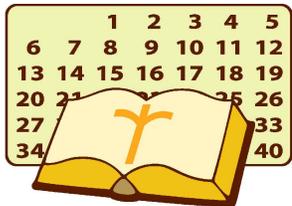


The Parish Herald

Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Meriden, Connecticut

Ric Hanse
Pastor

March 2017



¹⁰ He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." – Psalm 46:10

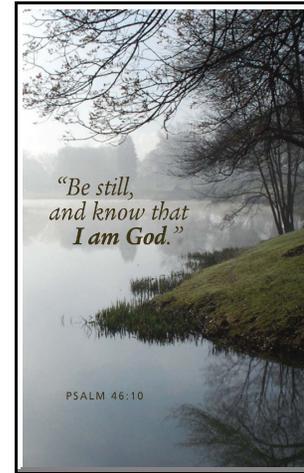
Pastor's Message for Lent

I love to be moving, doing, and creating. Working out, running, and being at Church are things that I thoroughly enjoy doing. So, when life gets difficult, my instinct is to work out more, run faster, and do more at Church. Do! Do! Do!

But we are not human doings. We are human beings.

This year, 1 March through 15 April marks the time of the Christian Year we call **Lent**. Lent is a great gift from God that affords us an opportunity to take time to be still and know that Jesus is our God. God does not say, "*Be busier*

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and know that I am God." Rather, He says, "**Be still and know that I am God.**"

When we spend time being still, we become more aware of Jesus' presence in our lives. This deeper awareness of Jesus' presence makes it possible for us to navigate life from a center of peace and wellness because Jesus is at our center.

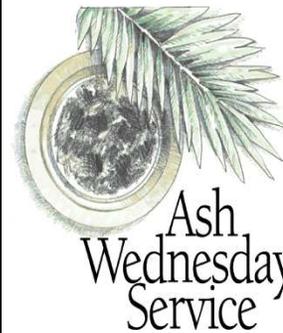
Psalm 46 begins with the declaration, "**God is our refuge and strength!**"

God is our refuge and strength when we choose to be still in Jesus. Please join me this Lent in taking a few moments each day to be still. In your stillness you will know Christ's presence, receive Christ's peace, and experience the restoring love of Jesus our God.

Affectionately,

Pastor Ric

LENT



Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 1st**. We will worship at 7:00 pm. The Chancel Choir will sing and Holy Communion will be offered. Please join us.

Lenten Self-denial Coin Folders will be mailed soon. **Coin Banks** will be found on the table in the Cloister. If you do not receive one, please call the Church office or find some extras available on the table in Rogers Memorial. Thank you. Special children's folders are also available.

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group is open for **all youth** from grades 4 through High School. We typically meet after worship until 3 PM (3:30 if there is travel off the site needed). All Junior & Senior High youth of the Church and their friends are welcome. If you have any questions please contact Jim Hazlett at 860.324.2588 or email at jhazlett1222@gmail.com.

- 3/5 Lenten Project #1 after church to 3pm
- 3/12 Lenten Project #2 after church to 3pm
- 3/19 Lenten Project #3 after church to 3pm
- 3/26 Lenten Project #4 after church to 3pm
- 4/2 Lenten Project #5 after church to 3pm
- 4/9 Palm Sunday Breakfast 6AM 3pm
- 4/16 Easter Sunday no youth group
- 4/23 Day in Park after church to 3pm
- 4/30 Kite Flying after church 3:30 pm
- 5/7 End Clothing Drive after church to 3pm



ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST!



On Sunday, April 9, please join us from 8:30-9:30am for a **full HOT BREAKFAST** of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and fruit - all served by our youth! Come hungry and come early! Sign-up in Rogers Memorial! Suggested Donation: \$7.00 (children 5 and under \$4.00), Family of 5 – \$25.00. Support our YOUTH!

SCHOLARSHIPS

First United Methodist Church Scholarships are available for **graduating Seniors**. All High School Seniors who have been active in the life of the Church for five years or longer who intend to continue their education are invited to apply for FUMC scholarships. Greatest emphasis for consideration of awards will be placed upon active service to the Church, especially during high school years.

Additional criteria for consideration include community service, academic standing, extracurricular activities, and employment. Applications will be available March 1st, must be returned to the "Scholarship" receptacle on the Bulletin Board in the cloister no later than the first Sunday in May (May 7, 2017). Awards are made in June. Please Note - there are also hundreds of scholarships available to college students of all ages through the General Board of Higher Education. Call 615- 340-7344 or go to the web-site www.gbhem.org. Click onto Scholarship information and requests. A form is available to request information.

VBS NEWS



Save the week of July 10th – 14th. 5:30 pm for Cave Quest. More info to come...

Prayer Chain continues active and strong, and would love to be praying for your needs and desires. If you have a special need for prayer, please let our prayer chain coordinator (Holly Wishart) know so she can share your burdens and needs with those who are on the chain. Please make certain you have permission from the person(s) you are praying for, and then call Holly, 203-907-5725, or the Church office, 235-9620. You can also e-mail the office, fumc@snet.net, if you prefer.

FOCUS ON WOMEN

Unit 4 will meet Monday, March 13th, 12:00 noon for a pot-luck luncheon. All women are warmly welcome.

UMW (United Methodist Women) **Book Club** will meet on Tuesday, March 14, at the home of Myrna Spencer, 126 Ann St. at 7:30 PM. We will be discussing "*Necessary Lies*" by Diane Chamberlain. Our next selection will be "Illuminations" by Mary Sharratt. All women are welcome.

UMW Luncheon: Sunday March 19th

UMW Spring Day Gathering for Spiritual Growth. April 22, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm at Torrington UMC. For more info contact UMW President, Nancy Hauser. 203-538-5901 84CollegePlace@gmail.com

Unit 4 of the UMW is again collecting items for **Health Kits** that will be taken to NY Annual Conference for UMCOR to distribute to those affected by floods, tornados, and other natural disasters.

Donations of the items or cash to buy & send them are appreciated! Please mark any donations "Health Kits". Please leave items in the Health Kits box in the hallway. Any questions see Sylvia Guerin or members of Unit 4. Thank you!!!

Items needed: *Soap – bath size (no Ivory) Wash cloths – terry cloth
Nail clippers or metal nail files Hand towels – 15-17"X25-27" terry cloth
Band-aids – ¾-1" wide only Combs – 8" Toothbrush – individually packaged.*

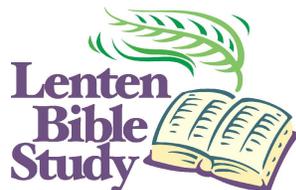
Relief-supply kits help provide care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis. Health kits, sewing kits, school kits, bedding kits, birthing kits, and cleaning buckets are collected by generous donors across the United States. These items are then sent to one of two supply depots, where volunteers assemble, verify, and pack the kits so that they can be sent to where they are needed most. Kits also help sustain everyday life for people who lack ready access to essential supplies. They provide vital support for UMCOR's global development work and make a tangible difference in people's lives.

MEN'S NOTES

Brothers in Christ: Bible study, support & encouragement. The goal is to grow in our responsiveness to Jesus Christ in all aspects of our lives. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, 8:00 am in the Parish House. If you have any questions or need additional information please see Hal Quigley. All men warmly welcomed.

LENTEN STUDY

Final Words From The Cross -Adam Hamilton examines Christ's dying hours and his final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. Moving through each chapter you will begin to



understand and respond to Jesus' final words at the cross while learning about those who were eye witnesses to the crucifixion. In his final chapter, Hamilton moves beyond the cross to Jesus' words to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and to those who were witnesses to the Resurrection.

TWO CLASSES WILL BE OFFERED Monday mornings from 9:30-11 am beginning March 6th through April 17th. Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm beginning March 8th through April 19th. Sign up in Rogers Memorial.

2017 ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Hebrews 10: 24 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Saturday March 25 **Movie Night**. 7:00 pm in Rogers Memorial.

Saturday April 29 **Yale Art Museum**, 1111 Chapel Street, New Haven, CT.

We will carpool from FUMC, leaving at 9:00 am. After touring the museum we will get lunch locally before returning to Meriden.

Saturday May 20 **Miniature Golf and Ice cream**. We will meet at FUMC at 5:00 pm to car pool and then come back to Rogers for ice cream.

Saturday June 24 **Bowling**. We will meet at FUMC at 5:00 pm to carpool.

Sunday September 10 **All Church Picnic**. 12:00 4:00 at Community Lake Park in Wallingford.

Saturday October 28 **Progressive dinner**, details to follow.

Saturday November 18 **Game Night** 6:30 pm in Rogers.

Saturday Dec 2 **Hanging of the greens** beginning at 3:00 pm followed by a soup and sandwich supper in Rogers.

CORNED BEEF DINNER

Saturday March 18th is FUMC's **Annual Corned Beef Dinner** Fundraiser! Doors open at 5:00 pm; buffet opens at 5:30pm. All proceeds to benefit our Youth Group's 2017 Mission trip. \$15 per person; \$25 per couple; \$40 for families or groups of 4. Sign ups in Roger's Memorial. Volunteers and food donations

welcomed! See Mary or Neil Lavado in Roger's after service, or call (860) 349-3345. Take out meals available! Bring a friend! Or 10!

Sunday, March 5th 2:00 – 5:– pm at 19 Docker Dr, Wallingford, a **Market America Wellness Fundraiser** – vitamins, weight loss supplements, beauty products, household cleaning products. Also 5% off any item you might normally purchase from the internet. Profits from any item sold will go to the church. Questions? Call Jim Aling 203-793-7043

MISSION

Ongoing Mission projects: **Fostering Love** Children placed in Foster Care receive from 1st UMC Church a backpack with an outfit, a toy, and toiletries. We are in need of: Boys coloring books, cards and other games for older kids...especially for boys. Thank you for your generous help!

Caring Hands group makes blankets for the patients at MidState Medical Oncology and the veterans at West Haven VA Hospital. Each blanket costs \$15.00 and we include a copy of The Upper Room. Since 2014 we have given 245 blankets to these people who have given so much and are in need of a warm "hug." Please help us to keep this mission going with a small (or large) donation. Questions? Please contact Jan Richardson or Nancy Tracy. Thank you.

Unity House is a refugee house run by the South Meriden UMC. Your missions committee is providing three ways for you to participate. **Change in the Collection Plate**. Loose change placed in the collection plate will be set aside for Unity House. This includes Coins only. **UNITY JAR**. A collection jar will be available in Rogers Memorial for those that want to give a little more. **CHECK**. Checks made out to FUMC with "Unity House" in the Memo line will be given to Unity House. Our goal and pledge commitment to Unity House as a congregation is \$100.00 per month.

Red Cross Bloodmobiles: Wednesdays, March 22, and April 26, 1:00 – 6:00 pm in Rogers Memorial. Giving blood only takes about one hour and can save up to three lives. Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or make an appointment on the Internet at



<http://www.redcrossblood.org/>. The American Red Cross has an **urgent need** for blood donations to help prevent a shortage of blood products. Donors of all blood types are urgently needed now, especially those with type O, AB, B negative and A negative. If you make an appointment don't forget to use *RapidPass* to complete your pre-reading and donation questions online from the comfort and privacy of your home or office; reducing the time spent at the blood drive by up to 15 minutes!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

- March 5 – Team 1: Sue Winchell, Barbara Quigley, Evelyn Mills, Stacy Morgan, Sarah Uylaky, Cathy Bacon
March 12 – Team 2: Stanley & Sharon Kapustinski, Brenda Daly, Nancy Tracy, Jan Richardson, Stacy Harris, Karen Harrison
March 19 – Team 3: Debbie Molloy, Novelyn Cosmiano, Susan Farquharson, JoAnn Myers, Cindy Lopiano, Jennifer Janus
March 26 – Team 4: Ray & Rosanne Knapp, Jim & Sue Kostuk, Debbie Lippold, Toni Merrill,
April 2 – Team 5: Nancy Coppola, Mary Alling, Kate Eglee, Bette Grasso, Mary Lavado, Tracy Wodatch
April 9 – Team 6: Deane Poirier, Alison Green, Maurice Poirier, MaryEllen Brechlin, Trudi Schott, Mark Fancher, Carol Porsch, Lauren Rhines, Ellen Fisk.

Briefs: Don't forget to **turn your clocks ahead** on Sunday, March 12th!

A **Food Pantry** is available at New Opportunities, 74 Cambridge St, Meriden. Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Thurs, 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm.

We have openings for **Altar Flowers** for March 12, & 26. If you wish to donate flowers in honor of or in memory of someone please call the Church office, 235-9620.

The **Deadline** for the April Parish Herald is Friday, March 23. Please have your articles in to the office by that date. You can drop them off or e-mail (fumc@snet.net). Thank you. The Herald will be mailed Thursday, March 30, 9:00 am from the Church office. Anyone wishing to help collate and label the newsletter is very welcome.



Don't forget you can access our **church calendar** on our website at <http://www.firstumcmeriden.com/events/> This calendar has the most current schedules.

Do you have **Broad Shoulders? We need many volunteers** for our ministry that provides meals for members of our Church family when there is a need, due possibly to illness or surgery. If you can help please contact Myrna Spencer (203-238-2704).

Sunday, March 26 we observe **One Great Hour of Sharing** - One of the Six Special Offerings requested by the United Methodist Church. This special offering is shared by many Church denominations. One Great Hour has made development aid, disaster relief, and refugee resettlement possible in over 70 countries. It has supported many persons caught in the path of destruction created by hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and other natural disasters. Special folders and offering envelopes will be included in the Church bulletin. Special gifts can always be sent to the Church office

Become a fan of FUMC on Facebook. Search "First United Methodist Church of Meriden CT" (not FUMC). The official page has a black and white photo of the Church as a profile photo. You must 'like' us and then the page will be able to post content into your Facebook News Feed. Also, "share" FUMC on your FaceBook page so others can 'like' us too!

Did you know our **Newsletter** is online at our web site at www.firstumcmeriden.com? Or scan the QRcode with your cell phone or tablet. If you prefer to read the Church newsletter online and forgo getting a hard copy 10 times per year (no January or July) let the office know at fumc@snet.net. Thank you.



Scan to go to FUMC website.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

We would like to extend our most sincere appreciation to all the members of our mother's church family for the numerous prayers and the out-pouring of love and support shown to her during her brief illness. In addition, we are profoundly grateful for all that was done to organize such a beautiful memorial service. The sanctuary looked lovely and the choir sounded amazing!! The service was joyous and something that truly reflected our mother. We were overwhelmed

by the incredible reception hosted by your congregation. We greatly appreciate and thank all those that helped to organize, set up, bake, cook, serve, clean up, and anything else we missed, in order to make the day run smoothly. We could sense our mother's presence and know she was there in spirit enjoying the fellowship. We know the loss of our mom is not ours alone to bear and that her family at Meriden FUMC grieves as well. Please know you all are in our thoughts and prayers and we are grateful to you for the prayers and expressions of sympathy sent our way. Fondly the *Miller family; Jeffrey, Richard, Amy, Ben, & Katelyn.*

Births: February 19 – *Perrin Bundzinski*, daughter of Sarah Graziano-Bundzinski & David Bundzinski, Granddaughter of Karen Caporizzo & Earl Yeomans, Great-granddaughter of Linda & Jim Mizell.

Hospitalized since the last Parish Herald: Bill Schultz, MaryAnn Smith, Larry Aresco, Bette Grasso, Jan Richardson, George Thomson, Scott Harris

+ **In Memoriam** + Since our last issue of the Parish Herald, the following have passed into eternal life: January 27 - *Phil Ashton*. February 7 - Mildred Clark, grandmother of Jenn Janus. February 13 – *Jean McElroy*.

Adult Bible Study, Seasonally. Pastoral & Lay Leadership
Boy Scout Troop 52 **Tuesday, 7:00 pm.**

Brothers in Christ 1st & 3rd Saturday, 8:00 am, Parish House

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Thursday, 7:30 pm, Sunday, 9:00 am

Church School Children's Choir – 1st Sunday and Seasonal: 10:15 am

Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sunday, 11:30 am.

Youth Groups, Grades 6- 12 , Sunday, 11:00 pm

United Methodist Women , 2nd Monday of each month and Special Programs

Worship Service & Church School at 10:00 am Sunday - Nursery provided.

Web Site: www.firstumcmeriden.com

Link to google calendar: <http://www.firstumcmeriden.com/events/>



March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ash Wednesday 	2 Chancel Choir	3 Soup Kitchen World Day of Prayer	4 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ Trustees 8:30 am
5 10:00 am Worship Worship Commission YOUTH GROUP	6 Lenten Study 9:30 am	7 Boy Scout Crew 52 Boy Scouts 6:30 PM Leadership Covenant Group VBS Planning Meeting 5:30 pm	8 Lenten Study 7:00 pm recycle	9 Chancel Choir	10	11
12 10:00 am Worship Education Commission YOUTH GROUP Daylight Savings Time Begins	13 Unit 4 Lenten Study 9:30 am	14 Boy Scouts 10:00 AM Curtis Home	15 Lenten Study 7:00 pm	16 Chancel Choir	17 Soup Kitchen	18 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ 5:30 PM Corned Beef Dinner
19 10:00 am Worship 12:00 PM UMW Luncheon YOUTH GROUP	20 Lenten Study 9:30 am	21 Boy Scout Crew 52 Boy Scouts	22 Can You Spare A Drop? Blood Drive Lenten Study 7:00 pm recycle	23 Chancel Choir	24  Deadline for Parish Herald	25 Adult Fellowship Movie Night
26 10:00 am Worship Music Staff One Great Hour of Sharing YOUTH GROUP	27 Lenten Study 9:30 am	28 Boy Scouts	29 Lenten Study 7:00 pm	30 Parish Herald Mailed Chancel Choir	31	

Easter Memorials



If you wish to order an Easter Lily to be placed in the sanctuary at Easter, please fill out the form below and return it to the Church office, together with payment of \$10.00 per plant, by placing it on the offering plate, or by mail (FUMC, 15 Pleasant St. Meriden, CT 06450).

Some members and friends may wish instead – or in addition – to make a **separate** contribution to one of the special funds listed below. These gifts are also acknowledged in the Easter bulletin. Please make all checks payable to First UMC.

❖ Absolute DEADLINE (to be included in the Memorial list) for receiving memorials is Friday, April 7th.

We wish to place _____ Easter Lily(s) in the sanctuary at \$10.00 each.

We wish to contribute \$ _____ to the

- () Living Memorial Fund
- () MemberCare Endowment Fund (For our future)
- () MemberCare Transfer Fund (For current requests)
- () Help defray the costs of Health Kits. (UMW Mission)

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Giver's Name _____

Phone _____

Please check:

_____ I will deliver Easter Lilies on April 17th.

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Kindly tear off and return to Church office. Thank you.

- Please add/drop person below to mailing list
- Would like offering envelopes
- Would like to join Church
- Changes in Address, phone, e-mail...
- The person below is in the hospital
- Please pray for:

NEWS FOR THE PARISH HERALD, COMMENTS, INFORMATION.

Signed.....

Mail should be sent to our 15 Pleasant St. Church office address. Please do not use the East Main Street address. Our E-Mail address is fumc@snet.net Phone: 203-235-9620

First United Methodist Church
15 Pleasant Street
Meriden, CT 06450-5702

