comes to our America, but we are also survivors! This tragedy, that not only made us stronger but taught us how to work side by side with others regardless of race or religion. For together we were able to overcome what someone wanted to take away from us.

So, for that reason alone we must always remember to never forget all the heroes who came to our aide. From the firefighters to those on the police force, the EMTS, those in the Armed Forces, and the civilians who all worked together to save lives.

But the most important reason to remember September 11, 2001 is because if we choose to forget; we are letting down every individual who died giving every ounce of their being for a country they believed in.

Now let us take this time to ask God to make us stronger with each passing day so our children, grandchildren and their children will know what it is to feel the breeze of freedom throughout their life.

~ fran v. giambalvo



Online Giving

or Through the Mail

Don't forget your weekly donations can be sent in by:

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

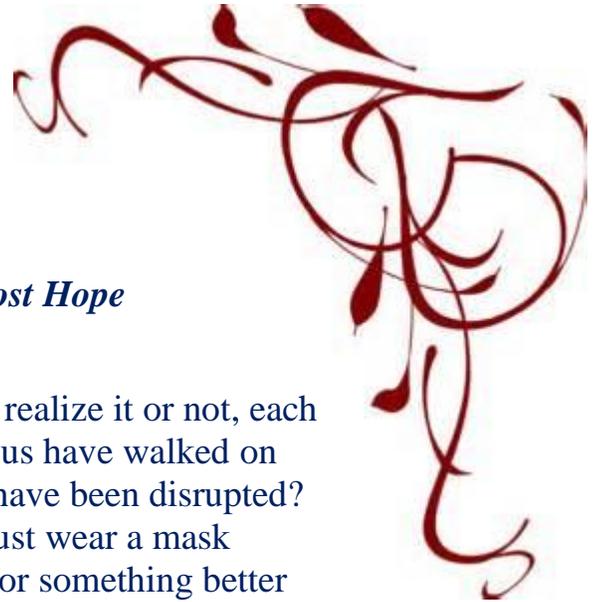
Mail it directly to the church:

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

We want to thank our members for their continued support. Let us keep in prayer that it will not be long before our church family can once again worship together.

During this time of Covid-19, checks being mailed to our post office box or directly to the church may experience a 3 week turn around as the delivery of mail is still going at a slower pace. Once we have the mail in hand, we will then deposit any checks that you have sent in.

If you have questions about your check and whether it has been deposited, please contact Jennifer Downer at 203.645.3107, bellmad1@aol.com or Nancy Bodwell at 203.481.9925, nancbodwell@yahoo.com



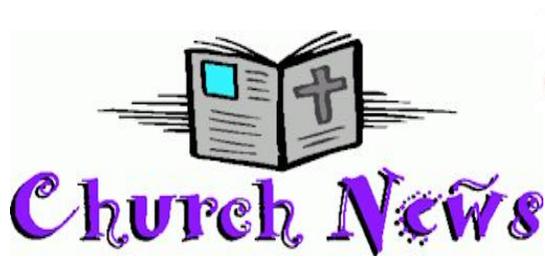
Hope and Faith – Finding Lost Hope

This past Spring and Summer, whether we realize it or not, each of us has been on a journey. How many of us have walked on this journey angry because our daily lives have been disrupted? For now, when we leave our homes, we must wear a mask everywhere we go. We have been hoping for something better than living this way, but for many of us hope no longer seems to be an option because we feel stuck behind a mask which makes hope feel lost to us.

This is a sad way to live because without hope what is there to look forward to? Maybe the problem is that we have been walking this journey alone without God? It is time, despite wearing a mask, to let the hope that you feel you had lost, back into your heart because it will give back the faith which will once again help us to listen to God's voice – a voice that seems to be telling us, "It is time to leave the anger and confusion of Spring and Summer behind!" Let us walk into the colorful world of Autumn with renewed hope which will give us the faith for every new tomorrow, so we can feel God's embrace as He protects all of his children. With hope, faith, and God's protection we will all be stronger as we face each new day. With or without a mask!

So, no matter how much anger or fear we might be feeling, always believe that one thing in our lives will always be constant and that is, "No matter what inconvenience our world tries to bestow upon us, God's love and protection for his children is by far greater!"

~ fran v. giambalvo



&



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

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee will zoom their monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 1 at 7:00 pm.

Leadership Board

The leadership Board’s meeting will be on zoom Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 PM.

Food Bank Officially Closed

We received notice, The North Branford Food Bank that was held from our church, on Friday afternoons, is permanently closed. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported this mission to help others.

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**

Sunday Worship

Our Sunday services will still be held outside on the church grounds until further notice. On Sundays that it rains please go to our Facebook page where we will livestream our weekly service.

WHEN THE WORLD says, “give up.”
HOPE WHISPERS, “try it one more time.”



SEPTEMBER

3: *David Cattaruzza*

13: *Deedee Bagley & Maria Berte*

15: *Jennifer Ramsay*

19: *Scott Small & Kaitland Berube*

21: *Louise Mason*

26: *Diane Small*

28: *Lana Miessau*



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



Fall Word Search

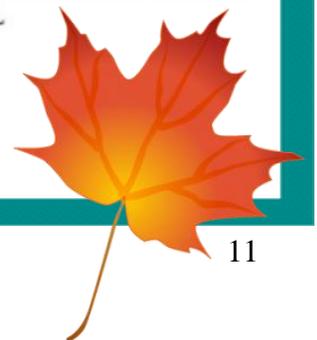
Find all the words below.

V	V	W	H	A	W	K	S	W	Y	Z	Q	H	S	V	W	Q	T	N	U
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Y	Z	A	V	Q	R	T	T	G	U	L	C	E	G	L	I	D	I	F	J
A	I	Q	U	A	L	N	D	M	P	U	K	K	P	L	Q	U	N	G	V

APPLECIDER
COOL
FOOTBALL
LEAF
SCARECROW

AUTUMN
CORN
HALLOWEEN
PUMPKIN
THANKSGIVING

COLORFUL
FALL
HARVEST
RAKE
TURKEY



SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Until further notice Sunday worship will be held outside. In case of rain go to our Facebook page where we will live stream the service.</p>		<p>1 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship Meeting on Zoom</p>	2	3	4	5
<p>6 10:00 am Worship Communion Service</p>	<p>7 HAPPY LABOR DAY</p>	<p>8 6:30 PM Leadership Board Meeting on Zoom.</p>	9	10	11	12
<p>13 10:00 am Worship</p>		<p>15 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY</p>	16	17	18	19
<p>20 10:00 am Worship</p>			23	24	25	26
<p>27 10:00am Worship</p>			30			

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

Church AdministratorFran Giambalvo

OFFICERS and LEADERSHIP BOARD :

ModeratorConnie Miessau
PastorVance Taylor
Business ManagerJonathan Bodwell
TreasurerJennifer Ramsay
Financial SecretaryNancy Bodwell
Asst. Financial Secretary.....Ginny Montelius
Clerk.....Marcia Duenkel
Worship Team LeaderDonna Cropley
Recording SecretaryNancy Allen

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 office manager, 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!