



New Milford United Methodist Church

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June 2012

Pastor's Message

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

—Luke 10:38-42

As I have indicated before in newsletter articles, we are very much a “doing” church, a church full of Marthas in a world full of Marthas. But how often do we take the opportunity “sit at Jesus’ feet” the way Mary did and absorb God’s teachings through making ourselves available in prayer and devotion.

Jesus regularly withdrew to a deserted place to pray to his heavenly parent. Prophets from the Hebrew Bible engaged in conversation with God. We need this spiritual recharging and guidance as much as anyone or any other church.

As I write this article, tomorrow we will be accepting new confirmands into New Milford United Methodist Church as professing members. They are Nicholas Del Mastro, Travis Kullgren, Kyle Poeti, Alex Slater, and Ben Weed. They will make a commitment to support the Church through their prayers, their presence, their gifts, their service, and their witness. This is something we all committed to do when we became members of NMUMC. But how often do we do it? Do we intentionally engage in prayer for our Church and its mission in the world?

We have been engaged in Vital Congregations Goals Setting as a Church. And soon we will finalize those goals and strategies for accomplishing them. But we will need the support and prayers of an entire congregation to help make those dreams and goals a reality for our Church and the world.

Beginning in July we will commence a new book study entitled *Unbinding the Gospel* by Martha Grace Reese. The book is about how we can learn new and nonthreatening ways to engage in faith-sharing and that freighted word, “evangelism.” Reese studied a number of mainline churches, and determined that those which were growing in faithful adherents practiced prayer in a regular way. They had prayer teams engaged in worshipful work: the work of praying for the missions and ministries of the church that reached out into the world.

Perhaps we can similarly establish a team of prayer warriors to engage in prayer for our Church. Let us learn to sit at Jesus’ feet. There is no telling the power of the Gospel—the Good News—that we might unleash in our community and our world.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEACH CELEBRATION

We want to celebrate the finale of our fabulous Sunday school year by inviting all Sunday school families, teachers, and the youth group to join us at Lynn Deming Park from 2 to 4:30 p.m. (you can certainly stay longer, but that's the official time) on June 10 for a BYOP _ Bring Your Own Picnic_ at the beach. The Sunday school will provide watermelon and dessert. Please bring whatever you wish to eat and drink, as well as beach blankets, and beach chairs, and sand castle building tools. (We might have prizes for the best sand castles). This will be a chance for a fun afternoon of fellowship, swimming and picknicking to complete our end-of-the-year festivities.

For those who do not have park stickers, I have provided a list of names to Parks and Recreation of families who participate in our programs. All you have to do is give them your name and tell them you are part of the New Milford United Methodist Church Sunday school/youth group party. We will be setting up on the far right hand side of the lifeguard shack. We will commandeer tables if available, otherwise we will just set up our blankets and chairs in a circular type formation to include everybody.

Those church members who have park stickers, or who intend to get one that day, and wish to join us are certainly welcome. As I always say, the more, the merrier!! God bless.



Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, June 29 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, July 5.

the Education Center

The summer is almost upon us and we are getting ready for our Summer Fun program to begin on June 25. This program includes children ages 3 to 12 and is offered Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Each week will include an Enrichment program based on a particular theme. Through the gracious donations of church members and families the Ed Center will be going on at least one field trip each week to local areas within the community. We will have some church volunteers and parent volunteers coming to the center with activities that will introduce the children to the various themes throughout the summer. We are all looking forward to a fun, safe, exciting summer. If you have any special skill or talent that you feel would be of interest to the children please stop in so we can chat and schedule a time for you to share with the children.

The Ready Set for Kindergarten graduation will be held on June 15 at 10 a.m. in the preschool classroom downstairs followed by a potluck reception. We would love for anyone who is interested to join us as we celebrate the amazing growth and accomplishments of our star preschoolers that will be moving onto Kindergarten!

The staff and I would like to thank everyone who has spent time and energy helping to make the Education Center a fun, safe, happy place to Grow, Learn, and Explore for the children! We are looking forward to more wonderful things to come in the future.

Warm regards,
Jennifer Pennucci

DID YOU KNOW?

Recently, Heather Morin announced that eight families participating in the "Gift Card" program (which benefits the scholarship fund) have earned \$900 for the fund. If just eight families could generate that amount, imagine what 38 or 48 families could do. It's so easy! It doesn't cost any more than what you would normally expect to spend at the store of your choice. Heather takes you check and does all the rest. Members of my family are in school or are about to start and I am aware of the costs involved. Many have received assistance from this fund over the last 30 years; your sons and daughters, and I invite you now to participate in this Gift Card program. In other words, "Pass it on!" It's fun to hear about those who have gone in to positions in the corporate world, the teaching profession or the mission field. I firmly believe that we live through them.

Thank you,
Art Carlson

PS: The Scholarship Committee wants to emphasize that we are continuing the "Gift Card" Program. Orders will accepted at any time, but they will only be sent in on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Orders with payment can be given to Heather Morin or left in the scholarship mailbox. For more information, contact Heather Morin at (860) 354-8406.

Needle Nuts

Needle Nuts will take a break for the summer months beginning in June. There will be an announcement with a start up date in the fall. Meanwhile, happy knitting!

— Bonnie Weed

George C. Leary Camp Applications

George C. Leary Campership Application forms are available in the lobby. If your child is attending a Christian summer camp, you may apply for one of these scholarships given by the United Methodist Men. For more information, please contact Dave Kullgren at (860) 354-1102.

Joys & Concerns

Our prayers are with...

Bill Philips and his family after the death of his wife, Mildred Philipps on Sunday, May 27.

Andy Schnitzler who was recently hospitalized.

Kimber Malinowski and her family after the death of her grandmother, Theresa Poley

Ed Whaley who is recovering from recent health issues.

Kim Birsen who is having health issues.

Dawn Nagle who 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.

Darcie, Sharon Kresl's daughter who is undergoing chemotherapy.

Kathleen Whitfield, Sue Whitfield's mother, who is in the hospital and lives in Scotland

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.

Bill O'Rourke who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

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.

Winnie Farrell who is having health issues.

Dee Yukon, the wife of Rev. Matt Yukon of the Northville Baptists church, who was diagnosed with breast cancer while pregnant and undergoing chemotherapy.

Tom Gaynor, Sr., who is having health issues.

Jack Orr who has had a medical setback.

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, Jeremiah Park, our District Superintendent, Ken Kieffer and all the churches in our Methodist Connection in the New York Annual Conference and beyond.

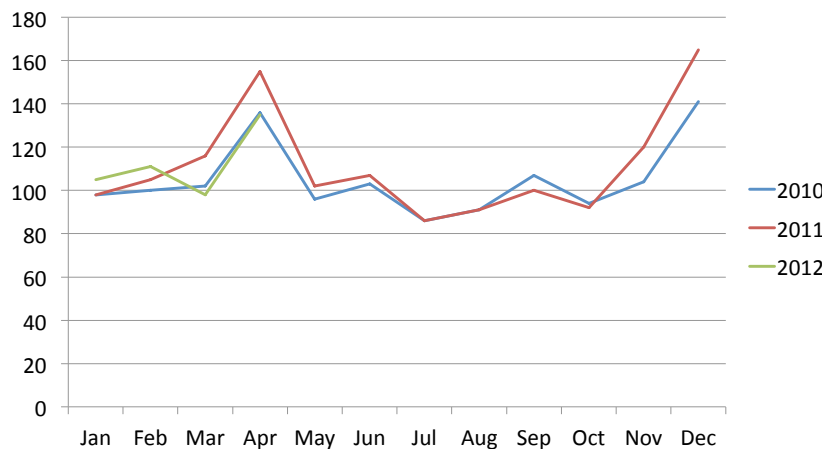
Relay For Life: The Methodist Movers

“Celebrate, remember, fight back” is the slogan for the national cancer fundraiser, Relay For Life, which will be held on Saturday, June 16. Our team, The Methodist Movers, will be again participating. The theme is T.V. shows. We are doing Spongebob Squarepants, and are selling fresh pineapple chunks and cloth shopper tote bags. The survivor reception is 4 to 6 p.m.; we have numerous survivors in our church. Opening ceremonies are at 6 p.m., followed by the survivor lap around the track. Walkers continue all night. You do not need to sign up ahead, everyone is welcome. Luminarias are placed around the track, and are lit at 9 p.m. This is a beautiful sight to see. We are asking for participation in this annual event; any time you can come and join us. We are collecting donations and are selling personalized luminarias at \$10 each. The luminarias will be sold at church between services on June 3 and June 10. There is food, raffles, entertainment, zumba, fun all night long. Any questions, contact Janice Mayette at (860) 354-6800, Bonnie Knapp at (860) 355-0559 or, Marlene Davis at (860) 354-8725. Please come and help us make this the best year ever for our church! It would be great if we could fill all the slots on the sign-up sheet!



Bishop's Confirmation Rally, held on May 19, 2012. From L to R: Cynthia Hopson, Deputy Secretary of the UM General Board of Higher Education, Chris Prause, Nick DelMastro, Alex Slater, Pastor Paul, Bishop Jeremiah Parks, Dave Kullgren, and Steve Kolitz

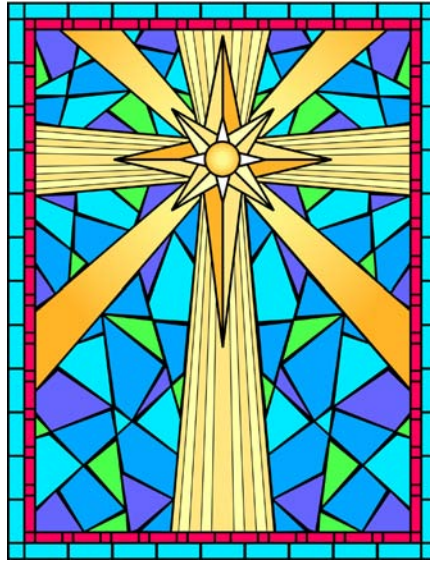
NMUMC Average Wkly Attendance



The chart above is the Average Weekly Attendance Chart updated for March and April results as published in the newsletter. April 29 will have to be added when available, but the numbers in the chart for April are the average of the 4 weeks actual. Unfortunately March and April have returned to 2010 levels significantly below 2011.

Stained Glass Cross Restoration UPDATE

The stained glass cross and bell restoration projects are moving forward as planned. The new thermal pane clear cross is ready to be put in place. Once that is done we will be ready to have the stained glass cross installed. Mark Tomascak (Dragonfly Studios) expects to have the cross completed mid-July or sooner. The supporting parts of the bell have been sand blasted and painted. The bell will be assembled and put in place on the blue-stone slab in the front of the church in early June.



To date we have raised \$2,000 in contributions toward our goal of \$4,800. Thank you, all!!! If you would like to contribute to these projects, please make your checks payable to New Milford United Methodist (NMUMC) with a notation in the memo line "Stained glass/bell". Donations may be put in the offering plate on Sundays or left in the church office anytime. If you have any questions about these projects please contact Trustees Gene Parsons (860-354-8885) and Tom Nixon (860-355-8628) or Art Putnam (860-355-2550).

Attendance & Offerings

May 6	91	\$3,562
May 13	84	\$3,309
May 20	86	\$3,887
May 27	115	\$2,456
May total giving		\$13,214
YTD total giving		\$78,761
Budgeted giving		\$82,693

Help is Needed for UM ARMY Pre-sites

Participating in the Pre-Site process for UM ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth) is a great opportunity for adult members of our church to get involved. On our Pre-site day we visit the clients that have been referred to us by the local social service agencies to evaluate the work, safety and need; in preparation for our upcoming camps. You are invited to attend any pre-site day that works for you. You do not need to be attending or have attended any UM ARMY camp in order to help. The pre-site date for the youth camp which New Milford is attending in Melrose, MA (about 3 hours from here) is on Saturday, June 2 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, and lunch is provided. We will meet at the First UMC of Melrose, 645 Main Street. There are other camps in the Northeast that also need help with pre-sites and here are the dates, all are from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm: June 9 – Meriden, CT and June 16 – Williamsport, PA. Please contact Tracie Nixon at 203-994-7763 or the church office, for more information or to carpool.

Vacation Bible School (VBS): **OPERATION OVERBOARD!**

VBS will be scheduled earlier (LAST WEEK IN JUNE) this year due to schedule restraints. We do hope to have a lot of fun not only during the program but with the planning. The theme is "OPERATION OVERBOARD: Dare to GO Deep With God." We need all interested in helping make this a success to join me at the church for an organizational meeting on Sunday, June 3, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Tracie Nixon has provided the information and curriculum. Kevin Hutson, who directed last year's program is not available to participate exclusively but may be able to pitch in depending on his busy work schedule. We will transform our fellowship hall into a beautiful underwater universe! With "OPERATION OVERBOARD," your "divers" 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. Time is of the essence! Please help to make this happen. To help, please contact Terri Hudak (203-775-0765).

Summer Worship Schedule Begins June 17, 2012

Our Traditional Worship Service will be held at 8:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and the Blended Worship Service in Chapel in the Pines will be held at 10:15 a.m.



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