

**How Have You Been Blessed!** We are asking the congregation to bring in visual examples on or before February 2nd of how they have been blessed in their lives for our sermon theme for the day entitled “Embodiment of Beatitudes Living.” To the extent you have digital photographs, we are asking that you forward them to Emily Nixon at [opendoor@newmilfordumc.org](mailto:opendoor@newmilfordumc.org) to be compiled for a special presentation the following week.

**Help Wanted: Recording Secretary.** Church Council is in need of a Recording Secretary for 2014. If you are interested, please contact Stacey Didato at [tilana2@comcast.net](mailto:tilana2@comcast.net) or call the Church Office at 860/354-4596.

**Meetings & Opportunities this week:**

Mon., Jan. 13 at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall  
 at 6:00 pm Open Door Band Practice  
 at 6:30 pm United Methodist Men  
 Tues., Jan. 14 at 4:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40123 in Fellowship Hall  
 at 7:00 pm Girl Scout Leaders Meeting in Sanctuary  
 at 7:00 pm Trustees in Fellowship Hall  
 Wed., Jan. 15 at 7:00 pm Missions in Conference Room  
 at 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 31 in Fellowship Hall  
 Thurs., Jan. 16 at 1:30 pm Book Club in Fellowship Hall  
 at 3:00 pm “Our Daily Bread” Food Barn  
 at 3:30 pm Confirmation Class in Library  
 at 3:30 pm Bridgeport Rescue Mission (off-site)  
 at 5:45 pm Bells Practice in Sanctuary  
 at 6:00 pm Congregational Care in Conf. Room  
 at 7:00 pm Choir Practice in Sanctuary  
 at 7:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 467 in Fellowship Hall  
 Fri., Jan. 17 at 3:30 pm Loaves and Fishes (off-site)  
 at 5:00 pm Relay for Life Spaghetti Supper  
 Sat., Jan. 18 at 6:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 31 Lock-In  
 Sun., Jan. 19 at 9:30 am Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)  
 at 10:00 am Sunday School  
 at 10:45 am Children’s Choir  
 at 11:30 am Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary)  
 Following Services—Lunch in Fellowship Hall  
 at 2:00 pm Nominations in Conference Room  
 at 2:30 pm Youth Group

Monday - Friday at noon AA meeting in Fellowship Hall

**New Milford United Methodist Church**  
**Every Member A Disciple**

**Ushers**

9:30 a.m. —Art and Laurie Putnam

11:30 a.m.—The Cannito Family



**The Open Door**  
**Contemporary Worship**

11:30 am

...in a religion born in a barn,  
 an open door goes without saying

song 58 “come into this house”  
 song 1 “God is great”  
 welcome & announcements

song 2 “open the eyes of my heart Lord”  
 song 67 “come to the river of life”  
 passing the peace

gospel lesson matthew 3:13-17  
 page 3 in the new testament in the pew bible

the work of God for the people of God.  
**thanks be to God.**

presentation of the offerings

children’s message

anthem “breath of heaven”

message who are you?: connect with your belovedness”  
 rev paul fleck

joys & concerns

song 50 “green pastures”

song 3 “with all faith”

sending forth

the Baptism  
 of our Lord



**The Service of Worship**  
 New Milford United Methodist Church  
 68 Danbury Road  
 New Milford, CT 06776  
[www.newmilfordumc.org](http://www.newmilfordumc.org)  
 860-354-4596  
 Rev. Paul A. Fleck

*Connect With Your Belovedness*  
*Baptism of the Lord Sunday*  
*Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 9:30 am*

*You are invited to worship with us in the quiet of prayer, in the joy of song, and in the desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Part of our mission is to be a place for all people. All are welcome here! Whatever your gender, age, race, religious background, economic status, sexual orientation or condition of ableness, we greet you as a beloved child of God.*

**ENTRANCE AND PRAISE**

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**Processional** “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” BEACH SPRING  
**Hymn #605**

**Call to Worship**

In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

**In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.**

God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

**God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary’s womb.** Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples’ feet in water.

**Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.**

Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

**God meant for Jesus to be the firstborn in a large family. Praise be!**

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

*The children are invited to come forward and sit at the chancel with the pastor as the congregation sings the first verse of Hymn 191, “Jesus Loves Me.”*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Still-speaking God, as these words from Scripture are read, may it be to us as if the heavens are opening, and we see your Spirit descending on us like a dove, revealing your love for us as your daughters and sons. Amen.**

## Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:13-17

*Page 3 in the New Testament in your pew Bible.*

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Sermon

### Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.**

**Amen.**

### OFFERING

#### Invitation to Offering

God gives us not only genesis life

but the new life born of repentance, forgiveness, and resurrection.

Therefore, with generous hearts,

let us give back a portion of what has already been given to us

in our baptismal covenant with God and each other.

*The children are invited to give their offering as they go out to Sunday School.*

#### Offertory

*Please stand for the Doxology*

#### Presentation

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### Offering Prayer

Great, saving God,

you have gathered us into one baptism,

regardless of our backgrounds and conditions.

Therefore we praise you with our tithes and offerings.

May they join with others to become a mighty river,

bringing your peace and healing to the world.

**Amen.**

*All Sit.*

#### Anthem

“Baptized in Water”

*Chancel Choir*

#### Prayer

Dear Lord,

It's hard to believe sometimes that you love us so much, because sometimes

we don't even love ourselves. Help us remember that we were incorporated

into your family and Christ's family through our baptisms. As Jesus heard

you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your

beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our brother.

**Amen.**

#### Morning Prayer

*Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.*

### RESPONSES

*Please stand, if you are able, to sing the hymn.*

#### Hymn 611

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

STUTTGART

#### Prayer of Confession

**We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

*Please offer silent prayers of confession.*

#### Words of Assurance

Let us be bold and confess our sins,

for God is gracious and always ready to forgive.

#### Passing the Peace

Lift your eyes and look around.

You are beloved members of one family

Through your baptism.

Let us now greet our fellow family members.

Rejoice that we are here together,

and pass the peace of Christ,

our joy and our hope.

*During Passing the Peace we ask, during cold and flu season, that you greet your neighbor verbally.*

*The congregation joins in repeating Psalm 19:14*

Let the words of my mouth,

**and the meditation of my heart,**

**be acceptable in your sight, Lord,**

**my strength and my redeemer.**

#### Sermon

“Who Are You?: Connect With Your Belovedness”

Rev. Paul A. Fleck

*Please stand, if you are able, to sing the hymn.*

#### Hymn 344

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

### SENDING FORTH

May the God who called Jesus “beloved” speak blessing to you, beloved

sons and daughters,

and empower you to bring that good news to others

who still need to hear it.

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

we are thankful for:

- The generous Advent giving
- Shelters for homeless during the cold weather

our prayers are with:

- Sue DeBoy who is home recuperating.
- Alma Hough who is struggling with blood pressure issues.
- June and Jim Hudak as June continues her struggle with cancer.
- Ellie Middleton as she prepares for knee replacement surgery on January 10th.
- The Birsen family as they grieve the passing of Ken.
- The Martin family on the loss of Roxanne's aunt.
- Millie Ackerly's daughter who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Nancy Mascio who is having trouble with her legs.

### OUR LIFE IN COMMUNITY

**Attention All Church Leaders!** District Resourcing Days are scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 1 from 10 a.m.-12 noon at Woodbury UMC and Sunday, February 9 at Yalesville UMC. We are organizing a carpool to attend the Resourcing Days in Woodbury on the 1st. Topics include Grassroots Marketing; SPR 101 led by District Superintendent Ken Kieffer; Mission; Memorial Gifts, Wills and Trusts; Church Finances led by Conference Treasurer Ross Williams; Sunday School for Special Needs Children. Please RSVP with the Church Office at 860/354-4596.

**Family Bowling Night**—Join us on Saturday, January 18th at 7:15 p.m. at Lore's Lanes (145D Danbury Road, behind Goodwill). For as little as \$7.50 per person you'll receive 2 hours of bowling and shoe rental (6 bowlers per lane). Please RSVP to Linda Slater at 860-354-6180 or lslater0256@yahoo.com no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 16th to ensure adequate lane space. Even if you're not an experienced bowler, join us for fun and fellowship!

**FREE LUNCH IS SERVED** - On Sunday, Jan. 19th at 1:00 p.m. we'll be serving homemade soups (5) and homemade bread (lots). Please join us. If you'd like to bring a mug or bowl to trade or use, please do. Friends are welcome. For more information contact Pat Tripp at 860-354-8720.

**Mozambique Trip Opportunity**—We are in the process of firming up our plans for our May trip to the Carolyn Belshe Orphanage. If any of you want to join us please let us know as soon as possible. We want to make flight reservations the first week of February, so half of the cost would be needed by 1/31/14 and the other half by 4/1/14. The dates are: Leave for Mozambique on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 (11:15AM flight ex-JFK on that date). Return to US on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 (6:40AM arr into JFK on that date). The cost would be \$3,500, assuming no more than 5 people go. Contact Kay and Jerry Jones at jerry7jones@aol.com.

**Soup-er Bowl Coming!** The Youth will be hosting a Soup-er Bowl for Hunger on Saturday, February 1 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. to help raise awareness about hunger in our community and encourage folks to bring in canned goods and other non-perishable items for our Our Daily Bread food pantry. If you would like to contribute a soup or chili and/or join us for this fun fellowship and food event, please mark your calendars and/or contact Brinna Kolitz at [youthminister@newmilfordumc.org](mailto:youthminister@newmilfordumc.org).