

*NORTH BRANFORD
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH*



PARISH VISITOR

*Because of the
Lord's great love,
we are not consumed,
for his compassions
never fail.*

Lamentations 3:22



February



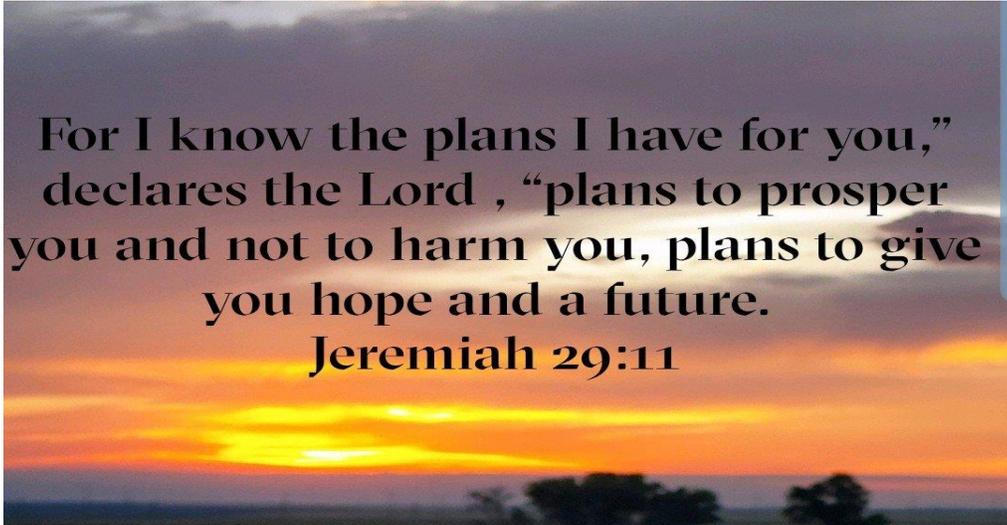


*From YOUR - MODERATOR
JOANNE PALMIERI*

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am so pleased at the excellent attendance at our Annual Meeting. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who decided to serve on the Boards and Committees at NBCC. Together, we can continue to nurture the positive and Christian atmosphere now growing stronger at NBCC.

May our church family continue to prosper as we continue to embrace the examples set by Jesus of kindness towards all, love of one another, and true Christian ideals.

May God Bless You and Keep You in His Care,
Joanne Palmieri, Moderator



**For I know the plans I have for you,"
declares the Lord , "plans to prosper
you and not to harm you, plans to give
you hope and a future.**

Jeremiah 29:11

***A MESSAGE FROM
THE WORSHIP LEADER***



FEEL THE LOVE!

It's that time of year again when aisles at the store sprout pink and red frills, with heart-shaped chocolate boxes, cards and teddy bears heralding the coming of Valentine's Day. While as a society we may celebrate love on February the 14th, for Christians love is meant to be at the core of our lives the whole year through. This is not a romance-based love, though, that focuses on one person or melts away when feelings change. No, this is a steady, sacrificial love rooted in God's love. In John's gospel we read this teaching from Jesus:

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."
(John 13:34-35)

So, love is fundamental to how we are to treat one another as a Christian community and it is key in showing the world that we are following Jesus.

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians talks about what love is like, painting us a picture of it that goes far beyond giving candy and roses:

"⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." (1 Corinthians 13: 4-7)

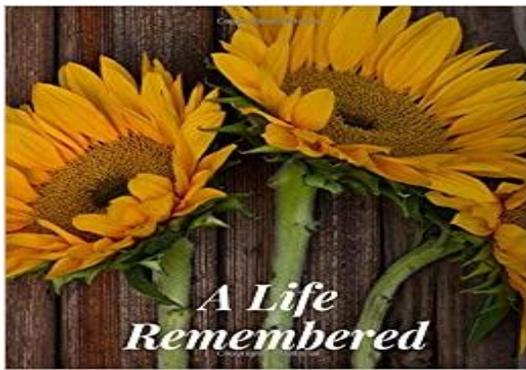
That's a lot to live up to! The good news is, though, that we don't have to love in our own strength. We love with God's help. And our Christian love doesn't start with us – it begins with God's love. As it says in 1 John:

"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4: 19).

This reminds me of a gift our daughters were given for Christmas. They received heat-able teddy bears that you can put in the microwave briefly, heating an inner core that turns the bear into a source of warmth. In a similar way, our hearts get warmed by God's amazing and sacrificial love for us and we can then share that love with others.

When members at NBCC take the time to check in on those who are ill or struggling, when they show kindness and a warm welcome to new visitors, when they work faithfully to help others, God's love is reflected in our faith family, and it is truly a beautiful thing. At the end of the day, love – God's love and our love as a community, shown in our words and deeds – will be the warm flame that draws people into our church family. So, keep the love flowing, North Branford Congregational Church!

Thank you and God bless,
Wendy Tarry, M.Div



A Special Memory of Luella Eastwood

From Nancy Bodwell

There was no one Luella didn't touch with her generous heart and bright smile. Her kindness, gentleness and genuine concern for others was truly inspiring.

Luella's deep faith, love of Church, unshakeable values and strong work ethic exemplified her inherent goodness and clearly defined just who she was. The wisdom she gained over her many years was a gift she wholeheartedly shared whenever the need arose.

Luella's special seat in her back pew may sit empty now, but her beautiful spirit will always remain and live on within our hearts. Many have been blessed by having Luella as their friend.

From Sheila Juniver

As part of the LSS a project that Luella always made for the Holly Fair was "**Scrubbies**", over the years she would purchase the netting, many different colors, cut into strips and sew each one by hand. About a month before the fair, she would bring them to our meeting, and we had to **fluff** them up. She would make around 50 herself, over the years it was less and less she would make, eyesight being an issue for her. We were asked a few years back to go with her to purchase the material, cut the strips and all of us helped her sew under her instructions (each one had to be just so)... When the fair day approached, she would keep checking how many were left for sale and always so thrilled when the last one sold or people would ask for them and buy more than one.

From Diane Farley

For a special occasion Luella would make delicious date nut squares . I asked for the recipe and after much thought she agreed to give it to me. However, I must never give it out to anyone. I have not.

As she aged and being Treasurer of LSS she worried about the dues she had in her house. One day she called me to come to her house and then proceeded to show me where the dues were hidden. She kept accurate records of how any funds were spent .

When Big Y opened, she took her daily walk up and down the aisles for exercise. Feeling. Guilty about this she would buy a quart of milk which she drank daily.

Her last efforts for the Holly Fair was keeper of the cash box. Every dollar had to be laid face up in the pile because she had learned that was the correct way to stack bills.

If you were a worker making sandwiches for the Blood Mobile donators, they had to be made so that the fillings came out to the edge of the crust. Her mother taught her this and that was the way it had to be. Also, we could only make two sandwiches of any kind because they had to be FRESH.

From *Ginny Montelius

Ginny remembers Luella taking ladies on a road trip to Vermont but only if she could be the driver.

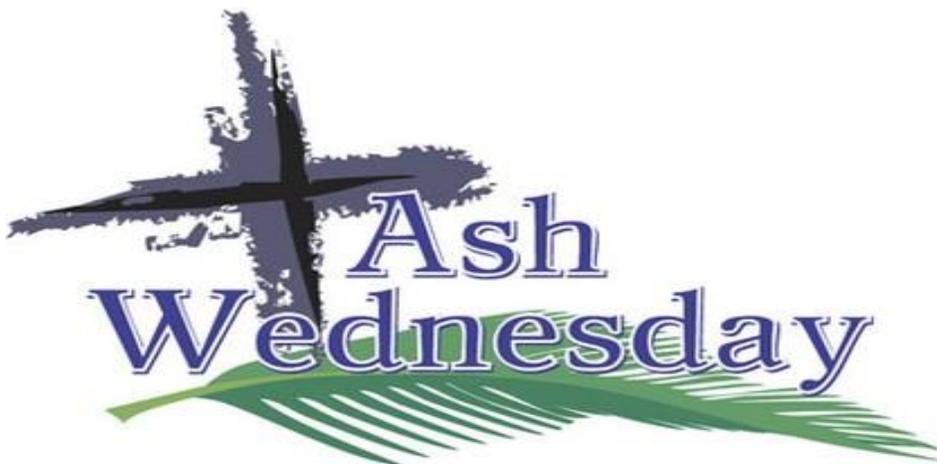
Anyone who sent Luella a picture card had a permanent place on her refrigerator . It was covered with cards.

****If you have a fond memory of Luella that you would like to share, or another church member who has passed, please email it to Fran at the church office, nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net. It will appear in the next monthly Parish Visitor.**



Valentine's Day is a day to give candy and roses. But the truest gift you can give to anyone is the one thing that lies deep within you; it is called Love!

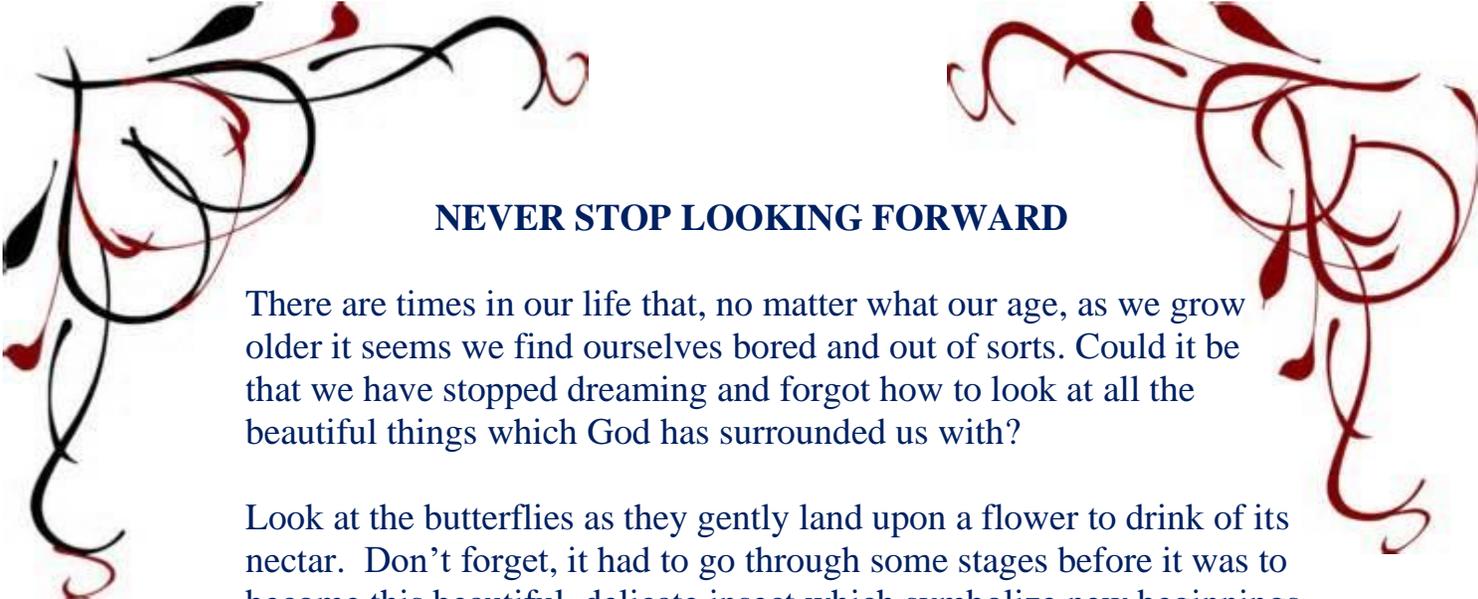
~ fran v. giambalvo



March 2, 2022

Ash on Your Dash

Drive through the North Branford Congregational Church parking lot to receive your Ashes from 7:00 – 8:00 AM



NEVER STOP LOOKING FORWARD

There are times in our life that, no matter what our age, as we grow older it seems we find ourselves bored and out of sorts. Could it be that we have stopped dreaming and forgot how to look at all the beautiful things which God has surrounded us with?

Look at the butterflies as they gently land upon a flower to drink of its nectar. Don't forget, it had to go through some stages before it was to become this beautiful, delicate insect which symbolize new beginnings. Then, there are flowers which started out as dark seeds covered in soil so that one day their beauty would grace us with their gift of color...color that says, "Please take notice." Because even the smallest bud growing can brighten your day. There is also the eagle soaring high in the sky showing us what freedom must feel like, telling us to let go of worries about getting older and just soar as freely as we can.

You can also think of an approaching early-evening storm as it starts, with the sky getting dark with thick gray clouds forming as the rain comes pouring down. Now, think about that new evening sky, which comes after the storm. The sky that went from gloom and grey to different hues of oranges, yellows and reds now spreading across the sky as the sunsets telling us a new tomorrow awaits.

So, do not think as you grow older your life will now be filled with boredom. Instead, think of it as seeing things around you with new eyes that you have forgotten to look for when you thought your life became boring. Think of it as God saying, "When you were young you laughed and played in all the beauty I surrounded you with in your world. Then you forgot about this beauty when you grew up and became bored with your life. Now that you have time to sit back and relax, I bring that beauty back to you!"

Although it never really was gone, you just needed to find the time again to enjoy life. So spread your arms out and shout, "I am ready to enjoy the beauty of my surroundings once again!"

~fran v. giambalvo

ONLINE GIVING

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
2 Corinthians 9:7

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR DONATIONS

If you are worshipping with us in the sanctuary or live streaming on Facebook, remember because of you, our church family, your weekly offerings make it possible to keep our church doors open.

Your weekly donation and/or annual pledges can be mailed directly to the church or through PayPal.

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

By PayPal: Go onto our Facebook page and follow the directions or call Jen at 203.645.3107 if you need further instructions.

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



**28 Bible Verses About Love
One for each day of
February**

John 15:12-13

1 Corinthians 13:7-8

1 John 4:11-12

Psalms 143:8

1 John 4:16-17

Ephesians 5:1-2

Deuteronomy 7:9

1 Corinthians 13:2

Ephesians 4:2-3

Galatians 5:13

Romans 5:5

Luke 10:27

Psalms 5:11-12

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1 Peter 4:8-9

Colossians 3:13-15

Mark 12:30-31

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

Psalms 118:23-24

1 Corinthians 13:13

Romans 8:27-28

Exodus 34:6

Psalms 136:1-3

1 John 4:7

Psalms 16:7-8

Proverbs 3:5-6

Zephaniah 3:17

Psalms 37:4



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 FEBRUARY

Deacons meet – Sunday, February 6 following service

Church Council meets – Tuesday, February 8 @ 6:30 pm

CLOTHING SHED IS 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.

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



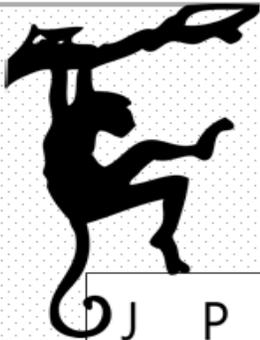
FEBRUARY

- 2: Emily Duenkel, & Jeremy Downer & Jennifer Berube
- 3: Connie Miessau
- 4: Logan Kennedy
- 7: Donna Cropley & Michael Cropley Jr
- 13: Jonathan Miessau
- 21: Leo Black
- 28: Freddie Vongher

Forgotten anyone in our birthday list
please call the church office and let
Fran know! 203.488.8456

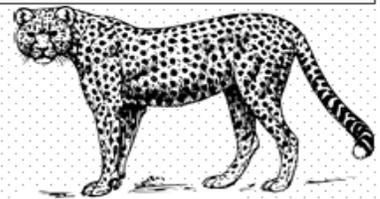


CHILDREN'S PUZZLE PAGE



Jungle Word Search

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



ALLIGATOR
BAT
ELEPHANT
FROG
GIRAFFE
GORILLA

JAGUAR
LEOPARD
LION
MONKEY
PANDA

PARROT
PYTHON
TIGER
WOOD
ZEBRA



FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
			6:00 pm TOPS	7:00 pm Scouts 7:00 pm AA		7:00 pm NA
6 10:00 am Communion Sunday Deacons Meeting follows service	7 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Women's AA group	8 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	9 6:00 pm TOPS	10 7:00 pm Scouts 7:00 pm AA	11	12 7:00 pm NA
13 10:00 am Worship	14 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Women's AA group	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 6:00 pm TOPS	17 7:00 pm Scouts 7:00 pm AA	18	19 7:00 pm NA
20 10:00 am Worship	21 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Women's AA group	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 6:00 pm TOPS	24 7:00 pm Scouts 7:00 pm AA	25	26 7:00 pm NA
27 10:00 am Worship	28 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Women's AA group					

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

CHURCH COUNCIL:

Moderator Joanne Palmieri
Chair of TrusteesJonathan Bodwell
Chair of Deacons.....Arnie Palmieri
Chair of Outreach.....DeeDee Bagley
TreasurerJennifer Ramsay
Clerk.....Marcia Duenkel
Assistant Clerk/ Recording Secretary..... Nancy Allen
Member at Large.....Alice Lehr
Worship Leader.....Wendy Tarry

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Moderator Joanne Palmieri
Chair of TrusteesJonathan Bodwell
Chair of Deacons.....Arnie Palmieri
Chair of Christian EdLaurie Vincent
Chair of Outreach.....DeeDee Bagley

Church office hours are Wednesday—Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
phone: 203.488.8456
e-mail: nobfdcong@sbcglobal.net,

