

*Our 75th Year*

**The First  
United Church of Christ**

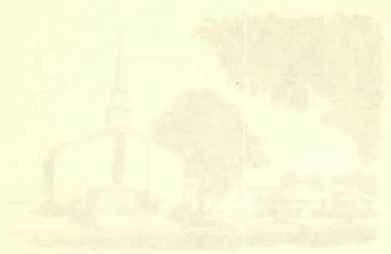
Clinton and Maplewood Avenue  
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06604

REV EMIL NAGY, PASTOR

NOVEMBER 16, 1969

1894

1969



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

With the rich blessings of a kind and merciful heavenly Father, we have reached the 75-th Anniversary of our Church. Our fellowship, as most of you know, is one of the oldest of Hungarian Reformed origin in the United States. We have a glorious history of dedicated work for Christ and His Kingdom and many wonderful people, through our history, have been a source of great inspiration for all of us.

We take justifiable pride in a good many things. The most unique characteristic of this large Congregation has been the remarkable manner in which the members of this fine fellowship have been

knit into a strong Christian Family. Our willingness to help each other, our friendliness, our warmth and our willingness to work incessantly for the Church have been the qualities so often extolled by others. It has been my rare privilege to serve in a Congregation, that has demonstrated the kind of loyalty, which is so rare today, yet it is the most commendable virtue in making a Church great.

The observance of the 75-th Anniversary of the Church is a very important milestone. It is, however, not a place where we stop, but a springboard for further accomplishments for the greater glory of God. Our long hoped for and planned for Home for our Senior Citizens, will soon become a reality. God has been good to us, because we have been good to each other.

May God bless His Church!



Your Pastor and Friend,

*Rev. Emil Nagy*

Rev. Emil Nagy



OUR CHURCH HISTORY  
First United Church of Christ  
Bridgeport, Connecticut

75 YEARS OF BLESSED SERVICE CHARACTERIZES THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

1894 - On November 24, 1894, the first meeting of the Congregation was held in the First Reformed Church on Congress Street. The pastor of the host church was the Rev. Gasper Brunner, who recognized the felt need for a Hungarian Church in the Community and did everything in his power to be of assistance to the people of Hungarian descent and Reformed heritage in the community. The Rev. Gabriel Dokus of South Norwalk was invited to conduct services, until a pastor could be secured. On that historic date the First Magyar Reformed Church was organized. On December 7, 1894 the Congregation was officially enrolled as a member of the Reformed Church in the United States.

1896 - On September 30th, 1896, the Rev. Alexander Kalassay was elected as the first pastor of the church. On November 1, 1896, the foundation for the first Church was laid and the Church was officially dedicated on December 20, 1896. The cost of the first church was \$2900.00.

1897 - The first Sunday School and Daily Vacation School started in the history of the Hungarian American Churches.

1898 - A parsonage was built at our Church for the pastor and was completed in January 1898 at the cost of 1465 dollars.

1899 - A bell was purchased for the Church by the Choir.

1903 - After seven years of faithful service the pastor Rev. Alexander Kalassay bid farewell to the Congregation on September 27th. The Rev. Ernest Komjathy was elected pastor of the Congregation.

1904 - The Congregation on November 26, 1904 decided with a large majority that it will remain a member of the Reformed Church in the United States because it feels that it owes loyalty to the Reformed Church because it was through her generosity that the work was begun among the Hungarians in this country. Rev. Komjathy resigned at the close of the meeting. —On December 18, 1904 the Rev. S. Harsanyi of Toledo, was elected Pastor of the Congregation and preached his first sermon in the Church on Christmas day of that year.

1905 - On March 19, 1905 plans for a new Church were adopted and the Congregation pledged 1060 dollars at the meeting. On November 26th the foundation of the Church was laid.

1907 - On March 3, 1907 our second church was officially dedicated. It was the largest Hungarian Reformed Church in size in the entire country. The Church cost 35,000 dollars. —The men who planned the Church deserve a great deal of credit because of their perseverance and vision.

1909 - The Ladies Aid Society of the Church was organized by the Rev. Stephen Harsanyi.

1910 - The Rev. Stephen Harsanyi, faithful pastor of the Congregation, passed away on February 19, 1910. His loss was great indeed. His enthusiasm, sincerity and work will always be remembered by a grateful Congregation. The Rev. Alexander Ludman became the successor of the Rev. Harsanyi in March 1910.

1912 - A new organ at the cost of 2125 dollars was purchased and dedicated on June 30, 1912. The Carnegie Foundation donated \$1,000.00 towards the purchase of the organ.

1915 - The Rev. Alexander Ludman became pastor of the Church at East Chicago and his successor became the Rev. Sigismund Laky.

1916 - The Rev. Laky was invited to another Congregation and resigned his pastorate at our Church. The Rev. Ludman was re-elected and assumed his pastorate once again in November, 1916.

1924 - Property on King's Highway in Fairfield was donated to the Church by Mrs. Annette Fiske in memory of her father so that the property might be used in ministering to the people of Hungarian descent living in Fairfield. The work at Fairfield began in earnest.

1926 - The Fairfield Church became an independent Congregation and The Rev. Urban assumed full charge of it. The pastor, the Rev. Ludman became seriously ill in this year and the Rev. Urban was elected as pastor and served as full time pastor for two months. — During the pastor's illness, the Rev. Nicholas Varkonyi served as Assistant pastor at our Congregation.

1937 - On December 7, 1937, the Rev. Emil Nagy, Jr., present pastor of the Church became Associate Pastor of our Church.

1938 - The Rev. Emil Nagy, Jr., was installed as the Associate Pastor on January 16th. In the spring of 1938 the Consistory unanimously adopted a resolution to have services in English every Sunday. The first English service at the Church was held May 1, 1938. The B.M.Y.P.C.A. observed its 20th Anniversary on October 2, 1938.

1940 - On August 11, 1940 the Rev. Alexander Ludman, faithful pastor for 30 years of the Congregation, retired and the Congregation voted him an annual pension of \$700.00. On October 27, 1940, the Rev. Emil Nagy, Jr., was unanimously elected as pastor of the Church. The Men's Club was organized in September.

1941 - The Rev. Emil Nagy, Jr., was installed as pastor of the Church on January 5, 1941. The Church was filled to its capacity. The parsonage was completely renovated. The pastor inaugurated a Citizenship Class and wrote a book: "A Guide Book For Prospective Citizens."

1942 - Our apportionment to the Church at large was paid for the first time in the history of the Congregation in full. The Service Flag was dedicated in our Church on Mother's Day in honor of our boys in service. The Victory Club was organized on June 30, 1942. Our mortgage was paid and on May 31, 1942, a mortgage burning ceremony was held. —Plans for a new Recreation Hall were formulated. Miss Ethel Egly became Organist and Choir Director at our Church.

1943 - Our Apportionment to the Church-at-Large was again paid in full with a total of 800 dollars. At the end of the year there were 137 boys and girls in the service, each one receiving a 10 dollar gift from the Church. —The Building Fund was rapidly increasing through the generosity of our members. On July 25, 1943 the large outdoor Honor Roll was dedicated.

1945 - The War continued. Our Red Cross Knitting Class prepared thousands of articles. We were in constant contact with our boys. The War suddenly ended. We inaugurated the informal welcome-home Dinner in honor of our returning Veterans.

1946 - This was the year of constant help towards others. We adopted 29 Hungaria: orphans. We prepared and sent many hundreds of bundles of food and clothing to the needy in Hungary. Our Congregation performed a remarkable job in ministering to the needs of their suffering brethren.

1947 - On January 26th a huge Welcome Home Dinner was given in honor of all of our returned Veterans. We dedicated a permanent Memorial on the Church lawn in honor of those who fought and died in World War II. We renovated our Church at the cost of \$16,000.00.

1949 - The Rev. Alexander Ludman, Pastor Emeritus passed away on July 15th and was buried on July 18th.

1957 - The ground-breaking ceremony for our new edifice on the corner of Clinton and Maplewood Avenues took place on November 24th.

1958 - On June 8, 1958, the Cornerstone was laid for the THIRD CHURCH BUILDING of our Congregation.

1959 - One of the most joyous events in the History of our Church took place on May 3, 1959, when our new buildings were dedicated. About 1,500 people filled our Church, our Church School rooms, the Social Hall. The seating capacity of our Church is about 700. It was the most ambitious building program in the History of Churches of Hungarian origin in the United States. The total cost was about \$550,000.

1967 - Our indebtedness on the Church was paid in full. We had assumed a debt of \$195,000. We had our Mortgage-burning ceremonies on Sunday, November 19th.

MEN FROM THE CHURCH, WHO ENTERED  
THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

Rev. John Azary  
Rev. Nicholas Varkonyi  
Rev. Michael Toth  
Rev. John Dezso  
Rev. Michael Kozma  
Rev. Balint Hoda  
Rev. Arpad Beretz  
Rev. Albert Elsvick



**1894** 1894 november 24-én tartotta a gyülekezet első gyűlését a Congress Streeten levő First Reformed Church-ben, ahol a gyülekezet lelkésze, Rev. Brunner Gáspár befolyt, hogy nagy szükség van egy magyar református templomra a hívek számára. Nt. Dokus Gábor, south norwalki lelkész hívta meg a gyülekezetet beosztálmá. December 7-én felvette a Reformed Church in the United States a gyülekezetet gondozásába.

**1895** A gyülekezet 1895 szeptember 7-én birtokot vásárolt és elhatározta, hogy felelti az első magyar református templom Bridgeporton.

**1896** Szeptember 30-án a gyülekezet meghívta Nt. Kalassay Sándort, aki a gyülekezet első pásztorja lett. Az első templom alapkövetelése november 1-én volt és december 20-án lett felszentelve az első templom. Az építési ára a templomnak \$2.900.00 volt.

**1897** Az első magyar református Vasárnapi Iskola, Nyári Iskola és Egyházi Enekkar volt megszervezve gyülekezetünkben. Tudomásunk szerint mind a három itt volt először megszervezve.

**1898** Parochiát vásárolt az egyház lelkésze számára 1465 dollár költséggel.

**1899** Az Enekkar harangot vásárolt a templom részére.

**1900** November 18-án vásárolta meg az egyház a templom melletti házat és iskolai célokra használta.

**1903** Hét évi bűséges munka után Nt. Kalassay Sándor eltávozott, november 27-én monddta el búcsúbeszédét. A gyülekezet Nt. Komjáthy Ernő választotta meg.

**1904** November 26-án úgy döntött a gyülekezet, hogy megmarad a Reformed Church in the U. S. ágja alatt, mert őt támogatták kezdetől fogva az egyházunkat és nem csatlakozik a magyarországi Konventhez. Nt. Komjáthy Ernő lemondott és a gyülekezet meghívta Nt. Harsányi István teológus lelkészt, aki Karácsony napján prédikált először Bridgeporton.

**1905** 1905-ben a nyári iskolába már 120-an jártak. Március 19-én a gyülekezet elhatározta, hogy új templomot épít. November 26-án volt a Nagytemplom alapkövetelése.

**1907** Mostani templomunkat 1907 március 3-án szentelték fel. Dicséretet érdemelnek azok, akik megépítették templomunkat, 800 befogadó képessége van és bizny, ma is sokszor megtörténik, hogy teljesen megtelik. Dicséretet ér-

demel Nt. Harsányi István és az akkori Presbitérium, hogy olyan előrelátók és bölcsék voltak.

**1909** Nt. Harsányi István megalakította az Egyház Nőegyletét, amely azóta áldásos munkát végez egyházunkban.

**1910** Február 10-én az Örökkévaló Isten magához szelította szolgáját, Nt. Harsányi Istvánt. Nagy vesztéské volt ő mindenki számára. Nt. Ludman Sándor lett megválasztva márciusban.

**1911** Egy új orgona alap létesült, amelyet az Enekkar kezdeményezett.

**1912** Egyházunk vásárolt egy új Moeller orgonát \$2.125.00 költséggel. A Carnegie Foundation \$1.000-t adott orgona-alapra.

**1915** Nt. Ludman Sándort az east chicagói gyülekezet hívta meg és Nt. Laky Zsigmond lett az utóda.

**1916** Nt. Laky Zsigmond lemondott és a megüresedett lelkézi állásra a gyülekezet ismét Nt. Ludman Sándort hívta meg.

**1924** Mrs. Anette Fiske ajándékozott egy birtokot a King's Highway-n az egyház céljaira emlékére. Megindult a fairfieldi munka.

**1926** A fairfieldi egyház különálló egyház lett és Nt. Urban József lett a gyülekezet lelkésze. Nt. Ludman Sándor beteg lett és betegségeinek idején Nt. Urban József és Nt. Varkonyi Miklós helyettesítették. Nt. Urban József, mint megválasztott lelkésze a gyülekezetnek, ebben a minőségben szolgált, de amikor Nt. Ludman Sándor felgyógyult, az ő javára lemondott.

**1929** Dr. Ravasz László látogatta meg a gyülekezetet.

**1930** A bridgeporti Keresztény Magyar Ifjúsági Kör az egyházunk ajándékozta otthonát, a 243 Pine streeti bérházat.

**1937** Junius 27-én alakult meg a Bethlen Club. Decemberben lett Nt. Ifj. Nagy Emil a gyülekezet társlelkésze.

**1938** Január 16-án iktatta be a New York Synod Nt. Ifj. Nagy Emil, mint társlelkészt. 1938 júniusában egyhangulag elhatározta az előjáróság, hogy minden vasárnap, a magyar istentiszteleten kívül angol-nyelvű istentisztelet is lesz. 1938 május 1-én tartottuk az első angol-nyelvű istentiszteletünket. Október 2-án ünnepelte meg az Ifjúsági Kör 20-ik évfordulóját.

**1939** A Nőegylet megünnepelte 30-ik évfordulóját és lelkész 45-ik évfordulóját ünnepelte meg.

**1940** Nt. Ludman Sándor, a gyülekezet érdemes pásztora nyugdíjba vonult és a gyülekezet évi 700 dolláros nyugdíjra szavazott meg neki, amíg éli, amelyet később felemlét 840 dollárra és még hozzá 100 dolláros karácsonyi ajándékot adott.

**1941** A New York Synod 1941 január 5-én kitáta be a lelkesi állásba Nt. Iji Nagy Emil<sup>1</sup> akit a gyülekezet egyházugyú megválasztott lelkesének. A parochia teljesen renováva lett. A lelkes Polgárostó Tanfolyamot vezetett be és iri könyvet a polgár-elöltek számára.

**1942** Az egyház 100%-ig megfizette a közegeháza az apportionmentet, amely 800 dollár volt. Első volt az egyház ebben az évben adakozásban a Igonieri Bethlen Orthon javára. Szolgálati rászlót avattunk. Victory Club alakult. Május 31-én elégettük az adósság-levelünket, 1942 óta nincs semmi adóssága a gyülekezetnek.

**1943** Ismét megfizettük 100%-ig apportionmentünk. Az év végén 137 ifjú volt a háza szolgálatában. Minden ifjú 10 dolláros ajándékot kapott az egyháztól. Julius 25-én levattuk a nagy külső Honor Roll-unkat, amely az első volt a városban.

**1944** Ismét 100%-ig kifizettük apportionmentünket. Junius 18-án ünnepelte meg a Nőegylet 35-ik évfordulóját. Az egy-

ház novemberben gyönyörű ünnep keretében megünnepelte 50-ik évfordulóját.

**1945** A háború még tartott. Red Cross Knitting Class-ünk készítette a ruhanevét a hadsereg számára. Állandó levelezésben állottunk fiainkkal. Vége lett a háborúnak. Fogadó estéket tartottunk hazatérő, fiainknak.

**1946** A testvérszerzés éve volt. Óriási mennyiségben készítettük a ruhanevét az inszgen előknék. 29 magyar árvát fogadtunk örökbe. Óriási tevékenységet fejtett ki a testvérszerzés terén a gyülekezetünk.

**1947** Január 26-án óriási fogadó-ünnepet tartottunk az összes hazatért veteránjaink tiszteletére. Felcsemltük az emlékkövet a templom előtti a katonaink emlékére. Templomunkat átrenováltuk 16.000 dolláros költséggel.

**1948** Hangos vetítő mozgóep felszerelést ajándékoztunk a Bethlen Orthonnak. Értéke több mint 600 dollár volt. Lelkesünk 10 éves jubileumára óriási bankettet rendeztünk a gyülekezet.

**1949** Május 22-én ünnepele meg Nőegyletünk fennállásának 45-ik évfordulóját. Nt. Ludman Sándor július 15-én hunyt el. Óriási részvét mellett temették el július 18-án.

#### A LEGFORGALMASABB ÉS LEGAKTIVABB KÉT ÉVTIZED AZ EGYHÁZ ÉLETÉBEN...1949-1969

1949-ben kezdünk foglalkozni azzal a tervvel, hogy egy ÚJ TEMPOMOT, TERMET ÉS PAROKKIÁT ÉPÍTÜNK. Hozzáfogtunk a különböző templom épületeket és termekeket tanulmányozni az Állam különböző részein. Egy vápet alkotunk arról, hogy milyen épületeket akarunk. Végre a tervek valóra váltak. 1957 november 24-én KAPAVÁGÁS ment végbe a Clinton és Maplewood sarkán levő birtokon. Már a következő évben, 1958 Junius 8-án az ALAPKŐ LETÉTELE megtörtént. 1959 május 3-án felcsemltük TEMPLOMUNKAT, TÁRSADALMI TEREMKÉNKET, PAROKKIÁNKAT ÉS A VASÁRNAPI ISKOLA TEREMKÉNKET. A Farokkát a gyülekezet férfiai építették fel. Ez az építkezés addig páratlan volt az amerikai magyar reformátusok életében. Az ÉPÍTÉZÉS \$550,000 dollárba került és az adósságunk \$125,000 dollár volt. Amilyen aktívítást fejtettek ki a gyülekezet tagjai az adósság letörlesztése érdekében, hihetetlen volt. 9 év alatt kifizettük a \$195,000 dolláros adósságunkat. Mennyi áldott kéz, mennyi időt szentelt arra, hogy ezt a célt elérhessék. Csodálkozva tekintett az egész város ennek a gyülekezet büszkőségára. Páratlan hírnévre tettünk szert. Isten áldja meg a készséges kezekeket!

#### PASTORS WHO HAVE SERVED OUR CHURCH

Rev. Alexander Kalassy  
1896 - 1903

Rev. Alexander Ludman  
1910 - 1915 1916 - 1940

Rev. Ernest Komjathy  
1903 - 1904

Rev. Zsigmond Luky  
1915 - 1916

Rev. Emil Nagy  
1937

Rev. Stephen Harsanyi  
1904 - 1910

Rev. Joseph Urban  
1925 - 1926

#### CHIEF-ELDERS WHO HAVE SERVED

Andrew Papp, Sr.

Paul Szabo

Frank Toth

Joseph Zsenybery

Stephen Dezso

John Dezso

Joseph Hajdu, Sr.

Michael Kozma

Stephen Body

Joseph Toth, Sr.

Andrew Bodnar

Stephen Koteles, Jr.

Michael Roth

Ambrose Cihay

Stephen Olah, Sr.

Arthur Vince

Alexander Vincze

John Koi

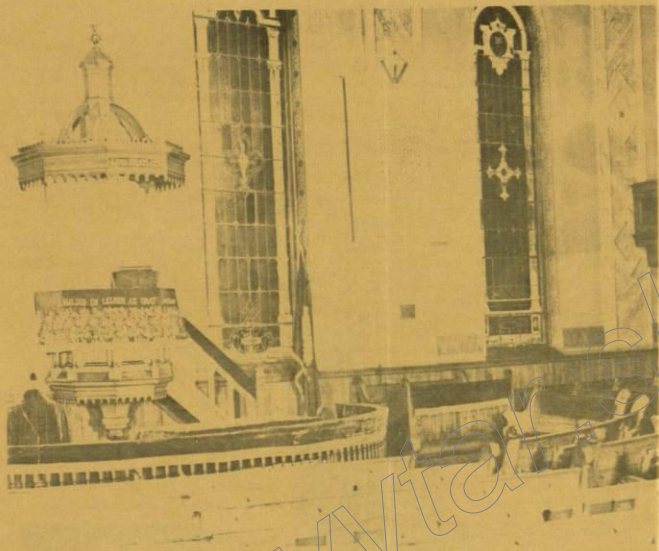
John Sombati



Mr. Andrew Papp, Sr.  
First Chief-elder



Mr. John Sombati, Present Chief-elder



DO YOU REMEMBER? OF COURSE YOU DO!

We do not think that the memory of our Old Church will ever be obliterated from our minds and hearts. There are so many sentimental and precious memories, that we have associated with that venerable Old Church through the years. It is no longer in existence. It has come down in the Redevelopment Program of the City. On this happy occasion, when we remember the past with so much nostalgia, our commemoration would not be complete if we did not refresh your memories by a long look at the interior of the Old Church, which was designed so beautifully, with so much foresight.

The youngsters, who never saw the interior of the Old Church will remember, we are sure, with affection the place where their parents and grandparents, yes and even their great-grandparents prayed to God every Sunday.

May the memories that we have live forever in our hearts and may they make the future even brighter than the glorious past.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Services

9 A.M.  
Service in English

11 A.M.  
Service in Hungarian

9 A.M.  
Church School

Meetings

Second Monday of Each Month 8 P.M.  
MEETING OF THE CONSISTORY

First Monday of Each Month 8 P.M.  
MEETING OF THE CHURCHMEN'S BROTHERHOOD

First Thursday of Each Month 8 P.M.  
MEETING OF THE WOMEN'S GUILD

Second Sunday of Each Month at 4 P.M.  
MEETING OF THE LADIES AID SOCIETY

Every Tuesday Afternoon at 4:15 P.M.  
JUNIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL

Every Thursday Evening at 7:30 P.M.  
SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSAL

Every Friday at 7 P.M.  
BOY SCOUT MEETING

Every Sunday Evening at 7 P.M.  
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETING



First Church in 1806



Second Church Built 1907



THIRD CHURCH DEDICATED IN 1959



Mortgage Burning in 1967

CONSISTORY OF THE CHURCH



Honorary Chief Elders

Stephen Olah  
Alexander Vincze  
Arthur Vince  
John Koi

Honorary Trustees

Stephen Cegan  
Joseph Vargo, Jr.

Chief-elder: John Sombati  
Elder: Victor Hegedus  
Elder: Louis Babycos, Jr.  
Treasurer: John Nagy  
Secretary: Edward Urban

CONSISTORYMEN

Frank Babycos  
Zoltan Balog  
Stephen Canaiy  
George Garrison  
John Koi  
Ulys Miller  
Bert Papp  
Jules Sombati  
Joseph Szok  
Stephen Toth  
Joseph Wargo

Albert Barabas  
Louis Berecz  
Alexander Csaky  
Stephen Horvath  
Joseph Kvacz  
Mrs. Emma Olah  
Joseph Papp  
Stephen Sombati  
William Tirnadi  
Frank Vaisil  
Mrs. Mary Youhas

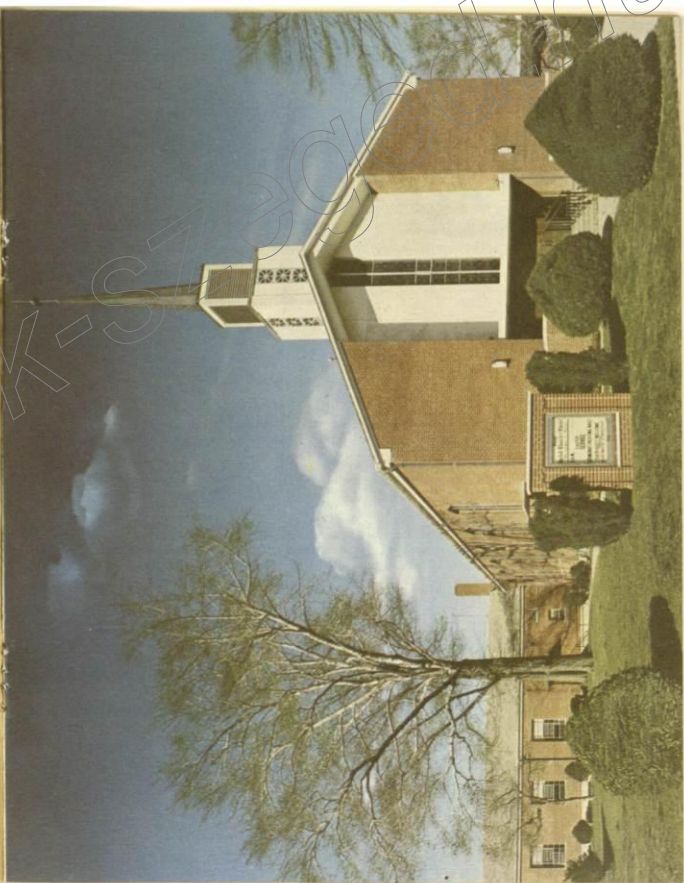
George Balog  
Louis Fazekas  
Ernest Daruba  
John Klinko  
Mrs. Ella Liptak  
Frank Olah  
Mrs. Jane Sombati  
Lewis Burke  
John Tober  
Mrs. Anne Wargo

TRUSTEES

Stephen Olah

Edward Sarha

Alexander Vincze





# The First United Church of Christ

Rev. Emil Nagy, A.B., B.D. Pastor  
Miss Ethel Egry Director of Music  
Mr. Ernest Daruka Church School Superintendent  
Mr. John Sombati Chief-elder

75-TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE - SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 16, 1969 - AT 4 O'CLOCK

Prelude Miss Ethel Egry, Organist and Choir Director  
"Trumpet Tune" Henry Purcell Georgianna Bell and Nancy Hill, Trumpeters

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #440 "GOD OF OUR FATHERS" NATIONAL HYMN

(1)

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand Leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies, Our grateful songs before Thy throne  
arise.

(2)

Thy love divine hath led us in the past; In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;  
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide, and Stay; Thy word our law, Thy path our chosen way.

(3)

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;  
Thy true religion in our hearts increase, Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

(4)

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way, Lead us free night to never ending day;  
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine, And glory, laud, and praise be ever  
Thine. Amen.

\*INVOCATION: The Rev. Stephen Feics, Pastor St. Dimitri's Romanian Orthodox Church.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: The Rev. B. Cortez Tipton, Executive Director the Council of Churches.

The Choral Call to Prayer

ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PRAYER: The Very Rev. David Bannon, Pastor St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church.

The Lord's Prayer

OFFERTORY: "LAUDATE DOMINUM" W. A. Mozart The Choir Roberta Sammis, Soloist

\*Doxology

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: The Rev. Hobart J. Gary, Pastor St. George's Episcopal Church

\*NAGY ÉNEK: "ISTEN ÁLDJ MEG A MAGYART" Himmusz A GYŰLEKEZET

Isten Áldj meg a magyart fő kedvvel bőséggel,  
Nyissa feléje védő kart ha küzd ellenséggel.  
Bálsava, akit végen cép, Hozz rá vig esztendődt,  
Mégbűnhédre bír a nép A multat s jövőndöt.

IGEHIRDETÉS: "AZ EGYHÁZ BÍVATÁSA" Nt. Sziárto Istvan, Washington, D. C.

\*ÉNEK: "TE BENNE BÍZTUNK ELEITŐL FOGVA" A GYULEKEZET

Te benne bíztunk eleitől fogva, Uram, téged tartottunk hajlékunknak,  
Mikor még semmi hegyek nem voltak, Hogy még sem ég, sem föld nem volt formálva:  
Te voltál és te vagy erős Isten, És te meg maradsz minden időben.

I Samuel 10:9

ANNIVERSARY SERMON: "A NEW HEART FOR A NEW DAY"  
The Rev. Dr. Nathanael Guptill, Minister Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ.

\*IMA ÉS APOSTOLI HITFORMA Nt. Dr. Havadtőy Sándor, A Calvin Egyház lelkipásztora

"AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD" Handel's "Messiah" The Choir

Announcements - Hirdetések The Rev. Emil Nagy, Pastor

\*HYMN #63 "OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST" ST. ANNE

(1)

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:

(2)

Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.

(3)

Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.

(4)

A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.

(5)

Time, like an ever rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.



(6)  
 Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come  
 Be Thou our guard while troubles last, And our eternal home.  
 Amen

\*Quiet Prayer and Meditation

\*The Benediction

\*Postlude: "Trumpet Voluntary" Purcell Georgianna Bell and Nancy Hill, Trumpeters

\*Congregation Stands

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

UNITED HALL

6 P.M.

Fruit Cup *Celery and Olives*

Chicken Paprikas  
 Hungarian Nokedli and Vegetable

Hungarian Strudle *Rétes* *Coffee*

PROGRAM

Invocation *Rabbi Arnold Sher*

Master of Ceremonies *Mr. Stevan Dehanos*

Guest Speaker *Dr. Peter C. Goldmark*

Dinner Music: Rozsika & László

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH



Ladies Aid Society



The Women's Guild



Youth Fellowship



Boy Scout Troop 83



The Brotherhood



Boy Scout Committee

### THE CHOIR



MISS ETHEL EGRÝ, Organist & Choir Director

The Choir has been under the capable direction of Miss Ethel Egrý, who has been with our Church for the past 27 years. The Choir has presented outstanding Oratorios, Concerts and has sung every Sunday at the Services. It has recorded a Concert of Sacred Music presented at Perth Amboy, New Jersey and has broadcast frequently to Hungary over the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe.

We want to pay tribute to the work of the Choir, which has been in existence almost from the time the Church was organized. It has varied in number through the years, but its quality of excellent singing has always enhanced our Services.



THE SENIOR CHOIR



THE JUNIOR CHOIR

### OUR CHURCH SCHOOL



Our Church School at Worship in Church



Teachers and Staff



Teachers & Staff

### OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Ernest Daruka - Superintendent  
Jean Burke - Recording Secretary  
Helen Olah - Cradle Roll and Absentees  
Diane Daruka - Treasurer  
Pearl Tirmadi - Assistant Secretary

OUR CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES



Nursery - Helen Olah



Kindergarten - Nancy Olah



Grade I - Kathy Kovacz & Pat Kovacz



Grade II - Irene Daruba



Grade III - Virginia Babycos



Grade IV - Linda Csaky



Grade V (A) - Emma Olah



Grade V (B) - Nancy Dembo



Grade VI - Irene Saitovsky



Grade VII - Lewis Burke



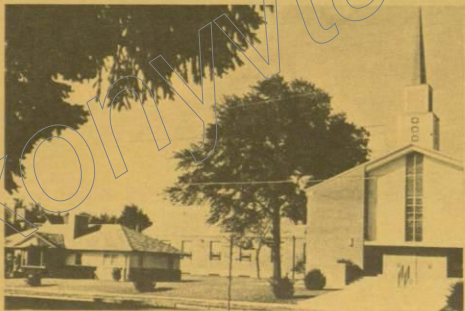
Grade VIII - Adele Hess



Grade IX - X - XI - Louis Fazekas

### AN OUTSTANDING FEAT WON NATIONAL ACCLAIM

Worthy of separate mention is the remarkable achievement of the men of the Congregation, who resolved, that they would volunteer their services and would build the parsonage of the Church. For six months, scores of men came during the week and on week-ends, and a beautiful parsonage was erected. The remarkable feat attracted the attention of the people of the various Churches of Hungarian origin all over the country. The parsonage would have cost about \$45,000, but the fact that the labor was voluntary and was donated, the cost was brought down to about \$19,000. Two great blessings came from this project. First the men were brought together into a very strong fellowship, which still persists almost ten years later and secondly a great saving was effected for the Church by this remarkable display of dedication.



### TWO GREAT BENEFACTORS



Mrs. John Such



Mrs. George Kocsis

Our Church was richly blessed by the kind generosity of Mrs. John Such and Mrs. George Kocsis who donated a very substantial amount to the Church. The estates of these two loyal members of the Church together totaled more than \$50,000. The unique characteristic of these two fine people was not especially the fact, that they remembered their Church so generously, but the long period of affection and loyalty they displayed towards their Church over many years. Their bequests are in a separate investment fund maintained by the Church and will be used in our future building project, which will further perpetuate their kindness in our memory.

### The Oldest Member of our Church

Mrs. Stephen Koteles, Sr. is the oldest living member of our Church. She was born in Goncz, Hungary. She came to the United States in 1888 at the age of 5. She was 11 years of age in 1894, when the Church was organized and the first member to be confirmed in the Church. Her father Andrew Papp, Sr. was the first Chief-elder of the Congregation. With the exception of about 3 years, when she lived in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania she has been a member of the Church throughout the existence of the Church. She is 87 at the present time. She is in Church every Sunday. We greet her on the occasion of the 75-th birthday of her Church.



MRS. STEPHEN KOTELES, SR.

"WE  
CARE."



#### A PROJECT CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS

We look forward with fond expectation towards the realization of a fond dream, that we have nurtured for a long time. In the very near future a Home will be erected on our property for the Senior members of our Congregation. A Thirty Unit Apartment Building is planned at the present time to afford for the elderly members of our Congregation the greatest degree of comfort and fellowship. Again, in this field, as we have done in the past in so many innovations, we are pioneering in something, that we feel is so necessary for the well-being of our people.



#### BUILDING COMMITTEE

*Alexander Vincze, Chairman  
John Sombati  
Stephen Canady  
Louis Faszkes  
Edward Urban  
Ben Papp  
Victor Hegedus  
Rev. Emil Nagy, Pastor*

PROPOSED HOME FOR THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH



DR. PETER CARL GOLDMARK  
World Renowned Physicist  
GUEST SPEAKER  
at the 75-th Anniversary



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HARTFORD

MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR JOHN DEMPSEY

To my regret, a schedule conflict has prevented me from accepting the invitation kindly extended to me by the Reverend Mr. Nagy to attend the dinner hailing the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the First United Church of Christ of Bridgeport.

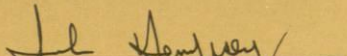
Although I cannot join with you this evening, I do wish to assure Mr. Nagy and all members of the congregation of my congratulations and good wishes on this significant occasion.

The growth and development occurring in this church since its establishment in 1894 are a tribute to the dedication and devotion of the parishioners who have served it over the years.

I understand that today you have one of the most active congregations in the State.

It is gratifying to learn of such zeal among a church group because there are so many needs today that can best be met by churches whose members are imbued with that spirit of love about which the Apostle Paul wrote so eloquently.

May all of you, on this Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, enjoy a full measure of satisfaction as you look back on all that has been accomplished in the past, and at the same time look to the years ahead for more opportunities for service to Almighty God and your fellow man.

  
Governor