



New Milford United Methodist Church

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



February 2014

Pastor's Message

Busy: Re-connecting To An Unhurried God

We are a busy church, no doubt about it!

The Youth have just come off of a busy weekend with a Soup-er Bowl lunch for hunger awareness (with delicious soups and collecting tons of canned goods for Our Daily Bread Food Pantry) and a Super Bowl Party of fun, food, and fellowship (thanks again to the Del Mastros for hosting this wonderful event). Our Adult Sunday School has been jump-started in the new year with some great devotional activities and a planned study entitled "Giving Up Something Bad for Lent." We have a Leadership Training scheduled for February 22 from 10 a.m. to noon for all leaders in the church; that afternoon we will be conducting a New Member Orientation from 2 to 5 p.m. Our Confirmation Class is going great guns: The class has adopted a project to collect toiletries and make kits for the Danbury Women's Center Shelter.

All of these activities—and many more—are important. They are what makes our church "go." But they all make you wonder when and whether we can take the time to slow down, reflect on God and reflect on the priorities that make us a worshipping community. That is why, during this season, we begin to look forward to Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year) and Lent (the six Sundays following Ash Wednesday leading into Easter).

Lent is a time when we can become more reflective. We will begin a sermon series entitled "Busy: Connecting To An Unhurried God." We can revisit the personal spiritual disciplines that make us a worshipping community. On Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m., we will have soup and explore spiritual practices by studying the first several chapters of Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline*. We will reflect on the inward disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting, and study.

Hopefully, in the midst of our busy lives, we can find the time to pause and reflect on all that God is doing in our lives. We can reconnect to an unhurried God. May it be so.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor

Church News

Seeking Donations

Our Daily Bread Food Pantry is seeking donations of certain food types that we are running short of. On the food side, we could use a supply of pasta and egg noodles (except spaghetti) as well as canned meats, fish or chicken. On the non-food side, it is especially helpful at this time of year to be able to provide tissues to our clients. Additionally, toilet paper is continually needed as well. Items can be left in the marked "Our Daily Bread" box in the church entrance. Thank you for your continued generosity.

—Jan Parsons
Our Daily Bread

Privacy Reminder

Please remember that the newsletter is published on the church website and is accessible to the general public. If you are chairing an event and do not wish to have your contact information made public, please put the Church Office as the contact – office@newmilfordumc.org and phone (860) 354-4596.



Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, Feb. 28 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, March 6.



the Don Cairns Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – March 4, 5:30 p.m.

The Sixth Annual Don Cairns Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is March 4 and we are very excited with the program coming up. There will be six kinds of pancakes to choose from, along with sausage, bacon and special toppings for enhancement. The food will be prepared by our own top-of-the-line chefs. The United Methodist Men will be cooking and serving dinner beginning promptly at 5:30 p.m. Please give us a call if you would like to help or have a griddle we can borrow to cook the pancakes - we will need seven.

Shrove Tuesday is the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday which is the first day of Lent. It's a day of penitence, to clean the soul, and a day of celebration as the last chance to feast before Lent

begins. Lent is a time of giving things up, so Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself. In the old days there were many foods that observant Christians would not eat during Lent: such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. The need to eat up the fats gave rise to the French name Mardi Gras; meaning Fat Tuesday. Pancakes became associated with Shrove Tuesday as they were a dish that could use up all the eggs, fats and milk in the house with just the addition of flour.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Dave Kullgren at 860-354-1102. All profits from the pancake supper will go to the Don Cairns Memorial Fund.



The Education center currently has a waiting list for the Infant/Toddler program and only a few spots still open for Preschool. If you know anyone interested please tell them to stop by for a tour.

Because we are so busy, we are hiring a full-time toddler teacher. Please have any potential applicants email their resume to educationcenter@newmilfordumc.org.

During the month of February we will be sending out Valentines for Veterans by Tuesday, Feb. 11. Please drop off your veteran addresses

before then so we can make sure they receive a Valentine on time.

Our next family event will be a potluck dinner on Thursday Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. in Fellowship hall. Please feel free to stop in to meet some of our families and enjoy a meal.

We are always looking for volunteers so if you are interested please let me know.

Warm regards,
Jennifer Pennucci

RECONNECTING WITH BILL AND GAYLE GARDEI

I am sending this via the newsletter to get the widest circulation possible. I had a recent occasion to speak with Bill and Gayle Gardei. Many will remember that Bill served as Pastor of this Church for seven years, during this period the Church structure was completed.

Bill and Gayle have retired now to their home in York, Maine. Bill has lost his sight and has Parkinson's disease. We had a long conversation about family and the church. He was surprised to know of the sale of Chamberlain Hall. He asked me to speak the names of the members that he would have known so that he could picture them in his mind.

I spoke with Gayle briefly and she reported that she suffers from Macular Degeneration. She had lost some vision in one eye, the other is okay. So they will be looking for a "care" facility in the future. Their son, Chris, lives in Belfast, Maine and daughter, Lisa, lives in Virginia.

Please include this gracious and loving couple in your prayers. Their address is:
13 Sunnycrest Road
York, Maine 03909

— Art Carlson



February Birthdays:

Feb. 1 – Alex S.
Feb. 4 – Linda S.
Feb. 6 – Joseph H.
Feb. 7 – Peter G., Mary P.
Feb. 10 – Nancy M.
Feb. 13 – Pete D., Carolyn D.,
Roger P.
Feb. 14 – Sidney M., Paul I.
Feb. 15 – Chris P.
Feb. 16 – Jan P.
Feb. 18 – Heather M.
Feb. 20 – Anthony M.
Feb. 21 – Dorothy M.
Feb. 24 – Carol M.
Feb. 25 – Patty Ja.
Feb. 26 – Tom G.

NEEDLE NUTS

The Needle Nuts are busy knitting almost every Wednesday night in the Conference Room at 6:30 p.m. We would love you to come join us with any kind of needlework project for an evening of friendship and fellowship. Bring any project you are working on, or if you need an idea or would like to create a charity project, we have all kinds of ideas. Anyone who would like to learn knitting is welcome — just give Bonnie Weed a call at (860) 355-1264 and she will tell you what supplies you will need. The group will meet every Wednesday in February with the exception of Feb. 19.

Attendance & Offerings

Jan. 5	100	\$3,915
Jan. 12	92	\$1,971
Jan. 19	96	\$3,028
Jan. 26	82	\$1,577

Joys & Concerns

We are thankful . . .

Sandy, Roberta Buddle's daughter, will celebrate her 55th birthday and retirement from her job as public school teacher.

On February 1, Gene and Jan Parsons celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

For Joan Hoburg's service as Church Council secretary over the years.

Our prayers are with . . .

Marlene Davis' nephew who is going into hospice.

Alma Hough who is at Village Crest.

Martha McMahan's family as they grieve the loss of her son-in-law, Jeff, who passed away after an extended illness.

Bob Hoburg and his family. Bob's nephew, Leland, passed away unexpectedly. Please pray for Ron and Sheila (Leland's parents) and Melissa (Leland's wife).

Pat Hammer who is recovering from surgery at Danbury Hospital.

Ellie Middleton who recently had surgery

Millie Ackerly's daughter, Dawn, who needs another surgery for cancer.

Laurel Partrick's friend who needs surgery.

Church News

ADULTS & YOUTH WANTED

The New Milford United Methodist Church has been attending U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth) since 2006 – eight years! For the last four years we have attended both Young Adult and Youth-based camps and I hope we can do the same this year. We welcome all youth in the church and your friends – you do not have to be a United Methodist to attend. We also need adults to accompany our youth.

Individual registrations are due March 1, 2014. We are having an informational meeting during the Youth Group on Sunday, February 16 at 2:30 p.m.

All youth may apply for George Leary Camperships from the United Methodist Men to cover the cost of the week. We hope to do fundraising to defray the costs for the adults who will be attending

U.M. ARMY 2014 dates have been announced and we are attending:

- June 8-14 Young Adult (1 year beyond high school)
- July 6-12 Mixed Age (completed 7th grade or older)
- July 13-19 Mixed Age (completed 7th grade or older)
- July 20-26 Mixed Age (completed 7th grade or older)

U.M. ARMY offers high quality weeklong mission camps for youth and young adults that serve people in need and highlight faith development and leadership skills in young people.

Participants sleep, eat, worship and enjoy fellowship at a local church beginning on Sunday evening and ending on Saturday afternoon of camp week. We begin and end each day with a contemporary worship service. Each weekday small teams consisting of one adult and 3-5 youth set out to a worksite in the local area. Additional adults act as support to the teams by bringing needed tools, supplies, technical expertise and safety checks to the site each day.

We believe our relationship to those being served is the top priority and central to our work. Our clients are referred by local social service agencies and churches. The work is anything from simple projects such as yard work or painting to small home repairs on doors, windows, stairs, porches and construction of handicap access ramps. The teams bring a lunch to share with their client each day and are encouraged to interact as much as possible.

Early Registration Fee is \$280 per person provided all individual on-line registrations are completed by March 1, 2014 and the balance of fees are received by April 15, 2014.

If you have any questions or would like to attend, please contact Tracie Nixon at 203-994-7763 or tracienix@gmail.com.

UPDATE ON THE LOAVES AND FISHES' BUILDING

The Zoning Commission heard comments about a building proposal to be built where Straub's Plumbing used to be on Bridge Street. Most of the comments were favorable except for the nearest neighbor, an antique store. (It's a shared driveway.) The plan calls for a building which has dining room windows overlooking Young's Field and sits in back and to the left of an existing two-family home that is under the same sale contract to Loaves and Fishes and will help to fund the plan. This plan has to be tweaked and accepted by Zoning before Loaves and Fishes can buy the property. The next Zoning hearing is Tuesday, Feb. 11 in town hall at 7 p.m. if anyone would like to attend.

— Pat Tripp

Bowling Night

The next bowling night will be held on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 7:15 p.m. at Lore's Lanes. Lane rental is \$45.00 split between all bowlers, so depending on the number of attendees, bowlers can pay as little as \$7.50 each which includes 2 games and shoe rental. Please RSVP by Feb. 14 to Linda Slater at (860) 354-6180 or lslater0256@yahoo.com.

Relay for Life 2014

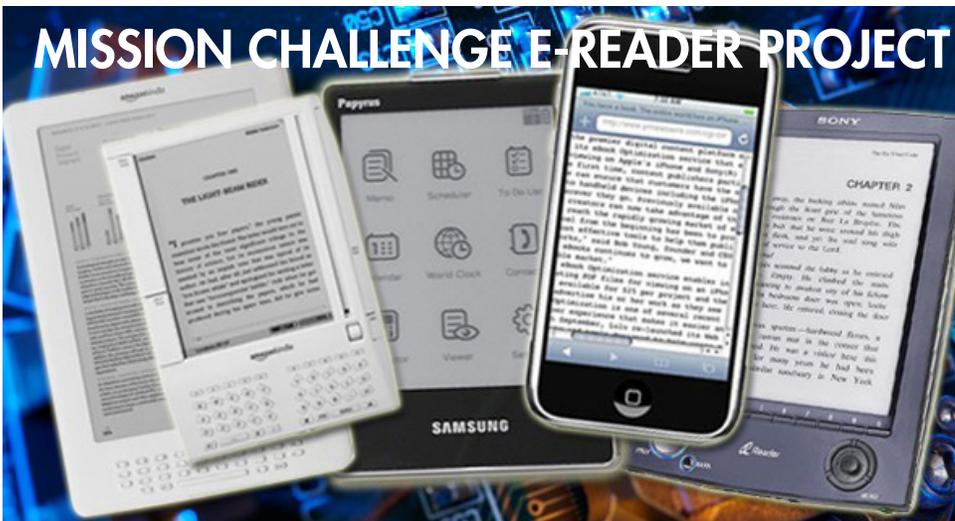
Listening to fellow members speak during our weekly Joys & Concerns, I think many will agree the highest volume of concerns are cancer-related. With that said, I have stepped up to take on the challenge of being our Methodist Movers Captain, and I am asking for your help. There are many ways you can help, so please choose the one that suits you best:

- 1) Make a donation to our Team – NO amount is small!
- 2) Buy or sell LUMINARY BAGS for \$5 each.
- 3) Donate items to sell at the Relay or that can be used as an auction item.
- 4) Help with a bake sale (working on details).
- 5) Pledge one of our Team members – a set amount or per lap.
- 6) Sign up to walk laps with us! I am suggesting a \$5 donation for each walker. Sign-up sheets to come.
- 7) Ask for pledges – set amount or per lap.
- 8) Stop by our "Tent" to visit or lend a hand with selling items.
- 9) Spread the word about our terrific TEAM!

For additional information, please contact our new Team Captain, Linda Slater at lslater0256@yahoo.com or (860) 354-6180. Team member: Adrienne Kern scoobymm@yahoo.com

Mark your calendar, the 2014 Relay for Life is scheduled for May 31 at Sarah Noble School!

MISSION CHALLENGE E-READER PROJECT



At our Church Conference in January, Rev. Ken Keifer, District Superintendent, told us about the District Mission Challenge for this year. It is the E-Reader Project to provide electronic readers and theological books for theological students in Africa. The challenge is to have each church in the District fund at least one E-Reader (\$85). Those churches that are up for a greater challenge are invited to raise \$300 (which includes an e-reader and 3 years of updates). Because of the generosity of District Churches and many individuals who accepted this Mission Challenge, \$2,586.50 has been collected, to date.

If you would like to donate to this project please make a check to NMUMC with E-Reader Project in the memo line. You may also donate cash but will need to indicate on the envelope that it is intended for this project. Donations may be placed in the collection plate or left at the church office. The deadline for donations is Feb. 23.

Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendar for the following upcoming events:

- ✓ **February 22 – Leadership Training & New Member Orientations**
10 a.m. to noon: If you are new to a board or committee at NMUMC we think you will find this leadership training helpful as you fulfill your role in the coming year. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.: If you are not a member of NMUMC but would like to learn more about what it means to be a member or join the church, plan to attend the New Member Orientation. Both events will take place in Fellowship Hall.
- ✓ **March 2 – 10 a.m. Joint Service**
A joint service featuring the welcoming of new members into the congregation.
- ✓ **March 5 – Ash Wednesday Service**
Don't forget our Ash Wednesday service and foot washing at 7 p.m.
- ✓ **March 12 – Lenten Supper Bible Study**
Pastor Paul will host a Lenten Supper Bible Study beginning on Wednesday, March 12 and continuing through Lent in Fellowship Hall. Call the Church Office at (860) 354-4596 to sign up to join him.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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