

# The Parish Herald

Newsletter of the  
First United Methodist Church  
Meriden, Connecticut

Ric Hanse  
Pastor

November 2019



## Pastor's Notes

I love November! The oak leaves are turning yellow and deep red, we commemorate All Saints Sunday, I celebrate my birthday, and we enjoy Thanksgiving. For me November has always been a month of grateful contemplation. This November is particularly poignant since I am turning the age at which my beloved Pops Mercaldi died: 53.

More than ever, Paul's words of gratitude in Philippians are my words to you:

*<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. – Philippians 1:3-5*

For me, September and October went by far more quickly than July and August. In fact, September and October were blurs of busy activity. Through the busyness you have been shining beacons of God's love by offering me support, love, prayers, encouragement, gracious nudges to care for myself and my family, extraordinary patience and hard work. I thank my God for you!

Over the past two months you have shown me and the world how you are a shining beacon of God's love as together we prepared for,

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hosted, and lead the Reverend John Blossom's funeral. God's love also shines through your commitment to bringing Jesus' love to South Meriden Trinity and East Berlin United Methodist Churches, by supporting me as I offer them pastoral care. I thank my God for you!

On 20 October your love for Jesus shined through your beautiful efforts to make our Greater Meriden Cooperative Parish Church Conference Celebration so successful. From parking lot attendants, to greeters, to reception bakers and hosts, to ushers, to guides to enthusiastic cheerleaders of our beautiful Methodist Connection, you were truly amazing! I thank my God for you!

Bishop Bickerton has given me a great privilege by appointing me to serve as the Greater Meriden Cooperative Parish Coordinator. In this role, I am responsible for caring for and walking with the fourteen churches in our Cooperative Parish. Through this appointment you and I have the opportunity to show our Parish, our Conference and the world that in Greater Meriden United Methodism we offer each other first class care, support and love. Your commitment to my leadership in this position is a way by which God's beautiful love shines through you. I thank my God for you.

As we travel to Thanksgiving, please be praying for the pastors who will soon be appointed to South Meriden Trinity and East Berlin United Methodist Churches, and please continue to pray for me that I may live many years beyond the life of my Pops, someone who has made me into the joyous and loving Christian I am today. I thank my God for him (Philip James Mercaldi).

And I thank my God for you!

Affectionately,

Ric



## 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 27<sup>th</sup>! Please plan on spending time giving thanks in worship during our **7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service**. At 8:00 pm head into Rogers Memorial Hall and enjoy delicious **pies, cider and coffee**. Please bring a pie to share with our Church Family.



**November 24, 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.**

## BIBLE SUNDAY

**National Bible Sunday** will be observed at FUMC on **November 17<sup>th</sup>**. 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 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Sunday School updates: Helpers needed!** Are you interested in helping with Sunday School but don't want to commit to the full year? You're in luck! We are looking for substitute & part-time teachers to teach once or twice a month. **Nursery care volunteers** needed! In order to keep the Nursery running, we need 2 volunteers each Sunday. Please see Nancy Petersen or Lauren Rhines to sign up.

## 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. Youth Group 2.0 will be meeting **the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday** of every month. In addition we will make



opportunities for service to our church and the community, inter-generational relationship building, and silliness! I'm excited about the up coming year and hope the Youth Group is a place where all young people feel at home in themselves and at home in Christ.

If you have any questions please contact *Jamie Fisher*, (203) 317-1300, jaimefish@gmail.com

## FOCUS ON WOMEN

Unit 4 is inviting FUMC South Meriden and East Berlin and our 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Family to come to a showing of **the Story of Ruth** produced by Sight and Sound Theater on **November 9 at 5:30 pm**. There will be cake and coffee served. A good will offering will be collected for some of John Blossom's favorite charities. Please mark your calendar so we can show our support for these two churches in their time of need. A sign up sheet will be in Rogers so we know approximately how many people will attend. Don't want to run out of cake!

**Unit 4** will meet **Monday, November 11, 1:15 pm** in Roger's Memorial for a desert meeting. Desert is provided and **all** are welcome! This month there will be a presentation by Tracy & Michael Koff on their trip to Africa. Invite your friends.

**UMW Christmas Luncheon:** Ladies, mark your calendars for our luncheon on Sunday, December 1st. This will be a catered event and tickets are \$10 and will need to be purchased in advance. ALL ladies are welcome and hope to see you there!! Details to follow.

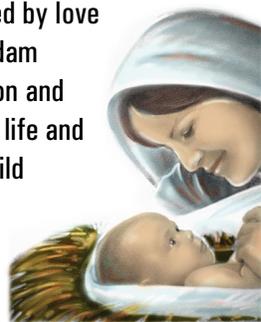
## MEN'S NOTES

**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.

### **ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**

**"Not a Silent Night"** Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view – proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the crucifixion and resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses his life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby. This year, experience Advent and Christmas with Mary. Sundays after worship starting **December 1**. Sign up in Roger's Memorial.



### **MISSIONS**

**So much opportunity, but so little time!** This is a wonderful season of the year!

**Thanksgiving Sunday** is 11/24 and it is an opportunity to express our thanks to God for the blessings we have. In years past we have been able to share a bounty of food with families in our church and community. As you are shopping, pick up some extra food items to share, such as *canned veges, stuffing, pie ingredients, soups, peanut butter*. As Thanksgiving is near *potatoes, carrots, onions, and of course Turkeys!* See Deb Molloy with questions. Lets share a whole lot of blessing again this year!



**Mitten Tree:** First-UMC has donated a bounty of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to several organizations in the Meriden-Wallingford area each winter for over 30 years. It is greatly appreciated. If you know how to use needles and crochet hooks consider making an item(s), or purchase them to put on our annual Mitten Tree in December. We especially focus on children's items but all are welcome.

**Stocking for Socks:** In Rogers there is a large stocking to put new pairs of socks for adults and children. These are given to the Meriden Shelter in the winter when cold feet are a real concern. See Deb Molloy.

Keep cutting the **Box Tops for education** off cereals and several other products. There is a can in the kitchen to collect them of give to Deb Molloy. These are sent to Redbird Mission in Kentucky to support their mission school.

When you travel, bring home the **toiletries** (bar of soap, shampoo/conditioner, and lotion) and put in the Toiletry box in the cloister. They are given regularly to the Meriden Shelter, Salvation Army, or Rushford Respite.

**Angel Tree:** details are coming!!



**CT Foodbank Mobile Food Pantry** Opened every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month except for the week of Dec. 24. From 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Located at the parking lot on the corner of Miller and Center St (next to the Meriden Health Center) For more information on Connecticut Food Bank programs and pantries, visit [ctfoodbank.org](http://ctfoodbank.org).

**Trinity South Meriden UMC** invites you to a special evening **Monday, November 4**, at 7:00. **Dr. Belinda Forbes, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries**, will do a presentation regarding her work with AMC (Acción Médica Christiana), serving in Managua, Nicaragua.



BEYOND OUR  
**BORDERS**

AMC is a Christian ecumenical organization specializing in community health and development in impoverished rural communities. Learn how we can join with the community to develop better health, clean water and

sanitation, and improved farming and nutrition. Discover ways to help and commit to others in the future.

Light refreshments will be available following the presentation. Please RSVP by November 1, calling 203-314-8632 or emailing [darylfitz07@gmail.com](mailto:darylfitz07@gmail.com). Thank you. We look forward to seeing you.

The **Connecticut Hospice** is sponsoring volunteer training this fall. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve others in your community we would like to hear from you. Our patients and families need your care and support. As a volunteer you can assist in a clerical capacity or offer direct care as a visitor, help in the arts, transportation needs. Please contact Joan Cullen, 203-315-7510.

**Boy Scout Troop 52** is having an **old sneaker give back drive**. Don't throw away your old, even holy sneakers. Bring them to church and put them in the bin in Rogers Hall. Gentle used sneakers will be shipped to those in need of footwear. Non-usable ones will be recycled and kept out of landfills. Clean your shoe rack while helping those in need by supporting our scout troop. This is for sneakers only, not other footwear. Thank you.

**Fostering Love.** Children placed in Foster Care receive from 1<sup>st</sup> 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!

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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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/>.



**Daylight Savings Time** ends on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Don't forget to turn your clocks **back**.

## ADVENT



The **First Sunday in Advent** is **December 1<sup>st</sup>**.  
**Hanging of the Greens** during worship on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

For the 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 1, at 2:00 pm. All are invited.

**Christmas Caroling** to shut-ins and our nursing home members will be Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, immediately after Fellowship Hour. This is an **All-Church Event**, open to all. We will have hot cocoa and donuts back at the Church. Sign-ups in Rogers Memorial.

**Advent Coin Banks and Folders** will soon be available in the Narthex, the Cloister, or stop by the Church office to pick one up. These coin banks are a great reminder of the "reason for the season" when left out on coffee tables or the kitchen counter. They also provide for a wonderful teaching aid to children about the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Banks can be returned in the offering plates or the Church office. Thank you. Your Finance Committee

"If we do not have love in our hearts, our words will have little meaning. If we do not truly enjoy our faith, nobody is going to catch the fire of enjoyment from us. If our lives are not totally centered on Christ, we will not be the Christ-bearers for others." *Madeline L'Engle*

*submitted by Sarah Uylaky*



# 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Living Creche



**Tuesday, December 17, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Thursday, December 19, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Tuesday, December 24, 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm**

Youth and Adults in revolving casts, enact a tableau of the traditional nativity scene. Christmas carols provided by the Wayne Roth Memorial Carillon will resound from the Church spire.

The Pageant will be presented during the 6:00 pm Worship Service on Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

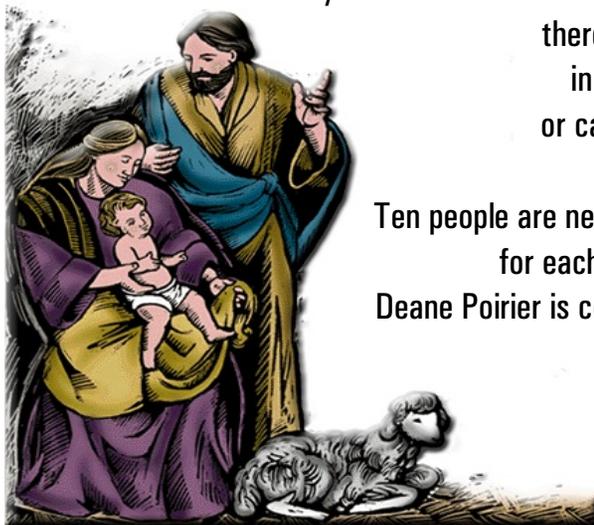
**A Great Family Experience of the True Meaning of the Season.**

**We are recruiting participants:**

If you would like to take part in the creche, there is a **sign-up sheet** in Rogers Memorial or call the Church office, 235-9620.

Ten people are needed (20 per-evening) for each tableau.

Deane Poirier is coordinating, (203) 235-5580.



## Christmas Memorial Poinsettias

If you wish to order a poinsettia to be placed in the sanctuary at Christmas. 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 \$12.00 per plant. Please print.



# \_\_\_ In memory of – honor of \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_ In memory of - honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Total # plants \_\_\_\_\_ at \$12.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

Please check:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plant after the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

\_\_\_\_\_ I will deliver poinsettias on December 26 or December 27.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Christmas 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_ In memory of – honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Total donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

Giver's Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed** (poinsettia costs and donations) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Absolute DEADLINE** (to be included in the Memorial list) **for receiving memorials is Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.**

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

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

**Nov 10** – Team 4: Ray & Rosanne Knapp, Jim & Sue Kostuk, Toni Merrill,

**Nov 17** – Team 5: Nancy Coppola, Mary Alling, Kate Eglee, Bette Grasso, Mary Lavado, Tracy Wodatch

**Nov 24** – Team 6: Deane Poirier, Alison Green, Maurice Poirier, MaryEllen Brechlin, Trudi Schott, Mark Fancher, Lauren Rhines, Ellen Fisk.

**Dec 1**– Team 7: Myrna Spencer, Karen Caproizzo, Linda Mizell, Jim Pearsall, Renee Pearsall, Mary Andersen

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

**Briefs:** There will be a memorial service to celebrate the life of Scott Spencer, son of Barry & Myrna Spencer on Saturday, November 2, at 10:00 am.

We have openings for **Altar Flowers** for November 3 & 10. 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. Please take your flowers with you after the 10:00 worship service.

**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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,** On behalf of the congregation of the **South Meriden Trinity UMC** I would like to thank all of the members of the First United Methodist Church for **ALL** that you have done for us during this very trying journey. We are so grateful for your thoughts and prayers and for you just being there for us.

We could not have done this without you! We appreciate your generous gift of time, and the warm and welcoming reception that so many of you prepared for after Pastor John's service. We thank you for the music and the beautiful solo that calms the soul. We thank you for your connection with us.

We are so glad that our friendship has blossomed. (No pun intended.) We hope that in the future we will have the opportunity to share more time together.

Again we thank you for all your kindness and caring. We especially thank you for sharing your beloved Pastor Ric with us. He is a Godsend and you are lucky to have him. From the members fo the SMTUMC, your's in Christ, Patricia Juhase

Dear Myrna and ladies of 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist, **Thank you** so much for the beautiful reception you put on following the servcie for our Pastor, John Blossom. It has been a difficult time for our church and your kindness made it a little easier. We really appreciated all you did. With Blessings, *Edie Marcantonio*, South Trinity.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, **Thank you** for being such a bright and beautiful presence in this world. Sincerely, the Members of the South Meriden Trinity UMC

**Thank you** all for the planning of the Memorial Service fo Pastor John, and for the wonderful reception after. *Sally Dow*, Worship Team Chair, South Meriden Trinity.

Those who helped with the Memorial Reception for John Blossom, Saturday September 28. *Kate Eglee, Myrna Spencer, Jo Ann Myers, Sarah Uylaky, Barbara Quigley, Toni Merrill, Jessica Nelson, Harry Geiger, Evelyn Mills, Deane Poirier, Trudi Schott, Debbie Molloy, Cindy Lopiano, Betti Grasso, Penny Cabata, Nancy Tracy, Eleanor Underwood, Fran Clark, Jan Gawlik, Roberta Dolan, Sue Kostuk, Bev Smith, Nancy Coppola, Jan Richardson.*

**Hospitalized** since the last Parish Herald: Bette Grasso, Maurice Poirier

**+ In Memoriam +** Since our last issue of the Parish Herald, the following have passed into eternal life: 10/23 – *Mary Andersen*.

There will be a memorial service to celebrate the life of Scott Spencer, son of Barry & Myrna Spencer on Saturday, November 2, at 10:00 am.

**November Birthdays:**

Scott Aresco . . . . . 2	Sarah Uylaky . . . . . 12	Eden Bambimbu . . . 22
Ric Hanse . . . . . 3	Don Andersen . . . . 14	Joyce Bukowski . . . 24
Scott Parmelee . . . . 3	Karen Green . . . . . 14	Travis Coppola . . . . 24
Harry Geiger . . . . . 3	Sandy Willhite . . . . 15	Betsy Cole . . . . . 24
Barbara Anderson . . 5	James Elston . . . . . 17	Megan Spencer . . . 25
Sean Zemke . . . . . 6	Christian Schultz . . 17	Laurie Guenther . . . 26
Michael Koff . . . . . 7	Sophia Andersen . . 18	Nancy Salamon . . . 27
Simone Keen . . . . . 7	Karen Caporizzo . . . 18	Elizabeth Lavado . . 27
Lisa Vecchitto . . . . 7	Nancy Tracy . . . . . 20	Dana Barse . . . . . 29
Madison Smith . . . . 8	Michael Rogers . . . 21	Debra Lippold . . . . 29
Daniel Malloy . . . . . 9	June Adduci . . . . . 21	Joy Roy . . . . . 30
Tony Torcello . . . . . 10	Virginia Spear . . . . 21	Dorothy Barnhart . . 30

**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)



<h1>November 2019</h1>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Soup Kitchen	2 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ  Memorial Service 10 am
3 10:00 am Worship All Saints Daylight Saving Time Ends Education Commission Youth Group	4	5 Boy Scouts Election Day	6	7 Chancel Choir	8	9 Story of Ruth 5:30 pm  Scout Lock-in
10 10:00 am Worship Bible Sunday Confirmation Class	11 Unit 4 Veterans Day	12 Boy Scouts	13	14 Membership Committee 6:30 pm Chancel Choir	15 Soup Kitchen	16 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ
17 10:00 am Worship Youth Group	18	19 Boy Scouts	20	21 Chancel Choir	22  Deadline for Parish Herald	23
24 10:00 am Worship UM Student Day Confirmation Class	25	26 Boy Scouts	27 9:00 AM Parish Herald Mailed 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship	28  Thanksgiving	29	30

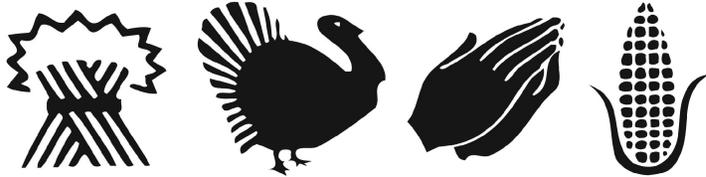


# PUZZLE

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.



A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,  
 K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,  
 S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

" \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ 16 18 1 9 19 5  
 \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ name in \_\_\_\_\_ 19 15 14 7  
 and \_\_\_\_\_ 7 12 15 18 9 6 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 9 13 with  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 8 1 14 11 19 7 9 22 9 14 7 ."

Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, 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](mailto:fumc@snet.net) Phone: 203-235-9620

First United Methodist Church  
 15 Pleasant Street  
 Meriden, CT 06450-5702

