

The Parish Herald

Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Meriden, Connecticut

Ric Hanse
Pastor

March 2018

Dear Church Family:

On Ash Wednesday 14 February we began the season in the Christian Year known as Lent. Lent is a time for self-reflection and repentance. From the first Sunday in Lent through Easter Sunday I will be preaching a sermon series that will help us experience the last week of Jesus' life on earth in new ways that will bring us closer to God. The series theme is Sounds of the Passion. When we turn off the picture and listen, we hear familiar sounds in new ways that deepen our love for Jesus, who loves us with all He is and all He has.

Below is a list of the themes and the scriptures for each message. Please join me in reading these scriptures the week before the sermon. As you read, listen for the sounds in each passage, and hear Jesus speaking to your heart.

Affectionately,

Pastor Ric



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Sermon Series for Lent through Easter

"Sounds Of The Passion"

- 14 February – **Ashes And Love** – Isaiah 61:1-3
- 18 February – **The Sound Of Weeping** – Luke 19:41-44
- 25 February – **The Sound Of Silence** – Holly Wishart Preaching – Pastor Ric On Vacation
- 4 March – **The Clanking Of Coins** – Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-10
- 11 March – **The Dripping Of Water** – John 13:4-5, Matthew 27:15-26
- 18 March – **The Shouting Of The Crowd** – Matthew 27:15-23, 35-44
- 25 March – **Palm/Passion Sunday** – The Clop, Clop, Clop Of A Donkey – Luke 19:28-38
- 29 March – **Holy Thursday – 7:00pm** – The Crowing Of A Rooster – Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75
- 30 March – **Good Friday – 12:00pm** – The Hammering Of Nails – John 19:16-30
- 1 April – **Easter Sunday** – The Sound Of Everlasting Joy – Matthew 28:1-8, Luke 15:11-14



Holy Week

On March 25 we begin the Holiest Week of the Christian Year. We hope you will take advantage of the following worship experiences.

Palm Sunday March 25, 2018

8:30 - 9:30 am Full Hot Breakfast Buffet

10:00 am Palm Sunday Family Worship & Church School.

Palms will be distributed

Maundy Thursday March 29, 2018

7:00 pm Worship and the Lord's Last Supper in the Sanctuary

Good Friday March 30, 2018

Good Friday Worship 12:00 - noon

Open Prayer Vigil 1:00 to 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Come and go as you are able as we remember the three hours our Lord spent on the cross..

Easter Sunday April 1, 2018

10:00 am Service of Celebration of the Resurrected Lord

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

Nursery Care will be provided.

The Church office will close at 11:30 am on Good Friday.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Our Sunday School students will be participating in our Church service on **Palm Sunday, March 25**. As is the tradition in our Church, our children will bring the palm branches to the altar and will be participating in the opening song.



Students need to arrive early that Sunday as we need to review our anthem and line up before the service begins. Please have your child in Rogers Memorial Hall by no later than 9:30 am.

YOUTH NEWS

The youth group is open for **all youth** from grades 4 through High School. We typically meet Grades 4 & 5 11:30 am – 1:00 pm . Grades 6 & up 12:45 pm – 3:00 pm. Lunch for both groups will be 12:45 pm. 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.

- 3/4 Ushering – Clothing Drive Begins
- 3/11 Sundae Sunday
- 3/18 Kite Flying/Hike
- 3/24- 25 Lock-in Palm Sunday breakfast
- 3/31 6:00 pm Easter presentation.
- 4/8 Fund Raiser
- 4/15 Clothing Drive Ends



The American Red Cross is looking for student leaders.

Leaders Save Lives is a unique program for high school and college students who want to help save lives with the American Red Cross. By hosting a blood drive while school is out of session, you'll get the opportunity to win a **scholarship**, a meaningful leadership experience, a gift card award and the accomplishment of helping ensure a reliable blood supply. This leadership program is also a great way to rack up on **volunteer hours**. Scan the QR code or go to

<http://www.redcrossblood.org/leaderssaveives>



ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST!

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**



On Sunday, March 25, 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

To our **graduating seniors** who will be attending college, a technical school or some other course of advance training, full-time, our **scholarship applications are available**. Applications are located in the Cloister (hallway connecting the sanctuary and the Rogers Hall) or may be obtained from the church office, Monday through Friday 8:30-4:00PM. Applications must be returned to the church office no later than the first Sunday in May. A letter of acceptance from the institution, you will be attending, must accompany your application.

Returning college students, applications will be mailed, in June, to your current address on file in the church office and will need to be returned to the church office the first Sunday in July. You must be continuing your education full-time. Please contact Holly Wishart (203) 907-5725 or hwish@cox.net should you have any questions.

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.

FOCUS ON WOMEN

Unit 4 Craft group will meet Monday March 5 in Rogers Memorial.

Unit 4 will meet **Monday, March 12**, at 12:00 pm for a **Pot-luck Luncheon**. All women are most welcome.

UMW Luncheon: Sunday March 18th. See Debbie Molloy for more info.

UMW Spring Day Apart. Friday April 20, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm here at FUMC.

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 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.

MEN'S NOTES

Brothers in Christ: Bible study, support & encouragement. 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 BIBLE STUDY



“Son of God – The life of Jesus in you.” *What would happen if you applied the lessons from events in Jesus’ life—temptation, suffering, death, resurrection—to your own? Would you come to know Him more intimately and with a greater understanding of your purpose? Would you embody more completely the mission, love, and mind of Jesus? This study explains how you can find your purpose in studying the life of Jesus.*

6 Weeks beginning March 4. Sundays 11:30 am - 1:00 pm or Mondays 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Led by Wayne Smith. Sign up in Roger’s Memorial. or Call the Church office, 203-235-9620

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.

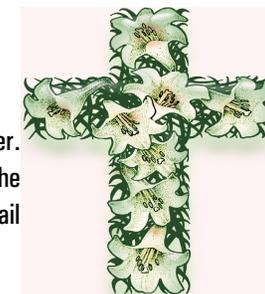
Unity House is a refugee house run by the South Meriden UMC. Your missions committee is providing three ways for you to participate. **Change in the Collection Plate.** Loose change placed in the collection plate will be set aside for Unity House. **UNITY JAR.** A collection jar will be available in 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: Wednesday, March 21, 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!

Join us on the web! www.firstUMCmeriden.com Better still it is smart phone friendly. This is a wonderful new way for us to grow closer to Jesus and each other as a Church Family. Be sure to check it out!

Easter Memorial Lilies



If you wish to order a Lily to be placed in the sanctuary at Easter. Please **indicate how many** and **circle** how you want the acknowledgment listed; place order form in the offering plate, or mail to the Church Office. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Please print.

___ In memory of – honor of _____

___ In memory of - honor of _____

Total # plants _____ at \$10.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed.

Please check:

_____ I will pick up my plant after the Easter Worship Service

_____ I will deliver Lilies on April 1st or 2nd.

Easter Memorial Donations

Donations to the following special funds – please indicate amount and **circle** how you want the acknowledgment listed. Please print.

Living Memorial

\$ ___ In memory of – honor of _____

\$ ___ In memory of – honor of _____

Health Kits (Unit 4 UMW Mission)

\$ ___ In memory of - honor of _____

\$ ___ In memory of – honor of _____

Other – please designate fund: _____

\$ ___ In memory of - honor of _____

Total donations \$ _____ enclosed.

Giver's Name/s _____

Phone _____

Total amount enclosed (Lily costs and donations) \$ _____

Absolute DEADLINE (to be included in the Memorial list) **for receiving memorials is Friday, March 23.**



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

Save the Date! The annual **ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER** is on Saturday, **March 17th**! Doors open at 5:00 pm, Dinner will be served at 5:30



St. Patrick's Day
and UArmy.

pm. \$15 per person, \$25 per couple, \$40 for family of 4 or more. Bring a friend! Donations of food or funds are welcome to help defray the cost. Volunteers needed for food prep, set up and clean up. Sign up in Rogers, or call Mary and Neil Lavado at (860) 349-3345. Proceeds to benefit the mission trips this summer of our Youth Group and UArmy.

The **Prayer Chain** continues active and strong, and would love to be praying for your needs and desires. If you have need for prayer, please let our prayer chain coordinator (Holly Wishart) know so she can share your burdens and needs with those 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.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

March 4 – Team 2: Stanley & Sharon Kapustinski, Brenda Daly, Nancy Tracy, Jan Richardson, Stacy Harris, Karen Harrison

March 11 – Team 3: Debbie Molloy, Novelyn Cosmiano, Susan Farquharson, Jessica Nelson, Steve Rittenhouse, Jennifer Janus

March 18 – Team 4: Ray & Rosanne Knapp, Jim & Sue Kostuk, Debbie Lippold, Toni Merrill,

March 25 – Team 5: Nancy Coppola, Mary Alling, Kate Eglee, Bette Grasso, Mary Lavado, Tracy Wodatch

April 1 – **Easter**– Team 6: Deane Poirier, Alison Green, Maurice Poirier, MaryEllen Brechlin, Trudi Schott, Mark Fancher, , Lauren Rhines, Ellen Fisk.

April 8 – Team 7: Myrna Spencer, Karen Caproizzo, Earl Yeomans, Linda Mizell, Jim Pearsall, Renee Pearsall, Betty Thomson, Mary Andersen

Worship Leaders: March 4 – Jim Spencer, March 11 – Karen Caporizzo, March 18 – Tracy Wodatch, March 25 – Luke Henderson, April 1 – Hal Quigley

Briefs: FUMC Facebook Page: Take a minute to “like” it and “share” items our Facebook page. If you would like something posted (advertisement of sort, meeting time, photos etc.,) please contact the church office at fumc@snet.net.

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.

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.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Hospitalized since the last Parish Herald: Bette Grasso. Patricia Lawrence.

+ **In Memoriam** + Since our last issue of the Parish Herald, the following have passed into eternal life: Pastor Ric officiated at the memorial services for Margie Simpson on 2/16, and Ric Benoit on 2/17



Katy Kohlun	1	Scott Harris	11	Cathleen Bacon	21
Richard Parmelee	2	Lori Backus	11	Eric Andersen	22
Greg Koba	4	Barbara Quigley	11	Jean McCann	22
Mary Lavado	4	Ginny Henderson	11	Lindsey Pearsall	23
Daniel Molloy	4	Bridge Naamon	11	Shane Hardy	24
Beverly Teixeira	4	Beverly Smith	11	Eileen Andersen	25
Jordan Ondo	4	Todd Morgan	12	Ember Merrill	25
Allyson Rittenhouse	4	Noelle Henderson	16	Ruth Petrucelli	26
Joan LeBarron	5	Robert Reiners	18	Bill Schultz	26
Dean Smith	5	Scott Doerfler	19	Keana Lippold	26
Becky Cagley	6	Pyong Kil Kim	19	Clark Mills	26
Katie Krol	7	David Kohlun	19	Michelle Andersen	27
Stephen Rittenhouse	8	Jamesetta Gooding	20	Lisa Peterson	27
Betty Thomson	10	Olivia Genovese	20	Eric Fisk	28
Tracy Wodatch	10	Paula Jones	21	Barbara McLean	28
Betty Torcello	10	Danny Gawlak	21	Nicholas Tomasino	29

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Chancel Choir	2 World Day of Prayer	3 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ
4 10:00 am Worship Youth Clothing Drive begins Confirmation Class One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten Study Handbells YOUTH GROUP	5 12:00 PM Unit 4 Crafting Lenten Study 7:00 pm	6 Boy Scouts Leadership Covenant Group	7	8 Chancel Choir	9	10
11 10:00 am Worship Education Commission Lenten Study Handbells YOUTH GROUP Daylight Savings Time Begins	12 Unit 4 Lenten Study 7:00 pm	13 Boy Scouts 10:00 AM Curtis Home (Pie) Membership Committee	14	15 Chancel Choir	16 Soup Kitchen	17 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ Wedding 5:00 PM Corned Beef Dinner
18 10:00 am Worship Confirmation Class New Members Lenten Study 12:00 PM (19th) Luncheon Handbells YOUTH GROUP	19 12:00 PM Unit 4 Crafting 5:00 PM City Mission Lenten Study 7:00 pm	20 Boy Scouts	21 Can You Spare A Drop? Blood Drive	22 Chancel Choir	23 OUR Newsletter DEADLINE is Deadline for Parish Herald	24 YOUTH LOCK-IN
25 10:00 am Worship Breakfast Palm Sunday Lenten Study Handbells	26 Lenten Study 7:00 pm	27 Boy Scouts	28	29 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Parish Herald Mailed Chancel Choir	30 Good Friday Soup Kitchen	31 Youth Easter Presentation

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

