

NORTH BRANFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

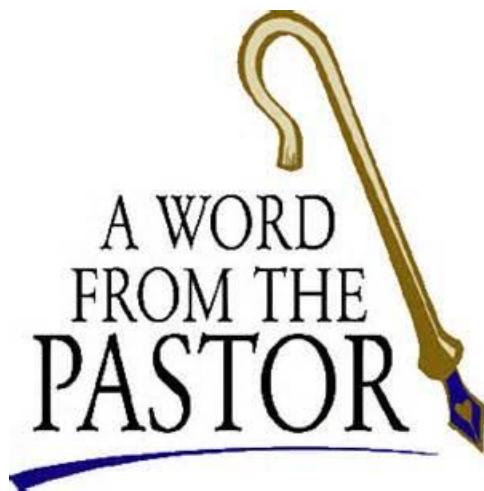


PARISH VISITOR



2021





Summer is upon us, and after more than a year of quarantining and practicing physical distancing, the season of outdoor activities and family gatherings has never been more welcome! It's so good that those of us who are vaccinated can once again be together, to worship, to work, to play, to vacation, to "just be" in the presence of others. As a child, summer was also a time to celebrate "School's Out!", and take a much-needed rest from days of studying and exams. Sunday School also adjourned for the summer, so aside from the learning that took place through my family times, the rest was paused until the fall.

And over the years of worshipping and of ministering, I've noticed how church attendance likewise seems to rise and fall with the seasons, of how some churches even speak of "Homecoming Sunday" in early September, as if to acknowledge that both children and parents alike have been away, and are now returning. Sure, I understand the need to get away; even Jesus took time to get away and go by himself to quiet places to pray. But what I invite you to consider is whether summer should be a signal to take a vacation from worship and prayer, and a time off for putting faith into action. It's so tempting to come up with excuses for changing our priorities, especially during the summer, and not keeping our focus first on Jesus. I'm reminded of the parable of the great dinner (Luke 14: 15-24), where someone invited many people to come and feast with him. Those he invited declined, and offered a variety of excuses why they would not be able to attend. Jesus seems to direct this parable at his fellow Jews who chose not to accept him, but I want to look at the story a bit differently, as one where folks had so many other things on their plates that they missed out on what really could have fed them. How often do we let our lives get in the way of our faith, instead of letting our faith determine the way we live? In one of our worship times in May, we spoke of keeping first things first, of following in the ways of Jesus, of worshipping and then serving. The need to feed our spirits doesn't go away in the summer, and the poor are always with us regardless of the season, so setting aside times to worship and times to serve are important to do year-round. The reasons why the folks in the parable could not attend the dinner all seemed quite reasonable – business dealings and family events – and we could certainly come up with similar explanations for our absences from the Sunday morning banquet to which we are weekly invited. But how long do you really want to go hungry? Can you wait until September to again be fed? And equally important, can the poor also wait, when they're already starving?

So please make it a point to worship with us weekly during the summer, either in person or on Facebook, and to invite your family including your children to do likewise. And continuing our theme of "worship-service", let's see what we then together feel called to do to put our faith into action, through new and expanded mission and outreach efforts. Perhaps it's looking for ways to further help the homeless, knowing how we have a fine tradition of involvement through our Midnight Run; maybe it's helping those who are about to leave prison and start new lives, as was recently discussed in a Pentecost "Mission Moment"; maybe it's coming to the aid of Jesus by coming to the aid of (you fill in the blank, as you feel led!) What wonderful ways to spend summer, putting our God-given gifts to use in service to our sisters and brothers in need. And please let me know what I can do to help you help!

Just think, when someone asks you next September, "So, what did you do this summer?", you'll be able to answer in ways far beyond where you vacationed. You can say, "What I did this summer, I did for Jesus!" May it be so.

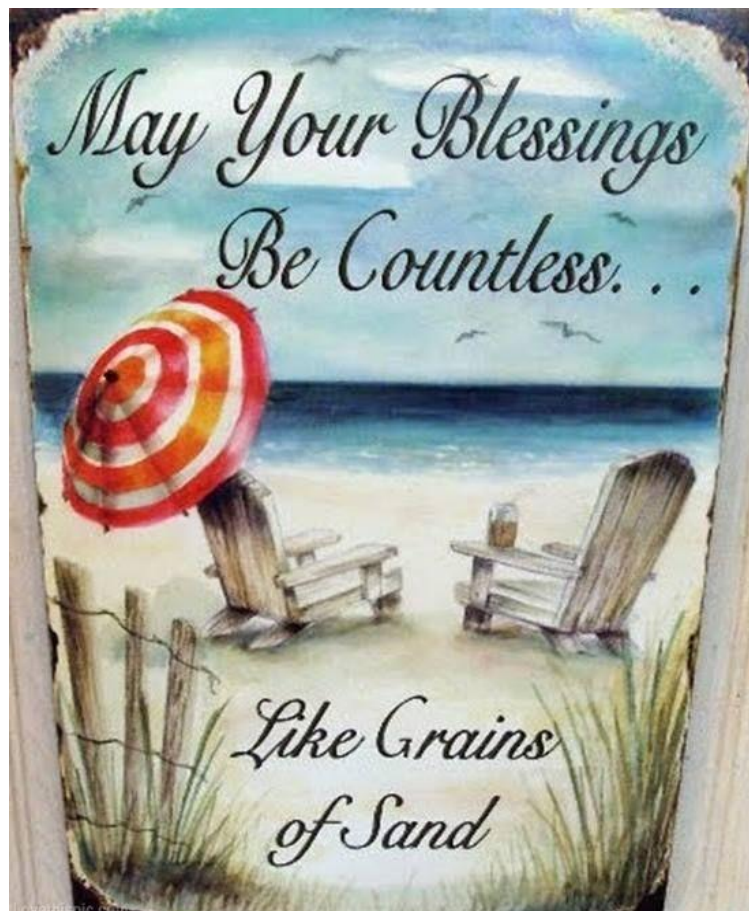
Love, Vance



Sending blessings to all. It is so heartwarming to see the attendance at church continue to grow over the spring. I hope, summer will bring the same kind of growth. I am so thankful for our outdoor Sunday School, live music at Sunday Service and all the other blessings being sent our way. I look forward to the next Congregational meeting in June.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and blessed summer.

God Bless You,
Joanne Palmieri

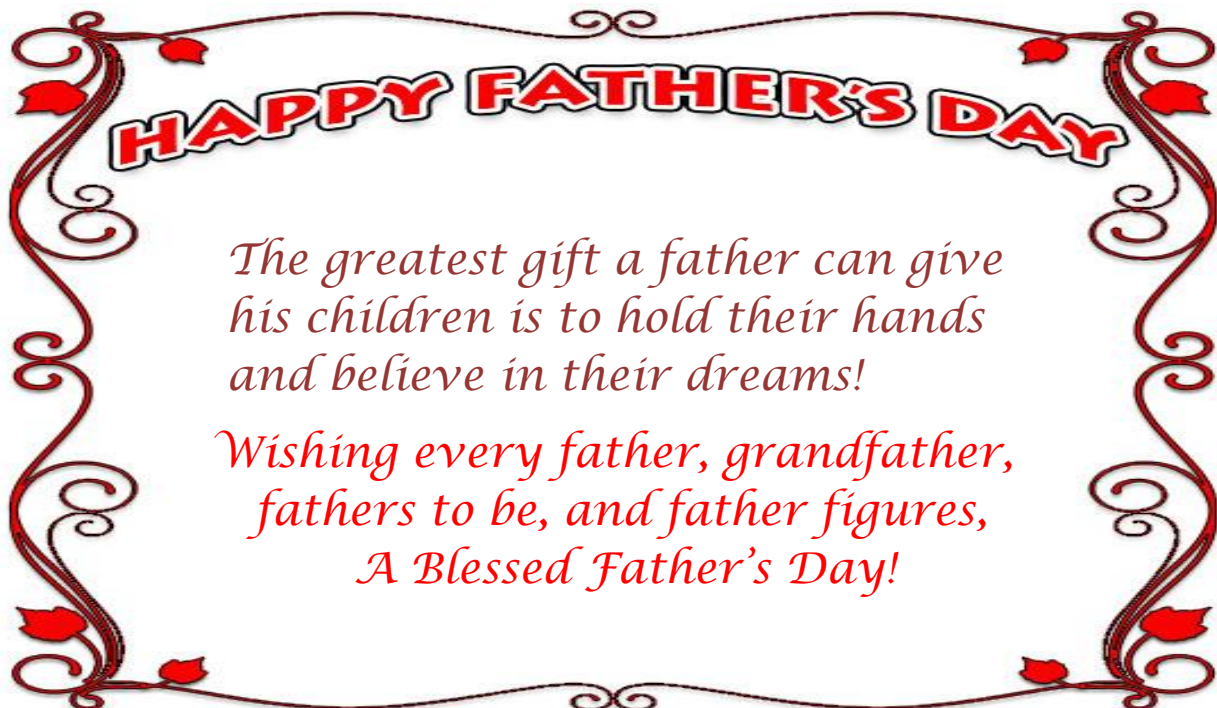




*A MOMENT
TO PAUSE*

Let us be still and feel the warmth of
the summer sun upon us, as we feel
the embrace of Our Father guiding
us through an ever-changing world.

~ fran v. giambalvo



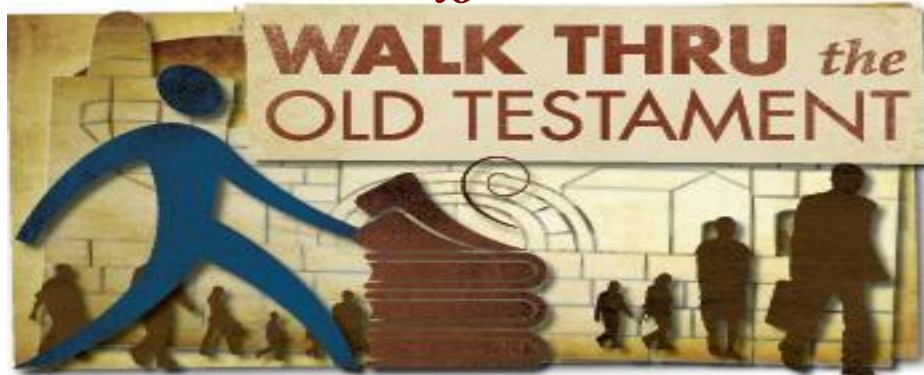
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

*The greatest gift a father can give
his children is to hold their hands
and believe in their dreams!*

*Wishing every father, grandfather,
fathers to be, and father figures,
A Blessed Father's Day!*



to

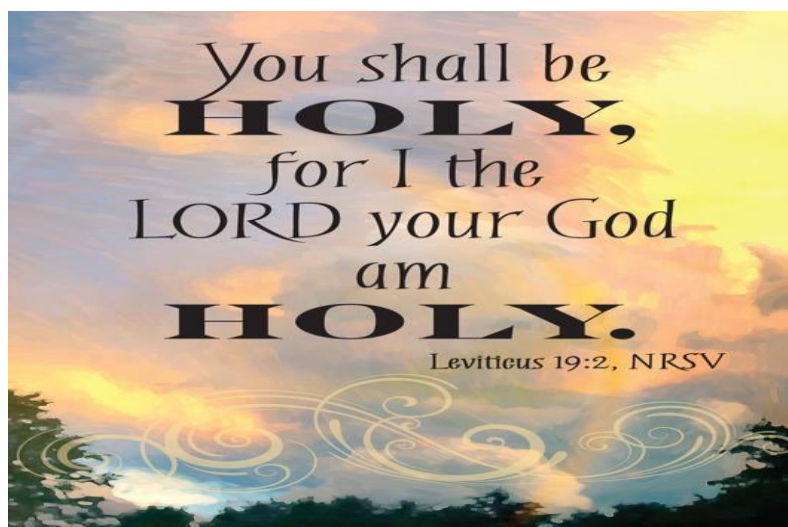


Please join us as we bring together another Bible Study on the Old Testament of “Leviticus: a 12-Week Study.”

We hope everyone who wants to keep growing in Christ will join us on the first and third Thursday the month of – June 3 and 17 and August 5 and 19 at 6:30 PM. Study guides will be provided.

No classes will be held in July.

Any questions please email Jennifer at bellmad1@aol.com





JUNE

4 Johanna Kennedy

14 Victoria Colon

18 Bob Montelius

20 Desiree Juniver

22 Mark Bauchmann

25 Danielle Tarry

27 Jacqueline Bagley

28 Sheila Juniver

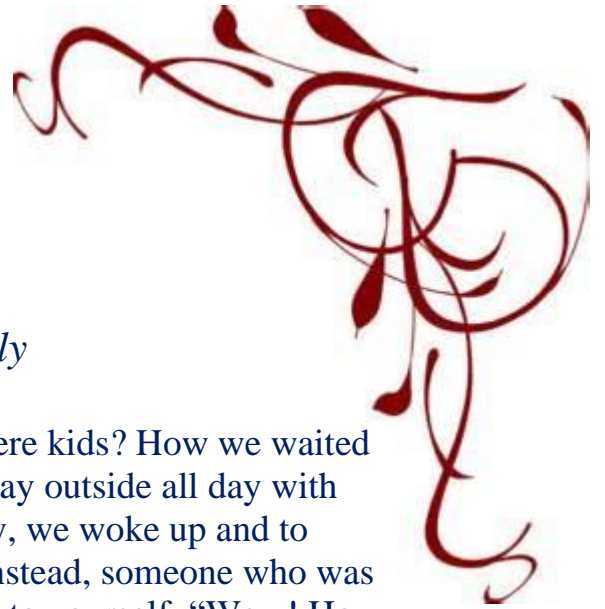


Forgotten anyone in our June birthday list please call the church office and let Fran know!

JUNE 2021

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

Everyday.... ~ pray for those who are sick ~



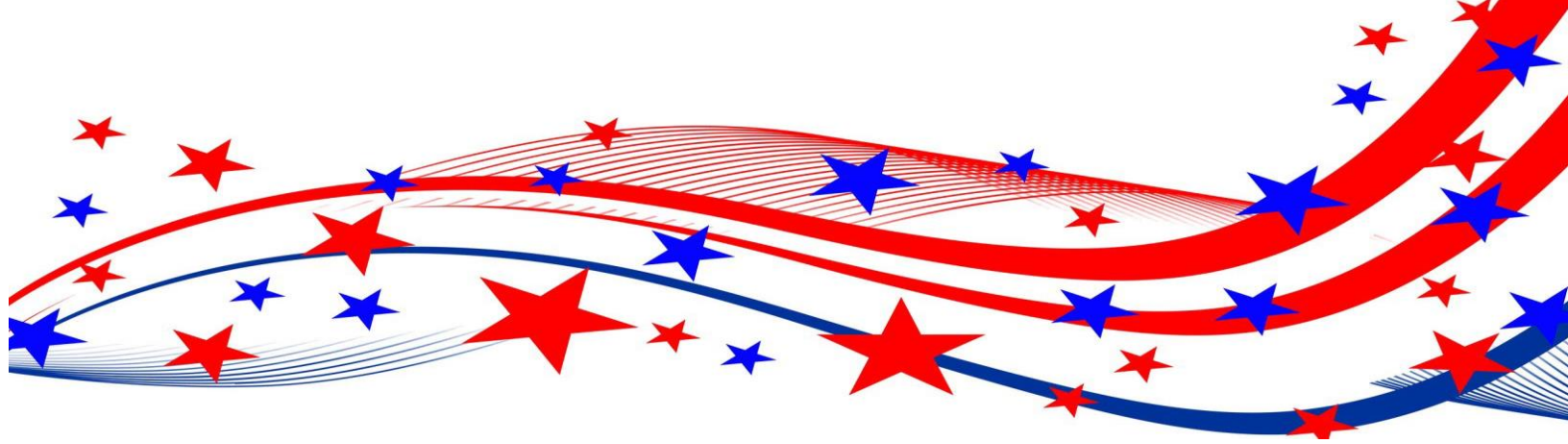
Time Moves So Swiftly

Remember those bygone years when we were kids? How we waited for summer because that meant we could stay outside all day with our friends and just have fun! Then one day, we woke up and to find we were no longer that little kid, but instead, someone who was all grown up. Did you ever wonder and say to yourself, “Wow! How did that happen? How did all the years pass me by without me seeing it? Was I not paying attention?”

Now, when summer comes around, we get up and go to work. It’s almost like going to school from September to June, but we no longer get July and August off to play. However, life as an adult is just as exciting because it is all of our wonderful, little dreams rolled into one big one that came true. The career we worked so hard for, the family we started, and the new friends we made along the way. Yes, today we are right where we are supposed to be! God has given us the life we secretly wished for all those years ago, while we were busy growing up sitting and laughing with our friends on those hot summer days.

I think we all miss those days, no matter how old we get or how swiftly the days and years pass by! Oh, but just think how great it would be if we had a magic switch that we could turn on that would send us back to yesteryear for just one day, so we could play with our childhood friends again, and remember what it felt like to be that summer kid just one more time!

~ *fran v. giambalvo*



4TH OF JULY

Soon we will be celebrating the 4th of July, having picnics, and watching fireworks with family and friends.

But how many will remember the men and women far from home fighting to help us keep this freedom on this special day? Maybe, we should start our celebrations this year by holding hands and sending a prayer up to the Heavens to keep our brave men and women safe, until they are once again home with their families.

Let us make sure all the wounded warriors, all the veterans, and all those still serving know that the sacrifices they have made, and the sacrifices they are still making for us, have not been in vain.

*To all the men and women still serving
and to every Veteran...
Thank you!!*

*God, please embrace all of our men and women
who are fighting so far from home to help keep us safe,
so that we can continue to enjoy the freedom
of our great America.*

*Have your angels surround them and protect them
until they safely return home.*

~fran v. giambalvo



JULY

3 Alice Lehr

*6 David Elliston &
Tessa Juniver*

11 Alyssa Doran

15 Noah Mulligan

19 Jason Small

21 Tyler Juniver

24 Elaine Blossom

26 Luella Eastwood

28 Shelby Tarry

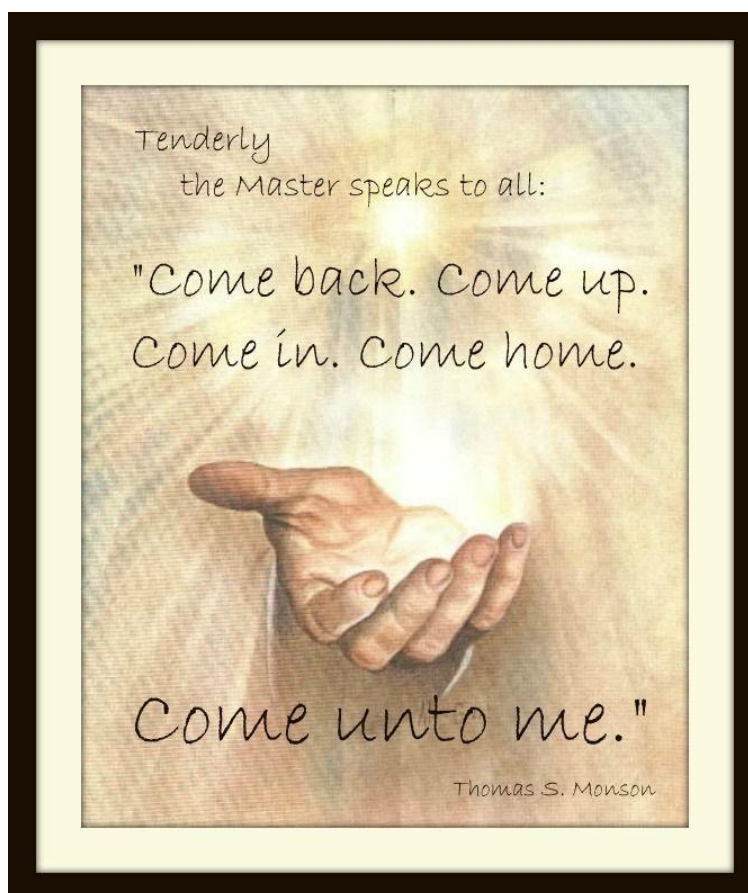


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and let Fran know!

JULY 2021						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:30 PM AA	2	3 7:00 pm NA
4 10:00 am Worship Communion Sunday Happy 4 th of July	5 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 pm Worship meeting	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 6:00 pm TOPS	8 7:30 PM AA	9	10 7:00 pm NA
11 10:00 am Worship	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Leadership meeting	14 6:00 pm TOPS	15 7:30 pm AA	16	17 7:00 pm NA
18 10:00 am Worship	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 6:00 pm TOPS	22 7:30 pm AA	23	24 7:00 pm NA
25 10:00am Worship	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 6:00 pm TOPS	29 7:30 pm AA	30	31 7:00 pm NA

Everyday...

~ pray for someone who is alone ~



Please join us for

Homecoming Sunday

September 12th, 2021

Bring A Friend to Church!

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



AUGUST

2 Donna Amento &
Mark Czarnecki

5 Tony Palmieri

6 Audrey Crosby &
Kevin Berte

7 Cameron Jackowski

8 Roberta Czarnecki

14 Jessie Cropley

19 Michael Cattaruzza

21 Dana Juniver

25 Timothy Yankee

29 Diane Doran



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

AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00 am Communion Sunday	2 7:00 pm Worship Meeting	3	4	5 6:30 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm AA	6	7 7:00 pm NA
8 10:00 am Worship	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 pm Leadership Meeting	11 6:00 pm TOPS	12 7:30 pm AA	13	14 7:00 pm NA
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29 10:00am Worship	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 OFFICE CLOSED				

Everyday.... ~ pray for our men and women in the service ~



MONTHLY MEETINGS

June

Worship committee will meet on June 7 at 7:00 pm

Leadership board meeting is on June 8 at 6:30 pm

July

Worship committee will meet on July 5 at 7:00 pm

Leadership board meeting is on July 13 at 6:30 pm

August

Worship committee will meet on August 2 at 7:00 pm

Leadership board meeting is on August 10 at 6:30 pm

STILL NEED HELP GETTING A VACCINE APPOINTMENT?

If you are still having difficulty scheduling a vaccine appointment, Luke Izzo is ready to help! He's offered to assist you as he has other family members and friends, to find a time and place for you to get your shot! Please feel free to call him, 203-507-1421.

CLOTHING SHED IS NOW OPEN

The clothing donation shed located in our parking lot, which was temporarily closed due to global effects of the pandemic, has now been reopened to the public. If you're not familiar with the clothing donation shed, 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

CHILDREN'S PAGE



At the Circus



ACROBAT
BIG TOP
CLOWN
DAREDEVIL
ELEPHANT
HIGHWIRE
JUGGLER
LIONS

MAGIC
MONKEYS
PEANUTS
RINGMASTER
STRONGMAN
TIGHTROPE
TRAPEZE



Healthy Breakfast 7 Word Search



MILK
BREAKFAST
EGGS
CEREAL
TOAST
FRUIT
HEALTHY



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!**