



# New Milford United Methodist Church

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, Conn. 06776 • (860) 354-4596 • [www.NewMilfordUMC.org](http://www.NewMilfordUMC.org) • [Office@NewMilfordUMC.org](mailto:Office@NewMilfordUMC.org)



March 2012

Pastor's Message

## *God Is Here*

I am very excited to report that our Evangelism and Hospitality Team is up and running with a great idea for people to exercise their faith-sharing muscles. They are encouraging members of our community of faith and members of our larger community in New Milford and beyond (including folks throughout the District and Conference) to share in a photo exhibition. The idea is to encourage entrants to submit photographs of places they have seen God.

The possibilities are endless. I see God when a paper is blowing to a fro in the wind. I see God in the face of a small child. I see God in a homeless man huddled up on a park bench catching some rest from a long daily routine on his feet. I see God in the butterfly that can still fly notwithstanding that its wing may be bent and broken.

God is in the wonder of creation and the difficulty that we encounter in our brokenness. God is there in our flourishing and in times of grief as well. God is ever present in our lives in ways that we cannot even begin to imagine. But I think that this project will help spark our imaginations in that regard and expand them.

Before we know it, we'll begin to see God everywhere. And that's because God is everywhere. Before you know it, we'll begin to share God's love with everyone. And that's because we've practiced it through projects like this one.

## *Vital Congregations: Join the Adventure!*

The focus groups that we held on February 19 were a smashing success and folks really enjoyed talking about our community and what they perceived to be the needs that we could meet as a community of faith. Your Vital Congregations Steering Team met on February 26 to discuss the results of the groups and to determine further planning as to the context that we find ourselves in as a community of faith.

Content is the next topic of discussion at the focus groups that will be held on March 18 between services starting at 10:30 a.m. What resources can we bring to bear to address the context that we find ourselves in? As we process the questions presented, our goals will begin to emerge from these discussions. The Vital Congregations Steering Team will then meet on March 25 to discuss and refine what we learn in the focus groups.

By May, we hope to have more fully fleshed out the goals and direction in which we wish to go. We will present this to the congregation, who we hope will aid us in refining the ideas and in bringing them to fruition eventually. Then they will be presented for adoption by the Church Council at their meeting the fourth Tuesday in May.

Join us in the adventure of bringing God's plans for this congregation to fruition!

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor

# Youth Group News

UMYF has had an exciting February this year. We went snow tubing at Woodbury Ski Area on Feb. 17 and had a blast! Twenty-six of us went tubing that day. On Feb.19 we met at New Milford UMC to plan our Coffeehouse together. We had a great time with Bible trivia at Gaylordsville UMC on Feb. 26.

Here are some great activities planned for March. On March 2, we attended Hosanna 2012 hosted by NJYPN at Felician College in Lodi, NJ. On March 11, we will meet for a UMYF meeting in NMUMC at 2 p.m. We will attend Chili and Chocolate at GUMC on March 24 starting at 5 p.m., and will go bowling at Lore's Lane afterwards. On March 25, we are going to continue our Coffeehouse planning at NMUMC. Lastly, the weekend of March 30-31, we are planning to go attend NMHS's annual musical, 42nd Street, as a youth group!



Just as a heads up and a reminder, here are some major events that we are scheduled for this year. May 4 is our Coffeehouse. Please come out and support the youth group missions. If you are interested in performing, please contact Girim at [gilim.jung@yale.edu](mailto:gilim.jung@yale.edu). Our summer youth retreat will be held on August 13-15 at Camp Epworth with other youth groups in our district! Please plan to attend. Retreat are great times to meet new people, have fun, and grow spiritually! My band, Untitled Praise, will be performing at the retreat so please come out to support! Lastly, we are planning to go to Massachusetts for UMARMY this year (July 8-14). If you are interested in signing up, or want to support the students that are going, please get in touch with Tracie Nixon in the church office.

For more information on UMYF, contact Gilim Jung at (973) 902-9719 or via email at [gilimjung@yale.edu](mailto:gilimjung@yale.edu).



## Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, March 30 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, April 5.



To receive the  
newsletter  
via email, in full color,  
please contact the  
Church office at  
[Office@NewMilfordUMC.org](mailto:Office@NewMilfordUMC.org)

## the Education Center

February flew by despite the extra day we had. Our RFSK program was fortunate to gain a new teacher, Miss Kristen Austin. If you have some time please take a peak at the life she has created in the classroom. We are very excited to have her as a part of our Education Center family. Fall registration for that program has begun and we anticipate it will fill quickly. Please take a minute to register your child if you have not done so already.

Spring is right around the corner and hopefully we will start to see a positive change in weather. The children will spend some time talking about wind during the month; they will explore how wind is made and why it is so important for the environment. Hopefully we will have a few windy days this month so they can experience the wind and experiment with items to see what can and can't be carried by it.

On March 16 we will honor St. Patrick's day; the teachers and children will need to keep an eye out for any leprechauns that may be visiting our center. We encourage you to try and send in 'green' foods for lunch with your child that day. It

will be interesting to see how many different types of food we have.

Time will be spent this month talking about rainbows; the preschool children will explore how and why we have rainbows. For the younger toddlers this will be a wonderful opportunity to explore color and review what they have learned thus far. Maybe we will get lucky and be able to see an actual rainbow!

March is Youth Art Month; please read below to find out what we will be doing to acknowledge the wonderful world of art! And last but not least; I will have the baby one day this month! If "she" decides to take her time then my last official day of work will be March 16. I am going to need some rest before her actual due date on March 22. Recently I have spent a little less time at the center and worked from home but please know that I am still available if you need to chat, have questions, or concerns. The amazing teaching staff know how and where to find me or Cindy!

Warm regards,  
*Jennifer Pennucci*

# Church News

## God is Here Photo Essay

The Hospitality /Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a photo exhibit, tentatively scheduled for May 12 in the sanctuary. This exhibit is open for church members' participation and we are hoping for community involvement as well. There is no age limit for submission of photographs. There will be a limit of 3 entries per person. The essay part refers to a caption for each picture. The committee will give more details in the coming months, but wants everyone to think of places and things where they feel God's presence. Take a snapshot and save it. Anyone who would like to help with this project can contact Jan Parsons at (860) 354-8885 or jbparkers02@snet.net.



## Gift Cards & Scholarship Program

Gift cards can be purchased at face value (and redeemed at face value) and the scholarship fund receives a percentage of the sale. Use these gift cards for hundreds of retailers for your everyday shopping needs while helping the scholarship fund. Please contact Heather Morin at (860) 354-8406 or hmorin218@yahoo.com. Orders with payment can be placed in the Scholarship mailbox.

## Thank you, Church Family

When I was home in January, I was reminded how much I have been blessed by the NMUMC community. The warmth that I felt when I walked into the church on January 8th and 15th was amazing! I thank you all for your generosity in giving to my ADVANCE account through a special offering on 1/15/12 and the Alternative Christmas Gift Program in December. I look forward to coming home again and updating you all on how things are going out here in the wild west!

Peace,  
Brinna Kolitz

## Book Club

The Book Club meets the third Thursday of every month at 1:15 p.m. in the Conference Room. We are always looking for additional members who enjoy reading a variety of books. Currently we are reading *The Man in the Rockefeller Suit* by Mark Teal. Books are loaned from the New Milford Public Library under Jan Parsons' name. Our next book will be *A Light in August* by William Faulkner, rated one of the 100 best English language books (Modern Library and Time). Please join us and bring a friend. Open to non-church members. We are not literary specialists, we just enjoy a good discussion. For more information, contact Jan Parsons at (860) 354-8885.

## Joys & Concerns

*Our prayers are with...*

Sean Patrick Cornell, grandson of Jim and Debra Waldorf and son of Angela (Waldorf) & Patrick Cornell of Tempe, AZ (formerly from New Milford) for recovery of a virus. He is 3 years old and has been in the Children's Hospital in Mesa, AZ.

Thelma Neufeld who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Joe Hudak is who recovering from recent surgery.

Lillie Allen who has moved into an assisted living facility, The Village, in Brookfield.

Kathleen Whitfield who has health concerns. She is Sue Whitfield's mother and lives in Scotland

Walter Tripp who is having medical issues, he is Larry Tripp's brother.

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

Bill Babbino who was hospitalized with heart problems.

Rose Ann Hastings, who will be donating a kidney. This will move her husband Ed up the list for a kidney transplant and they are looking for a kidney that would be suitable for Ed.

Elaine Bock who is having health issues, she is a friend of Teddy Oxton.

Leslie Anderson who is facing health challenges, she is a friend of Teddy Oxton.

Kim Birsén who is having health issues

George Perry who has moved into the Masonic Homes.

Rev. Ken Kieffer who is recovering from cancer treatments.

Winnie Farrell who is at home with her husband and daughter in Sherman, but is still having medical issues with Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease.

Dee Yukon, the wife of Rev. Matt Yukon of the Northville Baptists church, who was diagnosed with breast cancer.

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

Ed Hastings who is undergoing dialysis.

Jack Orr who is recovering from Myelodysplastic syndrome. 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.

# Church News

## The Needle Nuts!

Come and be creative with the Needle Nuts! We meet Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Conference room. Bring any type of needlework project to work on and enjoy an evening of good conversation and fellowship. We will teach anyone who wants to learn to knit. We can help you choose a knitting project for yourself or for a good cause. We will not meet on March 21. For further information, contact Bonnie Weed at (860) 355-1264.

## Childcare Needed for Sunday Morning Services

Childcare Needed for Sunday mornings: 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services We hope to have enough volunteers that you would only do childcare once every 2 months. Please think about volunteering one hour per week or month during one of the church services. The experience is definitely rewarding. To volunteer please see the sign-up sheet in the lobby or call Emily Nixon at 203-947-9876 or the church office.

## UMARMY 2012

UM ARMY Camp this summer is from July 8 - 14 in Massachusetts. We are now accepting registrations for BOTH adults and youth. Youth need to have completed 7th - 12th grade and all adults are welcome to join us. If you are a college student aged youth or an adult leader, please contact the church office to sign-up for the college-age camp being held June 10 - 16 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Work Team adults are very important to the camp and you do not need to have your own "youth" to go with you. Registration forms (in the church office or can be emailed to you) must be returned to the church office by Sunday, April 1 along with a \$150 deposit check (made out to NMUMC). The total cost for each person is \$325, but we hope to cover the balance between fundraising and camp scholarships given by the United Methodist Men. If you have any questions, please speak with Tracie Nixon or to one of our members who has gone before. This is the 7th year that our church will send a group to this mission. For more information contact Tracie Nixon at tracienix@gmail.com or (203) 994-7763.

### Attendance & Offerings

Feb. 5	107	\$6,420
Feb. 12	115	\$2,626
Feb. 19	119	\$2,132
Feb. 22	42	<i>Ash Wed.</i>
Feb. 26	104	\$3,637
<b>Monthly total</b>		<b>\$14,814</b>
<b>Feb. Budget</b>		<b>\$15,385</b>

### SPR Committee Members

Members of SPR serving as contact persons for Church staff are:

**SPR**  
Staff-Parish Relations  
Committee

*Tracy Poeti*: Office Manager

*Stacey Didato*: Finance Manager

*Ralph Williams, Jr.*: Director of Music

*Martha McMahan*: Ed Center Director

*Robert Hoburg*: Pastor

*Bonnie Weed*: Youth Minister

## Easter Flower Order Form

To order flowers for the altar on Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012, please complete the following and attach your check (made payable to NMUMC) then mail to or drop off at the church office. The cost of each flower is \$14. The orders and payment must be received by Sunday, March 25, 2012.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name placed for: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: *In Loving Memory of*      *In Honor of*

Please check one: ( ) Tulip    ( ) Hyacinth    ( ) Lily

2. Name placed for: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: *In Loving Memory of*      *In Honor of*

Please check one: ( ) Tulip    ( ) Hyacinth    ( ) Lily

Attach check or cash to order form and return to church office. Please print legibly.

# HOLY WEEK

**Sunday, April 1:**  
Palm/Passion Sunday

**Thursday, April 5:**  
Maundy Thursday  
Worship Service at 7 p.m.

**Friday, April 6:**  
**Good Friday**  
Community Good Friday  
Service on New Milford  
Green at noon beginning  
at the Congregational  
Church

**Sunday, April 8:**  
**Easter Sunday**  
9:30 & 11:30 a.m.  
Worship Services Easter  
Egg Hunt for children  
at 10:45 a.m.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776



Non Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
New Milford, CT  
Permit #6