

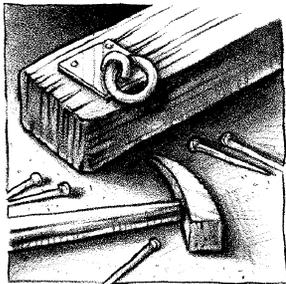
The Parish Herald

Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Meriden, Connecticut

Ric Hanse
Pastor

April 2019

April 2019



Spring is off to a cold and dreary start. And for this I am very glad.

Through this dreary beginning to Spring I am reminded of the cold, dreary, gray that Jesus' first disciples experienced after His painful death on the cross. For three years Jesus poured his life into His followers. For three

years Jesus' followers gave up everything to be His disciples.

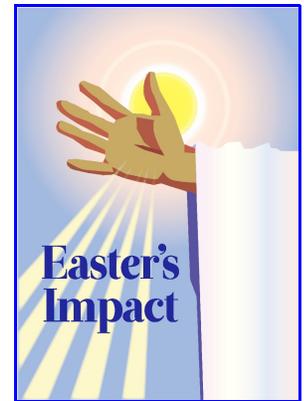
With the swing of a hammer and the hoisting of the cross it was all over. So much for the kingdom of God coming to earth. In an instant it was cold, dark, desolate.

In the dark chill of the Sunday after Jesus' death, the women who take their embalming spices to the tomb make a shocking discovery. "He is not here! He is risen!"

The dark, cold, desolation of death does not have the final say. Jesus does! Jesus is alive!

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This cold, dreary spring helps me to appreciate the cold, dreary that Jesus' followers felt. This cold, dreary spring also reminds me that ultimately Easter is not about warm weather, green grass, blue sky days and flowers budding all over the place. Easter is about Jesus rising from the dead and in so doing defeating death. Easter happens today as it did then regardless of external circumstances. Our great, powerful God will not let anyone, or anything have the final say over Him.



The One who is the Lord of lords, the King of kings and queens and the Savior of the world has the final say.

Please join me in allowing the presence of the risen and living Lord Jesus Christ to fill your heart, your mind and your life with His presence so that we may together experience life in abundance no matter what comes our way. Please also join me in living in such a way that we extend Christ's love and Christ's life to others.

Affectionately,

Ric

WHO WE ARE AT 1ST UMC, MERIDEN

At First UMC, Meriden we welcome all people of all races, classes, cultures, sexual orientations, theological and political persuasions to enjoy full participation in the life and ministries of our church family.



Holy Week

*On April 14 we begin the Holiest Week of the Christian Year.
We hope you will take advantage of the following worship experiences.*

Palm Sunday ***April 14, 2019***

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

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

Palms will be distributed

Maundy Thursday ***April 18, 2019***

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

Good Friday ***April 19, 2019***

Good Friday Worship 12:00 - noon

Open Prayer Vigil 1:00 to 2:00 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 21, 2019***

10:00 am *Service Celebrating our Risen 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.

Inclosed with this month's Herald is our **Easter Memorial Form**. We have added the option of purchasing *lilies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths and azaleas*. If you have already sent in your form (Thank you!) and would like to change the flower purchase please call the church office, 203-235-9620. Thank you again.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Our Sunday School students will be participating in our Church service on **Palm Sunday, April 14**. 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.



NURSERY CARE

Volunteers Needed for a new **Caring Ministry for Parents/Caregivers of Infants & Toddlers**. The Staff/Parish Committee has endorsed opening the nursery room for infants & toddlers (up to age 3) under adult supervision so that parents may peacefully & prayerfully attend worship without concern for their young children's safety & well-being. Nursery will be staffed from 9:45 A.M. until 11:15 or the end of worship. With a core of 8-16 volunteers each person would only miss attending the church service once every other month. Please see Nancy Peterson or Lauren Rhines and sign-up on the NEW sheet in Roger's Hall! Parents would be asked to provide all necessary food, diaper items and toys for each child.

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.

April 7 **Feed the Ducks** - returning at 2:30 pm
April 13 - 14 **Lock in**

April 14 Palm Sunday Breakfast! Ends at 10:00 am
 Sat April 20 Passion Play in Southington. Time TBD
 April 21 Happy Easter! No youth group
 April 28 Arts and recreation

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. \$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.

ANNUAL PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST!

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**



On Sunday, April 14, 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 will meet Monday **April 8**, 1:00 pm in Roger's Memorial for a **Dessert Meeting**. Dessert will be provided and all women are most welcome.

Unit 4 will again be assembling **Health Kits** to be sent to annual conference. We are in need of *Hand Towels* 15x25 in. to 17x27 in. (kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not accepted), *Washcloths*, *Toothbrushes* (Adult size only, do not remove from original packaging) *6 Adhesive bandages* (3/4 in. to 1 in.) bath-size bar of *soap* (3 oz. or larger, no Ivory or Jergens, do not remove from package), *Comb* (sturdy and longer than 6 in., no pocket combs or picks) and *Metal nail files or nail clippers* (no emery boards)

Please leave all items in the bin marked Health kits in the cloister. If you prefer to make a cash donation, I am happy to shop for you. Any questions please call Kate Eglee 203-265-7192.

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.

CHILI COOK-OFF

Saturday April 6 - CHILI COOK-OFF. 6:00 pm in Rogers Memorial – Come hungry and bring your best Chili for tasting and judging. Or come to taste and vote! Please see Stan Kapustinski, (203) 630-3312, for more information and to sign-up.



MISSIONS

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser. Saturday, April 6, 8:00 am – 11:00 am. 1st Baptist Church, 460 Broad St. Adults: \$10. Children 3-10" \$5. Proceeds for building repairs. This is where the Soup Kitchen and the Closet of Love clothing ministry are housed.

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. Patients and hospitals are counting on all of us. Donate here Wednesday, April 16, 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/>

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. Thank you!

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.



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.

Briefs: We have met our goal for our **"CA\$H for COFFEE" Fundraiser!** Thank you all for your generosity!

The **deadline** for the May Parish Herald is **Friday, April 19.**

We have openings for **Altar Flowers** much of April & May. 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.

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 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 (10:00 am) at St Andrew's Church, 20 Catlin St on the 3rd Saturday of each month (next - February 16).

Lenten Self-denial Coin Folders and banks may be returned to the Church office or placed in the offering plate. 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.

Upcoming meetings: **Administrative Board**, Tuesday, April 2, 7:00 pm... **Staff/ Pastor Parish Relations** April 23, 6:30 pm... **Education Commission**, Sunday April 28 after worship.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

April 7 – Team 8: Ed & Nancy Peterson, Donna Oddie, Gerry West, Jim Hazlett, Sheila Mansolf, Ruth Petrucelli, Beverly Teixeira

April 14 - Palm Sunday Team 1: Sue Winchell, Barbara Quigley, Evelyn Mills, Stacy Morgan, Jane Ashton, Betsy Cole, Krista Green

April 21 Easter – Team 2: Stanley & Sharon Kapustinski, Brenda Daly, Nancy Tracy, Jan Richardson, Stacy Harris, Karen Harrison

April 28 – Team 3: Debbie Molloy, Novelyn Cosmiano, Susan Farquharson, Jessica Nelson, Steve Rittenhouse, Jennifer Janus

May 5 – Team 4: Ray & Rosanne Knapp, Jim & Sue Kostuk, Debbie Lippold, Toni Merrill,

May 12 – New Members: Commission on Membership: JoAnn Myers, Chairperson, Juliette Buccilli, Michael Buccilli, Novelyn Cosmiano, Brenda Daly, Roberta Dolan, Kate Eglee, Joyce Ganon, Carmen Garcia, Jan Gawlik, Allison Green, Debra Lippold, Evelyn Mills, Ruth Petrucelli, Janice Richardson, Sue Winchel, Simone Keen, Maureen James and Christa Green.

WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Hospitalized since the last Parish Herald: Hamp Pratt, Ray Knapp

April Birthdays:

Ryan Dolan	1	Phyllis Timm	13	Barbara Rogers	20
Ed Peterson	2	Aaron Manu	14	Valerie Levesque	20
Fran Clark	3	Sheila Mansolf	14	Pauli Woodeshick	20
Dennis Cracraft	5	Al Lespier	15	Makayla Skiffington	21
Young Ju Kim	5	Bill Parmelee	15	Ethan Antaya	21
Karen Harrison	6	Kim Parmelee	15	Joyce Ganon	21
Kevin Wodatch	7	Juliana Manu	15	Patricia Lawrence	21
DJ Nelson	7	Lillian Schultz	17	Andy Fransen	22
Ethan Anderson	7	Larry Britton	17	Susan Emond	22
Coniah Timm	8	Bill Parmelee	17	Valerie Gwara	23
Gerald West	9	Carter Antaya	18	Stacy Morgan	23
Darlene Hardy	9	Scott Knapp	18	Rose Walsh	26
Edna Liberty	10	Lyla Merrill	18	James Fransen	28
CL Ekpunobi	11	John-Paul Cross	18	Charles Walton	30
Jean Burt	11	Strick Woods	18	Thomas LoPiano	30
Chris Pearsall	12	Connie Cross	19		

Easter Memorials



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 \$15.00 per plant. Please print.

___ Lily # ___ Daffodil # ___ Tulip # ___ Hyacinth # ___ Azalea

In memory of – honor of _____

In memory of – honor of _____

Total # plants _____ at \$15.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed.

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 \$ _____

Absolute DEADLINE (to be included in the Memorial list) for receiving memorials is Friday, April 12

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 PM Administrative Board Boy Scouts	3	4 Chancel Choir	5 Soup Kitchen	6 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ Chili Cook-off
7 Education Commission 10:00 am Worship Youth Group	8 Unit 4	9 10:00 AM Curis Home (Ric) Boy Scouts	10 9:00 AM Bus Safety Meeting am	11 Chancel Choir	12	13 Youth Lock-in
14 Palm Sunday 10:00 am Worship Breakfast Confirmation Class Youth Lock-in	15	16 Can You Spare A Drop? Blood Drive Boy Scouts	17	18 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm	19 Good Friday Soup Kitchen Deadline for Parish Herald	20 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ Youth - Passion Play, Southington
21 Easter 10:00 am Worship	22	23 6:30 PM SPPR Boy Scouts	24 9:00 AM Parish Herald Mailed	25 Chancel Choir	26	27
28 Education Commission 6:30 PM Worship Commission 10:00 am Worship Confirmation Class Youth Group	29	30 Boy Scouts				

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

