



The Parish Herald

Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Meriden, Connecticut

Ric Hanse
Pastor

February 2019



"You are a 50-year-old in a 15-year-old's body," my dad told me thirty-seven years ago. That makes me an 87-year-old soul! Dad said this because I listened to my grandparents' music, loved spending time with people in the Greatest Generation and had "old-fashioned" ways.

You've probably seen my "old-soulness" through my love for fedora hats, Buicks, ties, and Great American Songbook artists like Nat King Cole, Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Stan Kenton, and Les Brown.

One of my "old-soul" ways of holding a special place in my heart for my wife Lisa, and my children Ashley, Anna and Jonathan, is by having a special song for them. Lisa's Song, "The More I See You" is just one of many other songs – since most songs in the Great American Songbook make turn my mind and heart towards her. Ashley's song is "Unforgettable". Anna's song is "Tangerine". Jonathan's Song is "The Music That Makes Me Dance".

If there's a single song in the Great American Songbook that Jesus sings to us it is, "That's All". First sung by Nat King Cole in 1953, "That's All" is John 3:16 set to music.

Remember John 3:16 is Jesus assuring us that, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

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Today please hear Jesus speaking these wonderful words to you.

*I can only give you love that lasts forever,
And a promise to be near each time you call.
And the only heart I own for you and you alone
That's all, that's all.*

*I can only give you country walks in springtime
And a hand to hold when leaves begin to fall;
And a love whose burning light will warm the winter's night
That's all, that's all.*

*There are those, I am sure who have told you,
They will give you the world for a toy
All I have are these arms to enfold you
And a love even time can't destroy.*

*If you're wondering what I'm asking in return
You'll be glad to know that my demands are small.
Say it's me that you'll adore, for now and evermore
That's all, that's all.*

Affectionately,

Ric

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group is open for **all youth** from grades 4 through High School. 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.

February Schedule:

- Feb 3: Youth Mission Trip Meeting
- Feb 10: Candy Making
- Feb 16 – 17: Rock-a-thon
- Feb 24: High Tea

Youth Missions envelops are back! The youth are working on funding for the Mission Trips, Orland, Maine and UMARMY. Share envelopes help so much. We want everyone to share youth missions. Shares are \$10.00 per share and participants will receive correspondence while we are away, our deepest thanks and a dinner upon our return with photos, stories, song and prayer.

Calling the women's group! We have been supported so much in the past. We, as the youth, would like to show a visible sign of our appreciation by service a 'High Tea' on **February 24**, after church. Tea finger sandwiches and desert will be served by the youth. A sign up form is in Roger's Memorial.



U.M. ARMY Mission Trip 2019 - Scranton, PA - July 7 to July 13th.
U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth) provides Christ-centered missions that serve people in need and promote spiritual growth and leadership development in youth and young adults. The trip is open to all **high school students**, entering 9th grade or older. This week long trip provides an opportunity to "Come Alive" by participating with other church groups and individuals to discover your skills and talents in doing God's work.
For more information visit UMARMY North East: <http://ne.umarmy.org/>
To sign up for the trip, see either Karen Harrison or John Mansolf during Coffee Hour. We welcome any questions about this trip.

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 5, 2019). 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.

FOCUS ON WOMEN

Unit 4 will meet Monday, **February 11th**, 1:15 pm for a dessert luncheon. Desert it provided and all women are welcome.

Unit 4 will also come together on Monday, **February 18** at 12:30 pm to make **crafts** for a mini craft sale later in the year. Come give us a hand!

Save the date! Our first **UMW (United Methodist Women) luncheon** will be Sunday **March 10th** after worship in Roger's Memorial.

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 at the Parsonage, 185 David Dr. If you have any questions or need additional information please see Hal Quigley. All men warmly welcomed.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study: "Twelve Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped Women of the Bible and What He Wants to Do with You Part 2." Study the lives and faith of key women from both the Old and New Testaments. Celebrated for their courage, vision, hospitality, and spiritual giftedness, it's no wonder women were so important to God's place revealed in the Old and New Testaments. It wasn't their natural qualities that made these women extraordinary but the power of the one true God whom they worshiped and served. Their struggles and temptations are

the same trials faced by all believers at all ages. Classes on Sunday after worship and Monday evenings. Starting **February 10th** and running for 6 weeks. Led by Wayne Smith. Sign up in Roger's Memorial.

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.

FAMILY CONVERSATION

One of the greatest gifts God has given me is my First United Methodist Church family. I treasure you, and thoroughly enjoy serving as your pastor.

One of the hallmarks of a healthy family is the time spent conversing with each other in ways that are informative, loving and safe.

Please set aside Saturday morning on **2 February, from 9:00-11:00** for a Family Conversation during which we will learn about and discuss the upcoming Special Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. The sole purpose of this General Conference is to discern God's will for how we as United Methodist Christians can most faithfully minister to our sisters and brothers who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning.

During our time together, I will share the three possible paths forward for our beloved United Methodist Church, which Bishop Bickerton presented during a district meeting. This will be followed by an open conversation with our First UMC family.

I look forward to being with you in Rogers Memorial on Saturday morning 2 February from 9:00-11:00 for our Family Conversation.

Affectionately,

Ric



MISSIONS

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.

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.

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 Tuesday, **February 19**, and **March 19**, 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/>.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! All 82 Angel Tree gifts were received by 12/18 and all due to be delivered to our families by Christmas eve. This year we helped 5 of the foster families in our Backpack mission, thanks to the outreach of Sheila Mansolf. 17 families and group homes (48 individuals) benefitted from The Angel Tree. Thank you for getting your items in on time, and for taking time to participate in this mission. These gifts make a difference! In Him, Mary Lavado





Boy Scout Troop 52

Meriden, CT

Invites you to our fourth annual

Soup for Scouting Dinner

and Silent Auction

When: Saturday February 23, 2019

Time: 5-8pm

Place: First United Methodist Church
15 Pleasant St
Meriden CT 06450

Price: \$8 per person (all ages)

Tickets available by contacting

Patti Cargill at 203-238-3050 or cargillfam@att.net

Tickets will also be available at the door

Meal will include: All you can eat homemade soup, bread,
dessert and drink.

Join in on the Silent Auctions that will occur hourly throughout
the evening.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Feb 3 – Team 7: Myrna Spencer, Karen Caproizzo, Earl Yeomans, Linda Mizell, Jim Pearsall, Renee Pearsall, Betty Thomson, Mary Andersen

Feb 10 – Team 8: Ed & Nancy Peterson, Donna Oddie, Gerry West, Jim Hazlett, Sheila Mansolf, Ruth Petrucelli, Beverly Teixeira

Feb 17 – Team 1: Sue Winchell, Barbara Quigley, Evelyn Mills, Stacy Morgan, Jane Ashton

Feb 24 – Team 2: Stanley & Sharon Kapustinski, Brenda Daly, Nancy Tracy, Jan Richardson, Stacy Harris, Karen Harrison

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

March 10 – Team 4: Ray & Rosanne Knapp, Jim & Sue Kostuk, Debbie Lippold, Toni Merrill

Worship Leaders: 2/3 – Calvin Henderson. 2/10 – Scout Sunday. 2/17 – Joann Myers. 2/14 – Nancy Peterson. 3/3 – Harry Geiger. 3/10 – Jim Pearsall .

Briefs: Administrative Board will meet Tuesday, February 5th, 7:00 pm in Roger's Memorial. The **Commission on Education** will meet Sunday, February 10th after worship.

Advent Coin Banks and Folders may be returned in the offering plates or the Church office. Thank you.

To print out your giving statement log in to www.onrealm.org. On the left click on "giving." You may have to "filter" the dates. After changing the date don't forget to re-hit the filter button! You will then download a pdf you can print and/or save. It's that easy!

If you can't remember your login password e-mail the church office and we'll send you a password reset. If you don't have e-mail please contact the church office at 203-235-9620.

Offering envelopes are available in Rogers Memorial. Please fill out a Commitment Card to be sure you get envelopes. A reminder from our Financial Secretary and our Offering Tellers... Please use your assigned offering envelope number on all gift giving to the Church, especially during the Holiday season. This will help ensure that you are given proper credit. If you do not



have offering envelopes, we will be happy to assign you one. Please check "Response" or call the Church office. Thank you.

Fostering Love. Children placed in Foster Care receive from 1st UMC Church a backpack with an outfit, a toy, and toiletries. Thank you for your generous help! We are in need of winter clothing and PJ's. All sizes. Thank you!

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.

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

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!

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. .. There is also a food pantry (**Ted's Pantry**) and breakfast at St Andrew's Church, 20 Catlin St on the 3rd Saturday of each month (next - February 16). Breakfast is at 10:00 am.

Cold & flu season is upon us: We are giving full permission to anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms to stay home from all Church activities during these coming months. While we will miss you, we certainly understand your desire not to "spread yourself around."

Church closing due to inclement weather... On the rare occasion that we must cancel Sunday morning worship and other activities due to the weather you will be notified on Channel 3 WFSB. Otherwise "where two or more are gathered" – someone will be here.

The Church wants to support you while **you are in the hospital** or care facility. Due to privacy laws patient information is no longer given our Pastors and the Church is not contacted when you are admitted. Please make arrangements to notify the Church in the event you are hospitalized.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Baptisms: 12/2/2018 – *Parker Caleb Hardy*. son of Shane & Katie Hardy. He was born May 18, 2018. God Parents: Jessica-Lynne Nelson & Samuel Wilson. Grandparents: Darlene & John Hardy, and Samuel & Nancy Wilson

12/23/18 – *Andrew Joseph Wodatch*, the son of Kevin & Sara Wodatch. He was born September 19, 2018. Godparents: Joseph DeFillippi & Jeffrey Wodatch. Grandparents: Joe & Judy DeFillippi, Lori DeFillippi and Tracy & Tom Wodatch. Great Grandparents: Kathryn Wodatch and Ruth Michaud

Hospitalized since the last Parish Herald: Nancy Tracy, Darlene Fancher, Lisa Fancher, Jim Alling, Ann Damon, Lillian Schultz, Darla Uylaky-McKee.

+ **In Memoriam** + Since our last issue of the Parish Herald, the following have passed into eternal life: 12/4/2018 – *Edward Folkman Sr.* 12-8: *Rafael Velez* 12/10 – *Charles Douglas*



Stephen Cross	1	Jennie-Marie Cross	16	Jim Spencer	21
Peter Doerfler	2	Jeffrey Wodatch	16	Blaine Poirier	22
Carolyn Backus	4	Zachary Aresco	16	James Ryan	22
Penny Cabata	4	Elizabeth Reiners	16	Mary Andersen	22
Cindy LoPiano	5	Desi Simon	16	Tyler Kohlun	24
Melissa Aresco	6	Cole Soderberg	16	Casey Backus	24
Eleanor Underwood	6	Tangeni Akwenye	17	Amy Farquharson	25
David Alfredson	10	Morgan Bau	19	Jonathan Hanse	25
Lisa Hanse	10	Scott Backus	19	Nicholas Mroczka	26
Leo Lavado	11	Marvin McNeill	19	Jim Hazlett	26
Jackson Aresco	11	David Douglas	19	Kim Beauregard	26
Alexander Antaya	12	Alexa Marquardt	19	Wayne Skiffington	28
Rachel Matsil	13	Hunter Beauregard	20	Janice Gawlik	29
Maurice Poirier	15	JoAnn Myers	21		



February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Soup Kitchen	2 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ 9:00 AM Family Conversation in Roger's Memorial Hall
3 10:00 am Worship Youth Group	4	5 7:00 PM Administrative Board Boy Scouts	6 9:00 AM Bus Safety Meeting am	7 Chancel Choir	8	9
10 10:00 am Worship Adult Study Group Education Commission Boy Scout Sunday Confirmation Class Youth Group	11 Unit 4  7:00 PM Adult Study Group	12 10:00 AM Curfs Home (Ric) Boy Scouts	13	14 Valentine's Day Chancel Choir	15 Soup Kitchen	16 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ Youth Rock a
17 10:00 am Worship Adult Study Group Youth Group Youth Rock a	18  7:00 PM Adult Study Group Craft Group President's Day	19 Can You Spare A Drop? Blood Drive Boy Scouts	20	21 Chancel Choir	22  Deadline for Parish Herald Scout Soup - fundraiser	23
24 10:00 am Worship Adult Study Group Confirmation Class Youth Group	25  7:00 PM Adult Study Group	26 Boy Scouts	27 9:00 AM Parish Herald Mailed	28 Chancel Choir		

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

TRUST
yourself
TO THE
God
WHO MADE YOU.