

THE TIE that binds

March 2018



You're Always There for Me

When the world comes crashing in
And chaos rules my mind,
I turn my heart to you, Lord,
And pure, sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble
You comfort me in pain;
You nourish, heal and cleanse me,
Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss,
When things are going right,
You lift me even higher,
And fill me with delight.

You listen to my prayers;
You hear my every plea;
I'm safe because I know
You're always there for me.

By Joanna Fuchs

Pastor's Page



Bread and Broth Continues

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for our “Bread and Broth” Series. We gather each week at 5:30pm through Wednesday, March 21st to share a simple meal of bread and soup, and enjoy informal conversations of faith at the tables. All are welcome to share in this time-honored tradition!

America for Christ Offering 2018

During the season of Lent we receive gifts to support our America for Christ Offering. This offering provides financial resources for life-changing ministries that vitalize our congregations and communities across the United States and Puerto Rico with the hope of Jesus Christ. The theme this year is “Equipping Disciples.” Gifts that come from throughout our denominational family are distributed among regional and national ministries, including church transformation and evangelism, workshops and Christian Education, discipleship materials and leadership, pastoral ministry and Baptist heritage. Thank you for your gifts given already at our Bread and Broth gatherings. On Sunday, March 25th we will hear more about this offering. Envelopes will be available in the church pews.

Looking Ahead to Holy Week

Sunday, March 25th is Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 29th is Maundy Thursday

(Service of Communion here at PBBC at 6:30pm)

Friday, March 30th is Good Friday

(Service here at PBBC at 12noon)

Sunday, April 1st is Easter Sunday!

(Communion will not be served until Sunday, April 8th)

YOUTH NEWS

Fusion Youth Ministry

Spring Youth Group Meetings

April 22nd—6-8 at NBC
May 20th 6-8 at UBC



Nightwatch at St. John the Divine Cathedral

April 6-7, 2018

Please note the date change!

This is a popular program that fills up quickly. We will be supplementing the cost of this program and offering it at half price to our youth. The cost will be \$45, if you are planning to attend, please fill out the RSVP form on line. Go to Courtney's website to find out the Schedule, what to bring, and permission forms.

Service Time!

Our next volunteering activity will be to volunteer at the Cabin Fever Festival on behalf of Always Home (formerly MASH). Volunteers are needed to help serve chowder at the festival from 11:30 am—4:30 pm. We are hoping to have at least four volunteers for this event. Please let us know asap if you are able to attend. Again, more info on the website.



Mystic Irish Parade

Come march in the Annual Mystic Irish Parade March 25th! Union Baptist Church participates in the parade route and they have invited the youth to participate with them and promote the youth coop program. If you are interested in marching go to the website and respond!

YOUTHCOOPDIRECTOR@GMAIL.COM



MARCH MINISTERS

Communion: Prepare: Richard Tourjee
Peg Straub

Serve: Richard Tourjee
Peg Straub
Bob Land
Barbara Brant

Assist Pastor: Rick Tourjee

Lay Leader

04 - Patti Tooell
11 - Catherine Hiller
18 - Richard Tourjee
25 - Holly Boyle

APRIL MINISTERS

Communion: Prepare: Peg Straub
Cathy Greenfield

Serve: Barbara Brant and Peg Straub
Pete Wong
Cathy Greenfield

Assist Pastor: Catherine Hiller

Lay Leader:

01 - Pete Wong
08 - Cathy Greenfield
15 - Bob Nelson
22 - Rick Tourjee
29 - Dave Rowley





MARCH

02 – Burt Crooks
07 – Josh Chomicz
10 - Mela Magno
11 – Claudine Crooks
13 – Jennifer Kent
13 – Carla Berry
15 – Daniel Morton
15 – Peg Ackley
15 – Meghan Berry
15 – Gianni Pezzolesi
18 – Matthew Johnson
18 – Cassie Johnson
18 – Robert Johnson
21 – Cheryl Piscitello
25 – Heidi Butler
26 – Janice McDonald
29 – Portia Freeman
29 – Carol Case
31 – Aida Amuan

APRIL

01 - Irving Hiller
05 – Betty Brustolon
05- Jonathan Liu
08 – Anita Fernald
10 - Mark Mundell
10 – Reese Friedman
16 – Liz Rousseau
17 – Stephen Morton
21 – Wilfred Vars



DAYS OF TRANSITION

CHRISTIANS IN ACTION

NORMA HUNT

MARCH 2018

Dear family, friends and partners,

These first few lines come from eastern Montana where the countryside is blanketed with snow. The final days in Guatemala were not tearless as farewells were said to my Guatemala family. Thank you for being with me in your prayers during this transition. It's fun readjusting to things like warm water in the sink, orderly traffic, heated homes and buildings, people speaking English and a postal service that actually delivers mail.

The first week back in the States was in California with my sister, Bev, and her husband, Jim. The second week found me gliding through the skies to Montana watching the landscape change from green to brown to white. We floated through the clouds and after we landed it dawned on me it was cold enough to see my breath. The fields glistened with snow diamonds sparkling in the sun. I love seeing everything draped in fluffy white and crystal-like icicles hanging from buildings and glistening in the sunlight. I realize I'm a minority in my likes 😊.



A fun adventure was going with Cheryl Jensen to help her husband, Wes, round up 150 heifers that are about to calve. They were led some two and a half miles from a pasture to the corrals near the barn in temperatures around 20 degrees. We were in pickups but imagine the days when it was done on horseback in freezing weather. I smile at the peculiar, crunching sound as I walk in the snow but am extra careful since the “pretty white” often turns to sheets of ice.

I will stay in Montana enjoying the “Winter Wonderland” as I wait out the snow storms. The journey to Missouri will continue when driving conditions are safe. Days of waiting are good since technology allows me to shop estate sales in Missouri from Montana. What fit in suitcases was minimal and since I’ll be moving into an unfurnished home will be doing lots of shopping. No doubt I’ll visit many sales in the coming months. Thank you, Tom, Patty and Carl, for each taking a suitcase for me. How great it was to have you in Guatemala and what a super job you did on the multipurpose room. There have been lots of “wows” over that facelift.

There is wonderful news that once again shows how prayer changes things. Since the December letter asking for prayers for the financial struggles of Destiny of Hope we indeed have seen answers to many prayers. The LORD is opening new doors and we have sufficient funds for the next three months. New sponsors are responding, and the LORD is praised because of the generosity of His people. A huge thanks to you who are promoting Destiny of Hope and being the LORD’S hand extended to the babies.



How exciting to receive the invitations that are coming to share in different areas. Being in the States makes that easy and I’m thrilled with the responses. It is also easy to communicate now, so if you should want to call, please feel free to do so.

My number is 417-403-1836. Email is still hondurashunt@hotmail.com Thank you, all my faithful partners, for the wonderful blessing you are. I look forward to seeing you in the coming months.

Donations for Norma can be sent to CHRISTIANS IN ACTION
1318 E. SHAW AVE., STE 308, FRESNO, CA 93710-7912
Donations can also be made online at WWW.CINAMI.ORG.
Norma’s Account number is 033 and Destiny of Hope is 638.

LOVE AND PRAYERS,

Norma Hunt

New Interim Director at Camp Wightman

Holly Blacker grew up in Avon, CT and attended Canton Community Baptist Church as a youth.

She graduated from The University of Connecticut, Storrs with a B.S. in Agronomy in 1978

She has spent her career serving the New York, New England and Delmarva agricultural community.

Since 1984 she has successfully managed employees from young adults entering the work force to adults entering the work force to adults retiring from the workforce.

Currently she resides in Sharon Springs, NY with Nicholas her son, while Madalyn and Olivia, her daughters pursue careers in Washington DC and NYC respectively.

Holly has dedicated over 40 years to Camp Wightman, as well as to her church and to the local community in which she resides. This dedication and workplace experience has given Holly the opportunity to lead people from many cultural backgrounds in all age brackets. Her work has also enabled her to bring enthusiasm to tasks and projects she oversees.

We welcome Holly and look forward to working with her as she undertakes the role of Interim Director of Camp Wightman.

Letter from Holly:

Dear ABCCONN Members,

I look forward with great excitement to continuing the work of all camp Wightman directors: "Welcoming campers and leaders into the Christhood by actions to worship the God of their hearts." I feel worship is about saying "Thank you" to God for all he has done for us.

Ephesians 5:19 advises: "Speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

I believe Camp Wightmans' strength lies in the safe, loving environment that provides campers a place to lean about and practice their faith. As interim Director I feel my role is to foster this safe and loving environment known as Camp Wightman, while we transition toward the future.

Please reach out and join with me as we worship our Lord

Sincerely,

Holly Blacker

TAG SALE

**POQUONNOCK BRIDGE BAPTIST
CHURCH
1241 Poquonnock Road
Groton, CT**

Friday, April 20th 9AM – 2PM

Saturday, April 21st 9AM – 2 PM

**COME AND CHECK IT OUT!!!
BAKE SALE**

**CLOTHES - SHOES - POCKETBOOKS
ANTIQUE BUTTONS – LINENS
COLLECTABLES
DISHES – POTS & PANS - UTENSILS
FURNITURE
JEWELRY & ANTIQUES**

BOOKS - TOYS – TOOLS - TREASURES

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!!

GREAT BARGAINS!!!!

**Save the date!!!
Working now Mon & Fri
9am-12 noon
All are welcome to join us!**

194th ABCCONN Annual Gathering

The 194th Annual Gathering of the American Baptist Churches of CT will take place on Saturday, April 28th with registration beginning at 8:30 am and the days program concluding at 3:00 pm. The Annual Gathering is a time for American Baptists in Connecticut to celebrate the ministry we do together, to renew our commitment to shared mission in the coming year, and to join together for fellowship, worship, and listening.

The featured speaker for the day is the Rev. Sharon Koh, Executive Director of International Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA



She will bring news of our missionaries and her vision for how American Baptists will engage in mission in the coming years.

The meeting will be hosted by Grace Baptist Church in Waterbury.
Lunch will be provided.

A registration form and more information will be available within next few months.

Please set aside April 28th and plan to attend. It will be a great day of celebration, worship and community.

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching” Hebrews 10: 24-25

MAEC GOOD FRIDAY WALK 2018

To: Mystic Area Churches

The 37th Annual MAEC Good Friday Walk will take place on Friday, March 30th 2018

YOU are encouraged to publicize this event and secure walkers and sponsors.

The purpose of the Walk is to support local food agencies and assist rural communities in Alabama and Mississippi. The southern areas have been personally identified and monitored by the Kay Doherty, Director of *Sharing, Inc.* of Braintree, MA and founder of this Walk. Our contributions have helped improve life in these communities.

The scenic 7-mile route travels from Mystic Congregational Church to Old Mystic Methodist Church and back. Stations of the Cross along the way are easily seen by walkers to emphasize the theme *We Are Walking with Jesus*.

Directions:

- Register between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall of the Mystic Congregational Church.
- Walk along Main Street, cross the bridge, turn to Gravel Street, Eldridge, Pearl, Starr, River Road, Route 27 to Old Mystic Methodist Church. Arrow signs will guide walkers.
- Walkers must return to the Parish Hall to account for all participants.
- Sponsor sheets and donations should be turned in at the start of the Walk.
- Checks are to be made out to MAEC.

Your packet will contain a poster and a sponsor sheet. Please plan to make more copies as needed.

The success of the Walk is in the number and spirit of the walkers and the pledges they obtain. Please do whatever you can to make this a good year. Please use this information for your own church publication.

THANK YOU for your participation, support and prayers.

Sue Barker
Chairperson
860-536-3100, suebarker212@gmail.com

50th Annual

Mystic Area Ecumenical Council
Choir Festival 2018
March 11, 2017

Featuring the world premiere of
"Come, Sing a New Song" by Allen Pote
Commissioned by the MAEC
Dr. Lynnel Joy Jenkins
Artistic Director, The Princeton Girlchoir
Michael G. Noonan, Accompanist

AT

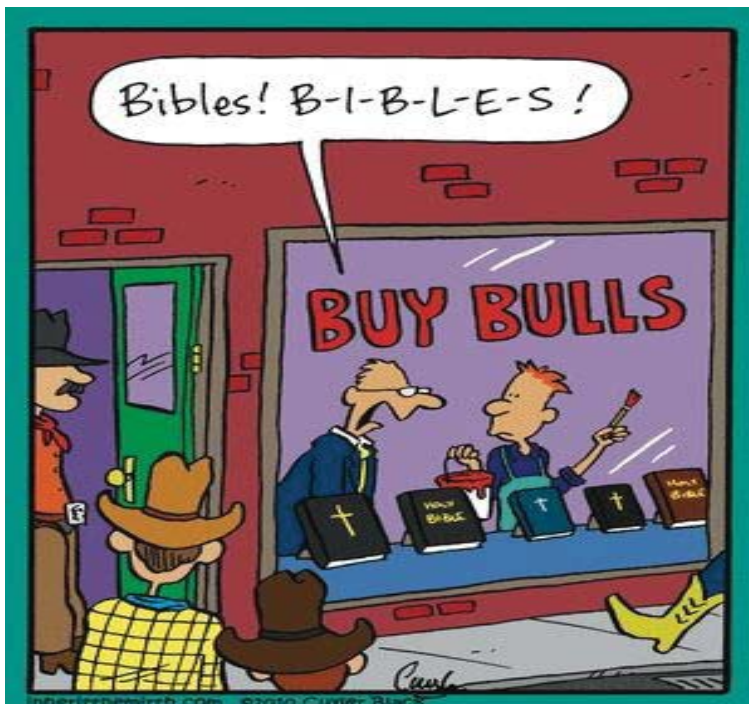
Union Baptist Church



A Little Church Humor



THINGS EASED UP ON GUARDIAN ANGELS AFTER AIR BAGS WERE INVENTED



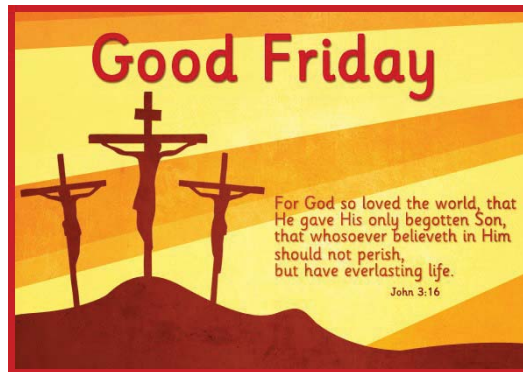
Thursday, March 29th

*Maundy Thursday Service of Tenebrae
Here at church at 6:30 pm*



Ledyard Gales Ferry Church will be joining us

*Friday, March 30th
Good Friday Service at Noon*



*Sunday, April 1st
Easter Sunday Service, 9:30 am*



AMERICA FOR CHRIST OFFERING 2018

Your America for Christ offering is making life-changing impact through ministries and resources that vitalize our congregations and communities across the United States and Puerto Rico with the hope of Jesus Christ.

www.abhms.org



*Cultivating leaders
Equipping Disciples
Healing Communities*

Ephesians 4: 11-13

¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

**Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church
1241 Poquonnock Road
Groton, CT 06340**