

# The Parish Herald

Newsletter of the  
First United Methodist Church  
Meriden, Connecticut

Ric Hanse  
Pastor

May 2019

## “Always Learning”



As a newly minted minister I was convinced that I knew almost everything I needed to know to be a great pastor. Twenty-seven years later I am convinced that the longer I live as a Christian and serve as a pastor, the more I don't know and the more there is for me to learn.

In the Bible there is a book of sayings called Proverbs. Proverbs 9:9 says, “Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.”

Wisdom is the thoughtful application of knowledge. Righteousness is doing what we are designed to do. We are designed to glorify God and enjoy God's love forever by coming alive together in Jesus. Growing in our ability to more fully enjoy God's love means living lives of learning and thoughtfully applying what we learn to everyday life.

Over the past twelve months I've learned many important lessons which I have sought to wisely apply in ways that glorify God.

Here are three important lessons I've learned.

**Lesson 1:** Easter: Singing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” for nearly fifteen minutes at the

end of an Easter service while people climb stairs to put flowers on the cross in the chancel is not a good idea!

**Learning:** Figure out something different for the Easter 2019 service.

**Application:** Ask Maurice Poirier to make two more crosses for flowers (Thank you ever so much Maurice!!!) and invite people to dedicate their lives to Jesus by placing their flower on the cross throughout the service. By God's grace it worked!

**Lesson 2:** Summer Worship Times: Not everyone likes 9 a.m. worship in the summer and not everyone likes 10:00am worship in the summer.

**Learning:** Offer two worship services in the summer so that people who like early summer worship, and people who like later summer worship can enjoy worshipping Jesus in our First UMC family.

**Application:** Have two summer worship services with the same Scripture and sermon.

8:30 a.m. Early Worship – A 45-minute service.

10 a.m. Worship – A 50-minute summer service.

**Lesson 3:** 2019 General Conference: The special session of General Conference which approved the Traditional Plan that forbids full inclusion of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, asexual or intersexual in the life of the United Methodist Church proclaims to the world that we are not a welcoming denomination.

**Learning:** We as the First UMC, Meriden, CT., Family must be intentional in welcoming all people into full inclusion in the life and ministries of our Church Family.

**Application:** Living out the statement adopted by the Administrative Board that proclaims, “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.”

The longer I serve as a pastor, and the longer I live in God's world as someone who loves Jesus, the more I realize how much I don't know

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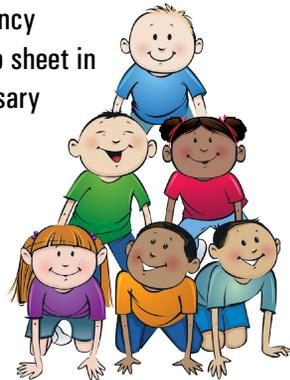
and how much learning there is for me to do. Is the same true for you?

Affectionately,

Ric

### NURSERY

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 would be staffed from 9:45 A.M. until 11:15 or the end of church service. We hope to have a core of at least 8-16 volunteer caregivers, so that 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 sign-up sheet in Roger's Hall! Parents would be asked to provide all necessary food, diaper items and toys for each child.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday will be on **May 5<sup>th</sup>** and our children will help us with the worship service. Everyone should be at church by 9:15 a.m. on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

There will be Sunday School classes through the end of May.

### CONFIRMATION

**On 9 June**, our Confirmation Class will publicly profess the faith into which they were baptized and become full and responsible members of Christ's Church. Please join this wonderful celebration of new beginnings for these special people who will give their lives to Jesus to join First UMC.

### 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](mailto:jhazlett1222@gmail.com).

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** after church during coffee hour. **Build your own hotdog**. This is a FUNd raiser for youth missions.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** Mother's Day **no youth group**

**Looking for talent**. The All church **Talent Show and Dinner** will **May 18**. Come showcase YOUR talent; sign up is in Rogers. Tickets will be on sale for the dinner / show. The cost will be \$8.00 per person; \$15.00 per couple/ \$25.00 per family of 5.

**May 26<sup>th</sup>** the youth will be visiting St. Patrick's cemetery to **plant flags** on veterans' graves, giving thanks to their service, a prayer dedication and cook out after



**A TON of help needed**



Beginning 5/5 the youth will begin our Clothing Drive that ends on 6/16. We will accept clothing, blankets, drapes, shoes, boots, and other soft goods. The truck to take these to Savers will be in on 6/16.



## Talent NEEDED

Matthew 25:14-30

Sign YOUR talent up for 5/18 Talent Show / Dinner



TALENT OF ALL AGES WELCOME

### FOCUS ON WOMEN

**Unit 4** will meet Monday May 13, 1:00 pm in Roger's Memorial for a Dessert Meeting. Dessert will be provided and all women are most welcome. Our program will be assembling the Health Kits. All kinds of help is needed. Please come May 13<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm- 3:00 pm to package health kits. Come early (at noon) if you can but if you can't come anytime from noon to 2:00 pm.

**Women's Luncheon:** Sunday, May 5, 12:00 pm. See Debbie Molloy for details.



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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](mailto:fumc@snet.net), if you prefer.



### NEW SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES!

**July – August** two Worship Services each Sunday.

**8:30 am and 10:00 am.**

So note the dates and times now!

### MISSIONS

May 19<sup>th</sup> will be **Compassion Sunday** here at FUMC. Compassion International is an organization that helps children all over the world escape poverty through Jesus' name. Come grab a cup of coffee and something to eat and listen to a brief presentation about The Lavado Family's experience in sponsoring 3 children from Indonesia over the past year. Packets on children available for sponsorship will be available at the presentation and for some time after the event. In honor of our long standing mission work in Haiti, children from Haiti and other Caribbean locations have been requested for sponsorship opportunities by other faith family here at FUMC! Sponsoring a child is less than \$40 a month. Questions? Call or

text Mary at (860) 638-8781, or email [mary.lavado@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.lavado@yahoo.com), or visit <https://www.compassion.com>

**Caring Hands** In July of 2014 five women from our church got together to form Caring Hands. Since then we have lost 2 knitters and gained a few other women to knit and crochet blankets, hats, scarfs, mittens and shawls. Since our beginning we have given 411 blankets to Midstate Oncology Group, Meriden, The Veteran's Hospital in West Haven and this year have added Middlesex Oncology Group. We have also knitted blankets for Fostering Love and countless hats for the veterans (some of which they use to cover their stumps) not to mention mittens and scarfs for our church's mitten tree. This could not be accomplished without the donations from our congregation. If you can be of any assistance (small or large) or you need a blanket for a loved one please contact Jan Richardson or Nancy Tracy. These blankets are greatly appreciated by the recipients. Thank You.

**Thank you so much** for allowing the Red Cross to continue to run blood drives at First United Methodist Church! The blood collected at these drives has impacted more than **7,000 patients in need of blood products**. Thank you! Best Cone Bartlett

**Ongoing Mission projects: 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. Most needed now: Pajamas – all sizes, all seasons. Also money donations to purchase toiletries. 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.

## **FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

**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.

**May 19** – Team 5: Nancy Coppola, Mary Alling, Kate Eglee, Bette Grasso, Mary Lavado, Tracy Wodatch

**May 26** – Team 6: Deane Poirier, Alison Green, Maurice Poirier, MaryEllen Brechlin, Trudi Schott, Mark Fancher, Lauren Rhines, Ellen Fisk.

**June 2** – Team 7: Myrna Spencer, Karen Caproizzo, Earl Yeomans, Linda Mizell, Jim Pearsall, Renee Pearsall, Betty Thomson, Mary Andersen

**June 9 - Confirmation** – Commission on Membership: JoAnn Myers, Chairperson, Juliette Buccilli, Michael Buccilli, Novelyn Cosmiano, Brenda Daly, Roberta Dolan, 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.

**Briefs: Lenten Self Denial Folders and Banks** may be returned to the office or the offering plate. Thank you.

We have openings for **Altar Flowers** for much of May and all of June. 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.

The Deadline for the **June Parish Herald** is Friday, May 24. Please have your articles in to the office by that date. You can drop them off or e-mail ([fumc@snet.net](mailto:fumc@snet.net)). Thank you. The Herald will be mailed May 29, 9:00 am from

the Church office. Anyone wishing to help collate and label the newsletter is very welcome.

**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](mailto:fumc@snet.net).

**Join us on the web!** [www.firstUMCmeriden.com](http://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.

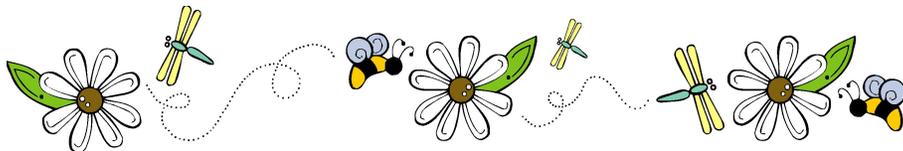
A **Food Pantry** is available at New Opportunities, 74 Cambridge St, Meriden. Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Thurs, 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm.

### WITHIN OUR FAMILY

Dear friends, **Thank you** so much for the many cards for my birthday. It was a real celebration and I appreciate it so much. Fran Clark.

**Hospitalized** since the last Parish Herald: Jim Teagle, Patricia Lawrence, Pattie Barse

+ **In Memoriam** + Since our last issue of the Parish Herald, the following have passed into eternal life: 4/12: Tom Falcigno. 4/14 Darlene Fancher



### May Birthdays!

Lee McLean	1	Jane Ashton	15	Sonja Willhite	24
Laurie Alexander	2	Myrna Spencer	15	Ray Kopcza	24
Antonio Rogers	2	Crystal Gagne	15	Sandra Barse	25
Katherine Uymah	2	Allison Backus	18	Christa Green	25
Sharon Savain	2	Lauren Backus	18	Jameson Gianotti	28
Thomas Wodatch	3	Isabella Andersen	20	Ryan Molloy	29
Kevin Merrill	4	Shelby Doerfler	22	Steven Porsch	29
Serenity Memendez	7	Jacob Kapustinski	22	John Marquardt	29
Naomi Aikin	9	Don Emond	22	Anthony DiPietro	30
Lindsay Underwood	9	Lulette Hanson	11	John Mansolf	30
Donna Timm	9	Ashley Ruger	14	George Thomson	30
		John Kovach	14	Ellen Fisk	31

**Adult Bible Study**, Seasonally. Pastoral & Lay Leadership

**Boy Scout Troop** 52 Tuesday, 7:00 pm.

**Brothers in Christ** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 8:00 am, Parish House

**Chancel Choir Rehearsal**, Thursday, 7:30 pm, Sunday, 9:00 am

**Church School Children's Choir** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday and Seasonal: 10:15 am

**Confirmation Class**, alternate Sunday's after worship

**Handbell Choir Rehearsal**, Sunday, 11:30 am.

**Youth Groups**, Grades 6- 12 , Sunday, 1:00 pm

**United Methodist Women** , 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month and Special Programs

**Worship Service & Church School** at 10:00 am Sunday - Nursery provided.

**Web Site:** [www.FirstUMCMeriden.com](http://www.FirstUMCMeriden.com)





# Lamb of God

 John the Baptist knew Jesus was the Messiah — and offered a special greeting when he saw Jesus. 

*Directions: Cut apart the squares and arrange them in a rectangle in numerical order, starting with #1 in the top left and going across to #7. Continue building four more rows of seven squares each, to reveal John 1:29, NIV.*

1	2 "...Look,	25	4 Lamb	30	16 sin
8	33	27	12 the	23	18 the
29	6 God,	32	20	10 takes	34
24	17 of	5 of	19 world!"	22	11 away
3 the	31	26	9 who	13	15
14	7	28	35	21	

## U.M. ARMY Spring Clean-up Fundraiser Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

- | Text  | Y                     | N                     |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Raking                        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Pruning/hedge bushes          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Painting                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Wall/ceiling patching (small) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Dump runs (small)             | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Cleanout storage              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Install handrail/grab bar     | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Repair steps                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Install flooring              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <input type="radio"/> Spray deck                    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Springtime is here! Our UMARMY youth and adults would love to provide a good spring cleaning for your yard! This fundraiser is a wonderful way to get to know our youth and celebrate their wonderful work ethic. Under the leadership of Karen Harrison and John Mansolf, our UMARMY youth workers will clean your yard so you can enjoy it this spring and summer. Last year the interactions of youth and homeowners was truly something special. This year will be even better! So please support our UMARMY ministry through this outstanding fundraiser!

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](mailto:fumc@snet.net)

Phone: 203-235-9620

First United Methodist Church

15 Pleasant Street

Meriden, CT 06450-5702

