

November 2, 2008

# The Church on the Green

From The First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, United Church of Christ



*“Embraced by the love of God in Christ, our mission is to love and serve our world. We seek to grow in Christ’s family through our journey—inward toward faith and knowledge, outward toward love and justice—always rooted and nurtured in worship.”*

## Reflection

*“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.” --Psalm 46*

The fall always amazes me. As much as I know how hectic and fast paced it is going to be, I still, every year, stand in awe as the weeks begin to click by as we take that downhill ride toward Christmas. There are so many celebrations to have – holidays to remember – gatherings to organize. It is all I can do to finish one Sunday before we are down the road to the next.

Even though this time can be hectic, the season is meant to be one of great joy and celebration. The harvests of the summer are coming in, the colors are deep and rich in the trees, and we come back together after the dispersing of the summer. The fall is a time to remember our communities outside of our immediate family, a time to rejoice in our wider connections at work and school and church. It is appropriately a time when elections come around so we can also reconnect to the larger community of our towns, states and country. In the fullness of harvest we celebrate the fullness of our lives.

I encourage you to remember the joy and fullness of this time as your calendars begin to fill up and your weekends get booked. It is important to take a few moments to see the leaves, to breathe the crisp air, to eat an apple, to sit with friends. We have been blessed with such a gift in God’s creation. It is our obligation to notice it – it is our duty to appreciate it – it is our privilege to rejoice in it. Especially this fall as economic systems shudder and shake, as the future feels a little tenuous – let us be reminded that what we have created will come to an end, but God’s creation is strong and eternal.

Remember Psalm 46, take it in, and take a moment this fall to be in wonder as a child of God. Blessings and peace to you in this time of beauty and awe!!



Kelly Gallagher  
Interim Associate Pastor

## Focus on Ministry: ACTS

The Board of Mission and Social Concern at First Church allocates funds to many organizations throughout our community and abroad. One of the local organizations that Mission supports is ACTS.

ACTS stands for Action Centered Tutoring Services and is located in Springfield. It is a unique one-to-one program that combines practical traditional mentoring with literacy-focused tutoring. Adult volunteers are paired with elementary students from throughout Springfield. The program is faith based, caring for the children in the Spirit of Christ and is hosted by eight area local churches.

ACTS is a non-profit organization, backed by area professionals and designed to meet the educational, emotional, and spiritual needs of the children. ACTS serves children from kindergarten to fifth grade who have been identified by their teachers and parents as needing improvement in reading and math skills. In addition to tutoring, the ACTS program provides opportunities for tutors and students to be a part of a voluntary “Club Time” following each tutoring session. This time is devoted to Bible and other stories, discussion and activities designed to build relationships as well as moral character and spiritual values. A parent or guardian must give written permission for their student to take part in “Club Time.”

ACTS has been in operation for 23 years and last year served eighty-four students. Ninety adults served in various capacities.

There are many ways in which to help ACTS if you would like to do so. ACTS depends on the generous support of churches and individuals making financial contributions, donations of quality educational materials, and adult volunteers to tutor the students. They also ask for your prayers that the children be touched by God’s love and the staff of ACTS remain faithful and committed to this ministry.

If you would like to help or have further questions, please contact Executive Director, John Howell, at (413) 731-9810 or (413) 221-7980, or visit them on the web at [www.acts86.com](http://www.acts86.com).

## Crop Walk

On Sunday, October 19 First Church sent a group of over 20 walkers including youth from the Middle YES! group to Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield to participate in the 31st annual CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk, proceeds from which will provide relief to over 80 different countries including the United States. Together, members and friends of First Church helped to raise over \$1000, and had a great time walking the 3+ miles.



*First Church - Raising the bar to help more people!*

# Friday Evening Fellowship

## Staying Well as You Age

Friday Evening Fellowship is a social group that gathers on the first Friday or Saturday evening of the month in members' homes. Excellent medical advice is on its way when Friday Evening Fellowship meets at 7:30 p.m. November 7 at the home of Mark and Julie Pohlman, 165 Converse St., #9. "Staying Well as You Age: What the Evidence Shows" will be presented by First Church's very own Dr. Lucy Cassells and there should be something in it for everyone. Lucy has conducted workshops and seminars in the area and is a vital part of our team which travels to Haiti.

Come and learn how we can best take care of ourselves. And bring your questions for Lucy as well. Just bring a small food item to share and remember Friday Evening Fellowship is to open to all members and friends of First Church. At our October meeting we provided baby sitting, enabling several to attend who would not have otherwise. Call Ardie McEathron (596-6662) if you would like a sitter present at the Pohlman's.

## Cancer House of Hope

Do you have cancer or know of someone who does? The Cancer House of Hope is a non-profit organization in Springfield and Westfield that is dedicated to providing emotional, educational, social and spiritual support to people with cancer and their families and friends. Staffed by volunteers and professionals who have personally experienced the effect of cancer in their lives, the Cancer House of Hope offers an accessible, comfortable and non-institutional setting to which people living with cancer and their families and friends can come for support. No referral from a physician or other health care provider is necessary to use the services at Cancer House of Hope.

Programs include: Bereavement, Family & Friends, Breast Cancer Support, Living with Advanced Cancer, All Cancers, Recently Diagnosed, Reiki Therapy, Yoga, Life-Coaching, Mom's Support and others. Cancer House of Hope also offers free wigs, mastectomy bras, breast prostheses and lending libraries. ALL SERVICES ARE FREE OF CHARGE. For more information call – Springfield (413) 782-5500, or Westfield (413) 562-0110, or visit them on the web at [www.cancerhouseofhope.org](http://www.cancerhouseofhope.org).

### Milestones

#### In Memoriam

James A. Falconer Jr., 88, October 12, 2008

#### Baptisms

Eva Lauren Bussolari, daughter of Kathy Lee and John Bussolari on October 19, 2008

## Have You Sent in Your Pledge?

At presstime, we have received 105 pledges of the 311 we expect to receive. Is your pledge a part of this total? First Church is *our* church and we all need to help support the programs and ministries that go on here. If you have not yet sent in your pledge card, please prayerfully consider your pledge for 2009 and send in your card today. Help us get the cherry meter to the top!



## Christmas Fair News



There is a lot of hustle and bustle of folks busily making items for the Christmas fair which will take place on December 6. Things are coming along really well. It's going to be a fabulous fair! But there are some items we could use, and we hope that you might be able to help us out. We need new fleece mittens—fitting children 3 to 7-- , small photo frames (preferably black, but others will do), wide sheer wreath ribbon, Folgers red or green plastic coffee cans, interesting items for the themed gift baskets, and of course any hand made items or jams and jellies are always greatly appreciated! All of these things can be left in the box in the church office or outside room 9 on the second floor. Thank you in advance!



### Christmas On the Green Gathers in from Afar!

One of the popular "boutiques" of our Christmas on the Green church fair has been "Gifts from Afar". This features items of foreign origin, "imported" from local attics, cellars, trunks and drawers. Examples of best-selling donations are: travel memorabilia such as native arts and crafts; brass & copper vessels; ethnic textiles, garments and accessories; framed graphics and occasional wares by famous makers like Wedgewood, Delft, Quimper, etc.

To restock "Gifts from Afar", we are again relying on donations. Try to think of us as an exciting new outlet for treasures that you're ready to recycle. Your "Gifts from Afar" may be left in Room 9 , or in the office in the indicated box. So start gathering them now! And, please accept our thanks for enabling this annual enterprise!

### Items Needed for Silent Auction

The Silent Auction, a yearly event at the Christmas fair is in need of items to auction off the day of the fair. Harriet Atwood and Bunny Bewick are each donating one of their original watercolors. Melinda Cropsey , a fiber artist with 30 years experience in knitting, sewing, embroidery and textile design, has recently established her own business Greensleeve Designs. She specializes in 100% recycled wool and cashmere felted clothing and accessories. Melinda has graciously donated one of her "Eco Sweater-Jackets to the Silent Auction. Perhaps you have a special talent, item, or get-away that you would like to donate to this wonderful effort to support people in need. This is an invitation to members and friends of First church to donate items of value to the Silent Auction. All proceeds are donated to local charities.

### Musicians Wanted

Do you, or members of your family play a musical instrument? Would you be willing to share your musical talent at the fair? Or make it a family event with a musical ensemble! You would bring cheer to the shoppers and provide an important element to this festive event. If you or your friends and family are interested, please contact Margot Rowland 567-6488.

## UCC Women to Celebrate “Together Building Bridges”

United Church of Christ women from all of New England will gather in Burlington, VT on March 12-14, 2010 for their 8th CELEBRATION. The theme is “Together Building Bridges... a time to break down and a time to build up...” (Ecclesiastes 3:3).

In 1980 during the Annual Meeting of the New England Women’s Fellowship Presidents, five women had a dream. That dream was to reach out to the women in the pews, to involve them in learning and sharing about their faith. The dream was realized in 1982 when the first celebration, “Weaving the Fabric of our Faith,” took place in Portland, Maine. Over 1000 women took part in that event and many looked forward to and participated in similar celebrations which have been held every four years ever since. Over the years, this has become an intergenerational event.

Celebration VIII - “Together Building Bridges” - offers exciting opportunities for discovering and understanding differences. Topics such as race, immigration, sexuality, economics, generational differences, and worship choices will be examined. Plan to join the group to make new friends and re-establish old ties with people from New England and beyond. Celebrate our faith, our heritage and womanhood with prayer, singing, laughing and learning.

For more information, contact coordinator Susan Waldron (860) 923-2887 or [swaldron01@snet.net](mailto:swaldron01@snet.net).

## Joyful Noyse Performs in Concert



Members of the Joyful Noyse children’s choir took part in a special family concert by the Longmeadow Chamber Music Society on Sunday, October 19. The girls sang in a musical adaption of Jane Tegel’s book *Johnny Appleseed*. The concert was held in conjunction with Longmeadow’s 225th anniversary.

The Joyful Noyse choir is open to all girls and boys in grades 5-8 and meets for rehearsals on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. The Cherub Choir is open to children in grades 1-4, meeting on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. New singers are always welcome. There will be no regular rehearsals on November 26 or during school vacation. Both choirs will sing for worship on Sunday, November 9 and December 7 as well as during the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service.

## Children's Ministries

### Help Needed

Faith First Church school, our center-based Sunday School, is in need of help for the third study unit of the year, called "Follow the Star". Help is needed in the Story/Drama room for the four weeks of November 23 & 30 and December 14 & 21. All of the lesson plans will be written for you, and all materials will be provided. You do not need to have a child in church school to participate, past teachers who have shared their time have included Ellie Santos, Katie Glasgow and Stew Creelman. Please consider lending a hand in our very successful christian education program. For more detailed information or to sign up to help, please contact Director of Children's Ministries Nancy Yesu (567-6287 or [nyesu@firstchurchlongmeadow.org](mailto:nyesu@firstchurchlongmeadow.org)).

### A Note of Thanks

The children of Faith First Church School are completing their second study unit of the year, learning about Joseph. Thank you to the following people who helped as teachers and shepherds: Ken White, Dan & Karen Glick, Christina Carroll, Cheyenne Ferro, Angel Cintron, Jr., Lucy Cintron, Candace Rutz and Mona Balicki.

### Care Packages for Students

ATTENTION FAMILIES WITH A COLLEGE STUDENT! The youth group will be making exam care packages for college students on Sunday, November 30. The younger children will be making cookies and little extras for these packages during a church school group activity on November 16. If you have a college student in your family that you think might enjoy a package from the church with exam goodies, please call or email Interim Associate Pastor Kelly Gallagher (567-6287 or [kelly@firstchurchlongmeadow.org](mailto:kelly@firstchurchlongmeadow.org)) with the name and address of your student.



## Youth Encountering the Spirit

### Senior YES Meetings (Grade 9-12)

November 2, 6:30 p.m.

Halloween may be over on October 31, but the celebration of the dead goes on until November 2 with All Saints/All Souls days and Dia de los Muertos. These days have been holy days throughout the millennia, recognized as a time when the veil between the worlds is thin. Come and learn why we dress up for Halloween, and how other cultures remember those who have died. Good food & fun activities. Bring a friend!

November 9: No YES! (Veteran's Day Weekend)

November 16, 6:30 p.m.

Walking the Labyrinth in Bailey Hall.

November 23, 6:30 p.m.

Regular meeting. Youth Lounge.

November 30, 6:30 p.m.

Making care packages for college students.

### Middle YES Meetings (Grade 6-8)

Monday, November 3, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Regular meeting. Youth lounge.

Monday, November 25, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Regular meeting. Youth Lounge.

Sunday, November 30, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Church service work.

**Questions about Senior or Middle YES? Contact Interim Associate Pastor Kelly Gallagher (567-6287 or [kelly@firstchurchlongmeadow.org](mailto:kelly@firstchurchlongmeadow.org)).**

### Confirmation

The confirmation class will meet after church for an hour and a half on the following Sundays: November 2, November 23 & December 2

## November 2 - November 22

Sunday	Mon.	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Ed. Book Study 10 a.m. Worship *+ 11:15 a.m. Confirmation 6:30 p.m. Senior YES	<b>3</b> 6:30 p.m. Middle YES	<b>4</b> 10 a.m. Fair 7:00 p.m. Children's Ministries 7:00 p.m. Mission	<b>5</b> 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 4 p.m. Joyful Noyse	<b>6</b> 8:45 a.m. Men's DCF 1:30 p.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> 7:30 p.m. Friday Evening	<b>8</b> 5:30 p.m. Second Saturday
<b>9</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Ed. Book Study 10 a.m. Worship *+ 6:30 p.m. No Senior YES (Holiday)	<b>10</b> 10:15 a.m. Fair Work Shop	<b>11</b> 10 a.m. Fair 6:30 p.m. Youth Ministries 7:00 p.m. Nominating	<b>12</b> 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 4 p.m. Joyful Noyse 7:00 p.m. Stewardship	<b>13</b> 8:45 a.m. Men's DCF 1:30 p.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Ed. Book Study 10 a.m. Worship * 6:30 p.m. Senior YES	<b>17</b> 10:15 a.m. Fair Work Shop	<b>18</b> 10 a.m. Fair	<b>19</b> 3:30 p.m. Cherub Choir 4 p.m. Joyful Noyse 7:00 p.m. Trustees	<b>20</b> 8:45 a.m. Men's DCF 1:30 p.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>

For the most up-to-date calendar, visit [www.firstchurchlongmeadow.org](http://www.firstchurchlongmeadow.org)  
 \* with Childcare for Infants & Toddlers + Faith First Church School K-7

The First Church of Christ in Longmeadow  
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### Contact Us

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### Staff

*Senior Pastor* The Reverend Michael Bennett  
*Interim Associate Pastor* The Reverend Kelly Gallagher  
*Director of Music* John Gerry-Karajanes  
*Parish Visitor* The Reverend Kelly Gallagher  
*Director of Children's Ministries* Nancy Yesu  
*Assistant Director of Children's Ministries* Deb Garrity  
*Program Director* Gay Wesson  
*Administrator* Maura Stevens  
*Director of Communication* Deb Garrity

Next deadline: November 6

*The world of the generous gets larger and larger.* – Proverbs 11.24

**Time and Talent Pledge**

In 2009, I would like to share my time and talents through the ministry of the First Church of Christ in Longmeadow UCC by serving on:

<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Trustees	<input type="checkbox"/> Music Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Flower Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Children's Ministries	<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Ushers
<input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Board of Deacons	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry
	<input type="checkbox"/> Food Service Committee

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please take a moment to let us know how you would like to use your talents. Check your choice, rip this section off and return it to the church office or drop it in the collection plate on Sunday. Thank you!