



# New Milford United Methodist Church

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September 2012

Pastor's Message

## ***A Fresh Start: A New Sermon Series Beginning on Rally Sunday***

*Join Us for Rally Sunday on September 9!*

*Psalm 145:13-21* “God gives a hand to those down on their luck, gives a fresh start to those ready to quit.” (Psalm 145:14, The Message)

*John 8:1-11* “Go, and from now on, don’t sin anymore.” (John 8:11b, Common English Bible)

The Fall Semester has begun. Kids in New Milford and surrounding communities are returning to school. We’re shaking off those “Summertime Blues” and getting back into gear. There is a sense that we can all begin anew.

God is that way with us too. God gives us all the chance to begin again. No matter who you are, or what you’ve done, it’s never too late to receive God’s forgiveness and start over. Mistakes and past sins can become informative catalysts to a new way of life, with God – The Great Recycler – taking our trash and making something beautiful. We find countless examples throughout Scriptures. Consider the repentant thief on the cross beside Jesus who was promised paradise; the woman caught in adultery who, by Jesus’ words and actions was given a sentence to live fully, rather than die; or King David, whose sins were great, yet whose legacy of repentance and faithfulness remains.

Read John 8:1-11. Put yourself in the mindset of those ready to give up on this woman and execute a death sentence. To them, she offended God and community through her actions, and their response was to end her life. While we might not be able to identify with condemning someone to death, we sometimes do that in community by emotionally distancing ourselves from a person or negating their desires. These actions can signify death as they put a stop to dreams and limit a person’s potential. Jesus could see this woman, not just for who she had been, but also who she could be. He reminded others of who they were as well, thus creating an empathetic bond between them and the woman. They were all in the same boat, so to speak, and thus could not condemn one another. As Jesus sent the woman back into community, he turned a new page in her life – giving her the chance to “go and sin no more.”

Now think about community in the United States. Parents are sending children back to school, dealing with the joy and anxiety of possibilities and, perhaps, financial burdens. Children are thinking about school – wondering who their teachers will be, if they’ll have friends in the same classes and if they’ll fit in. The stones ready to be thrown are those that defy great expectation and hope for one another. It’s easy to join others in stone-throwing. It takes courage and hope in Christ to help someone see the potential God has placed within. We need Christ-like eyes to see the fullness of who a person is called to be.

## Pastor's Message continued



### Newsletter deadline and production dates

The next newsletter deadline will be **Friday, Sept. 28 at noon** and we will be preparing it for mailing on Thursday, Oct. 4.

God works in new situations to bring new results. No matter who you are – whether a child starting kindergarten, or an older adult embarking on an unfamiliar journey, new adventures await. Change can bring fear and anxiety, but holding one another in active support can overcome destructive emotions so dreams are realized.

Let us embark on a new journey together, returning to the Church anew by celebrating Rally Sunday on Sept. 9. You are always welcome in Christ's church and in God's

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Paul A. Fleck, Pastor



### Tracie Nixon Leaves Church Secretary Position

Tracie Nixon, who has served as Church Secretary and Office Manager at NMUMC for the last seven years, will be leaving that position effective Thursday, Aug. 30. A highly-valued member of our staff, Tracie has done an outstanding job. Pastor Paul Fleck notes that she will certainly be missed: "Tracie has not only enhanced the ministries of every person with whom she came into contact at New Milford United Methodist Church, her work has been a ministry in and of itself. She has been a tireless worker for the promotion of the Gospel in so many ways." Fortunately, we will still see Tracie around the Church (after a break, she says) engaged in the many ministries that she values so highly ranging from worship to needle nits to U.M. ARMY. Thank you so much Tracie for your service to this Church and to building up the kingdom of God!

## the Education Center

The Education Center has had a busy Summer that was safe and fun! But now we are ready to embark upon a new school year with full classrooms and some new teachers.

Our teachers have been busy planning activities that will get the children excited about the changing season, the falling leaves, and learning new things all around!

Because of our increased enrollment we have limited spaces currently available, but please refer any families you know of that may be

in need of quality child care. Also, we are actively seeking volunteers for different times of the day. Let us know if you might be available to share some of your time with the wonderful children in our program!

Happy Fall Everyone!

Warm regards,  
*Jennifer Pennucci*

## Rally Sunday

Join us for Rally Sunday, Sept. 9 with one Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. We will be dedicating the Bell and the Stained Glass Cross right before the service begins. Our thanks to all the businesses and people who contributed their time, talent and donations for the completion of these two beautiful projects. Because of your generosity the two projects were entirely funded.

# Church News

## Get Cranky at the Homemade Ice Cream Social

On Saturday, Sept. 16, United Methodist Youth Fellowship of Gaylordsville and New Milford will be sponsoring a homemade ice cream social at the Gaylordsville UMC. Those who bring their own topping will get a free bowl of ice cream. Those who do not will have to pay \$1.50 per bowl; alternatively, folks will get one penny off the price of a bowl per crank of the ice cream maker. The only place it pays to be cranky!



# Lake COMPOUNCE

## Saturday, Sept. 8

On Saturday, Sept. 8, we will travel to Lake Compounce for fun and frolic from the church parking lot. Though this is an event of our joint youth groups, kids of all ages (ages 3-99) are welcome to attend. The cost of the tickets, which we will be purchasing through Costco, is \$27.99. Please have your turn in monies to the Church office by Monday, Sept. 3 to insure we can cut a check to purchase the tickets in a timely fashion.

## Attendance & Offerings

Aug. 5	104	\$5,291
Aug. 12	102	\$2,802
Aug. 19	75	\$1,821
Aug. 26	104	\$2,874
<b>Aug. total giving</b>		<b>\$12,788</b>
<b>YTD total giving</b>		<b>\$124,632</b>
<b>Budgeted giving</b>		<b>\$132,693</b>

## Spaghetti Suppers Return!

Spaghetti Suppers return on Saturday, Sept. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. Please join us for our acclaimed meat sauce, vegetarian sauce or butter on traditional spaghetti or whole wheat pasta with garlic or plain bread. We also offer homemade desserts and soft drinks all for \$25 for a family, \$10 per individual, \$9 for seniors, 65+, and \$4 for children 6 to 12. For more information, please contact Bonnie Knapp at (860) 355-0559.

## Mozambique Presentation 2012

On Sunday, Oct. 14 at 1:30 p.m., Kay and Jerry Jones will hold a presentation in the Sanctuary with pictures and videos from their July trip to Carolyn Belshe Orphanage in Mozambique. For more information, please contact the church office or Jerry & Kay Jones at (860) 354-7914.

## Joys & Concerns

### *Our prayers are with...*

Our Bishop-elect, Rev. Martin McClee.  
Jennifer Middleton who is recovering from knee surgery.  
Carolyn Dion's father, John Lawrence, who was recently hospitalized for an infection.

### *Our prayers continue to be with...*

Nanci Hutson's mother, Peggy Gustafson, who is recovering from a stroke.  
Rhonda, Valorie Kolitz' niece who is having medical issues.  
Kevin Hutson who has just began a new job in Arizona.  
Lillie Allen who has moved into Candlewood Valley Rehabilitation.

Natalie, Ellie Middleton's niece who was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.  
Darcie, Sharon Kresl's daughter has been undergoing chemotherapy and her tumors are shrinking.  
Kim Birsen 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 having medical issues, he is Larry Tripp's brother.  
Madeline Petrillo, Chris Martirano's mother-in-law, who is having health issues.  
George Perry who has moved into the Masonic Homes.

Rev. Ken Kieffer who is recovering from cancer treatments.  
Dee Yukon, the wife of Rev. Matt Yukon of the Northville Baptists church, who is being treated for cancer.  
Jack Orr who is having medical issues. 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.

## Bishop McLee To Address The First Annual Laity Convocation

Bishop Martin McLee will present the opening remarks at the "First Annual Laity Convocation" on October 20, 2012 at the Edith Macy Conference Center in Briarcliff, New York. This will be one of Bishop McLee's first appearances in the New York Annual Conference. You will not want to miss this opportunity to learn more about our new bishop.

## Laity Convocation October 20, 2012

Edith Macy Conference Center  
Briarcliff, NY

9:30am to 4:00pm

Lunch Included

\$40 / person

Seating is limited

Online registration is available

<http://nyac.com/registrations/register/83>



Bishop Martin McLee

## Kwasi Kena Will Be The Featured Speaker

Dr. Kwasi Kena will be the guest speaker at a one day Laity Convocation sponsored by the NYAC Board of Laity. This is the first of what is hoped to be an annual event.

Dr. Kena's message will deal with the next round of "Incubator Training." This next round is designed for laity and is a critical part of the effort to restore vitality to our Church. Your participation is critical to the success of this effort and to the future of our Church. This is training you will not want to miss.

## What you Need To Know

Dr. Kena has requested that all people attending, first read *Bearing Fruit*, by Lovett H. Weems Jr. and Tom Berlin. This is available at Amazon.

<http://www.amazon.com/Bearing-Fruit-Ministry-Real-Results/dp/1426715900>

On the day of the conference please park in the lower parking area and take the shuttle.

For directions to the Edith Macy Conference center go [http://www.edithmacy.com/location\\_directions/](http://www.edithmacy.com/location_directions/)  
GPS IS NOT RECOMMENDED.



Dr. Kwasi Kena

**Carpooling from NMUMC is available for this event  
at 7:30 a.m. for those interested in attending**

## TRAINING FOR TEAM 2013

### Organizing Teams in the Connecticut District for Just, Fair and Comprehensive Immigration Reform

At our last New York Annual Conference session, the plenary body overwhelmingly passed a Petition regarding Team 2013- Organizing for Just, Fair and Comprehensive Immigration Reform at the federal level. Each district is sponsoring a training led by the Immigration Task Force of the New York Annual Conference that "will inform and empower leaders of congregations (both lay and clergy) to return to their churches and sensitize and educate others about the need for just, fair and comprehensive immigration reform on the federal level." The goal, as stated in the Petition, is to have as many congregations as possible and at least five (5) congregations per district engage in this process.

The Connecticut District training, which will be held on Oct. 14 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the District Office, 20 Broadfield Rd., Hamden, Conn., will include a video entitled "Jasmine's Story" that you can show in your church, an excerpt of a Bible study that you can bring back and use in your congregations, immigration facts and myths, next action steps, discussion, and worship.

Please RSVP with Rev. Paul A. Fleck at (860) 354-4596, ext. 12. All are welcome to attend this informative and empowering training that we hope will lead to just, fair and comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level in 2013.

## Thank you Church Family

I would like to thank each member of my church family who sent cards and prayed for me and my family at the passing of my mother. It was very comforting to know that we were in your prayers as my family gather to say good-bye to the woman who showed me what faith looked like.

Peace,  
*Valorie Kolitz*

## Thank you for VBS!

My husband and I wanted to thank you for running the Vacation Bible School (VSB) program. We did get to thank the staff that was there, they were so caring and energetic. We appreciated the program being opened up to the community. Our son, Bill got so much out of this program. It was such a blessing. We have had a lot of discussions this week and many more teaching moments that I know will continue about our faith. Bill learned a lot and had fun doing it and we made some new friends

Thanks again.  
*Maura & Mark Kaschube*

## Please welcome Theresa Volinski, New Church Secretary!

Theresa Volinski, a resident of Gaylordsville and a member of the Gaylordsville United Methodist Church, will be joining us as our new Church Secretary effective Monday, Aug. 27. Theresa brings to the position over ten years of experience in a broad range of office management as well as over ten years of experience in a variety of community service work. She presently works part-time in the early morning hours at the Home Depot as a Bay Integrity Analyst, serves President of Trustees with the Gaylordsville United Methodist Church and since 2009 has served as a member of the New Milford Planning Commission. Bob Hoburg, Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee stated: "We are pleased to have someone of Theresa's depth and breadth of experience join our Church's staff?"

## NATIONAL HUNGER MONTH

September is National Hunger Month and a great time to think of the needs of our clients at Our Daily Bread, also known as the Food Barn. According to a USDA report in 2010, 15% of American households is "food insecure"; meaning that food was scarce for lack of money or other resources such as a garden. There are several scriptures that relate to feeding the hungry. Among them are Exod: 16 1-12 (manna in the desert), Lev: 19 9-10 (leave some of the harvest for others), Deut: 15: 7-11 (be generous to those in need), Matt:25: 31-46 ("I was hungry and you fed me"), and in each of the gospels there is an account of the feeding of the 5000.

Our Daily Bread is seeking donations of the following items which provide protein; peanut butter, tuna fish and canned beans (black, kidney, pinto or baked beans etc.). There will be a collection box outside the church office. Thanking you in advance for your help.



## Vacation Bible School: OPERATION SUCCESS!

A very special thanks to our volunteers who made Vacation Bible School a fun time for kids and a great success!  
From left: Janice Mayette, LaDonna Takyi, Lori Mayette Mott, Chris Bierson, Mike Walsh, Nick DelMastro and Pastor Paul Fleck.  
Important volunteers not pictured include Valorie Kolitz, Heather Morin, Steffan Mayette and Pat Tripp.

# Save the Date

Our Charge Conference will be held on  
Sunday, Dec. 2 at noon, following a combined worship service  
at 10:30 am, with Rev. Ken Kieffer presiding.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

68 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776



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