

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

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

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Those Whom We Hold in Prayer

Margaret, Doris, Mary, Stephanie, Fran, Jim, Mary Lou, Ginny, Wendy, Carrie, Mike, Paul, Ryan, Elaine, Debbi, Bruce, Joan and Bill. Prayers of compassion are offered for the friends and families of Ginnie Schroeder and Barbara Humphrey, and for the friends and families of Shealynn Wood and Phil Gladding. Healing prayers for those who are facing health challenges, anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, people who have been ravaged by violence, all who are discouraged or lonely, and for every soul hungry for Christ. Prayers of thanksgiving are offered for Wendy's improvement in health, for the gift of favorite hymns, for a gathering in the park to worship and enjoy friends, the blessings of summer gardens beginning to yield their harvest, for the love and support of our church family following the death of Pauline Pestle and for the "cornerstone of Christ" that unites us all.

Deacons Report

The Deacon's joined Cabinet in not having a July meeting. We have stayed in touch with those in need and said good-bye to a much loved friend as she made her way to a new home in Florida. We visited four "over 80" friends in June, one in July and have three in August. A suggestion was made by Lyle Jenks for us to pursue the book "Five Wishes", which focuses on end of life planning. It was taken to the cabinet at the June meeting and plans are being discussed with Christian Ed for a possible workshop/speaker series for Fall, stay tuned for more information. If anyone needs help, is sick, or could just use a visit or knows of someone who does please contact one of your Deacon's, we are here to serve you.

We wish everyone a safe remainder of the summer.

Altar Flower Committee Report

Diane Bassage [657-6609] will do the arrangements for August; Gloria Miles [229-2322] in September. It is especially nice to have flowers in the Narthex to welcome people when they enter the church. So fellow gardeners; any Sunday that you have an abundance of flowers a bouquet would be welcome!!

Christian Education

The **2015-2016 Sunday School kick off** will be on **Sunday, September 13th**. Plans are in the works for a 'Pet Sunday' petting zoo. Stay tuned for additional details

Pastor's Letter

Did you hear the news?! We might have neighbors? Could be! According to the astronomically smart scientists in the world of...uh...astronomy, they've discovered a planet circling a star 1400 light-years away that appears to be capable of supporting life similar to ours. Ok, it may be a bit premature to call Welcome

Wagon. But there is a tittering excitement in the world of star-gazers. And it did set me to thinking. Could it be that our friends on this planet, known as **Kepler 452B**, are as giddy as we are...as they gaze at a little blue/green orb way over in the Milky Way Galaxy...that perhaps they just discovered last week? I'm not sure why I always give the aliens the nod, assuming they outstrip us in intelligence, technology and morality. I think I hold out hope that they can teach us something. It would be one big galactic disappointment to learn that the folks on **Kepler 452B** possess the intellect of a cocker spaniel. Not that there haven't been some clever cocker spaniels! The consolation is that morally, they'd have much to show us! Space fantasies of this sort stretch my faith. I wonder about God's relationship to them, since I figure God's domain has to extend at least 1400 light-years; probably 1401 or more. Did the **452Bs** (It's so unfortunate that they don't have a less "arithmetic" name. I'm sure they do! We just don't know it yet!)...do they have a faith story...a salvation history...a Christ-figure who brings light and warmth and wisdom to their fractured efforts to get along? Could it be the same Jesus Christ, who some here on earth have called the "Cosmic Christ"? Some folks catch a burn because the Latter Day Saints claim that Christ made a later, better visit to North America. What if Christ came to **Kepler 452B** a million years before he appeared on earth?! Or what if he's there now?!! Kind of makes the **LDS** look pretty tame! There's something refreshing about a new planet – especially if it's **NOT** inhabited. Most of the beach front of Hawaii has long since been snatched up by developers. Alaska's locked in a dog-fight between conservers and combustors. Imagine an entirely new planet: fresh air, clean water, no taxes, no speed limits, and not a shred of McDonald's trash to be found! Like one enormous Hemlock Lake! I like to think that God – the One right here on Terra Firma – offers that sort of fresh start to each one of us. If it's **NOT** that fresh, I want nothing to do with it! Not a fragmented, conditional, "if-you-go-get-the-witch's broom" sort of new start. Nope. I'll have nothing of the sort. Our Bible speaks of "a new heaven and a new earth." **THAT'S** what I'M talking about! Who knows? **Kepler 452B** may one day send us an e-mail, and we'll be off to a fabulous friendship. Maybe they're just as hungry for a new start as we are. If they think WE have it...well, I guess we'll both have to look elsewhere...to the ever-so-loving, ever-so-creative God who knows how to make good stuff out of nothing. Better yet, the God who can fashion beauty out of garbage. It's **THAT** God I'm counting on...no matter what side of the universe we call home. Galactic blessings...Tim

United Church of Bristol Calendar for August and September 2015

August 2 nd	Communion
August 3 rd	Memorial service for Phil Gladding 11am
August 9 th	Cabinet Meeting 11:30am
August 16 th	Birthday Cake Sunday
	Missions & Outreach 9am
August 23 rd	Guest Sermon (Cc Bodnar)
August 29 th	Memorial service for Shealynn Wood
September 6 th	Communion
September 13 th	Sunday School Kick-off
	Cabinet Meeting at 11:30am
	Reverend Diane Ellis – guest preacher
September 20 th	Birthday Cake Sunday

Happy Birthday in August to:

Jon Joseph	8/5
Ellie Babcock	8/7
William Strasser	8/7
Faye Brocklebank	8/10
Temperance Bassett	8/13
Ellie Fletcher	8/17
Lance Bassage	8/23
Tom Forsyth	8/25
Linda Allen	8/27
Charles Cooper	8/29

Happy Birthday in September to:

Elaine Burd	9/4
Mackenzie Smith	9/4
Sue Forsyth	9/7
Greg Case	9/7
William Bassett	9/9
Christopher Kunes	9/10
Jenna Rath	9/10
Betty Green	9/10
Bill Hall	9/12
Linda Stanley	9/14
Effie Rogers	9/14
Art Cratsley	9/14
Deb Footer	9/15
Ed Perrin	9/17
Pat Pestle	9/21
Richard Gilbert	9/21
Annette Fagan	9/24
Bill Wheeler	9/24
Neil Bassett	9/27
Mary Lynne Casey	9/29