



New Milford United Methodist Church

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, Conn. 06776 • (860) 354-4596 • www.NewMilfordUMC.org • Office@NewMilfordUMC.org



August 2012

Pastor's Message

The Cure for the Summertime Blues

The old rock and roll song tells us that “there ain’t no cure for the summertime blues.” But I’d like to think that joining us for the many activities here at New Milford United Methodist Church is a start.

Of course, it all starts with worshipping our God and lifting up praise to God. We have two great opportunities for doing that: our 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship in the sanctuary and our Blended Worship at 10 a.m. in the Chapel in the Pines.

There are opportunities for fellowship as well. On August 11 starting at 5:30 p.m. will be our next “Grilling Night” with Mike Socotch’s famous deep-fried turkey. We have been engaged in a very compelling book study on intentional faith community called “Longing for Spring,” where we enjoy a meal of soup and bread and discuss a movie and the book.

There are always opportunities for mission work, and this summer is no exception. We have had folks go on U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth) and travel as far as Mozambique to engage in mission. The food pantry, “Our Daily Bread,” is looking for additional volunteers beginning August 1, so perhaps you can join us in serving others that way.

There are intentional faith formation groups that are gathering and continue to meet. Consider joining us for adult Sunday School between services or for Youth Group, who have been planning their year together (stay tuned for a special trip to Lake Compounce and Lock-In we are planning for September 8!)

So, I like to think that there is a “cure for the summertime blues.” You can find it at New Milford United Methodist Church!

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor

Thank You

The spaghetti dinner committee would like to thank all the men and women who helped out last year with the dinners. Without the volunteers we would not be able to have such a successful year. The money that was raised went to the following: Mozambique; scholarships for 3 to attend field trips at the Education Center, 24 new chairs for fellowship hall, the stained glass cross project, gas for mowing the church lawn, good samaritan fund and some to the church's general fund. Another year for the dinners will be starting Sept. 8, 2012. As always we will be looking again for volunteers to help out and donations of thin spaghetti for the upcoming dinners. Once again, thank you all and peace be with you.

—Helen Leary, Bonnie Knapp, Lynn Singleton, Janet Parsons



Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, Aug. 24 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, Aug 30.

AUGUST GRILLING NIGHT

Grilling Night will return on Saturday, AUG. 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The menu this night will feature Mike Socotch's famous deep-fried turkey. Come join in on the fun and fellowship that a good summer BBQ brings out. Make sure to bring a side dish to share.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): OPERATION OVERBOARD!

Vacation Bible School will be held on August 13 – 17, 5:30 to 8:30 pm. The cost per child will be \$10 and scholarships are available. We will transform our church into a beautiful underwater universe! With "Operation Overboard" you "diver" can swim with humpback whales and sea horses, scuba through a vibrant coral reef and take a personal submarine to the ocean floor. As they journey below the waters' surface, they will plunge into Bible stories of people with deep faith and learn to trust a God whose love is bigger than the sea. For more information, please contact LaDonna Takyi at (919) 395-1462 or email at latakya@gmail.com.

the Education Center

Summer so far has been a ton of fun for all of the children! The toddlers have made tons of splashes in the water table and been very busy learning about the Olympics. The school-age and preschool Summer Fun kids have been on several field trips, played in the sprinkler, planted in the garden, made a recyclable city out of all recyclable materials and too many other things to list them all. During the month of August they will continue music with Mr. Mike, explore crazy cooking with Jan

Parsons and Sue Deboy, and put together a performance with Miss Laura during Talented theater week.

As the school year approaches we are actively seeking volunteers, please contact me if you have an interest in donating an hour or two of your time. Any help; big or small, is always greatly appreciated!

Warm regards,
Jennifer Pennucci



MISSIONS

In May, I met with many of the mission chairpeople at which time each gave input concerning their individual missions. Several had changes are happening within their mission programs. Our Daily Bread is starting a new program where people will be able to select items from the pantry. Originally, a bag was supplied to each individual. Hopefully this will eliminate waste that may have occurred when the food supplied was not something the recipient would eat. Ruth Ann Tomascak (860-354-3244) is looking for some volunteers.

Loaves and Fishes is looking for people to help make lunches. If you can be of help, please contact Pat Tripp (860-354-8720).

The NY Conference sister connection in Beira, Mozambique is looking for help to fund students who are hoping to go to high school or post-high school education. If you are at all interested in supporting this mission, please contact Bob and Joan Hoburg (860-354-7390).

The Congregational Care Team is busy establishing a support system for people of our church family who are in need of support while going through difficult times—caring for elderly, hospitalization, sickness, needy individuals or just in need of knowing that their church is there for them. Communion can be brought to those who are not able to attend church. If you are aware of anyone who might like one of the members to visit, please contact Bonnie Knapp (860-355-0559).

My personal vision for missions is to investigate how we can get more of our youth involved in our mission projects. There is a special thing that happens when our youth are paired with our seniors. This is a sure way to keep them involved in their church. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

— Lynn Hayes

Attendance & Offerings

July 1	72	\$4,189
July 8	93	\$3,592
July 15	83	\$2,677
July 22	75	\$2,802
July 29	97	\$2,740

July total giving \$16,000

YTD total giving \$111,844

Budgeted giving \$117,308

HELP WANTED

Our Daily Bread is in need of additional volunteers starting August 1. If you are interested in getting involved in this mission, contact Ruth Ann Tomascak at (860) 354-3255.

Joys & Concerns

Our prayers are with...

Sharon Kresl and her family after the death of her mother.

Tom Gaynor and his family after the death of his father Tom Gaynor, Sr.

Sue Ford and her family after the death of her sister-in-law Cate Ford.

Our Bishop-elect, Rev. Martin McClee.

Kay & Jerry Jones who are serving in mission in Mozambique.

Our prayers continue to be with...

Nanci Hutson's mother, Peggy Gustafson, who is recovering from a stroke.

Kevin Hutson who has just began a new job in Arizona.

Lillie Allen who has moved into Candlewood Valley Rehabilitation.

Jack Orr who is having medical issues.

Shirley Kathan who is recovering from surgery.

Natalie, Ellie Middleton's niece who was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

Darcie, Sharon Kresl's daughter has been undergoing chemotherapy and her tumors are shrinking.

Kim Birsen who is having health issues.

The Rev. Mel Kawakami whose mother is having health issues.

Ed Hastings who is having health issues.

Thelma Neufeld who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

Walter Tripp who is having medical issues, he is Larry Tripp's brother.

Madeline Petrillo, Chris Martirano's mother-in-law, who is having health issues.

George Perry who has moved into the Masonic Homes.

Rev. Ken Kieffer who is recovering from cancer treatments.

Dee Yukon, the wife of Rev. Matt Yukon of the Northville Baptists church, who is being treated for cancer.

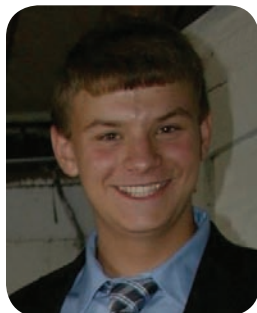
He is a friend of Joe & Nora Tigner.

Laurie Gaudette who is having health issues.

The leaders in our church.

Financial health of our church.

Our Bishop, Jeremiah Park, our District Superintendent, Ken Kieffer and all the churches in our Methodist Connection in the New York Annual Conference and beyond.



A Mission Moment

by Ben Weed

I received an invitation to talk about the two mission trips that I took with my confirmation mentor, Steve Kowitz. Both trips were wonderful experiences. It really made me think about how good I have it and realize how other people can be more affected by things.

Hurricane Irene didn't do nearly as much damage here as it did in New York State and other areas.

The site of my mission work was the Plattsville, New York United Methodist Church. Plattsville was devastated by the hurricane. Much of the town was washed away or severely damaged. The church was not spared. The basement of the sanctuary was filled with packed mud between 4 and 6 feet deep. The mud was packed like you drove a tractor trailer over it 20 times. In order to be safe while we worked we wore jumpsuits, gloves, safety glasses and respirators. Using a ladder we crawled down into the dark "pit" on our hands and knees and picked at the packed mud with shovels. We filled 5 gallon pails and hauled them out. The buckets were very heavy.

There was a lady named Betty who lived in Plattsville her entire life. She told me that even though there was so much destruction all around her town, she still thought it was the most beautiful place on earth and she loved it with all her heart. She took us in like family and said she was grateful to us for working on her church more than words could say. It made me feel good to be appreciated for our efforts. Betty also made the best hot chocolate and cookies!

The second time we went we mostly did demolition in the sanctuary. Using hammers and pry bars we tore down walls that had been under several feet of water. We then helped to put up new insulation and drywall.

We went back down into the pit, as we called it, to see the work that had been done after we left last time. It was nice to see how much work had been done and felt glad not to have to go back down there!

About 3 weeks ago my Mom took me to Plattsville to see the work that had been done. I was astounded- not only was the church looking better but the town itself was full of life and rebuilding.

It showed me hope for the future and reminded me of the t-shirt I got that says, "Plattsville rocks, even when Mother Nature knocks!"

U.M. ARMY

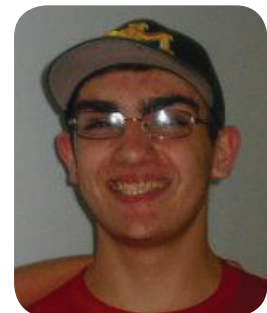
by Nick Del Mastro

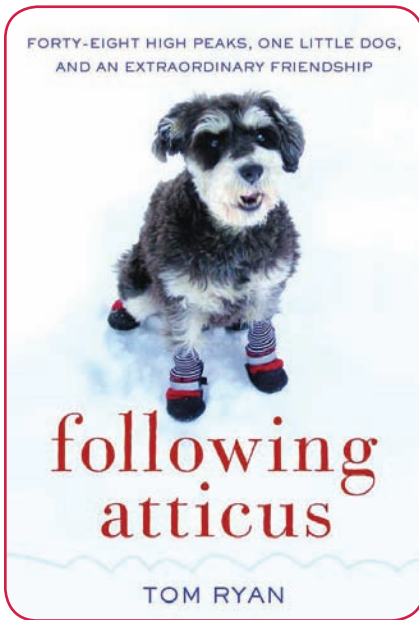
United Methodist Action Reach Out Mission by Youth, or more commonly referred to as U.M. ARMY, is a great mission trip for kids in 7th through 12th grade. It is an opportunity to travel to a new community out of state, make new friends, and experience the joy that comes from working for others.

One of the goals of U.M. ARMY is to show that teenagers can go a week without ipods, cellphones, computers, and other electronics to dedicate their time and energy to serving complete strangers. One can find an abundance of camps anywhere from Vermont to New Jersey, there's even a few camps in Texas that all share the same goal of serving the community. Projects vary from client to client, they can take anywhere from half an hour to the full week to complete one job. Yardwork, painting rooms, replacing railings, and even building a wheelchair ramp are among the many possible jobs that clients need done around their houses. After the work, however, there is always shower and activity time, so it isn't all work all the time.

I have gone to U.M. ARMY twice so far, and I can say each time is a brand new experience. The people are always different, the jobs change every day, but one thing that remains constant is the quality of the food. I promise you will not starve at U.M. ARMY, every meal is fantastic. Making new friends on the first day has to be my favorite part of the camp. The idea of friends sticking together or cliques forming is gone the moment they put everyone in their work teams, it is rare that kids from the same church are put in the same work team, so friends are always abundant. Also, seeing the joy in the clients face when we show up on our first day of working on their house is always a great feeling. We have been told that some clients just need to spend time with other people, and it is easy to grow attached to your client after just eating lunch and talking with them.

If there is anyone interested in going on U.M. ARMY next year I would highly recommend it. The week flies by and it is an amazing experience to see just how much you and four complete strangers can achieve in that short time. I believe that U.M. ARMY will forever be an incredible time no matter how many years one may go.





An Evening with
Tom Ryan *and* Atticus
Sunday, Aug. 9, 7 p.m.

We are pleased to announce that Tom Ryan and Atticus will be joining us for a book discussion and signing to celebrate the paperback release of **FOLLOWING ATTICUS**. They will be here on August 9th at 7pm.

TOM RYAN is the founder of the Newburyport Massachusetts newspaper *The Undertoad* and served as its publisher and editor for over a decade. In 2007 he sold the newspaper and moved to the White Mountains of New Hampshire to hike with Atticus. Over the last three years Tom and Atticus have climbed more than 350 4,000-foot mountain peaks.

FOLLOWING ATTICUS: Forty-Eight High Peaks, One Little Dog, and an Extraordinary Friendship is the story of an out-of-shape newspaperman, Tom Ryan, and Atticus M. Finch, a miniature schnauzer—an unlikely pair of mountaineers—and their record-setting winter. Deciding to pay tribute to a friend who died of cancer, they set out to climb all 48 of New Hampshire’s 4,000-foot peaks, *twice*, in the 90 days of winter. What awaits them is the challenge of a lifetime, set in an enchanting but dangerous winter wonderland. Their remarkable story blurs the line between two species and follows the two friends for hundreds of miles in a rare test of endurance.

FOLLOWING ATTICUS is the heartfelt tale of a man and a dog dedicating themselves to a great quest. It’s about a little dog capturing the hearts of thousands, and a community coming together to support him during his darkest days. It’s an inspiring story of adventure, friendship, family, and love. Ultimately it is the story of a man who is led back to himself.

Join us for an evening of laughter and tears as Tom Ryan shares his adventures about hiking in the White Mountains with Atticus. They will be signing copies of their book (yes, Atticus will be offering his pawtograph) after the discussion. The book signing is scheduled for August 9th at 7pm in the sanctuary. We will be accepting donations (food and monetary) to benefit the New Milford Animal Welfare Society. To preorder your copy of **FOLLOWING ATTICUS (limited quantities will be available at the book signing)** please call the Bank Street Book Nook at (860) 354- 3865.

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