



New Milford United Methodist Church

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



July 2012

Pastor's Message

The Moment You've Been Waiting For

Drumroll, please. Coming, July 14, the moment you've been waiting for (at least with respect to your Church). After months of hard work and devotion on the part of this congregation through both focus groups and steering committee meetings, the Vital Congregation goals are ready for rollout.

No, we did not allow the discussions from focus groups to gather dust on the shelf. No, we did not flounder and founder at the enormity of the task before us. We are a "doing" church that did what you asked. We developed SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timely) goals. Moreover, we developed strategies (because many of the suggestions you provided us were strategies towards achieving goals) toward achieving our goals.

These goals and strategies are published in this month's newsletter. The Task Force also indicated "measures" for evaluating the effectiveness of each strategy as well as "owners" indicating who will be responsible for effectuating various strategies. However, at the risk of providing redundant information at this point—and at the risk of freaking out persons designated as "owners" who have not yet been approached (just joking, sort of)—we are only presenting the goals and strategies at this point.

Those of you who have participated in the process have every reason to be proud of yourselves and your Church. You identified key areas in which we need to improve or chart a new course. You were bold in your suggestions and thoughtful in your comments. And you had a wonderful steering committee that was equally bold and thoughtful.

We would still like your feedback and thoughts as we move forward. On July 14 at 5:30 p.m., we will celebrate fellowship together with a grilling night. We would ask that you bring sides, salads, and desserts. We will provide the burgers and hot dogs. After dinner Jerry Jones will present the goals and strategies and we will have time for questions, feedback and discussion.

Now comes the time for us to prioritize these goals and strategies. Now comes the time to implement these goals and strategies. Now comes the question: Will we flounder and founder at the enormity of the task before us? But I think I already know the answer. This is a "doing" church. And this is a church that "does" what it sets out to "do."

Our general church mission statement is "making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." And the mission statement of New Milford United Methodist Church is "[e]very member a Disciple." And what do Disciples do, do you ask? Disciples do the things that the Vital Congregations Steering Committee identified: (1) Disciples worship; (2) Disciples make new Disciples; (3) Disciples engage in growing their faith; (4) Disciples engage in mission; and (5) Disciples give to mission. May it be so in our church, where every member is a Disciple.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor

Relay For Life

Thank you so very, very much for your overwhelming support and generosity for 2012 Relay For Life. Our grand total was \$1,130!!! We sold 28 luminaries for a total of \$280. We sold fresh pineapple, water and shopper tote bags at the event. The remainder came from donations. Thank you to the 18 members for such enthusiastic participation and making this a successful event. A huge thank-you goes to my co-captain Bonnie Knapp, for all the work she did. Thank you also to Marlene Davis for her help and donations obtained. My daughter, Lori Mott, and husband, Herb, were very active in preparations before and helped in selling that night. Thank you to Bonnie, Tom Gaynor, and young Tom G. for staying all night!

All of our supplies were donated by Stew Leonard's, Home Depot, Aldi's, Big Y, and Stop n' Shop. It was all profit for the American Cancer Society. Cancer has touched the lives of everyone. This is the reason we celebrate survivors, remember those lost, and fight back with research.

Janice Mayette, Team Captain



Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, July 27 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, Aug 1.

GRILLING NIGHT RETURNS

Grilling Night will return on Saturday, July 14 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The grounds of the NMUMC will be filled with the wonderful aromas of grilling burgers and dogs. In fact, bring something else and we will be happy to grill it for you. Come join in on the fun and fellowship that a good summer BBQ brings out. Make sure to bring a side dish to share.

This time we also will have a special presentation that evening. The Vital Congregation Committee will be sharing the vision that they put together from the meetings with all of us. Come see it for yourself at 7:30 in Fellowship Hall.



the Education Center

Summer fun has begun!

Each week this summer the program will be focusing on a different theme. Check out our website at www.nmeducationcenter.org to see our Summer Fun program guide. We have invited several volunteers to visit and enrich the minds of the children with new ideas and fun activities. So far we have explored Audacious Art experimenting with clay, paper Mache, finger painting, textured paint, and tie dying fabric. You can check out the website to see pictures of our Summer Fun art show.

During the month of July the children will also explore Growing a Garden, Supreme Sports, and Music Madness. We will be planting a few items in the community garden to hopefully donate to the

food barn. Coach Ray will be visiting to teach the children how to play several team sports like basketball and baseball. The children will learn new skills and hopefully build upon what they already know. Mr. Mike will be visiting to introduce the children to the wonderful world of music. Mr. Mike will bring in some instruments for the children to try and will be coming every week thereafter to build upon the skills they will learn.

If you have a skill or talent you would like to share with the children please let me know so we can schedule your visit!

Warm regards,
Jennifer Pennucci

Vacation Bible School (VBS): OPERATION OVERBOARD!

Due to a change in leadership we have decided to postpone Vacation Bible School until August 13 – 17, 5:30 to 8:30 pm. The cost per child will be \$10 - 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 latakyi@gmail.com.

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.

Summer Book Study

Please join us for a six-week summer book study, *Longing for Spring*, by Elaine Heath and Scott Kisker. Delving into the widespread, contemporary longing for a more serious and communal experience of Christianity, this book provides important theoretical underpinnings and casts a vision for a new monasticism within the Wesleyan tradition. Starting on July 19 and running through August 30 (the class will take August 16 off for Vacation Bible School), the two-hour Thursday evening worshipful study will involve a simple meal of soup and bread starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by prayer, a hymn, a segment from a recommended movie, discussion, silence, and further prayer. The cost of the book is \$15, though scholarships are available. For more information and to sign up for the study, contact the Church office at (860) 354-4596.

In-House Expert to Demonstrate New Keyboard

Our Church is presently evaluating whether to raise funds to purchase a new keyboard to replace our existing organ, which is out of tune and, according to our organ tuner, cannot be tuned. We are fortunate that Christian Martirano, who is a Sweetwater representative and plays in our Open Door contemporary service band, is willing to offer a free demonstration of the instrument. That demonstration will take place on July 25 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to join us.

Attendance & Offerings

June 3	101	\$7,243
June 10	103	\$2,429
June 17	63	\$3,712
June 24	75	\$3,698
June total giving		\$17,082
YTD total giving		\$95,844
Budgeted giving		\$98,078

Joys & Concerns

Our prayers are with...

Jan Parsons and her family, after the death of her father, Richard Beach, on June 14.
 Valorie Kolitz and her family after the death of her mother Kitty Jarvis, on June 12.
 Sue Whitfield and her family after the death of her mother, Kathleen Whitfield last week.
 Shirley Kathan who is recovering from surgery.
 Bob & Sue Deboy, after the death of their brother-in-law, Jim.
 Darcie, Sharon Kresl's daughter has been undergoing chemotherapy and her tumors are shrinking.
 Ed Whaley who was hospitalized recently.
 Natalie, Ellie Middleton's niece who was just diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.
 Kim Birsen who is having health issues.

The Rev. Mel Kawakami whose mother is having health issues.
 Tom Neufeld, who is recovering from a motorcycle accident. He is Thelma Neufeld's son and lives in Philadelphia.
 Ed Hastings who is having health issues.
 Thelma Neufeld who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.
 Lillie Allen who has moved into an assisted living facility, in Brookfield.
 Edith Valencia, Kevin Hutson's mother, who has been diagnosed with meningitis and sepsis and is recovering in Arizona.
 Walter Tripp who is having medical issues, he is Larry Tripp's brother.
 Madeline Petrillo, Chris Martirano's mother-in-law, who will be 90 and is in the early stages of dementia and suffers from chronic spinal stenosis.

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 being treated for cancer.
 Tom Gaynor, Sr., who is having health issues.
 Jack Orr who has had a medical setback. He is a friend of Joe and Nora Tigner.
 Laurie Gaudette who is having health issues. The leaders in our church.
 The 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.

July 27 & 28, 2012



Village Fair Days are coming up!

NMUMC and the Education Center will once again have a booth on the Green. We currently need volunteers to help staff the booth. You do not need any special talents – just be able to answer questions about our Church and share all of the good things that we do.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex. If you can help out for two (or more) hours, we would really appreciate it. Watch the weekly bulletin for more details.

If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Knapp at 860-355-0559 or bonnieknapp@charter.net.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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