

The Parish Herald

Newsletter of the
First United Methodist Church
Meriden, Connecticut

Ric Hanse
Pastor

March 2020

Pastor's Message for Lent



Charles Wesley was the song writing brother of Methodist Church founder John Wesley. Among his best-known songs are "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", and "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today". But some of Charles's lesser known songs are truly inspiring.

Throughout most of our lives we experience days of simultaneous pain and joy. Through all our days Jesus is with us. During this season of Lent (the

forty-day period of self-examination that begins on Ash Wednesday and leads us to Easter) I would like very much for us to spend each day praying Charles Wesley's song, "Thou Hidden Source Of Calm Repose".

*Thou hidden source of calm repose,
Thou all sufficient love divine
My help and refuge from my foes
Secure I am if thou art mine;
And lo! from sin and grief and shame
I hide myself in Jesus' name.*

*Thy mighty name salvation is,
And keeps my happy soul above;
Comfort it brings, and power and peace,
And joy and everlasting love;
To me with Thy dear name are given
Pardon and holiness and heaven.*

In this issue:	
Sunday School	2
Youth News	2
U.M. ARMY	5
Youth & Family	5
Scholarship	5
Focus on Women	6
Men's Notes	7
Corned Beef Dinner	7
Holy Week	8
Easter Memorials	9
Missions	10
Fellowship Hour	11
Within Our Family	13

*Jesus, my all in all Thou art,
My rest in toil, my ease in pain,
The healing of my broken heart,
In war my peace, in loss my gain,
My smile beneath the tyrant's frown,
In shame my glory and my crown,*

*In want my plentiful supply,
In weakness my almighty power,
In bonds my perfect liberty,
My light in Satan's darkest hour,
In grief my joy unspeakable,
My life in death, my heaven in hell.*

Jesus lived with us, died for us on the cross and rose to indestructible everlasting life so that we could know Him, be found in Him, become one with Him and enjoy His love. By living His life through us, Jesus makes these wonderful words our joyous, never ending reality. Jesus will always be our joy unspeakable and our everlasting life.

Affectionately,

Ric

CHURCH SCHOOL

Our Sunday School students will be participating in our Church service on **Palm Sunday, April 5**. 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.

YOUTH NEWS

(aka The God Squad) Thank you to all the young people who have attended the Youth Group recently! You guys are a special group of young people and it's my joy to get to know you and spend time with you. Thank you also to parents who are bringing their kids! We couldn't do it without you! We'd love for any 6th -12th grader to join us. Please call or email Jaime Fisher with any questions (203-317-1300 jaimefish@gmail.com)

Hello Youth Groupies

We're having a spectacular winter so far. The youth group has been busy learning about prayer, as well as learning new games. We now know the best hiding spots in the building thanks to epic games of hide and go seek. Our kids are amazing me with their thoughtfulness, their capacity to wrestle with big questions and their creativity.

Schedule for the next couple of months. Please like FUMC on Facebook to receive youth group notifications there. And PLEASE, PLEASE, connect with me (Jaime Fisher) if you are not getting text or email updates and would like to be receiving them (my cell 203-317-1300)

Special Event

Feb 29th Youth Group Girls Night at Jaime's House from 6-9pm

March Sundays (please note adjustment to 2nd and 4th Sundays)

March 8th 2-4pm

March 22nd 2-4pm



YOUTH GROUP

Special Event

March 29th All ages Learn To Sew

Please stay after church for some light lunch and learning to sew! Several experienced sewing in our congregation have agreed to share their knowledge with the next generation and we are excited. This event is open to any child in Elementary School and Up. Please let Jaime know if you can contribute to a simple potluck lunch. (chips, sandwiches, and juice)

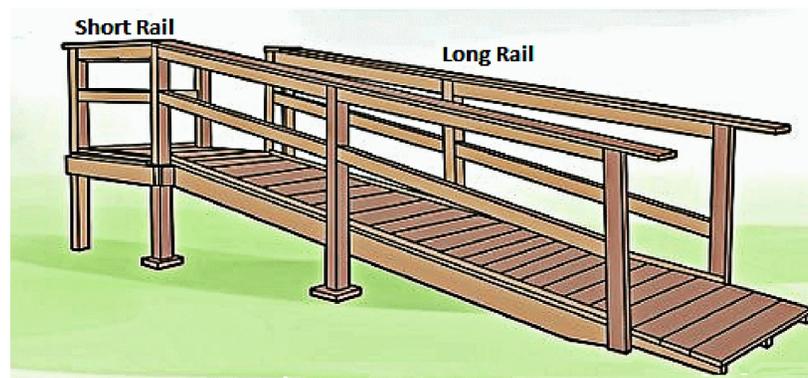
Ramping Up forUMARY 2020

United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth

Please pass this form to your family and friends.

The First United Methodist Church is sponsoring a weeklong mission trip this summer. In an effort to raise money, we are building a model handicap ramp to fund this year's trip.

Your contribution allows our youth and adult mentors to be a part of mission trip that provides home repair and maintenance needs for those who are unable to help themselves, promotes spiritual awareness through morning and evening worship, develops leadership skills and personal growth while fostering friendships. Individual and family donations are welcomed. Suggested Contributions: \$10 per board / \$20 per short rail / \$40 per long rail. A personalized message can be written. Complete the form below. Checks can be made out to the "First United Church,"



"UMARMY Fundraiser" in Memo line.

Thank you for your support.

Name:

Circle One: Ramp Board / Short Rail/ Long Rail

Brief Message:

U.M. ARMY MISSION TRIP 2020

JULY 12th to July 18th in Etters, PA / August 2-8 in Toms River, NJ
U.M. ARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth) provides Christ-centered missions that serve people in need and promote spiritual awareness, leadership development, and personal growth in youth and young adults.

The trip is open to all school students, entering 8th grade (2020/2021 school year) or older. This week long trip provides an opportunity to participate with other church groups and individuals to discover your skills and talents in doing God's work. Be a part of life changing experience.

For more information visit UMARMY North East: <http://ne.umarmy.org/>
See either Tom Molloy, Karen Harrison, Deb Kilian, or John Mansolf during Coffee Hour on how to get your child involved.

YOUTH & FAMILY

To all the parents who've expressed to me some topics you'd be interested in discussing, thank you! I've heard you and I am listening! I am excited to announce the first parenting class for families will be held on Sunday **February 23rd, at 12:00 pm**. This will be the first of the Communication Series called "Growing Pains." I am looking forward to BOTH parents and children attending, if possible to discuss how communication shifts as we grow. I hope to see you then! Yours Truly, Roxanne.

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, March 9th, 1:15 pm** for a dessert meeting. Dessert is provided and all women are most welcome.

Unit 4 is also meeting alternate Mondays to **craft** for the Holiday Fair to be held December 5th. We meet at 12:30 pm for an hour or two. All are welcome.

Unit 4 is collecting items needed for the **Health Kits**. We will be making 200 kits and need the following items: hand towels - 135. wash cloths - 161. individually wrapped soap - 109. band aids - 698. zip lock bags 152. There is a bin in the cloister marked Health Kits for the items. We also have to include \$2 for each kit. *Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated.* Thank you. – 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.



Plans are underway for a December 5th **Holiday Fair**. You might think it's early but it's the perfect time to get started. Let's start with baskets, we need all sizes but especially larger ones. Also, I bet you sometimes get gifts that just don't fit your taste. It may fit someone else's. Maybe cologne, lotions, powder, bath salts etc. Bring it in, we can use it in a gift basket. A bin will be set out in the cloister. Remember, **all items MUST be unopened, brand NEW**. See Kate Eglee or Holly Wishart with any questions.

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.

CORNED BEEF DINNER



Save the Date!!!! **Saturday, March 14th** will be FUMC's Annual Corned Beef Dinner! Doors open at 4:30 pm; dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. \$15 per person; \$25 per couple, \$40 for family of 4. All proceeds to benefit the UMARMY Mission Trip! Sign ups in Rogers, or call Mary and Neil Lavado at (860) 349-3345, or email Mary at mary.lavado@yahoo.com. Monetary or food donations accepted to offset costs.

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.



HOLY WEEK

On April 5 we begin the Holiest Week of the Christian Year. We hope you will take advantage of the following worship experiences.

PALM SUNDAY

April 5 2020

10:00 am Palm Sunday Family Worship & Church School.
Palms will be distributed

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9, 2020

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

GOOD FRIDAY

April 10, 2020

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 12, 2020

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.

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 circle the fund, indicate amount and how you want the acknowledgment listed. Please print.

Living Memorial	MemberCare	Health Kits
Fostering Love	Caring Hands	

\$ _____ 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 3

MISSIONS

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!

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.

Caring Hands....We are still making blankets for Mid State Oncology, Middlesex Oncology and the Veterans Hospital in West Haven. Please don't let this wonderful mission die because of lack of funds. The cancer patients love these blankets and with the cold weather here a nice warm blanket will be appreciated by them. We have no problem making the blankets if we have the yarn to do it with. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Jan Richardson.

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. This includes Coins only. **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.

Red Cross Bloodmobiles: Wednesday, March 18, and Tuesday April 14,



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/>. The American Red Cross has an **urgent need** for blood donations to help prevent a shortage of blood products. Donors of all blood types are urgently needed now, especially those with type O, AB, B negative and A

negative. If you make an appointment don't forget to use RapidPass to complete your pre-reading and donation questions online from the comfort and privacy of your home or office; reducing the time spent at the blood drive by up to 15 minutes!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

March 1 – Team 4: Ray & Rosanne Knapp, Jim & Sue Kostuk, Toni Merrill,

March 8 – Team 5: Nancy Coppola, Mary Alling, Kate Eglee, Bette Grasso, Mary Lavado, Tracy Wodatch

March 15 – Team 6: Deane Poirier, Alison Green, Maurice Poirier, MaryEllen Brechlin, Trudi Schott, Mark Fancher, Lauren Rhines, Ellen Fisk, Rose Walsh, Cheryl Sansone.

March 22 – Team 7: Myrna Spencer, Karen Caproizzo, Linda Mizell, Jim Pearsall, Renee Pearsall, Roger Fancher, Dana Northway, Janice Wiedowilt

March 29 – Team 8: Ed & Nancy Peterson, Donna Oddie, Gerry West, Jim Hazlett, Sheila Mansolf, Ruth Petrucelli, Beverly Teixeira, Kate Andersen

April 5 – *Palm Sunday* – Team 1: Sue Winchell, Barbara Quigley, Evelyn Mills, Stacy Morgan, Jane Ashton, Betsy Cole, Krista Green

April 12 – *Easter* – Team 2: Stanley & Sharon Kapustinski, Nancy Tracy, Jan Richardson, Karen Harrison, Jim Elston, Dean Smith

Briefs: There is a **Flower Poster** in the cloister. 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.

The **Deadline for the April Parish Herald** is Friday, March 20. Please have your articles in to the office by that date. You can drop them off or e-mail (fumc@snet.net). Thank you. The Herald will be mailed Wednesday, March 25, 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.

With the start of the new year, many of you are de-cluttering your homes and looking for a place to donate your extra items. We ask that you do NOT bring them to the church. Although we appreciate the thought, we really don't need any donations at this time. We ask that you find another location such as Goodwill or Habitat for Humanity for your donations. Thank you for your consideration of this request. Tracy Wodatch (203-314-4105).

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, 55 West Main, 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. Breakfast is at 10:00 am... **CT Foodbank Mobile Food Pantry**. Opened every 4th 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 www.ctfoodbank.org.

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

Dear Deb & Friends of the United Way,

On behalf of United Way of Meriden & Wallingford, I would like to **thank you** for the beautiful handmade mittens, scarves, hats, and other winter items you so thoughtfully donated to our organization. Every year we have the fortune to have donors like you who trust us and support us to continue helping our community. During these winter months we have been able to allocate these winter items to local agencies to distribute among families who need them. We truly appreciate the time and effort each one of you put into providing these winter clothing pieces and we are sure they are very valued by those who received them. I hope we can continue counting with your support and work together to have a positive impact in our community. We wish you a healthy and prosperous year. Sincerely, *Jennifer Sanguano*, Volunteer Coordinator for Holiday Programs.

Hospitalized since the last Parish Herald: Fran Clark, Ted Merrill, George Thomson, Jim Teagle

+ In Memoriam + Since our last issue of the Parish Herald, the following have passed into eternal life: *Rev. Ralph Lord Roy* – 2/3.
Barbara K Parmelee – 2/8

??? **Bible Quiz** ???

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, O my _____, and forget not all his benefits."

A. people B. soul
C. heart D. children

Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV.)



Cadence Smith	1	Betty Torcello	10	Eric Andersen	22
Katy Kohlun	1	Betty Thomson	10	Jean McCann	22
Ashley Hanse	2	Tracy Wodatch	10	Lindsey Pearsall	23
Richard Parmelee	2	Lori Backus	11	Eileen Andersen	25
Trudi Schott	2	Beverly Smith	11	Ember Merrill	25
Skyler Schultz	3	Ginny Henderson	11	Wil Guerin	25
Judith Despres	3	Bridge Naamon	11	Clark Mills	26
Mary Lavado	4	Barbara Quigley	11	Bill Schultz	26
Beverly Teixeira	4	Todd Morgan	12	Keana Lippold	26
Daniel Molloy	4	Belinda Smith	14	Ruth Petrucelli	26
Allyson Rittenhouse	4	Ryan Walton	14	Lisa Peterson	27
Dean Smith	5	Noelle Henderson	16	Michelle Andersen	27
Joan LeBarron	5	Robert Reiners	18	Janice Richardson	28
Mary Saunders	6	Jonathan Edwards	18	Kermit James	28
Becky Cagley	6	Roxanne Wilson	18	Barbara McLean	28
Leslie Cote	7	Scott Doerfler	19	Cavan Rogers	28
Katie Krol	7	Pyong Kil Kim	19	Eric Fisk	28
Stephen Rittenhouse	8	Jamesetta Gooding	20	Nicholas Tomasino	29
		Roxanne Thompson	20	Susan Fransen	29
		Cathleen Bacon	21		

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 Sunday's after worship

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: www.FirstUMCMeriden.com



March 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Worship <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i>	2 12:03 PM Unit 4 Crafting	3 6:30 PM Leadership Covenant Group Boy Scouts	4	5 Chancel Choir	6 <i>Soup Kitchen</i> World Day of Prayer	7 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ
8 10:00 am Worship Confirmation Class <i>Education Commission</i> Youth Group <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	9 Unit 4	10 12:00 PM Finance Committee Boy Scouts	11	12 Chancel Choir	13	14 Corned Beef Dinner
15 10:00 am Worship	16 12:03 PM Unit 4 Crafting	17 Boy Scouts	18 Can You Spare A Drop? Blood Drive	19 Chancel Choir	20 <i>Soup Kitchen</i>  Deadline for Parish Herald	21 8:00 AM Brothers In Christ
22 10:00 am Worship Confirmation Class Youth Group	23	24 Boy Scouts	25 9:00 AM Parish Herald Mailed	26 Chancel Choir	27	28
29 11:00 AM All ages Learn To Sew! 10:00 am Worship	30 12:03 PM Unit 4 Crafting	31 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

