



**S**unday, May 6th was a day of joy and a day of sadness, the time to say goodbye to Rev. Lauri Craig as she moves on to embrace new challenges and a new life journey. We will miss her but wish her the VERY BEST!

Pulpit supply has been established through the end of the year while the Leadership Team, along with the Deacons work to determine next steps in finding either an interim or permanent pastor. *Please stay tuned.*



## ***A thank you from Rev. Lauri...***

*Dear ones,*

*Just a quick but sincere note of gratitude from me to all of you for your generous gift presented to me on May 6th. I am truly humbled by your love and support during our time together as pastor and congregation and also at our time of parting. Thank you so much! I will continue to hold you in prayer with thanksgiving as we each continue to follow God's leading, always trusting in God's grace, love, and power.*

*Blessings always!  
In faith,  
Rev. Lauri*



## Mission Outreach & Social Action (MOSA)

### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

June 3, 2018

**“What vision does God have for our church? What does God dream for the many people who are still seeking and yearning for a little love, a little hope, and a reassuring word that they are not alone?”** As I pondered this question, I was reminded of my own experience arriving in Brooklyn from Puerto Rico with my mother and my younger sister when I was two months shy of my sixth birthday. My two older siblings would join us three months later; my father had come the year before to find employment and a place for us to live.

Our four-room railroad apartment was in a predominately Irish and Italian Catholic neighborhood. My father spoke enough English to get by, but my siblings and I spoke no English at all. Those early months were most difficult on my older sister and brother who were eight and seven years old respectively. My little sister was three. The kids on the block teased us, called us Spic, and often invited us to go back to where we came from. It wasn't bad enough that we couldn't speak English, but we were Protestant to boot. A couple of boys on our block enjoyed picking fights with my brother, but they were no match for my older sister, who though younger than one of the agitators, fiercely protected our brother.

My mother, a devout Christian, made it a priority to find a church where we could worship. We started going to *La Primera Iglesia Bautista de Habla Española de Brooklyn*, a mile's walk

from our house. It was to become my home away from home. Every Sunday morning, regardless of weather, my mother and her four children in tow, walked a mile to church and a mile back. I loved going to church despite the distance and the fact that often our coats were not warm enough for the cold winters and we did not have boots to keep our feet warm.

The church was the single most influential factor in my childhood development. It is where I learned to read and write Spanish and was encouraged to perform in plays. There, every child received a specially-selected Christmas gift every year because the pastor knew that some parents could not afford them. It was in that church that I developed public speaking skills, and later, leadership skills, and was taught that with God, all things are possible. In that safe and loving community, I learned the Bible and grew in faith. At age fourteen I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and was baptized on an Easter morning. Michael and I were married in that church and I presented both my children to God there as well.

I wanted to share my story so you can see how your offering to **Strengthen the Church** can make a difference to those in need. Your gifts to STC will enable local churches to develop and fund afterschool and summer programs for children, and affordable childcare that will enable low-income parents to work; and programs for seniors who yearn for the company of others. The possibilities are endless and your gifts will help bring to fruition God's visions and dreams for a just society where everyone has the opportunity to realize their full potential, and where more people will hear the good news that God is still speaking.

The **Strengthen the Church** Offering will be received on Sunday, June 3. Please give with a joyful heart.

Rita Negrón Maslanek



*from the Ministry of Children & Youth*

# Heifer International's *Fill the Ark*

**T**hanks to our Christian Education Director, Emma Nathanson, Heifer International's Fill The Ark campaign has once again flourished among our Sunday School children!



The children of the church and several adults have collected \$307, enough to give the **a GARDENER'S BASKET**. Among other things, this gardener's basket gift features tree seedlings, rabbits, chickens and a hive of bees as part of an integrated farming approach.

*Thank you and Congratulations to all who participated!*







## Memorial Garden Beautification

To spruce up our sad-looking Memorial Garden and in honor of Earth Day, Rita Maslanek and Christine Bischoff organized a Memorial Garden Beautification Day on May 5th. Many thanks to those who came to help Rita and Christine: Carol Stegall, Rachel Wilson, Sabrina Wilson, and Qin Zhu. 'Twas hard work, but rewarding and FUN, too!







**Thursday, June 7**

**11:45 am ~ Fellowship Hall**

**Shortcake & Penny Pot**

*Please bring a sandwich  
to share. After a brief  
business meeting,  
We'll be celebrating another  
season's end with strawberry  
shortcake.*

*The Penny Pot will also be passed.  
Every year, we put in pennies to  
equal our age so the "Pot" for  
giving gets larger and larger!*

**All are welcome!**



## UPDATE:

Despite it taking about a week to get the Salvation Army to come for our leftovers, the sale was another successful endeavor. Proceeds totaled \$1,391, badly needed funds to apply to several badly needed projects on the horizon. Many thanks to all who participated in any way!

# IDK

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**That's right...** I really don't know WHAT to print on the SPIRE's page one now, so if anyone has an idea, PLEASE FEEL FREE to suggest!

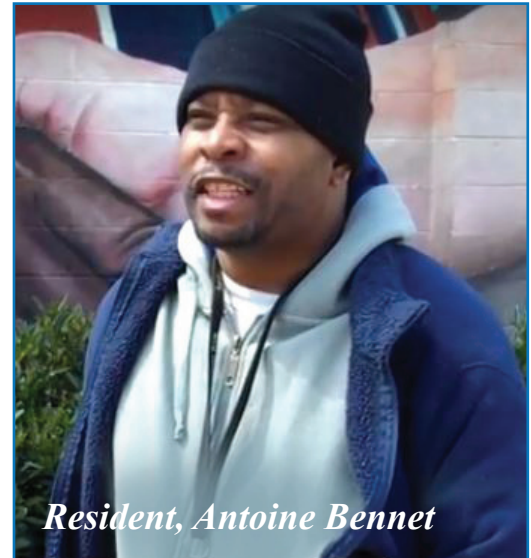
*Your Humble Editor*

from Alice Marcus...

## Intersection of Change, Sandtown, Baltimore

Our Christmas Offering last December was divided between the **Christmas Fund** (formerly, Veterans of the Cross), **Ryder Memorial Hospital** in Puerto Rico, and **Intersection of Change** (IOC formerly referred to as Martha's Place).

IOC started with the renovated building for Martha's Place, then added affordable housing for the women completing the program at Martha's place. Next renovated and developed was the **Jubilee Arts Building** which has become a center for worship, arts, and community activities in the Sandtown section of Baltimore. All the programs at Jubilee Arts are for community residents. The teenagers working on the mural not only have to paint, they have to go into the community to talk with residents to see what they want highlighted for their community, work out the design, and then paint it. Our Haworth UCC has long supported these programs through our ministry for Mission Outreach & Social Action (MOSA).



Continued on next page...



Although we've heard about and seen photos of the development of the programs in previous articles in the SPIRE, we now have links to video clips on our website which show so much about this ministry. These clips are with music written to commemorate Sandtown's continued work to revitalize their community and to counter the image often displayed in National news clips after Freddie Grey's death in 2015 (he was a resident in Sandtown).

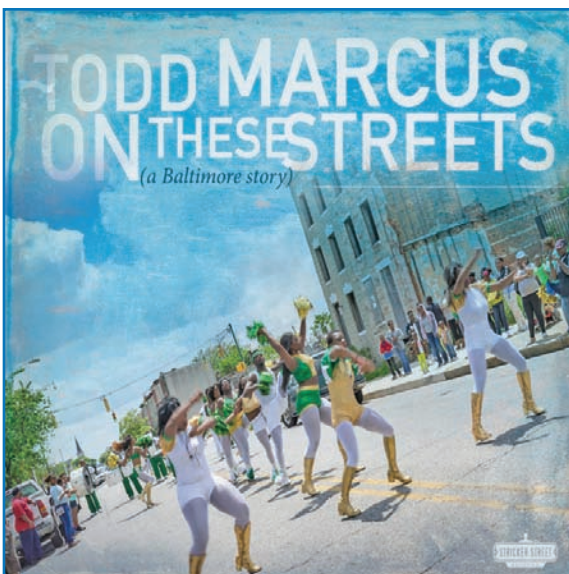
On one of the videos, Todd Marcus talks about the need for a community to do something rather than give up hope." Whatever you are passionate about...International issues, fine. Environmental issues, fine. You've got to be doing something." ***We at Haworth UCC have supported 'something' in this community in Baltimore since 2000.***



*Early renovation work*



*Martha's Place graduate mural above pool*



*Freddie Gray / community leaders mural*

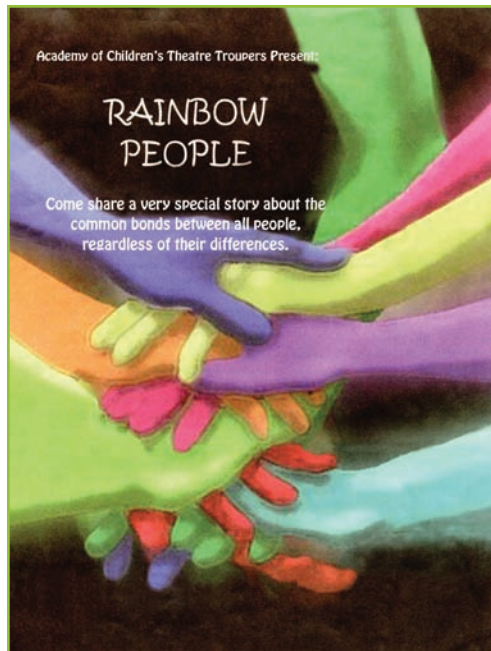
Todd has a new CD just out, *On These Streets (a Baltimore story)*, a musical reference and dedication to all the wonderful work being done in Sandtown.

from Jen Chin...

## The Rainbow People

Way back in 2003, as a Friend of the Southern Poverty Law Center, I received a letter about some creative children who were able to promote tolerance and acceptance in their community through a small grant from the Center. These children, thirteen 4th through 7th graders from The Academy of Children's Theatre Troupers in Kennewick, Washington, had just watched a SPLC film called *A Place at the Table* and had been motivated to think

of further ways they could stop negativity and prejudice towards not only others, but themselves as well. The result of their brainstorming was the writing of a play called *Rainbow People*, composed to educate people of all ages about the importance of accepting others regardless of age, race, gender, sexual identity or religion.



*Rainbow People* was about six "colors" who learn that they must work together, despite their differences, in order to overcome the "storms" of life. It contained no spoken word in order to ensure its powerful message would be universally understood. The students told their story solely through music, dance, pantomime, and color and presented their play to elementary schools, community organizations, and retirement homes. I was so moved, reading about these young people and what they had done that I have kept that SPLC letter all these years and now wish to share these young peoples' story.

### The following is a synopsis of the *Rainbow People*:

Meet Red, Blue, Orange, and Yellow. As they go about their lives, each seems content, yet isolated from the others. Without warning, a devastating storm arrives. The four colors must leave their destroyed homes and seek refuge elsewhere.

They come upon the house of Purple. They eagerly ask for assistance from the Purple People, but are turned away because they are different. They must find help elsewhere. They search to no avail, and exhausted, they give up. The Green People come upon the weary travelers. Although they are strangers, Green shows compassion and takes Red, Blue, Orange, and Yellow into their home.

Meanwhile, a storm descends upon the Purple house, demolishing all that they have. Purple finds themselves in the same predicament as the colors they had turned away! Their journey leads them past the Green house. Humbled by their loss, Purple knocks on Green's door to ask for help. When the door opens, they come face to face with those they had put down and refused to help.

The colors remember what the Purple People have done to them, and turn their backs—except for Red. She is saddened by what she sees and convinces both groups to forgive and accept each other. The colors celebrate their newfound "family" and begin to share their gifts with each other.

The storm approaches once again, but this time it is defeated by the power of the rainbow. The colors realize a united community can be a powerful force—that by working together, many great things can be accomplished.



## Your prayers are requested for...

- † Megan Shaw, Tammy's daughter; Jeanne Martin's brother in law, Richard, in California; Paul Farber, Vince Aiosa, Ann Arrigo, Dan Taylor
- † The children, families, and educators who were involved in the Paramus bus accident
- † Everyone in our country affected by school shootings
- † All victims of abuse, neglect, terrorism, weather extremes, any pain
- † The Refugee Resettlement Project and the families relocating to the USA
- † Peace in our country and around the world, our military and leaders



*Please feel free to call the office (201-384-1063) 24/7 with any request.*

*We will keep you or your loved one on this prayer list for one month.*

*If you would like your request to be continued,  
please contact the church office.*

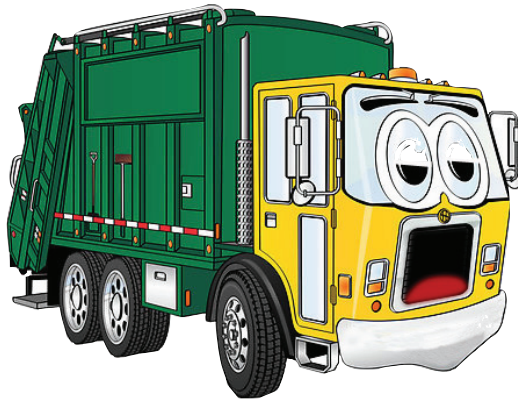


## June Birthdays

- 10** Paul Farber
- 15** Milly Liotta-Levinson
- 26** Adam Eike
- 29** Blair Gardner



*Is this where I go to give my heart to Jesus?*



## The Law of the Garbage Truck

The Law of the Garbage Truck: One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his breaks, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean, he was *really friendly*.

So I asked, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!" This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call "The Law of the Garbage Truck." He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you. Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day. Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so...

*"Love the people who treat you right.  
Pray for the ones who don't."*

*Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it!*



# June 2018

## First Congregational UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Sunday Worship &amp; CHURCH SCHOOL* ~ 10:30 am</b>  <b>ALL ARE WELCOME and invited to share coffee &amp; fellowship downstairs in Fellowship Hall afterward.</b></p> <p><small>* Child care available. No church school summer months; resumes September.  Choir Rehearsals: 9:15 am Sundays ONLY September–June</small></p>					<p><b>1</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)  10:00 am  Music Together (FH)  11:00 – 1 pm  Lunch Bunch (FH)  12:45 - 3 pm  Women's Step (LG)</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>10:30 am  Music Together (FH)</p> <p>12 Noon – 3 pm  Parkinson's Group (FH)</p>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Strengthen the Church Special Offering (tentative)</b></p> <p>10:30 am <b>Worship Service</b>  Rev. Bill Doster, Guest Preacher  Communion</p> <p>1:00 -6 pm <b>Bridge Fellowship Church</b>  (Sanctuary, Lounge, FH)</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>8 pm  Toastmasters (Lounge)</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)</p> <p>8 – 9 pm  BF Prayer Meeting (Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)  9:30 – 11:00 am  PLAYGROUP (FH)</p> <p>12 Noon – 3 pm  Activities Unlimited (FH)</p> <p>4:15 pm  Music Together (FH)</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)  10:30 am &amp; 4:30 pm  Music Together (LG)</p> <p>11:45  Women's Fellowship (FH)</p> <p>7:30 pm AA (FH)</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)  10:00 am  Music Together (FH)  11:00 – 1 pm  Lunch Bunch (FH)  1 pm on...  LT SETTING UP (Sanctuary)  12:45 - 3 pm  Women's Step (LG)</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>10 am  LITTLE TREASURES GRADUATION</p> <p>4:30 pm ~ 7 pm  Sawada Recital &amp; Reception (FH)</p> 
<p><b>10</b></p> <p>10:30 am <b>Worship Service</b>  Phil Hess, Guest Preacher  <b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>LUNCHEON</b> following Worship  Celebration to honor Mary Lou Boyd's service</p> <p>1:00 -6 pm <b>Bridge Fellowship Church</b>  (Sanctuary, Lounge, FH)</p> 	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)</p> <p>Leadership Team Meeting  Off-site ~ 6:30 pm</p> <p>8 – 9 pm  BF Prayer Meeting (Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)  9:30 – 11:00 am  PLAYGROUP (FH)</p> <p>4:15 pm  Music Together (FH)</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)  10:30 am &amp; 4:30 pm  Music Together (FH)</p> <p>7:30 pm AA (FH)</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)  10:00 am  Music Together (FH)  11:00 – 1 pm  Lunch Bunch (FH)  12:45 - 3 pm  Women's Step (LG)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>10:30 am  Music Together (FH)</p>
<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Fathers' Day CHOIR RECOGNITION SUNDAY</b></p> <p>10:30 am <b>Worship Service</b>  Phil Hess, Guest Preacher</p> <p>1:00 -6 pm <b>Bridge Fellowship Church</b>  (Sanctuary, Lounge, FH)</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>8 pm  Toastmasters (Lounge)</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)</p> <p>8 – 9 pm  BF Prayer Meeting (Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)  9:30 – 11:00 am  PLAYGROUP (FH)</p> <p>4:15 pm  Music Together (FH)</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)  10:30 am &amp; 4:30 pm  Music Together (FH)</p> <p>7:30 pm AA (FH)</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)  10:00 am  Music Together (FH)  11:00 – 1 pm  Lunch Bunch (FH)  12:45 - 3 pm  Women's Step (LG)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>10:30 am  Music Together (FH)</p>
<p><b>24</b></p> <p>10:30 am <b>Worship Service</b></p> <p>1:00 -6 pm <b>Bridge Fellowship Church</b>  (Sanctuary, Lounge, FH)</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)</p> <p>8 – 9 pm  BF Prayer Meeting (Sanctuary)</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>6 am  BF Morning Devotion (LG)</p> <p>7:30 pm AA (FH)</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>

FH: Eleanor Norton Fellowship Hall (downstairs); LG: Lounge (upstairs); OFF: Office



Happy Dads' Day to ALL men!

**First Congregational UCC**

276 Haworth Avenue  
Haworth, NJ 07641  
201.384-1063  
[www.haworthucc.org](http://www.haworthucc.org)

**Christian Education Director**

Emma Nathanson

**Church Administrator**

Andrea McWhirr

**Music Director**

Dr. Olga Stepanova

*Please send SPIRE  
submissions to  
[ucchworth@hotmail.com](mailto:ucchworth@hotmail.com)*