



New Milford United Methodist Church

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



June 2014

Pastor's Message

The Foundations of My Faith

Columbia City United Methodist Church played a key role in my faith formation that led me to become an ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church. I grew up in the church. I recall crawling under the pews while my mother, Kay Fleck, practiced the organ. I remember being astonished when I saw my parents place large checks that far exceeded my meager allowance in the collection plate. And I can recall key teachings in Sunday School I received. I could feel God's prevenient grace and love through the Columbia City United Methodist Church, its pastors, and its members and congregants nudging me toward a more fully-formed faith.

I think I always knew that I *should* have a faith in God and Christ. But it was our Confirmation and Youth leader Dan Herr who convinced and convicted me in this regard. Dan had us fill out a survey discussing our faith. One of the questions asked "What does it mean to be a Christian?" My written answer was something like this: "I believe that a Christian is someone who tries to have faith in God and Christ."

Dan met with each of us confirmands individually on a retreat to discuss our answers to the questionnaire. He asked me about my equivocal response to that fateful question, "What does it mean to be a Christian?" I tried to explain my response. I tried to explain that I thought it was trying to have faith in God and Christ.

Dan was silent after my response. He let it sink in and I knew then that it was an insufficient answer for him and for God. He quietly said, "Paul, being a Christian isn't trying have faith. You either have it or you don't." He then left me alone to think and to pray.

I prayed and realized that I needed to take a leap of faith over my doubts. I prayed and accepted Christ into my heart as my Savior then and there. My life has never been the same since.

Sure, there have been other experiences that have further formed my faith. And I won't say there haven't been times that I slid backwards in my faith development. But it was that fateful afternoon on a youth retreat with the Columbia City United Methodist Church that made the difference for me.

Today I have confirmands that I lead through confirmation. But I never forget to ask them that question and do that "closing for Christ" that encourages them to make the decision to accept Christ as their Savior and into their hearts.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor
New Milford UMC

Rev. Fleck will be ordained by The New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church on Saturday, June 7 at 10 a.m. at the Hofstra Arena. All are welcome to attend this service of ordination. We will be accepting new confirmands into the church on Pentecost Sunday, June 8 at a joint 10 a.m. service.

Church News

Father's Day Cards

Father's Day Cards will once again be sold to support the Church World Services "Blanket and Tool program." This program purchases tools and blankets for people in developing countries. This program started in 1989 and, to date, our church has collected close to \$7000! Cards are \$5 each and will be sold in the Narthex on June 8 and June 15. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Knapp at 860-355-0559.

Bowling Night

The next bowling night will be held on Saturday, June 21 at 7:15 p.m. at Lore's Lanes. Lane rental is \$45 which is 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 June 19 to Linda Slater at (860) 354-6180 or lslater0256@yahoo.com.

Summer Worship Schedule Reminder

Our summer worship schedule begins Sunday, June 22. This year, Chapel in the Pines will be our traditional service at 8:30 a.m. and the blended service will be indoors in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. There is no Sunday School during the summer months.



Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, June 26 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, July 3.



All hands on deck!!! Everyone get ready to set sail!!!

**Mark your calendar for VBS at NMUMC
Monday, August 4 – Friday, August 8
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Thank you's

The verse on one of the many cards I received during my recovery from surgery read: "The greatest healing therapy is friendship and love." I found that to be very true during my recovery. The beautiful cards, caring phone calls, offers of help and personal visits certainly lifted my spirits during that time. Thank you to everyone for their many acts of kindness during my stay in the hospital and Rehab. It was good being back at church again and seeing all my friends.

God Bless!
Roberta Buddle

A big "hearty" thank you to Bonnie Knapp and all her helpers for the delicious luncheon on Sunday, April 27. The food and fellowship was very much appreciated.

Thank you all again,
Art Carlson

the Education Center

The school year is quickly coming to an end and we are getting ready for fun packed Summer Fun program. We have lots of field trips and activities planned to keep the children more than busy! We still have a few openings left in our Summer Fun program so if you know someone who needs summer camp send them our way!

Our 3rd annual RSKF graduation will be held on June 13 at 4:30 p.m., please feel free

to stop by if you can to see what an amazing job our teachers have done. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

We are always looking for volunteers so if you are interested please let me know and we can get you set up to work with the children.

Warm regards,
Jennifer Pennucci

E-Reader Project Progress

Dear Paul and Members of the NMUMC,

As promised, I am writing to give you an update on our District E-reader Project. Over the last few months, I've been visiting all of the churches in our amazing district, inviting and challenging the laity and the clergy to participate in a global mission project. The concept was simple: if you have two coats and your neighbor has none, consider sharing them for Christ's sake.

And share you did! As of today, my office has received \$7,310 earmarked for e-readers. All of these funds have been sent to the General Board of Discipleship, where they will first be matched, and then redirected to one of our UM seminaries in Africa.

Thanks to your generosity, and the matching grant from our denomination, 172 e-readers will be in the hands of "coatless", but faith-filled seminarians - and the good news of Jesus Christ will be delivered from these coatless clergy to countless disciples.

Peace,
Kenneth Kieffer



June Birthdays:

June 3 – Phyllis F.
 June 7 – Olivia T.
 June 8 – Tracy P.
 June 16 – Michael D.
 Elizabeth M.
 June 18 – Shawn M.
 June 19 – Nora T.
 June 20 – Lisa B.
 June 22 – Tim P.
 June 24 – Laurie P.

Attendance & Offerings

Apr. 27	107	\$4,204
May 4	96	\$3,231
May 11	84	\$2,397
May 18	94	\$7,701
May 25	81	\$3,810

Food Needs at Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread is in need of spaghetti sauce, tuna fish, and peanut butter. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

Joys & Concerns

We are thankful . . .

Bill and Jody' Ihlo's daughter, Amelia, who gave birth to a 9 lb., 14 oz. son, Levi.

Our prayers are with . . .

Jean Lord's great-granddaughter who has an infection in her hip.

Sue Perry's father who is homebound and receiving excellent care.

The family of Kevin Mateer who lost his life during the recent storm.

Jan and Gene Parsons' friend, Brad, whose cancer has returned.

Brady Tripp's mother-in-law who has cancer.

Eileen Clark, who recently had a stroke.

Chantel, a co-working of Jen Middleton, who received an encouraging cancer diagnosis.

Sean Barley, soccer coach, who has been diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor.

Roberta Buddle and Sue Sterling who are recovering from surgery.

Sue Sterling's cousin, Mary, who has lung cancer

The LaBella family whose daughter is undergoing chemotherapy.

Millie Ackerly's daughter who is receiving cancer treatment.

Traci Poeti's brother, Rob, who has health issues.

The family of Marlene Davis' nephew, who passed away.

Church News

Electronic Giving

Electronic Giving doesn't take vacations. This summer, if you can't make it to church due to travel or other commitments, we encourage you to automate your regular donations. The church relies on the consistent financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis. Pick up an authorization form. We thank you for your continued support!

Chapel in the Pines Hymnal Volunteers

A volunteer (or a group of volunteers) is needed to update Chapel in the Pines hymnals before June 22nd. Tasks would include - copying pages, cutting, hole punching, disassembly, and reassembly of binders. Please contact the church office at 860-354-4596 or office@new-milfordumc.org if you are able to assist.

Online Volunteer Signup

We're testing out a new program to allow for online sign up of Sunday volunteers for greeters, liturgists, and ushers. This online service, VolunteerSpot, allows for volunteers to easily sign up for a day that fits their schedule, automatically sends email reminders, and allows for easy cancelling/rescheduling if something comes up.

We'll begin using VolunteerSpot to schedule greeters, liturgists, and ushers during the summer months for both Chapel in the Pines and the indoor worship service. This is a basically a "test run" of this service to see how well it works for the NMUMC community.

You should have already received an email from VolunteerSpot, but if you didn't or accidentally deleted it, you can visit NMUMC's VolunteerSpot page and sign up to help at <http://vols.pt/M1duwj>. You'll have to enter your email address, but you will not have to create an account. When signing up be sure to sign up for the correct desired service.

Brief History and Update of the Memory Garden

Around 1999 a few men and women in our congregation began planning a garden to become a place to remember former members and their families. Because of this we hoped that cremated ashes could be placed there - a NMUMC cemetery of a sorts. The garden came together with many people giving their input and it stands today very like what it was planned to be and was dedicated on November 2, 2003.

Don & Marcia Cairns and Dorothy O'Rourke were our garden experts, while Terry Singleton and Chris Prause and others did the hard labor. The Memory Garden, to the left of the path to the Chapel in the Pines, is a simple affair with only ground cover and etched stones. The garden to the right is a perennial garden. Both are kept in order by a perpetual upkeep fund and volunteers.

There are stones available for anyone interested. The stones are about 15 X 5 X 15". They cost \$250.00 initially and when they are engraved, there is a charge for that also but it is nominal. There are several urns of ashes interred there behind the etched stones.

The plans are that the garden will outlast us all and be passed down to generations to come. Here is a list of garden members: Lynn Hayes and Pat Tripp co-chairs, Larry Tripp, Don Hayes Janice Mayette, Marcia Cairns, Chris and Mary Prause, Laurie and Art Putnam, Pat Hammer and Terry Singleton. Sadly, two of our members, Don Cairns and Sue DeBoy, went on before us.

Take a walk in the garden and let us know what you think. The small stones that are found in the container located next to the first bench can be placed on an individuals stone. This is an ancient way to let folks know that someone has visited that particular stone.

If you would like a flyer or more information, please speak to Pastor Paul or any of the people mentioned above.



Church Leadership

Church leadership consists of several committees. Over the next several months, we are going to feature each committee, its function, and its members. Members of every committee are selected by the Nominating Committee and are voted on at the annual Charge Conference. Appointments vacated during the year are filled as needed with approved by Church Council.

Lay Leaders (Pat Tripp and Marilyn Fuller) are members of every committee. Church Council Chairperson (Stacey Didato) is a member of every committee with the exception of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. This month we are featuring the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee and the Finance Committee.

Further information about these committees can be found in the Book of Discipline, available in the Church Office and on the General Board of Discipleship website (www.gbod.org), where the descriptions below were copied from.

NOMINATIONS AND LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

The charge of this committee is to identify, develop, deploy, evaluate, and monitor Christian spiritual leadership for our church. Responsibilities include:

- Engaging in and being attentive to their own Christian spiritual life and together engaging in biblical and theological reflection about the mission of our church.
- Inviting people to positions of spiritual leadership, receiving their responses, and providing training and support for these individuals.
- Presenting a nomination list to the Charge Conference for election by the congregation. They work throughout the year to name other leaders for the ministry that fulfills the mission of the church.

The Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee consists of not more than nine persons in addition to the pastor and lay leaders and is divided into three classes, one of which is elected each year for a three-year term. Retiring members of the committee cannot succeed themselves.

Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee Members:

Pastor Paul Fleck, Chair

Class of 2014	Class of 2015	Class of 2016
Martha McMahan	Lynn Hayes	Laurie Putnam
Marlene Davis	Jean Lord	Mike Walsh

There are 3 vacancies on this committee, one for each class. Meeting dates are called by the chairman. If anyone is interested or knows anyone who is interested in becoming a member of this committee, please contact a member of the committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

This committee annually compiles a complete budget for supporting the mission and vision of the church and submits the budget to the Church Council for review and adoption. Throughout the year the Finance Committee recommends any changes to the approved annual budget to the Church Council. Responsibilities include:

- Developing and carrying out plans to raise enough income to support the budget that has been approved.
- Recommending to Church Council policies and procedures for management of church funds, then implementing the approved processes regarding administration and disbursements of funds.
- Arranging for an annual audit of financial records and reporting the results of this audit to the Charge Conference.

The Finance Committee consists of 6 members and is divided into 3 classes, one of which is elected each year to a three-year term. Our Finance Committee meets monthly on the first Monday at 7 p.m. All proceedings are publicly reported and anyone may attend a meeting.

Finance Committee Members:

Ralph Williams III, Chair

Class of 2014	Class of 2015	Class of 2016
Bill Ihlo		Mary Prause Gene Parsons

There are 3 vacancies on this committee. If anyone is interested or knows anyone who is interested in becoming a member of the Finance Committee, please contact any member of the Nominations and Lay Leader Committee who are:

Martha McMahan . . .	203-788-4322
Marlene Davis	860-354-8725
Lynn Hayes	860-355-1055
Jean Lord	860-354-4533
Mike Walsh	860-354-7602
Laurie Putnam	860-355-2550

Larry Tripp, Church Treasurer

Save the date!

June 8 - Pentecost/New Member Confirmation Sunday

10 a.m. Joint Service, No Sunday School

June 15 - SS Promotion Sunday, No Sunday School

June 22 - Chapel in the Pines begins

Outdoor (traditional) service will start at 8:30 a.m.

Indoor (blended) service will start at 10 a.m.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776



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