

the unknown, the miraculous, the divine. We all sometimes need to be reminded that God is here within us, whispering, winking, and LOVING. Pass along your story and who knows, you may be the God Sighting that someone needs today. We will now be featuring your God Sightings in our newsletter. If you would like to submit a God Sighting, or a few, please send them to Emily Nixon at opendoor@newmilfordumc.org or call her at (203)947-9876. Please let her know if you would like your God Sighting to be anonymous upon submission.

Sandy Recovery Mission Trip—The devastation left by Super Storm Sandy still exists. On May 3 and 4 we would like to send a team to work on local projects on Saturday, attend a local Church on Sunday, and work a few more hours before heading home. If interested in being included in the May trip, please contact Tracie Nixon, Missions Coordinator for NMUMC at 860-355-8628; tracienix@gmail.com or Steve Koltz at 203-417-9670 or 860-355-8416 or sbkoltz@sbglobal.net.

Coupons Wanted! Madelyn and I are trying to do our own form of an extreme couponing trip to benefit Our Daily Bread. If you have any unused coupons at home that you are willing to give to help it would be greatly appreciated. Please put them in the envelope marked COUPON COLLECTION on the table outside the office door. Contact Kimber Malinowski 203-770-7791 with any questions. Many thanks for your support!

Meetings & Opportunities this week:

Mon., Mar. 31 at 10:30 am Tai Chi in Fellowship Hall
 at 6:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40208 in Fellowship Hall
 at 6:00 pm Open Door Band in Sanctuary
 at 7:00 pm Wesley Group in Conference Room
 Tues., Apr. 1 at 4:00 pm Girl Scout Troop 40213 in Fellowship Hall
 at 7:00 pm Finance Committee in Fellowship Hall
 Wed., Apr. 2 at 5:30 pm Lenten Supper in Fellowship Hall
 at 6:00 pm Iglesia Cristo Reina in Sanctuary
 at 6:30 pm Needle Nuts in Conference Room
 at 6:45 pm Lenten Book Study in Fellowship Hall
 at 7:30 pm Boy Scout Troop 31 in Fellowship Hall
 Thurs., Apr. 3 at 3:00 pm "Our Daily Bread" in Food Barn
 at 3:30 pm Confirmation Class in Library
 at 5:45 pm Bells Practice in Sanctuary
 at 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice in Sanctuary
 at 7:00 pm Girl Scout Leader's Meeting in Fellowship Hall
 Sat., Apr. 5 at 2:00 pm Cub Scout Pack 467 in Fellowship Hall
 Sun., Apr. 6 at 8:30 am Not Just Eggs in Fellowship Hall
 at 9:30 am Traditional Service in Sanctuary
 at 10:00 am Children's Sunday School
 at 10:30 am Adult Sunday School
 at 11:30 am Open Door Worship Service in Sanctuary
 at 2:00 pm Iglesia Cristo Reina Church in Sanctuary
 at 2:30 pm Youth Group
 at 4:00 pm Iglesia Cristo Reina Church in Fellow. Hall

Monday - Friday at noon AA meeting in Fellowship Hall

New Milford United Methodist Church
 Every Member A Disciple

Ushers—9:30 a.m.—Heather Morin and Sue DeBoy
 11:30 a.m.—Marilyn Fuller

Liturgist: Dawn Nagle



The Open Door
Contemporary Worship
11:30 am

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

song 12
 song 7

"shout to the north"
 "come unto me"

welcome & announcements

moment of silence

passing the peace

song 49
 song 15

"come ye sinners"
 "your unfailing love"

epistle

ephesians 5:8-14

page 194 in the new testament in the pew bible

gospel lesson

john 9:1-7

page 102 in the new testament in the pew bible

the word of God for the people of God.
thanks be to God.

presentation of the offerings

children's message

message

"living light"

dieudonne karihano

special offering for dieudonne karihano's missionary work

anthem

"light of the world"

joys & concerns

song 82

"i will follow"

song 43

"without you"

sending forth



The Service of Worship
 New Milford United
 Methodist Church
 68 Danbury Road
 New Milford, CT 06776
www.newmilfordumc.org
 860-354-4596

Rev. Paul A. Fleck

Fourth Sunday in Lent

"Living Light"

Sunday, March 30, 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

Moment of Silence

Processional "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" HOUSTON
Hymn #206

Call to Worship

As we gather for worship welcomed by God's grace,
We lay down the "shoulds" that dominate our lives and look to lighten up.

As we travel the stony paths of discipleship empowered by God's love,

We let go of the drive to succeed and seek the journey of unburdening.

As we continue the journey of repentance, of turning around compelled by God's justice,

We leave behind familiar paths and step lightly into the unknown.

As we gather together, let us make room in our lives to cherish God's call.

Let us live light and be living light.

Prayer for Illumination

Everlasting Love, it is a joy to be in the presence of your Word. We marvel that you have made us your own. As your Word is read, keep us mindful of your faithfulness. Enfold us in your enduring love forever. Amen.

Fourth
 Sunday
 in Lent



Epistle

Page 194 in the New Testament in your pew Bible.

(Please stand for the Gospel lesson, if you are able.)

Gospel Lesson

Page 102 in the New Testament in your pew Bible.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

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."

Children's Sermon

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

OFFERING

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

"Pachelbel Canon"
Madelyn Malinowski

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

All Sit.

The children are invited to go out to Sunday School after the Offering Prayer.

Anthem

"Open My Eyes, Let Me See"
Chancel Choir

Prayer

Source of Light, God of great mercy and love, we come to you this day seeking restoration of our sight. Clear away our blindness, and give us a new vision of all that we can accomplish in your name. Give us strength and confidence to truly witness to your abiding love and faithfulness. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

Responses

Please stand as you are able for the hymn.

Hymn 2146 (TFWS) "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" SPARROW

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heav'n and home,

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-7

When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

*Refrain: I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.*

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear,
and resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears;
though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
when songs give place to sighing, when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
his eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

Refrain

Morning Prayer

Joys and concerns are lifted before God and the congregation.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Healing God, we have languished in our blindness. We have chosen to hide in darkness in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance. We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it. In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration and transformation. Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord. Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays. May our lives be transformed by your mercy, for we pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Even though you have lived in darkness, God's light is being poured out for you. Accept the light and love that is freely offered, and be transformed by its healing mercies. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Sermon

"Living Light"

Dieudonne Karihano

Special Offering for Dieudonne Karihano's Missionary Work

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

Hymn 451

"Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

SENDING FORTH

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We are thankful:

- Roxanne Martin is recovering from her back surgery.
- Ellie Middleton's recovery is going well.

Our prayers are with:

- The LaBella family whose daughter is fighting cancer while pregnant.
- Millie Ackerly's daughter who begins cancer treatment tomorrow.
- Jan Parson's sister-in-law, Ellen, who is having major surgery.
- Janet Schnitzler's sister-in-law, Evelyn.
- Denise Reiss' friend who is suffering from ovarian cancer.
- Traci Poeti's brother, Rob, who has health issues.
- Bonnie Knapp's brother, Dick, who underwent a successful operation for lung cancer but is now receiving radiation for a growth on his neck.
- Bonnie Knapp's friend, Cheryl Ann, who had a heart attack and is in the hospital.
- Marlene Davis' nephew who is in hospice.

OUR LIFE IN COMMUNITY

Have an announcement for Our Life in Community? If you get it to us by 12 noon on Thursday, we will try to make sure it gets into the bulletin the following Sunday.

Fellowship Hour is held every Sunday between services in Fellowship Hall. It's a wonderful time to catch up with each other and get to know others that you may not know well, whether it's a newcomer or someone that goes to a different service. Everyone is invited to attend—coffee and pastries will be served!

Lenten Soup & Study—Please join us on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall as we study spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, and meditation.

Easter Flowers—TODAY is the last day to order Easter Flowers. Order forms are available in the Sanctuary (in the holders just inside the door) and on the church website—www.newmilfordumc.org. Flowers are \$14.00 each and you may choose from tulips, hyacinths, lilies, or pink lilies.

All Church Lenten Service Project-TODAY 1:00-3:00 p.m. Join us this afternoon to stuff comfort bags for the Danbury Women's Center Emergency Shelter.

Special Offering Notice

Today we will take a special offering for Dieudonne Karihano's work as an agricultural missionary in Cambine, Mozambique.

On **April 6th**, there will be a special offering for **One Great Hour of Sharing**. One Great Hour of Sharing supports the United Methodist Committee Relief (UMCOR) - the UMC's disaster response agency. Because of your support for UMCOR's administrative expenses during One Great Hour of Sharing, when disaster strikes, 100% of your offerings go to disaster-affected areas.

Relay for Life needs team members! Team members help as much as they can, when they can, and in any area they desire. Any and all help is highly appreciated and there is something for everyone. Please lend a hand when and where you can to help us with this worthy cause. Please contact Team Captain Linda Slater at lslater0256@yahoo.com or 860-354-6180 for further information.

God Sightings come from the desire to share the every day occurrences and small miracles that reveal the nature of God—a luminous smile from a stranger, an answered prayer, a change of heart, an unexpected grace or mercy. God sightings are not religious and do not exclude any who feel that they have brushed up against