

# The Wayside **BEACON**



Broad Brook Congregational Church

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Callahan

Newsletter of the  
**Broad Brook Congregational Church**  
122 Main Street  
Broad Brook, Connecticut 06016

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# A Message from Rev. Joe



Are you on a diet? If so, you are in good company. It seems that fully half the adult world is engaged with some dietary regimen or other. Anyone who needs a diet has plenty to choose from: the Pritikin diet, the Atkins diet, and the shelves full of other lesser known

ones, all on offer in your local bookstore. But, have you ever considered the most important and effective diet available to you - the Jesus diet? It is the best one I know of. It consists mainly of bread and wine, and has enough of both to keep you going and sustain you for your journey through life. And, regarding weight loss, have you ever seen a photograph of a fat apostle?

Jesus told the apostles that he was the bread of life, and that none of his followers would ever be hungry or thirsty. Later, at the last supper he took hold of the bread and wine, saying they were his body and blood.

Twelve centuries later, the great Islamic scholar, mathematician, and poet, Omar Khayyam, picked up that same theme of bread and wine in his poetic Rubaiyat, when he wrote his famous line that speaks so succinctly of our human yearning for love:

*'A loaf of bread, a jug of wine, and thou.'*

Jesus compares himself to the living bread that comes down from heaven. That comes down to us who are spiritually empty, who are trying to satisfy our hunger in all the wrong places. We who are vainly trying to convince others, and ourselves, that we are self-sufficient.

We find that a lot of metaphors are used for Jesus in the gospels; he is likened to water, wind, and bread, among other things. A metaphor points to something beyond itself, and if used appropriately can change our understanding. Our perception can be transformed and new light can be shed on things. Thus, when Jesus calls himself the bread of life we can see him in a new way. He has used something in ordinary life to shed light on the extraordinary. He tells us that the risen Christ not only saves us, but feeds us. He becomes for us the very stuff of life.

What is your image of Christ? When you think of Jesus, what do you see? Do you see a bleeding body hanging on a cross? Do you see God enthroned in heaven? Do you see a man being kind to children, or do you see any one of the hundreds of images that the gospels offer to us?

Try thinking of Jesus the way he urges us to think of him - as bread. The bread that satisfies as nothing else can. See Jesus looking straight at you, making promises, answering every doubt, and countering every objection. Hear him making the promises that are meant for every one of us, including the promise that nobody will be excluded.

*No one who comes to me will ever be hungry  
No one who has faith in me will ever be thirsty.  
I tell you for certain that everyone who has faith in me has eternal life.*

Jesus is offering you the innermost room in his sanctuary, a place of safety, where no one ever has been, or ever will be, able to harm you. This promise is the bedrock of Christian hope - it is the promise of God! Skepticism about these promises often stems from the fact that many of us, unwittingly, and with the best of intentions, are going about our lives the wrong way. The problem is that we are so impressed by Christ's life and standards that we try to copy him. We optimistically set out to live our lives as Christ lived his, and it does not work. We cannot do it on our own. Those ubiquitous 'WWJD' (What Would Jesus Do) pins and medals that are seen everywhere is obvious tokens of this wrong thinking. The assumption behind them is that we can just decide what Jesus would do, and then do it ourselves.

We need an outside source of power to live the Christian life. The source is Jesus Christ, and the power comes from accepting and receiving him as the Bread of Life. If we fail, or forget, to accept this power, which is the grace of God, then we simply lack what we need to follow Jesus. If you try to follow Christ without accepting his offer of grace, if you try to do it without the Bread of Life, you are engaged in a hopeless struggle. It is as though you were trying to reach the roof of a building by pulling upwards on your clothes, thinking that somehow you can pull yourself up there, all by yourself. It can't work, it never has and it never will. Jesus, meanwhile, is standing in the elevator, with the door open, offering rides to the roof. The rides are free, guaranteed by God, and available right now. But, you have got to get in the elevator. Before you can help yourself you have to accept the help of Jesus.

So, my friend, if you are having difficulty trying to live the Christian life, look to see if you are trying to do it on your own. To lead the Christian life we must first accept the grace of God, the Bread of Life.

The famous Swiss psychologist, Carl Jung, said that all humans stand in need of spiritual help. We always need the help of a wisdom greater than ourselves, for that is what lifts us out of our distress.

So stay attached to Jesus, for to fall out of step with Christ is to deny yourself necessary nourishment. We all must have the Bread of Life, or we perish. The good news is that we can have it just for the asking. The only stipulation that Christ makes is that we must desire it; we must have an appetite for it.

There is probably little doubt that we would all be better off if we got rid of some of the things that clutter up our lives. Those things that don't really satisfy us, but just leave us hungry for newer, bigger, and better things. We could use the space we free up to motivate ourselves to acquire and store an eternal supply of the Bread of Life.

Buddha taught that the root of all evil is the desire to acquire possessions. He likened this desire to drinking salt water, in that it never ultimately quenches your thirst, it only increases it.

Christina Rosetti, the 19c European Pre-Raphaelite poet expressed the same thought in her poem, 'By the Sea.'

*All earth's full rivers can not fill  
The sea, that drinking, thirsteth still.*

We are offered the wisdom of Omar Khayyam, Buddha, Christina Rosetti, and Carl Jung, all commenting, in their own diverse ways, on a facet of our common human nature; that we are spiritual beings. And we have the responsive promise of Christ, that he is the eternal fulfillment of all of our spiritual longings.

So, if you are plagued by inner tension, restlessness, and find yourself always seeking for 'something else,' in your life, perhaps Christ is trying to tell you that what you are really seeking is the Bread of Life. And know that if such is the case, Jesus is also telling you that he stands, knocking at your door, ready to give you everything you need to be at peace with yourself. If you accept his offer, he promises that your hunger will be sated, your yearnings will be satisfied, and your searching will be over.



That is the promise of Jesus Christ. It is the original Christian offer that is just too good to refuse.

God's peace,  
**Rev. Joe.**

## *Helen Keller, Annie Sullivan & the Floor Maid*

Many years ago, Dr. Frank Mayfield was touring the Tewksbury Institute and asked an elderly maid what she could tell him about the history of the place. “I don’t think I can tell you anything, but I can show you something.”

She led him down to the basement, under the oldest section of the building where there were small prison-like cells; their iron bars rusted with age, and said, “That’s the cage where they used to keep Annie.” “Who’s Annie?” Dr. Mayfield asked. “Annie was a young girl who was brought in here because she was incorrigible. She’d bite and scream and throw her food at people. The doctors and nurses couldn’t even examine her. I’d see them trying, with her spitting and scratching at them. I was only a few years younger than her myself and I used to think, “I sure would hate to be locked up in a cage like that.” I wanted to help her, but I didn’t have any idea what I could do.”



She decided to bake her some brownies one night after work. She brought them in and walked carefully to her cage and said “Annie, I baked these brownies just for you. I’ll put them right here on the floor, and you can come and get them if you want.” She then retreated as fast as she could because she feared that Annie might throw the brownies right back at her. But she didn’t. Annie took the brownies and ate them. Then Annie was just a little bit nicer to her. One of the nurses noticed this and told the doctors. They in turn asked her if she would help them with Annie. After that, every time there was an examination, the floor maid went in first, explained what was to happen, calmed her down and held her hand. The doctors soon discovered that Annie was almost blind – suffering from trachoma. Annie was then transferred to the Perkins Institute for the Blind. From there she went on to study and became a teacher. Several years later, Annie came back to the Tewksbury Institute and asked the director what she could do to help. At first, the director didn’t say anything and then he thought about a letter he’d just received. A man had written to him about his daughter. She was absolutely unruly – almost like an animal. He’d been told she was blind and deaf as well as “deranged.” He was at his wit’s end, but didn’t want to put her in an asylum. He asked if the director knew of anyone, any teacher, who would come to his house, and work with his daughter.” And that is how Annie Sullivan became the lifelong companion of Helen Keller.

Years later, when Helen Keller received the Nobel Prize, she was asked who had the greatest impact on her life and she said. “Annie Sullivan.” But Annie said, “No Helen....The person who had the greatest influence on both our lives was a floor maid at the Tewksbury Institute.

*- Submitted by Bob Cormier*

## *Ecumenical Bazaar*

The tag sale may be behind us now but the wheels are already turning on the planning end of the Ecumenical Bazaar scheduled for Saturday, November 5th. Our Bazaar has moved from the East Windsor High School to our town's Scout Hall on Abbe Rd. in East Windsor just off of RT 5 across from Dunkin Donuts.

The move was necessary because of the declining membership of churches on this committee. We didn't need the huge gym at the high school, it was not cost effective with so few churches plus papering that floor was a pain in the @\$!

The committee met to decide the future of the Bazaar, the decision was to move it with heavy advertising. We will determine after this Bazaar whether this will be our last year or not. This year marks the 40th year of the Ecumenical Bazaar so we had to try something!

First a touring of the Scout Hall to find out what's what is set for early September. Then at the end of September, another planning meeting with the other churches involved will set things in motion for November 5th. The move should be easier for the churches since we are allowed to use their tables and chairs. In addition to that, we won't have to paper the floors as we did at the high school and the kitchen is more manageable at the Scout Hall - not needing to divide the help in 2 places with the gym and cafeteria. The costs may be the same this year due to extra advertising otherwise this setting would be more cost effective to hold our Bazaar there in the future if this works out. 40 years is a long time of tradition, change does not come easily such as this. Sadly the times have changed so our committee is trying to change with the times.

We hope to see everyone there; bring your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers. Watch for our signs and advertisements. Please help us spread the message that we've moved to the Scout Hall. There is no charge for parking or admittance. You could get a jump on holiday shopping with some nice handcrafted Christmas gifts; buy some fresh pies for Thanksgiving (they freeze well) or even buy some new decorating pieces to add to your decor. (I personally like to buy the different flavor jams/jellies from the different churches, they don't contain all those junk ingredients in there that you can't read or that High Fructose Corn Syrup!) Come check us out at the new location.

## *Calendar of Events*

### **September**

*Note: Rev. Callahan is on vacation - No office hours*

- 04 - Communion Sunday - The Rev. Dr. Kenneth Ferguson preaching
- 11 - Rally Sunday - Dr. James Clark preaching
- 13 - Council meeting, Fellowship Hall @ 7pm
- 17 - Deacons' meeting, Fellowship Hall @ 9am
- 18 - Diann Bailey preaching
- 25 - Diann Bailey preaching

### **October**

- 01 - Turkey Supper
- 02 - Communion Sunday- Rev. Callahan returns to the pulpit
- 05 - Rev. Callahan has office hours 8:00 am to noon
- 12 - Rev. Callahan has office hours 8:00 am to noon
- 15 - Deacons' meeting, Fellowship Hall @ 9am
- 19 - Rev. Callahan has office hours 8:00 am to noon
- 23 - Bible Sunday
- 26 - Rev. Callahan has office hours 8:00 am to noon
- 31 - Halloween

### **November**

- 05 - Ecumenical Bazaar at Scout Hall
- 06 - Communion Sunday
- 08 - Election Day  
Council meeting, Fellowship Hall @ 7pm
- 09 - Rev. Callahan has office hours 8:00 am to noon
- 11 - Veteran's Day
- 12 - Siekiera/Walker wedding in Middleburg, VA
- 13 - Diann Bailey preaching
- 24 - Thanksgiving Day

(Please note calendar of events posted may change)



## *Board of Deacons*

The fall season will soon begin in the Church. Rally Sunday on September 11th signifies the beginning of Sunday School. We welcome all the children, their parents and our teachers back to Sunday School and Church. New children and their families are always welcome. The children attend the opening segment of the 10:00 am worship service then go to their classroom.



The list of those willing to lead Children's Sermons is posted in the Fellowship hall. There is room still for anyone who would like to try.

Rev. Callahan and Laura are on vacation until Sunday Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. We extend a huge THANK YOU to all of those willing to preach a sermon and lead the worship service while Rev. Callahan is away: Rev. Dr. Kenneth Ferguson, Eileen Vendetti, Katherine Mickens, and Diann Bailey.

The Deacons resumed their monthly meeting on August 27th after taking the month of July off. One of the scheduled topics to be discussed this fall will be the Biannual Membership Review. The list of Active members\* will be reviewed. Based on a Church vote, membership status may be changed from Active to Inactive or be removed from the Broad Brook Congregational Church membership roles.

The following is the criteria:

\*An Active Member of Broad Brook Congregational Church\*

1. Must have been actively involved in the Church.
2. Support the Church financially,
3. Support the church spiritually,
4. Attend church regularly (if physically able) (can be 1-2 times a year).

See Betty Stratton if you have any questions.

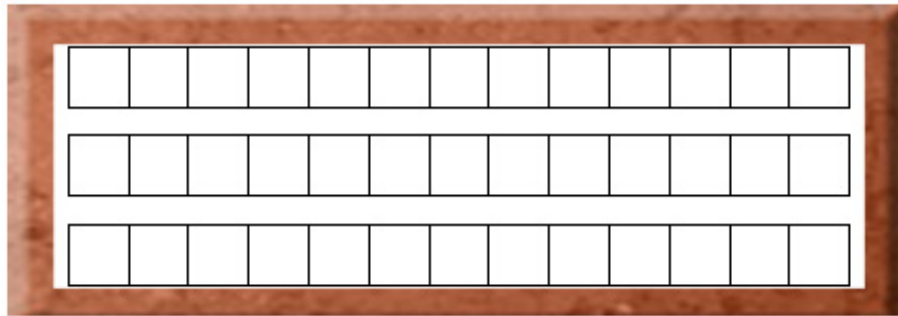
- Betty Stratton, Deacon Chairperson

## Memorial Garden Order Form

Fill out the form below with your desired inscription to purchase a Memorial Garden engraved brick and /or a Memorial Garden nameplate. Send the form along with \$35.00 for **each** item to:

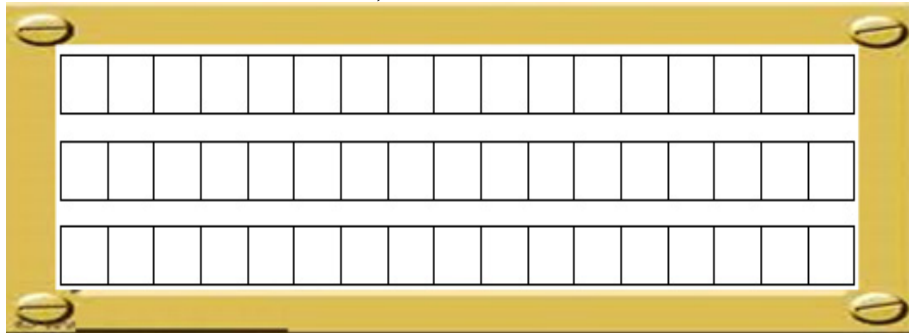
Memorial Garden  
Broad Brook Congregational Church  
P.O. Box 466, Broad Brook, CT 06016

**Memorial Garden Brick:** (placed within the garden, along the path, on the mulch)  
(Leave spaces between words and dates)



A rectangular form with a brown border, containing three rows of 12 small empty boxes each, intended for writing an inscription on a brick.

**Memorial Garden Nameplate:** (placed onto the Dovecote Pole)  
(Leave spaces between words and dates)



A rectangular form with a yellow border and four screws at the corners, containing three rows of 12 small empty boxes each, intended for writing an inscription on a nameplate.

*Note: allow 4 weeks to produce nameplates and bricks.*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number/email \_\_\_\_\_



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A friendly reminder that there are several openings available for the following services the church provides weekly throughout the calendar year.

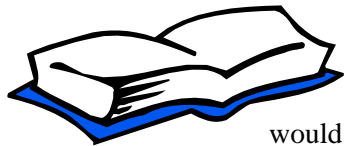
- Lay Readers
- Coffee Hour/Refreshments
- Greeting
- Children's Sermons/Lessons
- Flowers

There are Sign up sheets available that can be found on the wall in the Fellowship Hall near the kitchen. **PLEASE** stop by to pick a week or two. Your help would be most appreciated. If you have any questions please see any of the contact persons listed in the weekly bulletin.

## Friendship Committee:



There are **several** openings for coffee hour host/hostess. *Please* see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to see which weeks are available.



## LIST FOR LAY READERS

The Rotation List for the Lay Readers will be posted in the Beacon and the weekly Bulletin as well as on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to volunteer, please see Betty Stratton or sign up on any of the open dates on the poster. **Readings may be subject to change.**

### Lay Readers

#### September:

- Sept. 4 John Curran
- Sept. 18 Joyce Jordan
- Sept. 25 Dave Conant

#### October:

- Oct. 2 Joyce Bonelli
- Oct. 9 Bob Cormier
- Oct. 16 Jose Velazquez
- Oct. 23 Katherine Mickens
- Oct. 30 Rich York

#### November:

- Nov. 6 Wade Signor
- Nov. 13 Kristin Curran
- Nov. 20 Tracey Morin
- Nov. 27 Dr. James Clark

#### December

- Dec. 4 Dave Conant
- Dec. 11 Rich York
- Dec. 18 Mike Siekiera
- Dec. 25 Laura Callahan





## Deacon on Duty

September - Debbie Siekiera

October - Bob Jones


## Communion Deacons

Sept - Debbie Siekiera and Kristin Curran

Oct - Bob Jones and Joyce Jordan



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Mr. & Mrs. Jose Velazquez	Sept 5
Mr. & Mrs. John Curran	Sept 20
Mrs. Nancy Nodwell	Sept 21
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jones	Sept 22
Mr. & Mrs. Philip M. Grant	Oct 7
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Nodwell	Oct 12
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Marquis	Oct 15



## September

Mr. David Hastings	7
Ms. Rebecca Jill Bonelli	8
Seton Carmichael	9
Wesley Velazquez	14
Mrs. Karen Loubier	23
Mrs. Melissa Tatro	23
Mrs. Irene Signor	27
Richard York, Jr.	27
Andrew Smart	28

## October

Mrs. Sheri Townsend	3
Jose Velazquez	4
Angelina Carmichael	6
Mrs. Heather Emmette	6
Mr. Robert Cormier	9
Mrs. Veronica Barlow	9
Mr. Warren Wenz	15
Mrs. Karen Marquis	15
Mr. Craig W. Arnold	17
Ms. Nancy Fisher	19
Mr. John D. Ivanisin	22
Ryan Dannahey	29
Ms. Donna Roberts	29
Abigayle Morin	30

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Come Walk With Us!*

BBC members, friends and family - you are welcome to *come walk with us*. We are members interested in a free healthy activity with fellowship time. We will be walking at the track behind East Windsor High School on Route 5 in East Windsor. We will meet at 12:30 pm after each Sunday service, weather permitting. Wear comfortable clothing, bring a small towel and a water bottle (to stay hydrated) and wear comfortable sneakers/shoes. Everyone may walk at their own pace and do as many laps as they feel comfortable with. Come and go as you please. We realize there may be conflicts with that time slot on some Sundays but try to make a commitment to yourself to do this weekly for you! The more walkers the merrier! Rides can be arranged. We hope to see you there!



### *Tag Sale*

Another successful tag sale behind us. Alice and Selma - we made it! I hate to see time fly and our summer gone but in this case - Hallelujah! It has been a long 6 weeks preparing the items for the sale. This tag sale took a lot out of me - and ladies - you know you have seniority over me, so I could only imagine how you felt! We were \$100.00 short of our goal of 2K. Not bad considering there was a lot of .25, .50 and \$1.00 dollar items - some very tired feet and dish pan hands! The Fellowship Hall looks good again. Maybe we can ask the cleaning lady to remove the cobwebs now that she can move around in there again! Now onto our next adventures, a turkey supper and then the Ecumenical Bazaar.



## The 5 Corner Cupboard

We are always collecting donations of food and basic toiletry needs for our local food bank, The 5 Corner Cupboard. Please leave your donation in the labeled bin found in the Fellowship Hall near the kitchen door. Thank you. - Missions Committee

## *Turkey Supper*

**Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>**



***White turkey meat, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, squash, salad, bread, dessert and beverages***

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Sign-up sheets will be available September 11th (Rally Sunday) in the Fellowship Hall by the kitchen. We are in need of helpers, young and old. Our youth are encouraged to join us - we will always need you. See Mike or Deb. (FYI, Mike will be off on Saturdays for a while so he will be back in church on Sundays.)

### ***Thank You From the Flower Committee***

Thank you to everyone who gave memorial flowers for the sanctuary in July and August; Debbie & Mike Siekiera, Selma & Phil Grant, Karen Loubier, Joyce Bonelli & family, the Callahan's/Cameron's, and Debbie Breton. The beauty of our sanctuary is increased every Sunday because of the addition of flowers.

There are dates still available to dedicate flowers through the end of the year. If the date wanted is taken, we will gladly make an exception, double the plant order and add the dedication to the bulletin. You can find the flower chart in the Fellowship Hall or call me at 860-871-8999. The price for the beautiful fresh flower Sunday arrangement is \$17.50. Please make out checks to Broad Brook Congregational Church and give to Laura Callahan.



## The Broad Brook Congregational Church

United Church of Christ  
122 Main Street, P.O. Box 466  
Broad Brook, Connecticut 06106  
(860) 623-4547

Ministers	All members of the Congregation
Pastor	Rev. Dr. Joseph M. Callahan
Church Clerk	Kristin Curran
Assistant Clerk	Joyce Jordan
Treasurer	Robert Cormier
Organist	Dr. James Clark
Chair, Board of Deacons	Betty Stratton
Chair, Board of Trustees	Richard York
Sunday School Superintendent	Becky Bonelli & Ethan Jones
Chair, Board of Christian Ed.	Open
Moderator	Wade Signor
Secretary	Tomaca Govan
Bulk Mail Manager	Warren Wenz

**Sunday Worship Services** are held at 10:00 AM.

**Communion** is observed on the first Sunday of each month.

**Church Sunday School** is held from September to June and starts at 10:30 AM after the children and teachers leave the Worship Service.

**Nursery** supervision is provided for infants and children ages 5 and under during Sunday morning Service.

The **Choir** meets every Sunday at 8:45 AM beginning September through June. Adults and young adults are welcome even if you cannot read music or you don't consider yourself a strong singer. Come and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

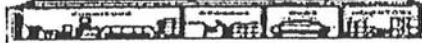
Rev. Callahan maintains **office hours** on Wednesdays from 8:00 AM to Noon. Calls for the Pastor should be made through the office at (860) 623-4547. In the event of an emergency, you may call Rev. Callahan at home (860) 871-8999.

Email Tomaca, [info@TGovan.com](mailto:info@TGovan.com), with additions to the next issue of the Beacon.



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