

The Parish Herald

Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Meriden, Connecticut

Ric Hanse
Pastor

November 2017



Dear First UM Church Family Member:

November is a very special month which begins with **All Saints Day** on 1 November, comes into the home stretch with Thanksgiving Day and concludes with Christ the King Sunday.

On **All Saints Day** we give thanks to

Jesus for the people in our lives who joyfully received Christ's love and spend their lives sharing the love of Jesus with us.

The man who taught me most about faith in Jesus was my Grampa Hanse, who entered the Kingdom of Heaven on 5 September 2004 at 4:45pm.

Grampa was filled with wisdom and always gave me great advice. The best way I can thank you for all you are and have done for us is by offering you something that I know will be of much value to you – Grampa's wise words.

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- ◆ "Don't look at the right side of the menu."
- ◆ "Whenever someone comes to you with a problem or an issue that is the most important thing in the world to them at that moment. Treat it as such yourself."
- ◆ When someone who wrongs us falls upon hard times and we learn about their misfortune Gil's words are, "Give them a call and make a friend."
- ◆ "Never do anything that will cause your children to have to apologize for you."
- ◆ "All you have is your name."
- ◆ "Tell your wife you love her everyday."
- ◆ "Give your family my love and keep a lot for yourself."
- ◆ "Drive carefully you're carrying precious cargo."
- ◆ "Give me one ring so I'll know you got home safe."
- ◆ "Make the day count."
- ◆ "Keep the faith."

Thanksgiving is so special because the saints who have led us into a healthy and growing relationship with Jesus are the people who nurtured within us a faith that enables us to give thanks to God in all situations, because we see God working all things together for good. This faith fills us with a spirit of thanksgiving. There is an old camp meeting song written by a Methodist preacher from New Jersey named Jonathan Oatman, Jr. whose words sing,

*When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

This is what Thanksgiving is all about.

We close November by celebrating **Christ the King Sunday**. Before rejoicing over Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, we celebrate Jesus' lordship, reign and power over all creation. Jesus Christ is the Lord of lords, the God of gods and the King of kings. The buck stops with Jesus. Nothing can ever discredit, discourage or defeat Jesus! It is Jesus our King who has the power to bring about good things from even the

worst of situations. It is Jesus our King who fills the lives of the Saints who show us each and every day the wonderful, life-giving love of Jesus.

Thanks be to God for November!

Affectionately,

Ric

Pastor Ric

COMING ALIVE TOGETHER IN CHRIST!

Don't ask yourself what the Church needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive. Then do it! Because what the Church needs is people who come alive.

Our November Stewardship experience is a wonderful time of discovering how we come alive together in Jesus as the First United Methodist Church Family.



On **Sunday 19 November** (Thanksgiving Sunday) we will celebrate how trusting Jesus through our financial giving to First UMC makes us come alive together in Jesus. After worship we'll enjoy **breakfast** in Rogers Memorial Hall in celebration our commitment to Come alive together in Jesus through our giving.

BIBLE SUNDAY

National Bible Sunday will be observed at FUMC on November 12th. 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.

November 19, 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.

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.

- Sun. Nov 5 **Museum day..** TBD,
- Sun. Nov 12 Helping at the **Bake Off/Games**
- Nov 19 Youth Group **Family Pot Luck**
- Sat. Dec 2 **Hanging of the greens** 3:00 pm
- Sun. Dec 10 possible **caroling or indoor activity,**
- Fri. Dec 15 5PM help **set up for craft fair**
- Sat. Dec 16 **CRAFT FAIR with H.O.M.E.** 8AM until 7PM (in shifts),
- Sun. Dec 24 **NO YOUTH GROUP - Merry Christmas,**

FOCUS ON WOMEN

Unit 4 will meet **Monday, November 13** at 1:15 pm for a dessert meeting. All women are most welcome and dessert is provided.

Unit 4 will be selling **Pies and Breads** on Sunday, November 19th. If you can make a pie(s) or bread please see Myrna Spencer. Thank you.

UMW Pot Luck Luncheon: Sunday, December 10th, 12:00 noon.

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.

OUR ADVENT BIBLE STUDY COMING THIS FALL

Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph

Faithful Joseph. Plan to come and join Pastor Alden as he examines Christmas through the eyes of Joseph and learn to accept and glorify God's will even when our situation makes it difficult to do so. We're not that different from Joseph. True, we may not be part of a story that will be remembered for all time, but like Joseph, we encounter circumstances that we'd never choose for ourselves. At times, it can be tempting just to walk away, but Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand, faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Faithful Joseph is a four week Bible study. **November 27-December 18.**

Chapter topics include:

- ◇ Carpenter Named Joseph
- ◇ Engaged to a Virgin Named Mary
- ◇ A Dreamer of Dreams
- ◇ The Journey to Bethlehem
- ◇ The Birth of Joseph's Boy
- ◇ The Flight to Egypt

We plan to have morning and evening classes as in the past Monday mornings from 9:30-11:00 and evenings 7:00-8:30 pm. Cost of student books will be \$10 each. Sign up in Rogers Memorial.

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

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

Wednesday Walks will continue into the fall and winter! We meet Wednesdays at the Westfield Mall in front of former McDonald's site at 6pm, and walk AWAY from the Food Court approximately 6:15 pm. We walk approximately 45 minutes. All ages, abilities are welcome!! It takes just one step to start a journey to health! Call or text Mary Lavado (860) 638-8781 or Val Levesque (203)443-4175 for any questions.

7TH 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 12th**! 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 Ministry: When I shared my pulpit message the end of June I had an assignment for everyone. I was looking for everyone to commit to serving, not because you want to do something good, but that you love the Lord and want to serve. Many people noted more praying and specifically praying for other people. The Prayer Chain Ministry may be for you. If you would like to a part of this important and supportive ministry, just provide me with your name and email address. You will be added to the list and will be one of our prayer warriors. As requests come in you will be sent an email and then pray. I look forward to growing our prayer ministry. Thank you. Holly Wishart
If you have a special need for prayer, Holly know 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.

CLEAN & SHINE DAY

Help wanted Saturday, November 4, for Clean & Shine Day, from 8:30 am -12:00 noon! Please mark your calendars now... Many hands make for light work. Whatever your talents, we can fit a job to it. Please plan to join us for a morning of satisfying labor on behalf of YOUR Church.

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 5th. Don't forget to turn your clocks back.

ANNUAL MEETING / CHARGE CONFERENCE

Mark this date! Our Annual Charge Conference will be held **Monday, November 6th**, 7:00 pm in Rogers Memorial. Trustees will be elected. All members and friends of First United Methodist Church are encouraged to attend. **Come meet our new District Superintendent!**



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE & PIES:

There is no better way to begin our Thanksgiving Celebrations than by spending time with our First UMC Family on Thanksgiving Eve, **November 22nd**! Please plan on spending time giving thanks in worship during our **7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service**. At 8:00pm head into Rogers Memorial Hall and enjoy delicious pies, cider and coffee. Please bring a pie to share with our Church Family.

MISSIONS:



November 19th the American Legion Auxiliary will be packing the **Holiday Packages for Soldiers**. If you have a soldier serving anywhere in the world and would like them to receive a package please give me their address. Each package contains 6 dozen home made **cookies** among other things. We always can use your help with the cookies. **Donations for shipping** are greatly appreciated, \$17 per package. Contact me at ntracy45@gmail.com or 203-599-5656. Thank you, Nancy Tracy.

Response to Natural Disasters - Disaster response coordinators are connecting to UMCOR's relief supply system and budgetary assistance as they plan for support As **UMCOR**, and the conferences and local communities continue to respond to the effects of these disasters, please pray for those whose lives may be impacted. Those who wish to support the work of UMCOR as it responds to this and other disasters in the US are encouraged to give to UMCOR. 100% of money collected is used to help those in need. Checks can be made out to the church or donate directly at <http://www.umcor.org/>

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 19th 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.



Emergency request for **Blood Donors!** The Red Cross has a significant blood shortage and is issuing a request for eligible blood and platelet donors. Every donation matters, as blood is being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in. Donate here on **December 19th**, 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/>.

Caring Hands has been knitting & crocheting blankets for four years and have given a total of 315 blankets to Mid State Medical Center - Oncology, The Veteran's Hospital in West Haven and to individuals inside and outside of our church who are in need of a warm hug. In order to continue with this ministry we need your help. A donation no matter how big or how small will help to buy the yarn for these blankets. We never know when cancer or some other serious medical issue may strike us or a loved one so please donate what you can. Thank You. Please contact Jan Richardson or Nancy Tracy

"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: **BACKPACKS & TOILETRIES!** Items may be placed in the bin in the cloister. Thank you for your generous help!

FUMC Observes **"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. A box is in the cloister 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.

On December 3 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.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR ALDEN BARNES IS RETIRING

Dear First Church Family Member:

After sixteen years of faithful, joyous and inspiring service, our beloved Associate Pastor Alden Barnes is retiring. Please be sure to set aside these two very special days during which we will celebrate our beloved Alden. First, on **Saturday, 9 December** from **1:00pm-4:00pm** we will host an open house for Alden. Come spend time enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres during this catered event and spend time with Pastor Alden and Helen. Finally, on **Sunday 31, December**, Pastor Alden will conclude his ministry at First UMC by giving the morning message. After worship we will celebrate Alden and Helen's retirement with a special Coffee Hour. I look forward to being with you to celebrate Pastor Alden's extraordinary ministry with us.

Affectionately, *Pastor Ric*

ADVENT

The **First Sunday in Advent is December 3rd.**

Decorating our Church Saturday, December 2nd, 3:00 pm with a pot-luck dinner to follow. Hanging of the Greens during worship on December 3rd.



For the 30th 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, December 3, at 2:00 pm. All are invited.

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.

Planning for the **Angel Tree** has begun! What is it? It is a great reminder of the Christmas season. We gather a list of children and families who are in need, and assist by fulfilling the Christmas Wishes of these "Angels". The gender and age, along with an item that person wants to see under the tree is written on an ornament, and we, the church family of FUMC, takes these ornaments off the tree and purchases the requested gift, gift wrap it, and returns to our Elves, Mary and Sheila) to forward to Santa. If you or someone you know would benefit from this mission, please call or text Mary Lavado at 860-638-8781, or Sheila Mansolf, 203-671- 5755. **We plan on having the Angel Tree set up for the Bake Off on November 12th, so please contact Mary ASAP with names/parent contact info.**

The dates for the **Living Creche** have been set: **Tue, December 19, Thurs, December 21**, and Sunday, December 24. Cast members are needed – look for "sign-ups" starting soon. Deane Poirier is coordinating, (203) 235-5580. 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 can access our **Church Calendar** on our website at <http://www.firstumcmeriden.com/events/> This calendar has the most current schedules.

Don't forget to 'like' our page on **Facebook** to stay up to date on everything that is happening.

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!



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Nov 5- Team 1: Sue Winchell, Barbara Quigley, Evelyn Mills, Stacy Morgan, Sarah Uylaky, Cathy Bacon

Nov 12 – Team 2: Stanley & Sharon Kapustinski, Brenda Daly, Nancy Tracy, Jan Richardson, Stacy Harris, Karen Harrison

Nov 19– Team 3: Debbie Molloy, Novelyn Cosmiano, Susan Farquharson, JoAnn Myers, Steve Rittenhouse, Jennifer Janus

Nov 26– Team 4: Ray & Rosanne Knapp, Jim & Sue Kostuk, Debbie Lippold, Toni Merrill,

Dec 3– Team 5: Nancy Coppola, Mary Alling, Kate Eglee, Bette Grasso, Mary Lavado, Tracy Wodatch

Dec 10– Team 6: Deane Poirier, Alison Green, Maurice Poirier, MaryEllen Brechlin, Trudi Schott, Mark Fancher, Carol Porsch, Lauren Rhines, Ellen Fisk.

Briefs: The **Usher Schedule** is posted on the bulletin board in the Cloister. **The Deadline** for the **December Parish Herald** is **Friday, November 24th**. The Herald will be mailed Thursday, November 30th, 9:00 am from the Church office. Help is welcomed to collate and label.

Broad Shoulders – We need 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).

We have openings for **Altar Flowers** November 12. If you wish to donate flowers in honor of or in memory of someone please sign up on the poster in the Cloister at least one week before or call the Church office, 203-235-9620.

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.

Upper Room Devotional Books are available on the table by the kitchen in Rogers Memorial. A small donation in the offering plate will help cover the cost. Large print copies are also available.

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

Confirmation Class, Alternate Sundays, 11:30 am

Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sunday, 11:30 am.

Youth Groups, Grades 6- 12 , Sunday, 1:00 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: <http://www.firstumcmeriden.com>



Scan to go to FUMC website.

First United Methodist Church

CRAFT FAIR

SAT. 12/16/17

9AM - 5PM

Brought to us by H.O.M.E. the Shelter in Orland ME
And our Youth Group



Visit with SANTA
10AM until Noon

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Thank you so much for all the love you have shown me in my illness - the meals, the people who stayed with me, the cards, etc. Members of FUMC are the greatest and I love you all. *Fran Clark.*

Hospitalized since the last Parish Herald: Larry D'Apice, Harry Guenther, MaryAnn Smith

+ In Memoriam + Since our last issue of the Parish Herald, the following have passed into eternal life: 9/28 – *John Lippold.*

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Wednesday Walk 6:00 pm	2 Chancel Choir	3 Soup Kitchen	4 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ Clean & Shine Day
5 10:00 am Worship YOUTH GROUP	6 6:30 PM SOPR. CHARGE CONFERENCE 7:00 PM	7 Boy Scouts Election Day	8 Wednesday Walk 6:00 pm	9 Chancel Choir	10 Scout- Lock-in and Joad Drive	11 Veterans Day
12 10:00 am Worship Education Commission Bible Sunday Confirmation Class 7th Annual Bake Off YOUTH GROUP	13 Unit 4	14 Boy Scouts 10:00 AM Curtis Home (Ric)	15 Wednesday Walk 6:00 pm	16 Chancel Choir	17 Soup Kitchen	18 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ Trustees 8:30 am Adult Fellowship Game Night
19 10:00 am Worship Consecration Sunday and Brunch Music Staff YOUTH GROUP	20 5:00 PM City Mission	21 Boy Scouts	22 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship	23 Thanksgiving	24 Deadline for Parish Herald	25
26 10:00 am Worship UM Student Day Confirmation Class YOUTH GROUP	27 Advent Bible Studies 9:30 am & 7:00 pm	28 Boy Scouts	29 Wednesday Walk 6:00 pm	30 Parish Herald Mailed Chancel Choir		

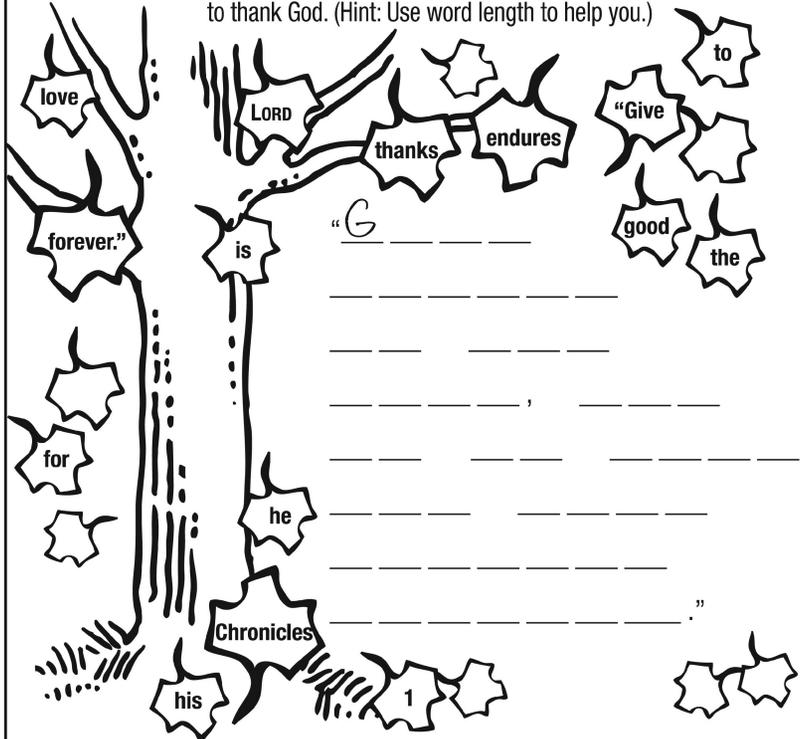


PUZZLE

Why we're thankful

Leaves falling from trees are a sign of autumn's arrival. Giving thanks to God is a sign of our gratitude for his many blessings.

Directions: Using the words in the leaves, discover why it's good for us to thank God. (Hint: Use word length to help you.)



16:34, NIV

Answers: "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34, NIV

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

