

Bristoletter

**Newsletter of the United Church of Bristol
A member congregation of the United Church of Christ**

**United Church of Bristol
7177 County Road Two
Bloomfield, NY 14469**

TO:

“God is still speaking”

Jerry LaRue Fletcher
Treasurer

Catherine Joseph
Moderator

Rev. Thomas (Tim) Hamlin, Pastor E-mail: redcedar58@gmail.com Phone: 585-727-2938

Church School -- during service Worship -- 10:00 am Fellowship Hour -- 11:00 am

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to receive Bristoletter by e-mail, contact jschrader@cnbank.com**

Those Whom We Hold in Prayer

Lucille, Margaret, Doris, Mary & Jim, Stephanie, Sally, Fran, Jim & Mary Lou, Wendy, Bee, Codie, Christina, Joan and Bill, and all the caregivers. Prayers of safety for all those who are traveling, and for Neil and Amanda. Prayers for Steven serving in the Ukraine, and for all others who are serving. Prayers for all the children who have returned to school, for new places, new tasks, and for the teachers. Prayers for all the children of the world, and for all the refugees in the world. Continued healing prayers for the humanitarian crisis, and prayers that we may open our doors and open our hearts.

Deacons Report

Welcome to fall! Hope everyone had a wonderful summer and enjoyed the heat. Deacons have visited twelve members over the summer to help celebrate their birthdays. We have four more for the rest of the year. If anyone is turning 80 in 2016 and would like a birthday visit, please notify a Deacon.

The Deacons were busy in both August and September arranging services while Pastor Tim was away. We welcomed Cc Bodner in August and two guest speakers in September. We would like to say thank you to CC and also to Pastor Diane Ellis and Rev. John Cedarleaf for filling in.

The Deacons have met with Cc reviewing the "Five Wishes" and a speaker series based on this useful booklet is in the planning stage, Stay tuned for more info.

As we meet September 27th we will be planning the fall decorations and even looking to Christmas season decorations. Anyone interested in either project please see a Deacon.

If we can be of service to anyone, please let us know, we are here to serve you.

Enjoy the coming fall foliage!

Altar Flower Committee Report

If anyone has a Sunday they wish to place flowers on the Altar or in the Narthex please call the appropriate person to schedule your arrangement.

October Fran Staub - 229-7306

November Gloria Miles - 229-2322

December Diane Bassage - 657-6609

Diane will also coordinate the ordering of poinsettias in December.

Missions/Outreach Committee

Once again our thanks on behalf of all the students and staff at Qholaqhoe High School for your generous donation towards the water project.

School will no longer be closed because of the lack of water as has happened in the past...the whole school benefits; not just the scholarship students. They are all

thrilled.

Know that we are willing and able to talk, "Lesotho", whenever you wish and will let you know when we have "thumbs up" from Chief Matela and school administrators that all is completed. I find it difficult imagining not being able to turn a faucet and have instant, dependable, clean water...they are QHS can now do so. Thank you all!

Again, thank you for sharing your ministry with the kids at school.

Love from us all,

Lynn, Debbi, Linda, Alyssa and Pic

Fall Outreach Project:

The United Church of Bristol will be collecting men's hats and gloves throughout the Autumn season. These items will be distributed to veterans through the kindness of Blue Star Mothers. Baskets for these donations will be in the church narthex beginning **Sunday, October 18th through the Sunday following Thanksgiving**. We invite those who attend our October 24th Turkey Dinner to bring a hat or gloves to donate. Your generosity will help warm a person's heart as well as their head and fingers!

Christian Education

Unfortunately the **2015-2016 Sunday School kick off on Sunday, September 13th** was rained out. We hope to re-schedule at a later date.

Adult Formation Fall 2015:

Discussion of the following month's Lectionary passages will begin in October on the fourth Sunday of each month following the Sunday Service and last about an hour. The Lectionary passages will be included in the Sunday Bulletin as well as made available for the month at the first class and at each class thereafter. You are welcome to bring whichever edition of the Bible you like to read.

Pastor Tim shared this site which has commentary on each week's readings - Weekly Seeds hueyk@ucc.org. We will also have a lendable copy of the DVD of the Eight Great Stories series. Let us know if you are interested in borrowing it.

Pastor's Letter

I spent a lot of time by the water these past 2 weeks, near ponds, lakes, streams and even the seacoast of Maine. Each of these was delightful and each evoked qualities of God. The pond was thoughtful and calm. The lakes were playful and fresh. The stream was energetic and full of purpose. And the ocean was powerful and deep. Each body of water fed my soul. But I think it was the ocean that most thoroughly erased my words and even my thoughts. Of course, it doesn't require the Atlantic Ocean to render us speechless. It can be a sunset striping the sky with pink and orange. It can be a friend who listens deeply to our heart. Perhaps it's a piece of music that carries us back...or lifts us up. Or maybe a hillside enflamed with autumn colors. The glory of God is alive in all places. And we are blessed as we attend to the holy even (or especially) amidst the struggles, fears and uncertainties of our living.

Returning to that rugged outcropping in Maine, I'm reminded that the pounding surf never ends. Days later, I'm sure the waves are still crashing upon the rocks, as they will be years from now. Perhaps that's the quality of God that feeds my soul the most these days: the timeless, unstinting rhythm of grace that lies beneath and within anything we can experience.

Jesus said, "I am with you even to the end of the age." Not for 50 years. Not "until I'm tired of you." Not "so long as you are good." Always. Longer even than the surf will hit the shore. God's embrace extends throughout all times and places, struggles and set-backs, joys and journeys. If that was the reminder my soul received as it rested by the sea, I guess it was well worth the trip. May God's deep and eternal love be clear and present to you in the coming days.

In grateful faith, Tim

United Church of Bristol Calendar for October and November 2015

October 4	Worldwide Communion Neighbors In Need Offering
October 11	Deacons Meeting – 9am Cabinet Meeting – 11:30am Joy Jar Collection to Benefit Breast Cancer Awareness
October 18	Applesauce Making – 9am Birthday Cake Sunday Quarterly Meeting
October 22	Dining room set-up
October 23	Turkey carving and potato peeling – 9am
October 24	Fall Dinner! 4-7pm Doors open at 3pm
October 25	Adult Faith Formation Series Kickoff – 11:30am
November 1	Communion
November 8	Deacons Meeting – 9am Cabinet Meeting – 11:30am
November 15	Birthday Cake Sunday
November 22	Take down Fall decoration after worship and decorate for Christmas
November 29	Committee budget requests due Adult Faith Formation – 11:30am Annual Children’s Holiday Craft Bazaar – 9am
Dec 6	Communion Community Christmas Tree Decorating
Dec 13	Deacons Meeting – 9am Christmas Sing-Along Service followed by Christmas refreshments
December 14	Cabinet Meeting – 6:30pm (budget review)
December 24	Christmas Eve Service – 5pm
December 27	Adult Faith Formation – 11:30am

Happy Birthday in October to:

Art Babcock – 10/1
John Faulkner – 10/2
Steve Rath – 10/6
Julie Searles – 10/7
Alex Bodnar – 10/8
Norma Lyons – 10/10
Ann Ward – 10/11
Daisy Fletcher – 10/12
Catherine Joseph – 10/14
Kali Ensman – 10/15
Laura Burgart – 10/15
Gerry Damaske – 10/16
Mel Clark – 10/17
Laura Kunes – 10/18
Warren Lockwood – 10/19
Kristin Drayn – 10/21
Meredith Fletcher – 10/22
Marian Thomas – 10/24
Tom Casey – 10/25

Sharon Eckler – 10/28
Trevor Drayn – 10/28
Sandy Casey – 10/29

Happy Birthday in November to:

Tom Miles – 11/1
Lexington Angell – 11/1
LaRue Fletcher – 11/2
Mary Lynne Parmelee 11/2
Jakob Cooley – 10/6
Tim Fox – 11/6
Gloria Miles – 11/8
Doug Rath – 11/10
Bob Marcellus – 11/12
June Rogers – 10/15
Mary Jane Stoltz – 11/16
Charlie Bassett – 11/23