



New Milford United Methodist Church

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



March 2013

Pastor's Message

Empty Tomb, Full Heart

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could embalm him. Very early on Sunday morning, as the sun rose, they went to the tomb. They worried out loud to each other, "Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for us?" Then they looked up, saw that it had been rolled back—it was a huge stone—and walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished. He said, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He's been raised up; he's here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You'll see him there, exactly as he said." They got out as fast as they could, beside themselves, their heads swimming. Stunned, they said nothing to anyone.

—Mark 16:1-8 (The Message).

On March 31, we will celebrate the greatest story ever told: Easter, the story of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have every reason to be filled with excitement and anticipation for this wondrous event. Jesus Christ defeated sin and death for all time!

We are in the midst of "A Journey to Hope" sermon series right now during Lent. Lent is a season for repentance and turning away from our sin. But we are not just journeying to Jerusalem and the Cross during Lent. There is a recognition that we are journeying beyond it as well. Suffering and death do not have the last word and are not the end of our journey; the true Word is life and the Resurrection. That is the true end of our faith. Jesus said, I came that [you] might have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

We have seen hope through difficulty in our sermon series. We have learned the value of having the right travelling companion, Jesus, along the journey (mile marker: relationships). We learned that our self-identity is important in our journey (mile marker: self-esteem). We learned to work for Christ and curb personal ambition (mile marker: work). We will continue this Sunday to examine how to refuel through prayer and in the following Sunday how to develop a healthy relationship with money.

I hope you will join us for our services throughout Lent at either 9:30 a.m. (Traditional) or 11:30 a.m. (Contemporary Open Door) and on Easter (March 31) for either our Traditional or Contemporary Open Door Services. For those who want to experience the feeling of encountering the empty tomb and the risen Christ, there will be a Sunrise Service that morning at 6 a.m. Please join us!

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor

Church News

Church Emails

The Church Office is using a new email message system – MailChimp. If you are not receiving weekly messages for *Joys & Concerns* and *This Week at NMUMC*, we do not have your current email address. If you wish to be added to the mailing list, please email your email address to the office at office@newmilfordumc.org.

Soup and Prayer

Soup and Prayer will continue through March. Everyone is invited to come to any of the Wednesday evening gatherings which start at 5:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. There has been tasty soup and great leadership in prayers and praying led by Ruffus and Doris Sanders.

Wise & Wonderful Luncheon

All you wonderful seniors-mark your calendar. The Wise and Wonderful Luncheon is scheduled for April 21, at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. More information to follow. If you have any questions, please Contact Bonnie Knapp, 860-355-0559.



Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, March 29 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, April 4.

thank you

The 5th annual Don Cairns Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was on February 12. You ate all the pancakes, bacon and sausages that were prepared by the New Milford United Methodist Men. With your help, we raised \$654 for the Don Cairns Memorial Fund to help with maintaining the buildings and grounds at the church here in New Milford. On behalf of the New Milford United Methodist Men, I thank you for your generous support.
—Dave Kullgren, President, New Milford United Methodist Men

relay for life

This year Relay for Life is scheduled for June 15 - 16. Janice Mayette is in charge of organizing the group from our church. She is looking for donations of new items to sell at the relay, which benefits the American Cancer Society. She was wondering if anyone in the congregation works for a company that would be willing to donate items to be sold at the relay. Since Janice is in Florida till May, if anyone is willing to ask their company for donations, please contact Bonnie Knapp at 860-355-0559 or contact the church office.

electronic giving now available at nmumc

Leave your checkbook at home: NMUMC now accepts Electronic Giving (Direct deposit from your checking or savings account). Consider scheduling a recurring contribution today. It's very convenient, and you will no longer need to write out checks and prepare envelopes every week. Even when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, your electronic contributions will continue to be received on an uninterrupted basis. Please contact Cindy Bull in the Church Office to learn how you can participate.

the Education Center

It's that time of year again, be on the lookout for the Butter Braid order forms! The butter braid fundraiser will run until March 13th and all butter braids will be delivered in time for Easter Sunday.

The teachers and children of the Ed Center have been working very hard these last few months. If you have a chance, take a walk through the Center and explore our walls. We had a blast learning about Dr. Seuss and his silly stories. The preschool children had an opportunity to work with some students from South Kent School as part of a community service project. The boys came prepared with activities geared to-

ward Dr. Seuss, please view our website or friend us on facebook to see some pictures of their visit.

We are clearly looking forward to some warmer weather so we can spend more time outside in the fresh air.

We are actively seeking volunteers for our summer program, if you have any special talents or know of someone who does, please refer them our way! Last year we had 6 community volunteers!!

Warm regards,
Jennifer Pennucci

Needle Nuts

The Needle Nuts are happily knitting most Wednesday nights. Several of you have asked for instruction for first time knitters. We Needle Nuts have set aside a special night in March for first time knitters. We will teach casting on and the basic knit stitch, this will get you on your way towards making either a scarf or a pair of fingerless gloves. Pre-registration is suggested but not mandatory. Please call Bonnie Weed to register 860-355-1264 or Tracie Nixon 860-355-8628. All ages welcome to this special night. If you have needles and yarn, that would be great.

Meanwhile please feel free to join us any Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Needle Nuts will meet March 6, 13 and 27. March 13 is our special night for beginners. We will NOT be meeting on March 20.

Breaking Bread & Barriers

Immigration reform has been a hot topic in the news lately. There are many immigrants in our community living in the shadows. We often refer to them as “those people” (i.e. those people don’t want to become citizens, those people don’t want to learn English, etc.). But can we honestly say that we have ever sat down and had a conversation with immigrants to understand their situation? The Bible calls us to treat the resident alien in our midst as we would like to be treated, “for you were aliens in the Land of Egypt” (Lev. 19:34). On April 7 at 2 p.m. we will be hosting a special forum in Fellowship Hall entitled “Breaking Bread and Barriers.” This will be an opportunity to share a meal with our immigrant neighbors from here in New Milford and get to know their stories. Please join us!

Attendance & Offerings

Jan. 27	96	\$2,900
Feb. 3	114	\$6,707
Feb. 10	<i>no services - snow day</i>	
Feb. 17	85	\$3,655
Feb. 24	89	\$3,324
Monthly total		\$16,586
YTD Total		\$26,399

Daylight Savings

Daylight Savings Time begins at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10. Don't forget to change your clocks!

Thank You

A belated thanks to Patti Jacobson and her elves for my Christmas bag of goodies. It was so deeply appreciated.

—Art Carlson

Joys & Concerns

Our prayers are with...

Janet Schnitzler and her family on the passing of her husband Andy
Loaves and Fishes is undergoing transition and looking for a new location.
Ruby and James Hall, sister-in-law and brother of Kay Jones. Ruby will begin treatment for brain tumors.
Bettyann Byron who has suffered another heart attack and is in Danbury ICU.
Cliff Burnett, who is suffering with heart problems, will have surgery in Orlando, FL on March 14.
Richard Ferry, Bonnie Knapp's brother, who will be having surgery for cancer on March 12.

Our prayers continue to be with...

Nancy Hutson and her family on the passing of her cousin, Major Gregory Sanborn, who lost his battle with cancer.

Lu Vivona and her son Monty Humiston, on the passing of his fiancé, Kathryn Porto.

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, prayers for his continued recovery.

Tyler Mosher of New Milford, Chris and Mary Prauses' grandson, who left for Afghanistan 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 Birsén 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.

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.

We are thankful...

Linda Slater's friend's husband has gone home. He still has a long journey ahead, but is on the path to healing.

NMUMC Members Help on Long Island Sandy Relief. Is it Your Turn Next to Help?

The NMUMC sent three members to Freeport, New York on Long Island to help in relief efforts from Super Storm Sandy. Pat Tripp, Larry Tripp and Steve Kolitz were part of a group that worked on two homes in this seaside community. Walls were stripped, floors torn out, appliances removed, soiled belonging trashed, a kitchen gutted and mold remediation begun for these two families. As members of this team, friendships were also made with other members working along with a spry and spunky lady and a beautiful young couple. The feeling we all shared as we help take those initial steps toward recovery will remain in our minds and hearts forever.

So are you now wondering how you can share in such an experience? Are you looking for a way to lend a hand? You can

take part in a trip to an area hard hit by the storm. Our conference is still sending teams. You don't need to have been trained as an Early Response Team member to take part. (However, if you are interested in an ERT class, look on the New York Annual Conference website for upcoming dates.)

We are going to put together a team or two to go to Long Island for a weekend. No dates have been set but if you're willing to volunteer, watch for more information or talk with Steve Kolitz or Pat Tripp as part of the Mission Community of the NMUMC. Help us set a date soon for late February or early March.

—Pat Tripp and Steve Kolitz



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“Give a Little Extra” Lenten Mission Project



COOLCLIPS.COM

“Give a Little Extra” will benefit clients at New Milford Social Services and Our Daily Bread.

Choose products from the following list and bring them to church any Sunday during Lent. There will be a collection box in the Narthex. These items are **not** included for clients in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, formerly known as Food Stamps. Our project is a way of helping these people.

Household and Hygiene Products

Personal Hygiene

- shampoo (adult and baby)
- deodorant
- feminine hygiene
- denture supplies
- disposable razors

Cleaning Products

- dish soap
- laundry detergent
- household cleaners

Paper Goods

- paper towels
- toilet paper
- garbage bags
- sandwich bags
- storage bags
- tissues
- napkins

Medications

- Over the Counter
Cough
- Cold and allergy
medications

Thank you for giving a little extra,
The Missions Committee