



New Milford United Methodist Church

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



October 2013

Pastor's Message

You Fill Up My Senses...

Remember the old John Denver song?

*You fill up my senses like a night in a forest,
Like the mountains in springtime,
Like a walk in the rain, like a storm in the desert,
Like a sleepy blue ocean.
You fill up my senses, come fill me again.*

That's the way it should be in our relationship with God. Our senses should be filled by our worship. But all too often, when we come to worship our senses are not completely engaged. Our senses of sight are dulled by the same old liturgical colors that we always see. Our sense of sound is blunted and dulled by the same old songs we always sing in the same old ways. Even our sense of smell is not often fully utilized as it could or should be.

I was truly blessed recently to go with Allan Bush of our church to a Worship Workshop led by Marcia McFee of The United Methodist Church. Her style did not just teach us how to design worship that meets the senses of our congregants: She showed us wonderful worship and how it could be more engaging.

The following Sunday I thought I would try it out with our Open Door. We read the Scripture in a different way. Folks were asked to read the Word to themselves and pick out a word or phrase that they found most compelling in the passage. I asked them to roll that word or phrase over and over again in their head. Then I asked them, as they felt comfortable, to name that word or phrase. The Word of God came alive in our speaking and hearing of those words and phrases.

I had the Communion table lined up lengthwise in the aisle. We didn't just enjoy and get to experience the Bread and the Wine. We enjoyed and experienced what made up those elements. We felt the flour, tasted the salt, made note of the oval perfection of the eggs, smelled the yeast. We enjoyed the grapes exploding with flavor in our mouths. Then we partook of the Lord's Supper.

The following day I attended the Tri-District Retreat with Bishop Martin McLee of the New York Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Lo and behold, one of the major topics of discussion was...Worship! We talked about the importance of having altars that help the eye to dance and encouraging our parishioners not to just sing and recite in a rote fashion but with passion and vigor. I found this inspiring as well.

I hope I can introduce new ideas and experiences to your worship in the coming weeks and months. You may not always find it personally appealing (you can't please everyone!) but I hope you will be challenged to worship in a new way. It is part of all of our work as a worshipping community to lift up God and connect with God as much as possible. May it be so.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor

Church News

Parking Notice

Just another reminder: The new owners of Chamberlain Hall have asked that, due to liability, we no longer use the parking spaces in front of Chamberlain Hall or the garage. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Bowling Night

The next Bowling Night will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 7:15 p.m. at Lore's Lanes. For additional information or to RSVP (by Oct. 17), please contact Linda Slater at (860) 354-6180 or lslater0256@yahoo.com.

Needle Nuts

Needle Nuts will meet again on Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Church Conference Room. Stitchers of all kinds are welcome to come for the sharing of ideas and good conversation. There is no fee. For more information, contact Bonnie Weed at (860) 355-1264 or happysmom@sbcglobal.net. Mark your calendar for our upcoming sessions: Oct. 9, Oct. 23 and Oct. 30. We will not meet on Oct. 16.



Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, Oct. 25 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, Oct. 31.



GUMC & NMUMC are happy to announce that Brinna Koltitz has been hired as the new youth minister. She will work with the youth of both New Milford United Methodist Church and Gaylordsville Methodist Church. Youth, parents and interested volunteers are invited to a planning meeting on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 3:30 p.m. at Gaylordsville United Methodist Church. You can contact Brinna through email at youthminister@newmilfordumc.org.

Thank you

Dear Church Family,

I feel truly blessed with all the caring thoughts and prayers that have been with me during my recent hip surgery and recovery. The cards, phone calls and offers to give us help were overwhelming. That, along with what I'm calling a miraculous recovery, has been wonderful. I'm getting along better and better each day and hope to be back among you in a very short time. Thank you from the bottom of my heart and God bless you.

Lynn Hayes

Attendance & Offerings

Sept. 1	84	\$5,992
Sept. 8	95	\$5,624
Sept. 15	106	\$2,665
Sept. 22	105	\$3,067

Congregational Care Committee

The Congregational Care Committee was formed to send out Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Thinking of you, and misc. cards to members of the church when the occasion arises. We are also here to help when someone may need a ride or to visit a shut in. We would like to remind everyone to let us know if someone could use our help, or would just like us to give them a call. It can make someone feel better, to be remembered. If you would like more information or would like to join the committee, contact the church office (860) 354-4596 or office@newmilfordumc.org or Bonnie Knapp (860) 355-0559 or bonnieknapp@charter.net.

the Education Center

The school year has gotten off to a strong start here at the Education Center! Our classrooms are full, with very limited availability and we have had to hire two full time teachers to meet our needs. All of our classrooms have been freshly painted, been given new carpets and the windows now all have blinds. The center has a fresh new feeling to it as you walk through! This month the children have been focusing on Nature and all of the changes happening around us. The teachers and children have

gone on several nature walks to collect samples for the classrooms and used some of those samples for artwork as well.

We encourage to stop over for a visit or to volunteer for an afternoon or two. We have a lot to share and would love to have company!!

Warm Regards,

Jennifer Pennucci

HUNGER ACTION MONTH



September was Hunger Awareness Month. NMUMC participated in the month-long campaign with three very successful activities. On September 5, volunteers at Our Daily Bread had their picture taken. The photo was submitted to the Connecticut Food Bank and the church received a \$25.00 account credit for our efforts.

On September 22, oranges were collected and distributed to Our Daily Bread clients. Fresh produce is expensive and is frequently lacking in the diets of those who struggle with hunger. We are proud to report that we exceeded our goal of 175 oranges!

Two additional activities were remaining at newsletter press time – a special collection on September 29 and a SNAP challenge to live on a \$4.50/day food budget. Watch for additional updates in next month's newsletter!



October Birthdays:

- 2 - Don H.
- 3 - Martha M.
- 5 - Marilyn F., Nanci H.
- 7 - Martin M.
- 9 - Ralph W. III
- 14 - Art C.
- 16 - Robert M.
- 18 - Terri H.
- 21 - Jean L.
- 22 - Sue F.
- 25 - Roger N., Sue O.
- 29 - Hannah N.
- 30 - Tyler P., Charlie C.
- 31 - Chris B., Nicholas B.,
Joy H., Mary M.

Joys & Concerns

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers throughout the week

Amy, Jon, and Sebastian Brooks, who lost their daughter, Lily, in a car accident. We also pray for the extended family, Ralph and Barbara Williams, the grandparents; Ashley Williams, aunt; Ralph and Priscilla Williams, uncle and aunt; and Emma and Rebecca Williams, cousins.

Mary Gunther's daughter-in-law whose mother is under hospice care.

Roger Warmbir who is recovering from shoulder surgery and recently fell, impacting his recovery.

The grandchildren of Tom and Ann Tibbatts whose parents are going through a divorce.

Thelma Neufeld's sister who is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Terri Hudak's sister who has melanoma.

Roger and Hannah Nagle who have moved to New Hampshire.

Clark Kathan, who has moved to Vermont

Ben Vivona, who will undergo surgery on October 28.

Gary Brenchley, Linda Slater's brother, who has completed chemotherapy but faces surgery with an extended recovery period.

June Hudak who is battling cancer and is no longer undergoing chemotherapy.

Marlene Davis' son who recovering from surgery.

Lynn Hayes as she recovers from hip replacement surgery.

Louise, who is suffering from liver and kidney failure.

Michelle Smith, friends of Ralph Williams Jr., who is in very critical condition in the hospital suffering from complications of a ruptured colon

Benny, a relative of Marlene Davis, and his family. Benny is battling kidney cancer.

Kairos prison ministry as its director, Bob Lewis, steps down due to health concerns. We pray for health and healing for Bob.

Kay Jones, who is suffering from low blood pressure and a rapid heartbeat. Teddy Oxtan, who is recovering from surgery.

Ken Birsan who is suffering from a heart condition and kidney failure.

Caleb Gaylord, a local 12 year old boy battling AML Leukemia, as he returns to the Children's Hospital to begin round 3 of chemotherapy.

Sherri Ritter, niece of Kay Jones, who recently lost both her mother and daughter and now has been diagnosed with cancer herself.

Dominick Byron who is a Marine and serving his second tour of duty overseas.



They're back:

Pumpkins in the Churchyard

It's pumpkin season. The front of the church property along Route 7 has been transformed and has countless orange pumpkins in the church yard. It is a beautiful sight to behold!

Invite a friend to come and help sell pumpkins with you. The pumpkin patch is open Sundays through Fridays 1 to 7p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 pm.

There will be sign-up forms outside the church office and also in the Pumpkin Tent for selling pumpkins.

Jerry Jones and Dave Kullgren
Co Chair of Pumpkins in the Churchyard

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