

# Bristoletter

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

**“God is still speaking”**

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### **Those Whom We Hold in Prayer**

Mary & Jim, Karen, Paula, Margaret, Wendy, Erin, Bob, Bob & Ginny, Uncle John, Bonnie, Pat, Betty, Debbie, Linda, Denise, Jane, Jimmy, Julie, Jeff, Nick, Joe, Aaron, Ian and Kehaulani, Jim, Roberta, Lisa, Korkie, and all the caregivers. Prayers for all those who are traveling in the coming weeks. Prayers of compassion for all efforts to build peace. Prayers of thanksgiving for our magnificent Spring Dinner and all the feasting of body and soul that is offered, communions with God through nature, and all of those simple acts of love that convey nothing less than the Holy Spirit.

### **Deacons Report**

In the past two months we said good-bye to our dear friend, Doris Lochte, who will be greatly missed. We said "good to see you" to our friends the Dunne's at a recent Sunday service. We enjoyed a guest minister who inspired us all while Pastor Tim enjoyed his vacation. A new message board sign was purchased and will be shown to the congregation on an up-coming Sunday. Our events and special services can now be advertised to the community. Thank you notes were sent to our Acolytes for their service during Lent. We look forward to having them return during Advent. We celebrated Pentecost with our usual red balloons and the wearing of red. We celebrated Pastor Tim's return from vacation with a birthday cake and carnations were handed out to all of our mom's on Mother's Day. Our Memorial Day service is coming up and we have four June birthdays in our "over 80" club.

We look forward to our service in the valley in June and hope everyone has a great summer!

### **Altar Flower Committee Report**

The flower committee would like to thank Art Cratsley for making the new flower boxes for the church. If you wish to place an arrangement on the Altar as a remembrance; please contact Gloria Miles @ 229-2322 for the month of June.

### **Christian Education**

We celebrated Mother's Day with flowers, song and colorfully painted canvases with student created egg carton flowers! We will continue Sunday School lessons until June 19 (Father's Day Sunday). We are looking into a new curriculum for our Sunday School Program for next Fall and planning a Festive Fall Carnival as the "kick off" to our September startup of Sunday School! There will be more information to follow! We wish everyone a safe, blessed summer and look forward to sharing God's unconditional love and lessons with our youth next Fall!

### **Outreach/Missions**

We are a giving church! The Joy Jar began our year with a balance of only \$31.49, but our congregation's generous early year Joy Jar contributions allowed the United Church of Bristol to assist one of our church members as he transitioned from rehabilitation into his home setting in late January.

Proceeds from UCB's February 7<sup>th</sup> "Souper Bowl" fundraising event raised just over two hundred dollars and was donated directly to our own food cupboard.

Pic Shade told us about the recent drought in Lesotho, Africa during her Lenten speaker presentation. The drought has significantly impacted the availability of food in that country. Our March Joy Jar collection was sent to assist the organization Qholaqhoe Mountain Connections in purchasing food for the orphans living in the Likoting village of Lesotho. Our July and August Joy Jar collection will also be sent to help children. July's recipient will be "Save the Children", while August's collection will again be sent to support the little ones of Likoting village. Thanks to all of you who continue to support the Joy Jar and the blessings it brings to so many.

### **Another Pulled Pork Dinner Pulled Off!**

On Sat., May 14<sup>th</sup>, the church was buzzing with activity. The tables were set, carrots were "coppered", coleslaw made, beans baked, salt potatoes all set, pork smoked (thanks, Walt!) and pulled, a variety of pies made. We were ready to go. We served 109 people in the dining room and had 79 take-out dinners. That's 20 more total dinners than last year! We also added a bake sale with this dinner which seemed to be a big hit.

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to help make this dinner a success. We always get so many compliments on using our church dishes, on how nice our servers look and the great job they do, how friendly everyone is, the great selection of pies we have, and how great the entertainment is!

For some who couldn't make it to the dinner, they got a chance to make a donation for leftovers the next day.

Thanks again to all! See you in the fall!

Pat & Sally

## Pastor's Letter

I'm starting a new garden this year. By that, I don't mean that I'm planting new plants in my **OLD** garden. I mean that I'm starting a garden where there hadn't been one: in the middle of a lawn, "from scratch." In fact, it entails a whole **LOT** of scratching!

I'm quickly realizing that it's one thing to dream of adding another vegetable garden; it's another thing to actually do it. Well-established lawns don't yield easily to one man's gardening dream. Grass is stubborn. It becomes quite comfortable being grass, and being where it is, and it resists efforts to remove it. I can feel that resistance...in my back and arms. Next time someone waxes poetic about the loveliness of lawns, I'll remind them that grass has a will of iron!

I've been dreaming about a new vegetable garden for some time. Dreams are easy. They are so easy that we can do them while lying in bed, and we routinely do! But to put that dream into action, requires a lot of ground-work. Actually, it's slightly below ground-work: digging down to do the necessary work of preparation.

The spiritual life is not so different. It's often necessary to dig, sometimes fairly deep. Stuff needs to be turned over, exposed to the light of day. There's a fair amount of sifting and sorting and even discarding, all in the service of preparing for growth.

And then there's the issue of making space for all this new growth. My brother-in-law's truck was once parked where my new garden is going in. No more. Tomatoes don't grow very well beneath a Dodge Ram. It's been scientifically proven over at Cornell. So, there's been a need to make some changes in land use.

New growth is a challenge that faces every individual, every church and every community. Every time a new

person joins a family or a committee, every time a new family comes to town, every time a new idea is proposed, there's inevitable shifting and jostling and adjusting. And like my beloved grass, there can be considerable resistance at first.

We country folk don't have the daily lesson in change that is "enjoyed" by subway riders in big cities: the train pulls up at the subway stop, the doors open, and 50 more people crowd in. Almost at an unconscious level, people slide over to accommodate this new surge of humanity. "And the train keeps a 'rollin' all day long."

I wouldn't have bothered with all this change if I hadn't wanted to eat cheap and eat local. (Not much more local than the backyard!) So, in my mind, all this work is worth it. Really good dreams are like that: they are so compelling that they drag us into hard work and weird change in spite of our resistance.

I believe that's typical of the Holy Spirit. It's a conspiracy of God: the Spirit plants the seed of a beautiful dream in our minds, and then drags us into all sorts of strange, messy, and sometimes painful efforts to realize it. Sort of a set-up, really. But a blessed one. I guess it's how we grow...and how the Kingdom of God expands.

I have a lot more to do in my slowly expanding garden. At first, it looked like a skinny drainage ditch. It has now grown to 15 feet long and over a foot wide and resembles a python grave. But I have hope. I'll continue to chip away and gain more space for growth. The grass will continue to resist. I guess it's the nature of grass. And, through the grace of God, and through the grass and sod, I'll persevere. I wish you beautiful dreams and the strength to pursue them.

In faith,

Tim

# United Church of Bristol Calendar for June and July 2016

- June 2** Clean-up at Church in the Valley – 9am
- June 5** Communion
- June 12** Deacon’s Meeting 9 – 9:30am  
Worship in the Valley 10am
- June 6** Cabinet Meeting 6:30pm
- June 14** Bristolite Luncheon Noon
- June 18** Cobblestone Springs Retreat 9am – 1pm
- June 19** Grads and Dads Celebration  
Awarding of Gilbert Scholarship  
Birthday Cake Sunday
- July 4- 10** Pastor Tim on vacation
- July 10** Leslie Apetz will lead our worship service
- July 17** Birthday Cake Sunday
- July 24** Worship at Levi Corser Park 11am with a picnic lunch after
- July 31** Quarterly Meeting following service

## **Happy Birthday in June to:**

Rylan Angell – 6/2  
Amanda Angell – 6/5  
Susan Damaske May – 6/5  
Reagan Fletcher – 6/5  
Autumn Kunes – 6/5  
Nick VanStralen – 6/7  
Nikolle VanStralen – 6/7  
Andy Fagan – 6/8  
Dave Parsons – 6/10  
Gladys Cooper – 6/11  
Linda Ensman – 6/12  
Bill Stanley – 6/15  
Ana Stanley – 6/19  
Kyle T. DiBiase – 6/21

Joan Hall – 6/26

Dorothy Erb – 6/29

## **Happy Birthday in July to:**

Brett Fletcher – 7/6  
Lucille McKee – 7/8  
Sean Fagan – 7/11  
Richard Lyons – 7/12  
Ginny Ford – 7/13  
Emily Angell – 7/16  
Jordyn T. DiBiase – 7/18  
Sam Chappell – 7/25  
Kali Schrader – 7/27  
Emily Fletcher – 7/30  
Shaina Babcock – 7/31

## Liturgist, Greeters, & Fellowship Hour – June & July 2016

DATE	LITURGIST	GREET & FAREWELL	FELLOWSHIP HOUR
June 5	Ellie Babcock	Don & Pat Sanford	Jim & MaryLou Burgess
June 12	Pat Pestle	John & Rena Faulkner	<b>Church in the Valley Enjoy 'Bristol Fun Day'</b>
June 19	Diane Marcellus	Joan Hall & Gloria Miles	** Sally Ess & Pat Pestle ** **
June 26	MaryLynne Parmelee	Faye Brocklebank & Sheila Hudson	Don & Pat Sanford
July 3	Diane Bassage	Bob & Diane Marcellus	Ellie Babcock & Lynn Damaske
July 10	Joan Hall	Paula Dorn & LaRue Fletcher	VanStralen Family
July 17	Cathy Joseph	Babcock Family	**Bob & Stephanie Drayn**
July 24	MaryAnn Strasser	<b>11am Church Service &amp; Picnic at Levi Corser Park</b>	<b>Bring a dish to pass &amp; a lawn chair!</b>
July 31	Deb Footer	Lance & Diane Bassage	Faye Brocklebank & MaryLynne Parmelee
August 7	Linda Ensman	Ellie Babcock & Lynn Damaske	Joan Hall & Edie Thomas

- **“Greeters”**: Please try to remember to have one or both of you be a “fareweller” at the end of the service by the front door to wish those people well who may not be staying with us for fellowship hour. Thank you for adding this task and making everyone feel welcome all the time at UCB! Your other duties are to be at the door by 9:20, remember to wear your name tag, ask guests to sign our guestbook, hand out the Sunday bulletins and any other hand-outs, count all attendees and enter the total in the book, take up the collection when called by the Pastor. Headsets are now kept in the Pastor’s office and should be returned there after the service.

-**“Fellowship Hour”**: You will need to provide juice for children and non-coffee drinkers. Pick up the cake if it is **\*\*Cake Sunday\*\***, Pat and Sally order it. The cake is picked up at Wegman’s **catering desk**. Check with Pat or Sally about payment for the cake.  
**\*\*** These represent “Birthday Cake Sundays”. If you are new to this, please see Pat or Sally.  
**>>** These are “Pot-luck Sundays”. A light snack for fellowship hour is all that is needed on these Sundays. Please, all are welcome to join in for a pot-luck luncheon after our light refreshment during fellowship. **Potlucks will start again the first Sunday in October.**

~ Please find your own substitute if you are unable to fulfill your appointed task. THANKS!  
 ~ If you would like to be added to this list, please let Pat or Sally know.