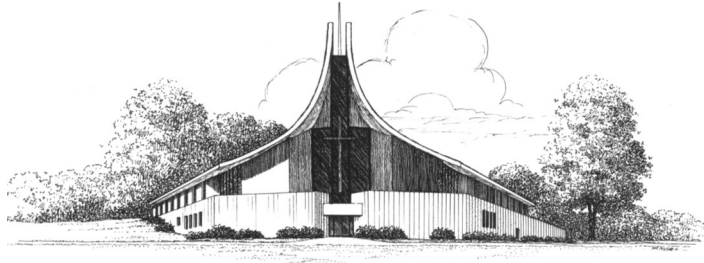




Volume 17, Issue 7
July, 2016

THE FLAME



The United Methodist Church of Danbury

At a Glance...

ASP Send-off

7/2 8am

Visitation Committee

7/10 after church

Pumpkin Festival
Meeting

7/15  7pm

ASP Worship Service
& Ice Cream Social

7/17



Evening Book Club

7/19 7pm

Crafting

Thursdays at 6:30pm

Summer Worship

7/3-9/4 9:30am

United by Love: Reflections on a Trip to Tanzania By Hannah Foster

“Okay, Miss Foster. If you can get to Reagan Airport, there’s a flight that leaves in two hours... But since you’re travelling alone and Delta doesn’t actually offer transport to Reagan. We can route you to Atlanta, and then to Kennedy, getting in at 11:15 pm.”

I wearily accepted my boarding pass, grateful to be on any flight, but less willing to accept that I just had added hundreds of miles and almost six hours to my travel time. After twenty-two hours of traveling, with take-offs in Kilimanjaro, Ethiopia, and Dublin, I wanted nothing more than to be home. Heavy winds and presidential planes over New York led to my flight being delayed by one, then two, then three hours until it was finally cancelled.

I sat down on one of the notoriously uncomfortable airport chairs and could not stop the tears from flowing. I was tired, dirty, jetlagged, frustrated, and overwhelmed with how American everything was. Though my body was very much stuck at Dulles International Airport, it felt like I had left my heart in Tanzania close to thirty hours and thousands of miles away.

Tanzania is a place unlike any other I’ve been to. We traveled from desert to mountains within the span of a few hours, amazed at the biodiversity of the country. While on safari, we saw giraffes, lions, rhinos, elephants and countless gazelles. Schlepping our way up Kilimanjaro was both physically and emotionally exhausting, the thin air accentuating the steepness of the hills. We explored one of the birthplaces of humanity at Olduvai Gorge, where some of the earliest fossils were found and learned about conservation from national park rangers.

But what made the trip so special, what left me in tears at the airport gate, was the people I met. During our first days in Arusha we were visiting schools to learn about the Tanzanian education system. Tanzania provides free primary education, so the students we met came from all walks of life.

(Continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Many of their uniforms were tattered, some seemed to be more holes than sweater. There were at least 100 students from kindergarten to the equivalent of sixth grade in a classroom no bigger than one of our Sunday school rooms. The students were excited to learn, and had big dreams. We asked them in our clumsy Swahili what they wanted to be when they grew up. They answered: “A doctor!” “A policeman!” “A teacher!” “The next president of Tanzania!” The poverty levels of a country do not determine its childrens’ desire to accomplish great things, so it wouldn’t surprise me if we talked to Tanzania’s next great leader in one of the schools we visited.

We also visited several tribes around the country. Despite having over 126 different ethnic groups, Tanzania does not have the same civil conflicts that plague other East African nations. In general, the different groups live respectfully, aware of their differences yet willing to see past them to ensure peace for their country. On one of the final days of our trip we sat down with the women of the Datoga tribe. There are only about 500 Datoga left in the country. They make their living as farmers in the desert regions of the country near Lake Eyasi. We talked with the women about their lives; what they considered beautiful, what relationships are like, how being a mother is viewed. Despite the immense cultural differences, a lot of what they shared was similar to our lives. The women enjoy dancing and singing, laughing and spending time with their loved ones. It is so easy to look at a new place or culture and point out what is different, yet the more important lessons are derived from looking at what is similar. Human beings are united by love, family, and working to achieve goals. Ever-changing things like cultural differences are not the barometers we should use when we seek ways to work together to make the world a more peaceful place.

When I was crying at Dulles, I was upset because I wanted to be back in my own bed and not in a pressurized cabin for an additional four hours. But I was also moved to tears because Tanzania seemed so far away: the smiling children and laughing women were a far cry from the general hurried masses that gather at airports. In a world where so much pain and suffering is present, it is important to remember the things that connect us, to look for love instead of hate.



Diaper Drive

We had another successful Diaper Drive thanks to the generosity of our church family. We collected 14 packages of various sizes and amounts

totally about 1000 diapers! We are certainly helping to keep babies dryer! I

am sure the little ones appreciate our help even if they can’t express it in words.

Answering a Call for Help

From time to time our Department of Children And Families (DCF) social worker will call with a request for help with a particular client. When I delivered the diapers early in June, Toni Moore, our social worker, had such a request. After enthusiastically thanking us for all the diapers, she told me about a DHS student who lost his grandmother recently. She was his guardian from the time he was a tot and the main means of support for the family. Now it was just he and his step-grandfather and they were in need of help. She asked if we could provide some support with a gift card that could be used for necessities.

I stood up in front of our congregation the following Sunday and made a plea for help. I was so touched by the response of our people. I was able to purchase a \$200.00 Target gift card!

I am so blessed to be part of a church family that practices Christ’s call to care for those in need. You are truly a blessing to our community and I am very grateful to be a part of such a caring congregation!

With Gratitude, Grace and Peace

Phyllis Tranzillo



JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JULY 3 7 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	9:30AM	WORSHIP; HOLY COMMUNION; PASTOR KIM PREACHING
SUNDAY, JULY 10 8 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	9:30AM	WORSHIP SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM PASTOR KIM PREACHING
SUNDAY, JULY 17 9 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	9:30AM	WORSHIP ASP CELEBRATION ICE CREAM SOCIAL
SUNDAY, JULY 24 10 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	9:30AM	WORSHIP PASTOR KIM PREACHING
SUNDAY, JULY 31 11 TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	9:30AM	WORSHIP PASTOR KIM PREACHING

Child Care is provided during the 9:30am service.

Join us for coffee and fellowship immediately following 9:30am Worship.

“Though we cannot think alike may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion?”

JOHN WESLEY

Trustee's Report

The following was discussed at the June 1, 2016 Trustee Meeting:

1. Column Replacement Update

Insurance Claim Update: Larry Bornemeier met with the property insurance company inspector (hired by insurance co.) and the property insurance co. inspector's engineer. The inspecting team inspected the damaged pieces of the beam and concluded the cause was due to a previous lightning strike. The inspection team stated it takes them at least 10 business days to write and finalize a report. Their report goes to our property insurance co., to determine if \$\$ will be paid on our claim.

There is a new issue with visible deterioration in the ridge beam. Cenaxo will send their project mgr. and their structural engineer to inspect. (Will remove the flashing on the top, drill into the beam, to determine the extent of the rot along the ridge beam). Cost to perform this inspection now is \$3500. Trustees discussed whether to perform this work now, while the scaffolding is in place or to defer to a future date, due to concerns with inspection cost.

It was noted that there has not been a payment made in 2016 YTD on the \$31,000 bank loan of re-roofing project.

2. Deposition of Old Sign

Trustees are recommending to not re-install this sign, due to its age, need for repairs, re-painting, etc. Mary Lou Heyel is to write a letter to the donor family explaining status of new sign, and asking if it is o.k. to dispose of old sign vs. re-installing it elsewhere on church grounds.

3. New Sign Completion Update

Sign-A-Rama, per e-mail from Frank Kara to Larry B. on May 31st says all identified issues will be fixed by the end of August. Trustees want to be sure all items on UMCD's punch list will be complete when Sign-A-Rama's workers are on site to finish the work.

4. Space Users Agreement

Hold Harmless UMCD Document is complete, and has been distributed to all current UMCD church groups and outside UMCD organizations for their review and signature. Several have been signed and returned.

5. July Trustee meeting is TBD; will be held or cancelled, depending on outcome of column inspection.

6. Church Grounds Needs

New doors are in church. Need other tools to cut hinges. Kevin O'Shea to provide. Larry B. and Kevin O. are working on getting new door frames.

Other Items Discussed:

UMC youth and Pastor from Chillicothe, OH will be staying at the church on June 18-19th as a rest stop, on their way to an event in Maine. Will worship with our congregation on June 19th.

Submitted by Larry Bornemeier, Chairperson for Trustees

Youth Group Update



Our youth group had a great time this year. From a picnic to hiking, a trip to Lake Compounce, caroling, our Epiphany party, a song based session, and hanging out at Bike and Build.... Our small yet mighty group enjoyed a fun filled and spiritual year as we joined forces with the Immanuel Lutheran church group.

Stay tuned for more fun next year. Please send ideas for group activities to the youth group team. Thanks, Kim Goodwin

ASP Up-Dates

Saturday, July 2nd at 8 a.m.—

Appalachia Service Project Commissioning service. Join us in sending off the ASP volunteers as they begin their trip to make homes in Virginia warmer, safer and drier.

Sunday, July 10th around 5 p.m.—

ASP Return from Virginia . Please join the ASP and church families in welcoming back the crews after a week working in Appalachia. The crews will be back to the church around 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 10th.

Sunday, July 17th worship service at 9:30 a.m.

The service will be run by the those who volunteered with ASP this year. Come and hear from the youth and adults tell us what work they did and what this mission trip has meant to them.



thank you!

Thank you to all who participated in our Mega-Fundraiser Day in June.

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



Larry Bornemeier	7/5
Jean Walker	7/5
Keith Goodwin	7/6
Amanda Sutor	7/7
Janet Kempter	7/11
Ellen Basso	7/14
Lorena Tesbir	7/14
Kenneth Darrah, Jr.	7/15
Carla Pierce	7/15
Michele Tesbir	7/16
John Ziegler	7/20
Madison Zeigler	7/23
Laura Dibble	7/24
Melody Bucko	7/26
Skye Cain	7/26
Patrick Curran	7/27
Michelle Kempter	7/27
Linda Grandel	7/28



Craft Group is starting up again. Join Us!

Join us on **Thursday evenings starting at 6:30 pm.** We meet in Fellowship Hall and work on various crafts to sell at our annual Pumpkin Festival. Also, please share any new craft ideas (especially with a fall theme) you may have. We are always looking for new crafts to add variety to the craft table at the Pumpkin Festival.

We will meet on: **June 30th**
July 14th
July 21st and
July 28th.

If you have any questions or new craft ideas, please contact Coralee DeMouth at 203 730-8103.



In this issue:

- Annual Conference 2016 Wrap-Up
- Taking Stand Against Hatred and Bigotry
- Save the Date
- Rev. Jim Stinson on Older Adults — Concrete Acts of Love Can Help Caregivers
- And much more!



Want to know what is going on in the NY Annual Conference? Check out the monthly articles in the *Vision*. Online at

vision.ny@brtapp.com

Concrete Acts of Love Can Help Caregivers

BY JIM STINSON

Consultant, Older Adult Ministries

"I know I did the right thing, but I cannot stop feeling guilty for doing so."

Some decisions are not only difficult to make, they are also heartbreaking to make. His wife has advanced dementia and is difficult for anyone to manage, let alone a 90-plus-year-old spouse. She would not allow aides or companions into her home—that was the first option. She would not consider moving to an assisted living facility. She was closed to every available option. So she stayed where she was longer than was safe and her husband's safety and health became a major concern. Finally, she was placed in a memory care facility, where, slowly but surely, she is adjusting. Her husband, with a lot of support from family, friends, and his church family, made the difficult decision.

"I know I made the right decision, but I cannot stop feeling guilty."

His plight is all too typical. Too many caregivers share the experience. And they often get overlooked, in terms of the care they need and deserve at such times. The church can do much toward helping the caregiver, who often feels inadequate and as if they have failed their loved one, to adjust. It is not enough to see them on Sunday morning and greet them with a friendly smile and a "How are you doing?" The congregation and pastor can offer a healing environment by providing concrete acts of love.

Some suggestions include:

- A plan to bring and share some meals in the home
- A regular visiting schedule
- A drive through the countryside
- A visit with the spouse as a demonstration that she/he has not been forgotten
- Sitting with the caregiver, if wanted, during worship
- Including her/him in church activities that both used to attend
- Reach out on special occasions (birthdays, anniversaries)
- Offer rides, if driving is an issue
- Speak of the "missing" spouse and show willingness to share and listen to memories

By no means is this an exhaustive list. Be creative in expanding the list. When to slow down the support? Let the Spirit lead you. Somehow it will become clear. We cannot force an adjustment, but we can make it softer by accompanying a person on the journey.



GOD'S GIFT OF LONG LIFE

VISTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday, July 10th immediately following church

The visitation committee meets on July 10th right after church in room #3. This will be a brief meeting discussing the health concerns of our shut ins. Hopefully we can stay touch with them, either by cards phone calls or visits. It is important for them to be connected with the church and hear what's going on.

Thanks, Val Stagen

United Methodist Women

On June 14, 2016 there were twenty-six in attendance at the annual UMW cook out and get together. There was a collection for the World Thank Offering. Minnie Rouse led the worship service. Everyone participated to the fullest. It was a great evening of fellowship. Many thanks to all who provided rides, brought food to share, grilled and put out the food. A special thanks to Valerie Stagen and her crew for doing an excellent job cleaning up.



Lots of good food at the UMW cookout, including BIRTHDAY CAKE!

Looking ahead we will be sending in our Pledge to the New York/Connecticut District, choosing the recipient of the Aasta Moser Award and finalizing the 2016 budget for the mission grants we provide each year. We wish every success to Beverly Anderson as she attends Mission U at the end of this month. Bev received the Danbury UMW scholarship. She will share her experiences with our unit at our meeting in September.

If you would like more information about our unit you may contact Karlene Lombardo: dklombardo@gmail.com



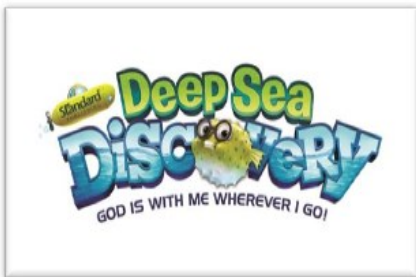
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Deep Sea Discovery!
God Is With Me Wherever I Go!

Dates: August 8 --12, 2016.
Time: 9:00 a m --11:30 a m

Please note the morning time.

There will be a kickoff barbeque on Sunday, August 7th, inviting the community.



The Evening Book Club



The next meeting of the UMCD Book Club will be **Tuesday, July 19**, 7:30 pm. at the home of Bev Anderson, 20 Belair Drive, Danbury. This month's selection is **Bird in Hand** by Christin Baker-Klein.

If you would like to carpool, meet at the church at 7pm.

REMINDER OF SCHEDULES FOR JULY

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
Counters	Myra Tesbir	Kathy Roig	Kevin O'Shea	Phyllis Tranzillo	Myra Tesbir
	Norma Bucko	Carla Pierce	Don DeMouth	Will McWilliams	Norma Bucko
Scripture Readers	Mary Lou Heyel	Phyllis Tranzillo	Kevin O'Shea	Roger Warmbir	Beverly Anderson
Prayer Leaders	Jim Davis	Barbara Kunicki	Carla Pierce	Mark Pierce	Carol Spaulding

Like UMC of Danbury on Facebook!

An easy way to let others know about all the good things going on at UMC of Danbury is to LIKE us on Facebook.

Go to www.facebook.com/danburymethodist and click on the "Like" button at the top of the page. Then, in the box that appears, click on "All Notifications". This will ensure that you see updates and photos posted to our page...Thanks!

If you are not currently receiving our newsletter by email or know someone who might like to receive it, please let the church office know!

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A Safe Sanctuary for Children

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Kimberly A. Bosley

Associate Music Director: Carol Spaulding

THE FLAME

This May Flame was made possible by:

Editors..... Kathy O'Shea
ContributorsPastor Kim, Hannah Foster, Kathy Roig, Karlene Lombardo, Coralee Demouth, don demouth, Kim Goodwin, Bev Anderson, Larry Bornemeier, Phyllis Tranzillo, Val Stagen and Patti Cohen-Hecht

Deadline for the August 2016 Flame is July 22

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