



# New Milford United Methodist Church

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January 2013

Pastor's Message

## *I Resolve...*

We seem to be surrounded by a lack of resolve. After months of wrangling and wangling, our Congress was only reluctantly able to reach a deal on the fiscal cliff. Even then, we ever so briefly fell off of the cliff as the House failed to vote by December 31st on the deal reached by the Senate, and Congress kicked the can down the road on spending issues. We seem unable as a nation to figure out a way to curb gun violence and the respond to the need for good mental health services in a comprehensive way. As Americans, we struggle with consumer debt and with obesity.

Yet the New Year that is upon us is also a time for resolutions, goals that will we carry with us and seek to achieve throughout the year. Our New Year should be filled with hopes and dreams for a better future.

But we would be foolish to suppose that we can do it alone. We need God as a partner in the process. More than that, we need to recognize the primacy of God in Christ in the process, the Lordship of Jesus in our lives. Paul repeatedly tells us in his letters that "I can do all things through [God] that strengthens me." (Phillipians 4:13). And Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane said: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

Certainly I have my own goals and resolutions for 2013. But they are useless without the help of God in Christ guiding my every step.

Here are my goals; I pray that God will guide my feet. Here's hoping that 2013 will bring lots of new changes to the world, my life, and to the church. I hope that we will enact comprehensive immigration reform, gun control legislation, and protect the poor in the federal budget in this country. I'm looking forward to working in my new (additional) post with the Conference Board of Church and Society, losing some weight and living a healthier lifestyle, and engaging in more mission work. I pray that the church will become more inclusive and invitational, welcoming all and bringing others to Christ.

I am hoping you will join me in my journey of kingdom-building both within and without. Where do your passions for the world and for yourself lie? Will you allow Christ to guide your every step? I am praying that we all will.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor

## Evangelism Committee Seeks New Members

Interested in planning events at the church that would interest people to come to our church?

Interested in representing our church in the community?

If you answer yes to either or both of these questions, then we are interested in you.

Evangelism is the practice of relaying information about a particular set of beliefs to others, in hopes they will become part of your church (Collins English Dictionary). Some of the last instructions that Jesus gave us were to go and make disciples of all nations. Some are filling this command by going to foreign missions, but not all of us are meant to do that. However, we can work "in our own backyard". God created many personalities, some bold and others shy and quiet. What will work for our church (meaning you) to reach out to friends, neighbors, coworkers and family members?

We have meetings once a month and the time and date are flexible. Please check us out. Our first meeting will be announced in the bulletin. All are welcome. Please contact Pastor Paul, Jan Parsons or Val Kolitz for more information.

## Can You Help?

The Spaghetti Supper group is looking for donations of several high chairs in good condition that can be used for the monthly suppers as well as other church events. If you have a chair to donate please contact Bonnie Knapp at (860) 355-0559.

Does anyone have a wheelchair in good condition that might be kept at the church for use as needed? If you have a chair please contact Bonnie Knapp at (860) 355-0559.



## Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, Jan. 25 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, Jan. 31.



Happy New Year, The staff and I wish you and your families a prosperous and healthy year ahead of you! We are excited to welcome many new families to our center this January. Please take a moment to say hello to some of our new friends and make them feel welcome.

During January each classroom will be exploring the different animals that hibernate during the winter months. And now that the snow has come we plan to build snow polar bears and penguins. Each classroom will be exploring the color white, the letters W& P and continue with their understanding of numbers. Within these topics all of the children will continue to practice their social skills, self help skills, language skills, letter recognition, number cognition and so much more. Of course, depending on the age of the child these will be explored in a variety of different ways!

If you are interested in a confer-

ence with your child's teacher we will be making time available for you on January 14, 15, or 16. Time slots will be between the hours of 1 to 2:45 p.m. but we can make arrangements if that does not work with your schedule. Please see your child's teacher to schedule a time.

Keep an eye out for an invitation to our next family potluck dinner in the month of February! This time we will be celebrating the different cultures and traditions that surround us at the Education Center. We will be asking you to prepare a dish that your family shares as a tradition.

It is a state regulation that your child receives the flu shot while attending child care. If you have not already please get your child vaccinated no later than 1/18/13!! Notices will be going out to those who have not in the next two weeks.

- The Education Center Staff

## Shelter Volunteers Needed

The New Milford Homeless Shelter will open December 2. Overnight volunteers are needed. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the opportunity please contact Mike or Gerri Holland at (860) 354-5917. If anyone would be interested in assisting with shelter laundry, please contact Rita Iverson at (860) 355-1252. **This year, NMUMC will again be providing volunteers for the shelter during**

**one week in January. This year we will be volunteering January 13-19, 2013.** Please consider this opportunity to serve. Several new volunteers came forward last year and were glad to have done so. If you are interested in being a volunteer for this week or want more information, please contact Rita Iverson at (860) 355-1252. Training will be provided to those who may never have served.

## Attendance & Offerings

Dec. 2	103	\$3,390
Dec. 9	145	\$5,207
Dec. 16	133	\$2,372
Dec. 23	133	\$2,873
Dec. 24	177	\$4,728
Dec. 30	66	\$2,475

**Dec. total giving \$21,045**  
**YTD total giving \$195,754**  
**Budgeted giving \$182,694**

## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

We would like to remind everyone that we are still promoting our "Gift Card" program. Orders can be given to Heather Morin or any other committee member, or can be left in the Scholarship mailbox, which is located in the closet in the lobby. If interested, you can also create an account online. See Heather Morin for more information and the enrollment code. she can be reached via email at hmorin218@yahoo.com or cell (203) 770-5782. Thank you for supporting this important mission for our youth!

—The Scholarship Committee

## Open Door Ushers

Ushers are needed for Open Door service held at 11:30 a.m. The job is essential yet simple and involves greeting people as they enter, handing out bulletins and music books, making sure altar candles are lit, and counting attendance. To participate on a rotation (once every 3 months), please contact Mary Prause at (860) 355-0491.

## Joys & Concerns

### *Our prayers are with...*

Condolences to Sue Ford whose sister, Diane Wells Porretta, recently passed away

### *Our prayers continue to be with...*

Bob Hubbard, Rev. Marion Hubbard's husband, who is home recuperating  
 Dominick Byron who is a Marine and serving his second tour of duty overseas.  
 Steven Davis, Marlene Davis' son, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.  
 Tyler Mosher of New Milford, Chris and Mary Prauses' grandson, who left for Afghanistan on November 10th.

Liz Burwell, who is home recuperating.  
 Nanci Hutson's mother, Peggy Gustafson, who is recovering from a stroke.  
 Rhonda, Valorie Kolitz' niece, who is having medical issues.  
 Kim Birsen who 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 in a nursing home in Ohio. He is Larry Tripp's brother.  
 Madeline Petrillo, Chris Martirano's mother-in-law, who is having health issues.

George Perry who is residing at the Masonic Homes.  
 Jack Orr who is having medical issues. 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, Martin McLee, our District Superintendent, Ken Kieffer and all the churches in the New York Annual Conference and beyond.

“For I know the plans I have for you,”  
says the Lord. “They are plans for  
good and not for disaster, to give  
you a future and a hope.”

— *Jeremiah 29:11*

NMUMC wishes you a happy and blessed New Year!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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