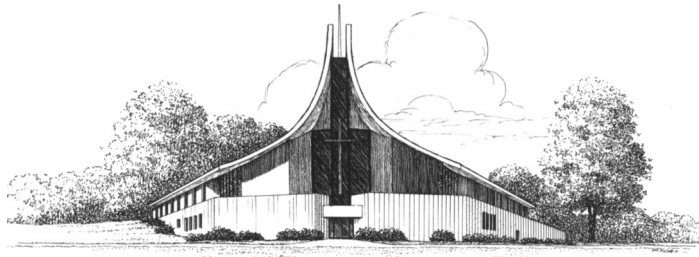




Volume 17, Issue 2
February, 2016

THE FLAME

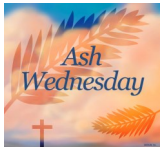


The United Methodist Church of Danbury

At a Glance...

Men's Club Dinner
2/1 7pm

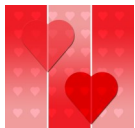
ASP
Spaghetti Dinner
2/6 4-7:30pm



Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
2/9 5-7pm

Ash Wednesday
Service
2/10 7pm

Bake Sale
2/14 after church



Book Club
2/16 7:30pm

Pumpkin Festival
Planning Mtg
2/26 7pm

Message from Pastor Kim

Prescription for Lent

Every human being's greatest need is the need for connection--with God and with other human beings. If we think of the most satisfying moments of our lives, the memories will likely involve being in the presence of those who love us. By the same token, our worst moments often involve times when we were cut off from family and friends, or cut off from God. Or times when we were facing a serious problem and felt alone. Why else would solitary confinement be such a horrible and dreaded form of punishment?

We human beings have such a need for togetherness and communion that it may seem like our entire lives turn into one long search for love. Why is this so? One reason may be that we are made in the image and likeness of God and GOD IS LOVE, GOD IS COMMUNION. God's image is writ large into our very natures, imprinted on our neurons, coded on our brain cells, and burned into our hearts. The apostle Paul says that God is love and that we are most God-like when we give love and receive love. You see, our hearts are made for one another and for God.

There is passage in the novel "Zorba the Greek," in which Zorba is speaking. He says, "One day when I was a child, an old man placed his hand on my head as though he was giving me a blessing. 'Alexis,' he said, 'I'm going to tell you a secret. You're too small to understand now, but you'll understand when you are bigger. Listen, little one. Neither the seven stories of heaven nor the seven stories of earth are enough to contain God, but a person's heart can contain God. So, be careful, Alexis, never to wound another person's heart.'"

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

As we prepare to begin the holy season of Lent on Feb. 10, may I suggest the following two-part prescription: First, make time and take time to draw close to God for the unconditional and uncomplicated love you need to sustain your life. Second, take care never to wound another person's heart for it is in another's heart that we are most likely to find God.

Blessings, Pastor Kim

Lent



February Worship Schedule

February 7

Transfiguration Sunday

9:30 Sunday School for all ages

10:30 Worship in Fellowship Hall;
Holy Communion; Pastor Kim preaching.

February 10

Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Worship with Imposition of Ashes,
Sanctuary.

February 14

1st Sunday in Lent

9:30 Sunday School for all ages

10:30 Worship in Fellowship Hall;
Pastor Kim preaching.

February 21

2nd Sunday in Lent

9:30 Sunday School for all ages

10:30 Worship in Fellowship Hall;
Pastor Kim preaching.

February 28

3rd Sunday in Lent

9:30 Sunday School for all ages

10:30 Worship in Fellowship Hall;
Pastor Kim preaching.

Winter Worship Continues in the Fellowship Hall Through February
Join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for our Winter Worship Format that includes lots of music, audio visuals and a warm and friendly atmosphere

Child care is provided during 10:30 am service

Join us for coffee and fellowship immediately following 10:30 services



Sunday School News

Valentine Party

(one week early)

Join us Sunday,

February 7th

for a pre-Valentine's
Day Party.

9:30 to 10:15 am

in the pink room, in the
east wing.



We're making a blanket for Project Linus, an organization that gives blankets to children who are in need of comfort. We're also making Valentines. There will be breakfast treats. Everyone is welcome!

Project ♥ Linus



"Providing Security Through Blankets"

There will be no Sunday school President's Day weekend on February 14th.

Upcoming Bible Study for Lent

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. John's writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ but that they "may have life in his name."

This Lent you are invited to experience a season of spiritual growth and renewal as we study together Adam Hamilton's brand new six week study entitled "John: The gospel of light and life." Through reading, DVD presentations, Bible study, and group discussion, we will follow the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ through the gospel of John. In doing so, we will come to understand the context of some of the best known verses in the New Testament.

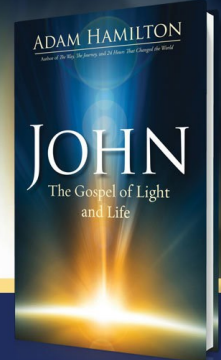
Beginning date will be announced by Feb. 1, and the group will likely meet on Thursdays..... Each of us should now be thinking how we will use the opportunity of Lent for spiritual re-tooling. Here is an opportunity to help you do just that.....Please see Pastor Kim to sign up.

Cancellations and Delays

Any cancellations of our Sunday activities due to weather related conditions will be sent to everyone on our church e-contact list. The information will also be on the **church's answering machine by 8:45AM.**

If you would like to be added to our church e-contact list, please email the church office at **danburyumc@sbcglobal.net**

Explore the Gospel of John
this Lent & Easter with
ADAM HAMILTON



Youth News

Several of our youth were reminded about the Epiphany through an Epiphany Party on January 10th. We met at our ILC friend's house in Brookfield for an evening of mingling and celebration through a Christmas Sock exchange.

Its all about the socks



The group played charades with the Immanuel Youth Group. Fun was had by all.



The next Youth group event plans are underway. Stay tuned for the details of our February and March events.



Blessings,
Your Youth Group team - Kim Goodwin, Kevin O'Shea,
David Zeigler, Brian Spaulding

Trustees February Report

The January 6, 2016 trustee meeting began with the introduction of our **new members**; Myra Tesbir, Chuck Vietrogoski, Peter Hornik and Tom Rozanski. Our first order of business was **elections of 2016 officers**. Myra Tesbir to fill the position of treasurer. Larry Bornemeier was nominated to be President for 2016. Mary Lou Heyel was nominated to be the recording secretary.

Update on column replacement: The blueprints have been completed and Cenaxo is to submit the request for a permit. Upon permit acceptance the new column will be ordered. It will take several weeks for column manufacture. Upon completion the plan is for the column to be set in 1 day, after site preparation is done. The whole project will take several weeks after the setting of the column.

Church Sign: The discussion began with a discussion of our old sign. It was made as a memorial to Robert Litchfield. Because the city will only accept one sign it was decided that we look for an appropriate place on our property for this memorial. The recommendation was made to relocate the sign to the Prayer Garden.

Cleaning Service: After securing bids with other cleaning services it has been decided to retain our present cleaning service. We will also speak to them about making sure all the requirements for cleaning are clear to those who do the work. We are also continuing a contract with our lawn and snow plow service.

Church Grounds Needs: The Prayer Garden needs attention. We will address this early in the spring.

Lock Up: Larry distributed a clear outline of the Lock Up Procedure. When fine tuned there will be a permanent copy kept in the office . Larry will do this month.

The date has been set— the first Saturday in October, from 10am to 4pm—Get it on your calendar!!

The first organizational meeting has been held and ideas are flowing. Our 12th annual Festival will be Saturday, October 1, from 10am to 4pm.

We are looking for persons to be in charge of the following:

- ◆ A pumpkin festival chairperson or persons, Lucinda Johnson is willing to co-chair but cannot be the only chair
- ◆ Someone to head up games
- ◆ Someone to procure pumpkins
- ◆ someone to be in charge of vendors

Our next meeting is set for **Friday night February 26 at 7pm.**
Everyone is not only WELCOMED but NEEDED
We hope to see you then!!

If you have any questions the following folks attended the meeting on January 22; Lucinda Johnson, Barbara Kunicki, Deb Davis, Coralee DeMouth, Chris Russock, Karlene Lombardo and Bev Anderson.



The Evening Book Club



The next meeting of the UMCD Book Club will be February 16th, at the church following the Thursday Night Supper. The selection is A Same Kind of Different as Me, by Ron Hall and Denver Moore.

Come once or every time. All are welcomed.
Women, Men, Friends



Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, February 9th

5-7 PM

Fellowship Hall

SHROVE TUESDAY

Shrove Tuesday is the last day before Lent. Come enjoy a delicious “non-fasting” dinner of pancakes, sausage, applesauce, fruit, coffee, tea and juice.

Adults	\$8
Seniors (65+)	\$6
Kids (under 12)	\$4

For more information, contact Bev Anderson



Visitation Committee

There will be a short meeting on Feb. 7th to sign Valentine cards for the shut ins. I think all of us enjoy receiving a Valentine, and I am sure the shut ins will be happy to get one as well, it is a nice way to show our love and how much we care about them. We will be discussing our visits with the home bound over the holidays and catch up with how they are doing.

Hope to see you at the meeting, Val Stagen



United Methodist Men

UMM meet the 1st Monday of each month at 7pm

for comradery, good food, and interesting discussions.

Please Join us for February's Dinner

Feb. 1st at 7PM

The Atlantic, 17 Osborne St, Danbury



For more information contact Zeke Zahara at elaine7079@aol.com



Appalachia Service Project Information Sessions

We will be traveling to Appalachia again this summer to make homes warmer, safer and drier. If you would like to learn about Appalachia Service Project (ASP) please attend the information session on **Monday, February 22nd at 7:00 PM** at the Danbury United Methodist Church. These sessions are for youth or adults that may want to go on the trip (July 2nd – July 10th) and for parents who would like to learn more about ASP.

For more information call Don DeMouth at 203-730-8103 or visit our website at danburymethodist.org/asp.



Saturday, February 6th

To Benefit Danbury ASP

St. James Episcopal Church

25 West St, Danbury

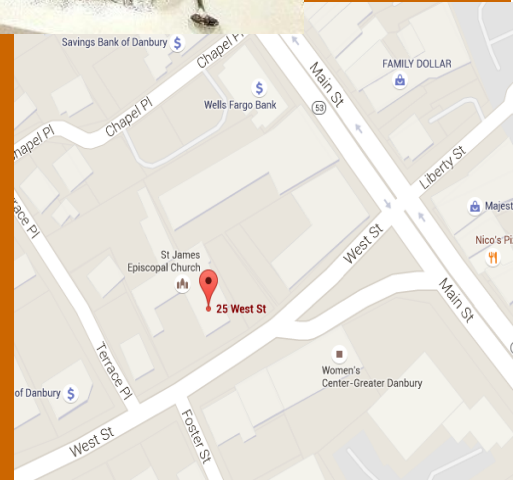
4:30-7:30 pm

Adults are \$10 - Seniors and Children are \$8.00

There will be a pasta dinner to benefit Danbury Appalachia Service Project (ASP) on Saturday, February 6th. The dinner will be held at St. James Episcopal Church. Tickets to the dinner will be available after services Sundays in January.

Please join us for a fun dinner with friends and family as we kick off our seventh year of working with area churches to help those in need in Appalachia.

Tickets to the Pasta Dinner are available at the door or from Don Demouth (203-730-8103)



Our New Sign! Both a *Memorial*
and a *Welcome* to our community



It's here! Our new sign stands proudly on our front lawn for all to see. It is one of the vehicles to achieve our vision of 'creating Disciples of Christ in the Danbury area and welcome those who need to be touched.'

The history...

The sign did not just appear, as many of you who have been consulted and advised along the way are well aware. A new sign that increased awareness of our place of worship to those who drive by was one of the recommendations of the Dive team. As you may recall, the Dive team was a team put in place four years ago who met over a two-year time period to explore how to grow disciples in the Danbury area by 'diving' into the actions needed to reach this goal. Our end goal is to become a vital congregation and this new sign is a key part of our journey.

Thank you...

to everyone for their ideas of insights along the way as we agreed on our requirements, narrowed down the list of vendors, and chose the final design and colors and our vendor Sign-a-rama, a locally owned company. The many hours invested are truly appreciated! It was an iterative process as we refined our requirements, sought your feedback, secured the permit, scoped the work to fit the budget of \$9,000 (maximum), and negotiated the best value for our money.

The Recommendation team (Kim Goodwin, Tom & Lori Rozanski, and Coralee Demouth) wish to thank the Trustees, especially Larry Bornemeier, and Bev Anderson, Karlene and Don Lombardo, and the Finance committee, plus Chris Russock, Kathy Roig and Pastor Kim for their support through the process.

We are all very thankful to Rosemarie Feeley for her generous memorial donation to the church that allowed us to create this outward message to our community. We will honor Rosemarie and her gift in the garden that will surround the sign.

What's next for the sign?

We are not quite done. We will paint the back of the sign to match the cream front, add nice landscaping, and light the sign. We will also be hanging changeable boards with our worship service times. All of this is planned and part of our budget.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Goodwin on behalf of the Sign Recommendation Team, the Dive team, and the new EMW team.

(see following page for more about DIVE Team)

(Continued from page 8)

The other Dive initiatives...

Here are the other Dive initiatives and their status. While the Dive team no longer meets as an intact group, its mission remains alive and well, as specific initiatives take the focus of our vision forward.

We are well on our way to becoming a vital congregation

Vital congregation principle	Evidence
Spiritual pastoral leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ever increasing pastoral leadership • More welcoming focus
Unleashing the body of Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A call to action across the whole congregation • A renewed energy to create disciples
A people made to worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Openness to explore new ways to worship, with music and a new format
The power of small groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More proactive small group presence and activity, and awareness
Reaching across the street and around the world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new sense of mission • Celebration of our outreach • Thanksgiving dinner

Our overall goal is to become a truly Vital congregation. There is more to do! We will continue along our journey with our new Evangelism, Membership and Welcome team to become the Vital congregation we wish to be. Here are the elements of a Vital congregation and how we measure up.

Our key priorities are complete or well underway

Area	Initiative	Result
Evangelism	• Keep website up to date <i>In progress</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some updates made, more underway • Services with a contemporary format being held in the FH • The committee/process is in place • Our new sign is up!
	• Launch a contemporary service ✓	
	• Develop a Welcoming committee ✓	
	• Get a new road-side sign ✓	
Mission	• Launch a Home repair ministry ✓	• Groundwork is in place for this new ministry
Small groups	• Highlight our small groups <i>In progress</i>	• Activities are underway to better showcase our small groups

We have more to do, so please see Kim Goodwin or any member of the EMW team to share your ideas. *Evangelism, Membership, and Welcome Team Members: Kim Goodwin, Coralee Demouth, Minnie Rouse, Shirley Fogle, Lucinda Johnson, Carla Pierce, Kathy Roig, and Allison Kent.*

Best Wishes and God's Blessings
To those celebrating birthdays in



Thomas DeMouth	2/2
Barbara Fulton	2/6
Myra Tesbir	2/6
Robert Bucko	2/13
Adam Jasensky	2/14
Clinton McLeod	2/14
Jamie Grandison	2/15
Sue Teer	2/15
Jonathan Basso	2/16
Stephanie Pontello	2/16
Bishop Rouse III	2/16
Kathy O'Shea	2/19
George Irving	2/20
Pat Roig	2/21
Brittany Cormier	2/22
Maryann Slater	2/22
Ginger Lourenco	2/25
Elizabeth Miller	2/25
Joan Ziegler	2/25
Kim Skidmore	2/27
Lucinda Johnson	2/28
Jason Furgala	2/29

The United Methodist Church of Danbury

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danburyumc@sbcglobal.net



A Safe Sanctuary for Children

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Kimberly A. Bosley

Associate Music Director: Carol Spaulding

THE FLAME

This February Flame was made possible by:

Editors.....Kathy O'Shea

Contributors Pastor Kim,
Lori Rozanski, Don Demouth, Coralee Demouth,
Kim Goodwin, Larry Bornemeier, Bev Anderson,
Barb Kunicki, Phyllis Tranzillo and Patti Cohen-
Hecht

**Deadline for the March 2016 Flame is Feb-
ruary 22**

Email: danburyumcflame@sbcglobal.net