



# New Milford United Methodist Church

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August 2014

Pastor's Message

## *...I was a Stranger, and You Welcomed Me...*

Jesus was a child refugee. It sounds hyperbolic, but it's true. Joseph, Mary and Jesus fled the wrath of Herod to Egypt when Herod heard the news that a child king had been born in Bethlehem.

The widow, the orphan, and the alien—God makes it clear throughout the Hebrew and Christian Testaments that God expects us to care for them. How are we doing? By all accounts, we are doing rather poorly.

The current President's administration has deported more individuals—tearing apart countless families—than any prior administration. We seem oblivious to the fact that the current round of young families and children are coming to this country as refugees fleeing violence in Central America. We seem oblivious to this country's obligations under international law and our own law through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, signed under President Bush<sup>1</sup>, to protect these refugees. We seem oblivious to our obligations as Christians.

I am proud that The United Methodist Church recognizes its obligation to care for the widow, the orphan, and the alien. The United Methodist Committee on Relief has established an Advance Giving number (#901670) to allow individuals to donate towards providing food, clothing and shelter to the numerous young children and families crossing the border to flee violence in Central America.

United Methodists have lobbied in the halls of Congress, written countless letters and made countless phone calls to their Senators and Representatives to take action to address our crisis of immigration. They have engaged in civil disobedience in front of the White House urging the President to take executive action to halt deportations until immigration reform is passed. This week, after writing this article, I too will travel to Washington, D.C., to be arrested and engage in further civil disobedience with over 130 other faith leaders from around the country in front of the White House to urge an end to deportations.

You might ask, "Why?" Because I believe my faith calls me to do so. Moses was an immigrant. Jesus was an immigrant. At one point or another, most of our forebears who came to this country were immigrants. And I often think, "There but for the grace of God go I." I hope you too will consider prayerful action about how you too can address this situation.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor

<sup>1</sup>Indeed, there are calls from the current administration and members of Congress to repeal certain portions of that act that would protect these children and families.

# Church News

## Thank you

Please thank the members for my delicious spaghetti supper! The food is always so fresh and I really enjoy it. I also appreciate my prayer shawl. Your members are so generous with their time and talent.

Sincerely,  
Alma Hough

## Calling All Children and Youth Volunteers!

We are in the process of recruiting volunteers for our Sunday School and Youth Program during the school year. One of the necessary prerequisites to work with children and youth in our church is to complete Safe Sanctuary Training and a background check. Safe Sanctuary training will take place on Sunday, Aug. 17 at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. At that time you can fill out the background check form for processing by our Confidential Screening Committee. For more information about how you can volunteer for Sunday School, you can contact Martha McMahan at 860-354-5345. For more information about volunteering with the Youth, you may contact Brinna Kowitz, Youth Leader, at 203-770-2881. For more information about the Safe Sanctuary Training, you may contact Priscilla Williams at 860-355-9419.



## Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, Aug. 29 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, Sept. 4.



## Food Barn Needs

On July 31, 76 clients came to the our food pantry, which means we helped over 250 people this month. Items needed this month at Our Daily Bread include pasta, canned meat or fish, fresh vegetables or any variety hot dog (refrigerated items should be marked Our Daily Bread). Thanks for being a supporter of our food pantry.

## Book Club

Did you know that a book club meets at the church each month on the third Thursday at 1:30 pm? The books are selected by Jan Parsons and ordered through the New Milford Public Library. Recommendations come from club members and various book reviews. We have good discussions and encourage everyone to attend, whether they liked the book or not.

We have had free reading for June and July, but a title has been selected for August, *Once Upon a River*, by Bonnie Jo Campbell. This story is about a 15-year-old girl who flees her home, alone in a rowboat.

New members are always welcome to our group. Church affiliation is not a pre-requisite so bring a friend. For more information, contact Jan Parsons at 860-354-8885 or [jbparsons02@snet.net](mailto:jbparsons02@snet.net)

## Mozambique Orphanage Scholarship Fund

In Mozambique most children only go to school through 7th grade (primary school). After that, they must pay to go to grades 8 through 12 (secondary school) and most cannot afford it.

In Combine, the United Methodist Church has a Secondary School which children from the orphanage can attend for a very small fee. What a blessing that the children who graduate from 12th grade can go to University if they can pass the entrance exam, which they can do without much trouble because of the good education they have received.

We know education is a must if the children at the orphanage are ever going to be able to live on their own because jobs in Mozambique are so scarce. So, we established a Fund to provide scholarships to deserving students. Each year we have awarded scholarships totaling \$20,000-25,000. The average cost per student per year is about \$3,500. We have had 9 students from the orphanage qualify for scholarships.

Three of these students have graduated from University with 4 year degrees. They are Florencia Jualinho (History/Geography), Castigo Miguel (Tourism), and Arlesio Cucheza (Philosophy). Three more will graduate at the end of this year - Elias Jose (Agricultural Economics), Carlos Jose (Civil Engineering) and Boaventura Cucheza (Electricity).

There are three additional students that have begun their University work in the last 2 years. They are Cirio Temente (Accounting), Chadreque Elusani (Business), and Titos Saiete (Journalism). As we look ahead, we have 2 more students who may qualify in 2015, and 2 more in 2016.

If anyone is interested in donating to our fund to help these children they can write a tax deductible check to United Methodist Frontier Foundation (UMFF) with KJ Education Fund on the memo line. For more information contact Kay and Jerry Jones at 860-354-7914.



### August Birthdays:

August 1 - Rose Ann H.  
 August 4 - Athena M.  
 August 5 - Damon M.  
 August 7 - Michaela F.  
 August 8 - Richard T.  
 August 13 - Jacque G.  
 August 14 - Travis K.  
 August 24 - Bonnie W.  
 August 28 - Lu V.

### Attendance & Offerings

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| June 29                  | \$3,806   |
| July 6                   | \$2,716   |
| July 13                  | \$3,821   |
| July 20                  | \$2,527   |
| Monthly Giving           | \$12,871  |
| YTD Giving               | \$98,784  |
| YTD Giving<br>(Budgeted) | \$107,077 |

## Joys & Concerns

*Our prayers are with . . .*

The family of John Farrell as they grieve his loss.

Louise Fazio whose kidney transplant stopped working.

Janice Mayette who will be having foot surgery in late August.

Robert Cerrato as he heals from leg injuries and heart surgery.

Jerry Jones as he recovers from an arm injury.

Marlene Davis' son, whose cancer is more serious than originally thought.

Kay Jones' niece, Sherri, whose cancer has returned.

Jan and Gene Parsons' friend, Brad, whose cancer has returned.

Eileen Clark, who recently had a stroke.

Sue Sterling's cousin, Mary, who has lung cancer

The LaBella family whose daughter is undergoing chemotherapy.

Millie Ackerly's daughter who is receiving cancer treatment.

# Church News

## Church Website

Don't forget to check-out the updated church website. Same address – [www.newmilfordumc.org](http://www.newmilfordumc.org), great new look and chock full of information! Some of the new capabilities of the updated website are:

- Get the current, as well as archived bulletins back to the beginning of the calendar year. So, if you miss a Sunday, you can still view the bulletin and see the announcements, Joys and Concerns, etc.
- Newsletter archive – newsletters archives are available back to 2011!
- See the calendar – always updated!

## Coming Soon:

- Sermon Videos
- Secure Directory

## Spaghetti Dinner

It is hard to believe that in another month the Spaghetti Dinners will be starting up again on the second Saturday of each month.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped by working at the dinners or contributing vegetables and fruit for the salads, as well as making desserts which continue to make the dinners a success!

Some of the donations made from the dinners went to U. M. ARMY, Mozambique, Connecticut Food Barn, No more Malaria, The Education Center, gift cards for mowing the church lawn, bells for the Junior Bell Choir, partial payment for the railing in the hallway, and the Church General Fund. We have also set aside some money to help with a hearing impaired component for the new sound system.

Toward the end of August there will be a sign-up sheet for anyone who would like to work at the dinners or is able to contribute food.

We are always looking for new volunteers to help. You do not have to work at every dinner, you can sign up for just one or as many as you like. It is a great way to get to know other members better and to have some fun. Thank you all again for your help— see you in September!

If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Knapp at 860-355-0559, Helen Leary at 860-354-7217 or Janet Parsons at 860-354-8885.

## Youth Group



The youth group would like to send an extra, THANK YOU to all who supported our trip to Barre, VT for U.M. ARMY through prayers, thoughts, snacks, and financial gifts!! The seven youth and three adults had an awesome week, and the camp completed some amazing work!!

Due to scheduling conflicts, we will be postponing our Stock Holders Dinner until the fall, when more youth and adults are able to attend. Keep an eye out for an invitation! We will also begin our 'campaign' for the 2015 U.M. ARMY camp season later this fall!!!

Our first official meeting of the 2014-2015 school year will be Sunday, September 7 at 2:30 p.m.. Any youth entering 6th grade is eligible to join us!!! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send me an email at [youthminister@newmilfordumc.org](mailto:youthminister@newmilfordumc.org). We are going to have big plans for this upcoming year!!! If you are interested in helping out with the youth group, please let me know!

Peace,

Brinna Kolitz

Youth Pastor, Gaylordsville and New Milford United Methodist Churches

## Something for Seniors

Starting September 10, 2014, in Fellowship Hall, at 2 p.m. we will be holding a get together on the second Wednesday of every month for all seniors or Baby Boomers who are almost there.

This will be a very casual get together to discuss topics that we face as we get older. Few of us want to admit that getting old sometimes scares us. We think of our later years as a rich time for spiritual growth, however, I would like this get together to not just to be about spiritual growth. In addition to Spiritual Growth, some of the other topics would be:

- Humor as we age
- Aging Vibrantly
- Exercise
- Depression
- Confronting the Fear of Aging

I have two good books about aging. One is called "Just Because I Am Old" by James Andrew Stinson and the other is "I Love Growing Older but I'll Never Grow Old" by J. Ellsworth Kalas.

Even if you are not interested in any of these topics, please come to socialize. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Knapp at 860-355-0559.



The Parish Nurse Program is coming back to NMUMC! Each month the newsletter will contain Parish Nurse News, in which, one of the Parish Nurses will provide you with information about health issues. This month's article is written by Gail Abernathy.

I have spent over 25 years working as an RN in the Homecare field, and have often found that people are unaware of how visiting nurse services can work for them, so I choose this subject for my first article.

There are 2 types of homecare. The first is the private duty, private pay industry. Geron in New Milford is an example of this. This type of homecare is initiated by you and you are responsible for the bill. Some long term care policies will reimburse for this service, but common practice is for you to pay the agency and then apply for reimbursement. The second type of homecare is the Medicare Certified Agency and typically Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance will pay for all of your services. New Milford VNA and Masonicare are examples of certified agencies. This is the type I will be focusing on.

Homecare is appropriate many times after a hospitalization, skilled nursing facility discharge, or when you have a new need that requires skilled care. Wound care or teaching a new diagnosis with new medications are examples of this. If you are being discharged from a facility, discharge planning can make the referral for you and even have an agency come to the facility before discharge to discuss what services they will provide. There are a few requirements for reimbursements

- You must have a skilled need, with a goal identified, that only a registered nurse, physical or speech therapist can accomplish and you must have a doctor that orders this care.
- You must have a home (an address where the care can be delivered).
- For Medicare to reimburse, you must be homebound, which is defined as "a taxing effort that requires the assist of a person or device in order to leave your home."

It sounds much more complicated than it actually is. Any of the certified agencies that serve our area will come into your home and do a free assessment to see what services you may qualify for.

Once your need is identified and the agency has obtained its orders there are other services that become available to you. A home health aide can assist with your personal care and meal preparations, a Medical Social Worker can assess what community services may be appropriate for you, and an Occupational therapist can help with problems concerning upper extremity and fine motor control issues if need be. Most agencies have congestive heart failure (CHF) and diabetes educational programs to teach you how to manage your disease successfully at home. Most Medicare reimbursed home care is short term and will last for 2 months or less. Medicaid allows for nurses to come in on a continuing basis to pre-pour your medications or pre-draw your insulin syringes.

If you have any questions or concerns I would be happy to talk to you about homecare. You can email me at [gcarn@aol.com](mailto:gcarn@aol.com) or call me at 941-302-3633.

*Gail Abernathy*

## Farewell to Iglesia Cristo Reina

It is with great sadness that we must bid farewell to Iglesia Cristo Reina, which had been leasing space in our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Because of difficulties with attendance, the Spanish-speaking church has elected to disband. We thank them for their faithful witness to the Gospel and wish their former members the best on the next phase of their Christian journey.

## NMUMC Meets Its Goal for Angels in the Pews Sound System Fundraiser

We are proud to announce that our church, through the generous support of its congregants, has raised 4,098 in support of purchase, installation and training for a new set of speakers and digital mixing board. As a result, we will be able to lift up our voices and make all of our voices heard on Rally Sunday, Sept. 7. Much thanks to all of you who contributed!

## New Member Orientation

Interested in joining our congregation? Want to learn more about the foundations of our faith and the United Methodist Church? Join us for a New Member Orientation to be held on Saturday, Aug. 9 from 2 to 5 p.m. For more information and to RSVP, contact the Church Office at 860-354-4596 or by email at [office@newmilfordumc.org](mailto:office@newmilfordumc.org).

Hunger Awareness Month activities will be held in September. Details to come.

## Newsletter Delivery Format Change

Due to a variety of factors – mainly cost – this will be the last print newsletter that will be mailed. An email will be sent out the first Thursday of the month with the latest edition.

The newsletter will also be posted on the Church website at <http://www.newmilfordumc.org/newsletters.html> – back issues are available here as well. If you have notified the Church Office that you would like your newsletter mailed, you should receive it during the second week of the month. If you would like your newsletter mailed, but have not contacted the Church Office to notify them, please do so immediately at 860-354-4596.



Here are a few FAQs that might help during the transition:

1. *Why is NMUMC discontinuing printed newsletters?*

Due to a variety of factors including increased costs, lack of volunteers, and the ever increasing number of members with email. Church Council voted to discontinue the mailing of printed newsletters and only send out newsletters electronically, unless specifically requested by individual church members.

2. *How will I receive my newsletter?*

On the first Thursday of each month you will receive an email from the Church Office containing a .pdf version of the newsletter. The newsletter will also be available the same day on the Church Website - <http://www.newmilfordumc.org/newsletters.html>

3. *Can I access old newsletters?*

A newsletter archive is available on the church website at <http://www.newmilfordumc.org/newsletters.html>

4. *I like my newsletter in print.*

Newsletters can be printed from your home printer or you can pick-up a printed copy in the Narthex of the church. If you do not have email access or a printer or you are unable to pick up a copy of the newsletter, please call the Church Office at 860-354-4596 immediately to request to have a copy of the monthly newsletter mailed to you.

## Safe Sanctuary Training

Safe Sanctuary Training will take place on Sunday, Aug. 17 at 1:30 p.m. Anyone who works with children and/or youth must come to this mandatory training and complete a background check. Our Safe Sanctuary Policy can be found online at [www.newmilfordumc.org](http://www.newmilfordumc.org); For more information about this training, contact the Church Office at 860-354-4596 or by email at [office@newmilfordumc.org](mailto:office@newmilfordumc.org).

# Rally Sunday

A joint service will be held on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. for our Rally Sunday—when we welcome families back to church for the Sunday School year. We will be kicking off a new sermon series entitled “Why?,” exploring topics such as “Why Faith?” “Why Prayer?” “Why Worship?” and “Why Jesus?” Please be sure to join us!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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