

The Parish Herald

Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Meriden, Connecticut

Ric Hanse
Pastor

November 2016

Dear First UMC Family Member,

I love November for seven reasons that fill my heart with gratitude to our Great God and Redeemer Jesus:

Birthdays

I am grateful to God for November because it is the month in which I was born. This November 3rd I celebrate the 50 years that Jesus has walked with me, and talked with me, and told me I am His own. I'm also thankful that I share my birthday with our wonderful Harry Geiger! Lastly, November ends with the beginning of Jesus' birthday celebrations.

Bible Sunday

Thankfulness for God's word fills my heart in November because **Sunday 13 November is Bible Sunday** – the day we give Bibles to our First UMC 3rd Graders. I vividly remember receiving my third-grade Bible. So special is my 3rd Grade Bible that I still use it, and proudly display it on the bookshelf of my office in the Parish House.

Stewardship

November fills me with gratitude because November is stewardship month at First UMC.

Pastor's
Thanksgiving
Message



In this issue:	
Bible Sunday	3
Sunday School.	3
Youth News.	4
Focus on Women.	4
Men's Notes.	5
Bake Off.	5
Bible Study.	6
Progressive Dinner.	6
Charge Conference.	9
Advent.	12
Within Our Family.	14

During the first two Sundays of November we will continue and conclude a stewardship sermon series called "Family Values". Stewardship means care taking. Because we value our First UMC Family, we are committed to caring for our wonderful Church. On **Sunday 13 November**, we will celebrate our spiritual and financial commitment to Jesus through First UMC by **offering our financial commitments to Jesus** and enjoying a wonderful breakfast after worship.

New Website

Several of us have been diligently working on building a **brand-new web site for First UMC** that will go live in mid-November. This new website will attractively and effectively witness to the world the wonderful ways Jesus is at work in and through First United Methodist Meriden. Our new website will also make online giving possible. And our website will be smart phone friendly.

Thanksgiving

November fills me with gratitude because Thanksgiving happens in this marvelous month. I love thanksgiving. How wonderful it is to have a holiday whose sole purpose is to give thanks to God for the great gifts He has given us. We'll celebrate Thanksgiving in two wonderful ways: **Thanksgiving Sunday** and our new **Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00pm**. On Thanksgiving Eve we'll celebrate God's goodness with great music, a meaningful message and by discovering the history of Thanksgiving. After the service we'll continue our Thanksgiving Eve Celebration in Rogers Hall with pie and cider. Please plan on bringing a pie for others to enjoy. The Thanksgiving Eve Service starts at 7:00pm.

Hanging Of The Greens

I am grateful to God for November because our celebration of Christmastime starts on **Sunday 27 November** (the First Sunday Of Advent). We'll begin our celebration of Jesus' entry into the world with a service of the **Hanging of the Greens** at our 10:00am worship time. But the day before that service we'll gather at the Church on Saturday 26 November at 3pm to decorate our sanctuary and enjoy a good meal together.

You

Finally, I am thankful to God for November because throughout **November I have the privilege of serving as your Pastor** in our extraordinary Church. And this privilege is one that Jesus is giving me for each month of what I hope will be many, many, many years to come! Thank you Lord!

The Scripture that best describes how I feel in November is Psalm 100.

¹ *Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

² *Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*

³ *Know that the Lord is God.*

*It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

⁴ *Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

⁵ *For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Affectionately,

Pastor Ric

BIBLE SUNDAY

National Bible Sunday will be observed at FUMC on November 13th. Third graders will receive a Bible that day. Parents of older children who have not received a Bible may call the Church office, 203-235-9620, before October 25th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School year is in full-swing. **Registration forms** are forthcoming to parents and should be returned to either the church office or to Lauren Rhines.

Looking forward:

November 6, is the **Annual Bake-off** with proceeds helping to outfit our classrooms with new furniture and supplies.

November 13, is **Bible Sunday** and the children are signing during service. Students are asked to be at church at 9:30 a.m. to rehearse. Bibles will be presented to students in 3rd grade. If your child is in a higher grade but has not been presented a Bible, please see Lauren Rhines.

November 20, is **Thanksgiving Sunday** and the children will be holding an annual canned good food drive. Students are asked to be at church at 9:30 a.m.

Planning for our **Christmas Pageant** has also begun and prep work will be happening for the next several weeks. We will be working with individual classrooms as follows: November 6th - 3 year old/Pre-K class; November 13th - Kindergarten & 1st grade; November 20th - 2nd & 3rd grade; November 27th - 4th & 5th grade / 6th - 7th grade. December 4th and 11th we will be preparing and rehearsing for the pageant. We hope that all students are able to be a part of the program. Also, we will be *decorating for the pageant on Sunday, December 4th* after fellowship and encourage parents and students to stay and help. The Pageant will be presented on Sunday, December 18th.

YOUTH NEWS

The **Youth Group** is open for all youth from grades 4 through high school. We meet after worship until 3 PM. If you have any questions please contact Jim Hazlett at 860.324.2588 or email at jhazlett1222@gmail.com

- 11/6/16 Bake off and planning to have more fun than imaginable
- 11/12/16 Lock-In Begin 6PM ends 10AM Sleeping bag, pillow, and an awesome time*
- 11/20/16 Outing Oh where to go... TBD*
- 11/26/16 Decorating OUR church 3:00 pm with pot luck to follow.

FOCUS ON WOMEN

Unit 4 will meet Monday, November 14, at 1:15 in Rogers Memorial for a dessert meeting. Dessert is provided and all women are most welcome.

Save the date of December 11 for our **UMW Christmas Luncheon**.

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. Questions? Please see Hal Quigley. All men warmly welcomed.

6TH ANNUAL BAKE-OFF

Leaves are changing, everyone is picking apples and pumpkins, the kids are giggling at funny looking gourds, and houses of the FUMC family will smell of cinnamon and nutmeg soon. The Bake Off is **November 6th**! It's \$3 to enter and a goodwill donation to vote for your favorite although all are welcome to taste. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and of course the famous GOLDEN SPOON for the winner! Money raised will go to Sunday school. Come hungry!!! See you there.



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.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

EBENEZER SCROOGE is a man in dire need of a second chance. Is redemption possible for such a greedy, dark and sad character? *The Redemption of Scrooge*, from Matt Rawle's The Pop in Culture Series, shows us how the teachings of Jesus can be found in Dickens' Christmas classic. From the ghosts of Christmas past, to the Life of the present, and the resurrection of Christmas future, this Advent study will "bless us every one" and reinvigorate our spiritual journeys as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith.

Classes will be Monday evenings at 7:00 pm from November 28th through December 18th. Please sign up for the Advent Study in Rogers Memorial. Cost of our study book will be forthcoming. Pastor Alden.

INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Saturday November 5th, will be our 3rd Annual Interfaith Progressive Dinner. This event is fun time with 3 congregations getting together to enjoy – what else – food and fellowship. Tickets are \$8.00 per person and are limited. They will be on sale beginning Sunday, October 2nd and you can get them from either Joann Myers or Holly Wishart. The 1st course will start at St. Andrews @ 5PM and then we cross the street to FUMC for the main course and end at First Congregational with the 3rd course and entertainment.

MISSIONS

The American Red Cross has an **urgent need for donors of all blood types**. Right now, Red Cross blood products are being distributed to hospitals as quickly as donations come in. HOW YOU CAN HELP. Schedule an appointment and bring a friend - new donors are crucial to the success of a blood drive. Donors can schedule an appointment online , <http://www.redcrossblood.org/> or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

THANK YOU for coordinating the Wednesday, September 28, 2016 **blood drive**. We were very pleased with the drive overall, and the willingness of the donors to share this life saving gift. The efforts of First United Methodist Church have always been greatly appreciated and their support of the community blood program will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives. In addition, we very much appreciate your efforts during this crucial time. You may be interested to know that 23 donors registered, 1 donors were deferred and 26 units were collected! We also registered one first time donor! Again, thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this

important community program. I look forward to working with you again on an upcoming blood drive. *Michelle Peters*, Account Manager, Donor Recruitment, American Red Cross I Connecticut Blood Services.



Thanksgiving: TURKEYS NEEDED! As Thanksgiving approaches, and you are out shopping, please consider picking up a few extra **non-perishable food items**. We will collect them on Thanksgiving

Sunday November 22nd to create food baskets with turkeys. These will be given within our Church family and community. If you can donate a turkey, please let Deb Molloy know. If you know of someone, or a family that could use the blessing of a food basket, let Deb know, as well. Let us glorify God with an outpouring of food!! Consider starting your own food collection box at home. Pick up a few extra non perishable food items each week for the Thanksgiving food drive and there will be a bounty to share in no time. We reflect the love of Jesus Christ when we reach out to help others in his name.

Coats for the Cape Cod Homeless: This will be the final year I will be collecting coats for the homeless on Cape Cod. THERE IS A CHANGE THIS YEAR!! I am collecting only clean gently used winter coats. No clothing unless brand new sweats, thermal underwear, fleece, and thermal socks. I am also collecting gift cards—Dunkin Donuts and McDonalds in \$5 increments and Stop and Shop card in \$10 increments. Please call Kate Eglee if you have any questions 203-265-7192

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).

The Angel Tree will be in the Roger's Memorial Hall on November 6th. It will be covered with names of people (with gift suggestion) for whom we can share some of the joy of Christmas by purchasing them a gift. If you or someone you know either within our Church family, or in our area has a need to provide a child with a few extra gifts this Christmas, please contact Mary Lavado at (860) 349-3345 (home) or (860) 638-8781 (cell) with the parent's contact info. We must have the children's gift requests by November 6th When we put up the Angel Tree in Rogers. If you have questions, or would like to help, please contact Mary. Thanks!

"1st Sunday" The Meriden Soup Kitchen cupboards are always in need of supplies, and we can help! As we celebrate Holy Communion on the 1st Sunday of every month we ask you to bring in non-perishable food items as an offering of thanks to God for His great love. Boxes will be in the cloister or in Rogers Memorial for your monthly 'love gifts.' Can't come on a 1st Sunday? We'll receive them on 2nd, 3rd, or 4th Sunday too!

Unity House is a refugee house run by the South Meriden UMC. The Central District of the NY Annual conference has adopted the Unity House as a special

project. We are providing three ways for you to participate. 1) Change in the collection plate. This includes coins only. 2) Unity Jar. A collection jar is available in Rogers Memorial. 3) Check. Checks made out to FUMC with "Unity House" in the Memo line will be given to Unity House.

Socks in a Stocking: Though most of us do not want these warm days to pass, colder days will soon be coming. Last winter FUMC donated well over a hundred pairs of socks to our local homeless shelter. Let's see if we can double that this winter. In Rogers Memorial (fellowship) hall there is a quilted stocking you can place new socks for adults and children into. There is also a gray overflow bin available. Please see Jan Richardson or Deb Molloy if you have a question.

The **First Sunday in Advent is November 27th**. It's not too early to begin making mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, etc for the **Mitten Tree** his tradition was begun back in the 70's by Dot Hayes. You say you don't knit? Purchased items are gratefully received. All donations will be given to the needy in our community and beyond. Thank you.

ANNUAL MEETING / CHARGE CONFERENCE

Mark this date! Our Annual Charge Conference will be held **Tuesday, November 1st**, 7:30 pm in Rogers Memorial. Trustees will be elected. All members and friends of First United Methodist Church are encouraged to attend.



COMMITMENT SUNDAY BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

Please be present for our Commitment Sunday Celebration on 13 November. The celebration starts during worship when we dedicate our financial commitments to Jesus. After worship we'll enjoy a **delicious pancake brunch** together in Rogers Hall. This delicious brunch is a tasty way to celebrate the wonderful truth that it is so sweet to trust in Jesus when it comes to our Financial Commitment to our wonderful First UMC Family.

GIVING – CELEBRATING MY LOVE FOR MY FIRST UMC FAMILY

Making A Giving Commitment

Our commitment offering will be a great spiritual test for all of us. It will test our faith, our hope, and our love. We all need to ask ourselves "How do I decide what God wants me to give?" It is a simple question, but very hard to answer. In addition to the sacrifice of giving, we tend to add a layer of stress or anxiety about the amount we decide. Is it too little where I am not doing what God desires and what First United Methodist Church needs? Or is it too big and I will not be able to meet my commitments?

It's not God's intent to add this dimension of stress to our commitments. The Bible says that "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7) But this verse also immediately follows the clear principle that when we sow sparingly we will reap sparingly, and when we sow generously we will reap generously. (2 Cor. 9:6) We encourage you to prayerfully consider the six questions to the right as you seek the Lord's guidance about your giving commitment to First United Methodist Church

Questions To Ask Myself

1. Will I give based on Reason or Revelation? Is my gift just what I think I can afford or is it what God wants to give through me? *"...they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability."* 2 Corinthians 8:3
2. Does this amount really stretch my faith? *"But just as you excel in everything-in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love...see that you excel in the grace of giving."* 2 Corinthians 8:7
3. Will this amount demonstrate how much I love God and His Church?
"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God." 2 Corinthians 8:7
4. Does this amount express my desire to see others blessed through the ministries of this Church?

"Jesus said... 'whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.'" - John 7:38

5. Does this amount represent a genuine sacrifice?
"I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God...[an] offering that costs nothing." 2 Samuel 24:24
6. Have I sincerely prayed asking God to direct me in this decision? Do I trust God's faithfulness?
"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

TAKE ONE STEP UP TOWARDS KEEPING YOUR FIRST UMC FAMILY VIBRANT – NOVEMBER 13

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and His Church,

I plan to TAKE ONE STEP UP in my giving.

- STEP UP BEYOND TITHING My desire is to do more than God's minimum. MY COMMITMENT IS: \$_____ per (check one)
... ___ week ___ two weeks ___ month

- STEP UP TO TITHING I will give 1/10 of my income to God's work.

- MY COMMITMENT IS: \$_____ per (check one)
... ___ week ___ two weeks ___ month

- STEP UP TOWARD TITHING

- I am not yet tithing, but I will move toward that goal.

- MY COMMITMENT IS: \$_____ per (check one)
... ___ week ___ two weeks ___ month

- This represents an increase over last year.

Name _____ E-Mail _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

November 27th, is the **First Sunday in Advent**. It is time to start planning for Christmas.

Decorating our Church Saturday, November 26th, 3:00 pm with a pot-luck dinner to follow. Hanging of the Greens during worship on November 27th.

For the 29th year the “**City Creche**” sponsored by the Meriden Council of Catholic Women, will be placed on our lawn. It has become a symbol of ecumenical co-operation and mutual rejoicing by all Christians in the birth of Christ. The dedication is Sunday, November 27th, at 2:00 pm. All are invited.

The **dates for the LIVING CRECHE** have been set: Wednesday, December 14, Friday December 23, and Saturday, December 24. Cast members are needed – look for “sign-ups” starting soon. Jim & Sue Kostuk are coordinating, 203-237-9209. We will need two casts of 10 people for each night! This is a time-honored witness of our Church to the community.

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE!

6:00 pm: Service of Carols, Readings and Living Nativity. Designed for Families.

9:00 pm: a Service of Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight.

Holy Communion Will Be Offered in the Chapel One-half Hour Before Each Service.

Please be with Us in Holy Worship throughout Advent, and on Christmas Eve.

Briefs: You may view our **CALENDAR ONLINE** at any time through our website <http://sites.google.com/site/fumcmeriden2/> Click on Calendar! Please let the office know of any changes and/or errors. Thank you.

Save the date of February 25, 2017 for a **Boy Scout Soup Night**.

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!

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 6th. Don't forget to turn your clocks back.

The Deadline for the **December Parish Herald** is Friday, November 18th. 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 Wednesday, November 23rd, 9:00 am from the Church office. Anyone wishing to help collate and label the newsletter is very welcome.

On December 4th we observe **United Methodist Student Day**: One of the Six Special Offerings requested by the United Methodist Church. This offering provides United Methodist Scholarships and administers the UM Student Loan Fund to persons preparing for the ministry and missionary service.

Did you know this **Newsletter** is online at our web site at <http://sites.google.com/site/fumcmeriden2/> / ? 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.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Nov 6 – Team 8: Ed & Nancy Peterson, Donna Oddie, Gerry West, Jim Hazlett, Beverly Teixeira, Ruth Petrucelli

Nov 13 – Team 1: Sue Winchell, Barbara Quigley, Evelyn Mills, Stacy Morgan, Sarah Uylaky, Cathy Bacon

Nov 20 – Team 2: Stanley & Sharon Kapustinski, Donna Timm, Brenda Daly, Nancy Tracy, Jan Richardson

Nov 27 – Team 3: Debbie Molloy, Novelyn Cosmiano, Susan Farquharson, JoAnn Myers, Cindy Lopiano, Jennifer Janus

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

Dec 11 – Team 5: Nancy Coppola, Mary Alling, Kate Eglee, Bette Grasso, Mary Lavado, Tracy Wodatch

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

There are no words to express our sincere gratitude and thanks for all the prayers, cards, flowers and the beautiful reception after our mom's memorial service. Your many acts of kindness have done so much to bouy us all during this very difficult time. We are all forever grateful. You are all a blessing.

Kate Eglee, Chic Eglee and Betsy Lapointe.

Dear Church family, Thank you so very much for all your prayers and good wishes in the passing of Jake. Pastor Ric your tribute at the memorial service helped people to know Jake as the wonderful man he was. The choir again was on their best singing praises. Thank you to all. Can't forget the women and men who did refreshments, you out-did it again. We received so many compliments about everything. People felt so welcomed. Jake wasn't just my husband but my best friend and I will miss him a lot, but time will help heal. God bless you. Sincerely, *Joan LeBarron and family.*

Hospitalized since the last Parish Herald: MaryAnn Smith, Charlie Rule, Jane Ashton

+ In Memoriam + Since our last issue of the Parish Herald, the following have passed into eternal life: 10/3 – *Jake Lebarron.* 10/13 – Peter Wodatch, brother of Tom Wodatch. 10/14 – *Daniel Doerfler,* son of Peter & Gail Doerfler, father of Shelby.

DATES AT A GLANCE

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 after worship.

United Methodist Women , 2nd Monday of each

month and Special Programs

Worship Service & Church School at 10:00 am

Sunday - Nursery provided.

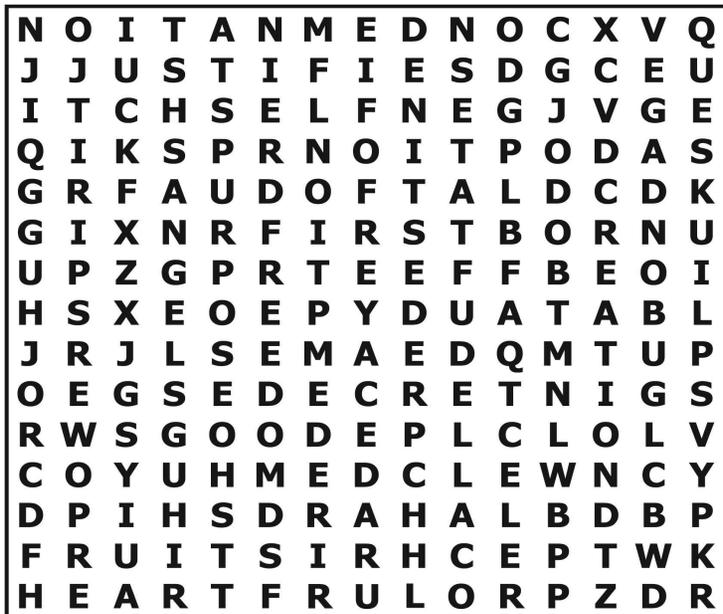
Web Site: <http://sites.google.com/site/fumcmeriden2/>



November 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Boy Scout Crew 52 Boy Scouts CHARGE CONFERENCE	2 recycle	3 Chancel Choir	4 Soup Kitchen	5 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ 5:00 PM Interfaith Progressive Dinner
6 10:00 am Worship 6th Annual Bake Off Daylight Saving Time Ends YOUTH GROUP	7	8 Boy Scouts Election Day	9	10 Chancel Choir	11 Veterans Day	12 YOUTH LOCK-IN
13 10:00 am Worship Education Commission Stewardship /Consecration Sunday Bible Sunday YOUTH LOCK-IN	14 Unit 4	15 Boy Scout Crew 52 Boy Scouts	16 recycle	17 Chancel Choir	18 Soup Kitchen  Deadline for Parish Herald	19 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ Unit 4 Pie Baking
20 10:00 am Worship YOUTH GROUP	21 5:00 PM City Mission	22 Boy Scouts	23 Parish Herald Mailed 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship	24  Thanksgiving	25 Office closes at noon	26 Hanging of the Greens
27 10:00 am Worship UM Student Day 2:00 PM City Creche Dedication	28 7:00 PM Advent Bible Study	29 Boy Scouts	30 recycle			
			14			

Puzzle!

Search for words found in Romans 8.



- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| Abba | elect | Jesus | adoption |
| family | justifies | angels | firstborn |
| Lord | bondage | flesh | love |
| called | freedom | peace | Christ |
| fruits | powers | condemnation | glorified |
| predestined | conquerors | good | purpose |
| creation | hardship | redemption | decay |
| died | intercedes | Spirit | heart |

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

