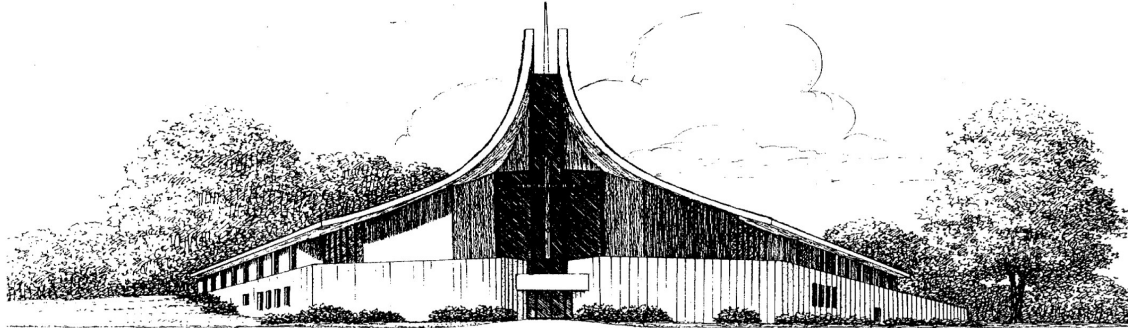




UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

THE FLAME



VOLUME 21
ISSUE 10
**DECEMBER
2019**

DECEMBER EVENTS

*EVERY THURSDAY 6PM
Thursday Night Life*

Monday, December 2

6:30pm Advent Auction
Team Meeting
7:00pm UMM Dinner

Wednesday, December 4

6:00pm Chapel Bells
7:00pm Trustees Meeting

Saturday, December 7

**5:00pm ADVENT
AUCTION**

Wednesday, December 11

6:00pm Chapel Bells
6:30pm SPR Committee
7:30pm Church Council

Saturday, December 14

12:00pm Dorothy Day
Ministry
1:00pm Christmas
Caroling

Sunday, December 15

12:00pm Education Comm.
Meeting

Tuesday, December 17

7:30pm UMCD Book Club

Wednesday, December 18

6:00pm Chapel Bells
7:00pm ASP Meeting
7:30pm Finance Meeting

Tuesday, December 24

**CHRISTMAS EVE
5:00PM - WORSHIP
7:30PM - WORSHIP**

Wednesday, December 25

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
UMCD OFFICE CLOSED**

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PASTOR KIM

Come Home to Bethlehem; Come Home to God

The theme of going home, or homecoming, seems especially relevant at this time of year. Our culture idealizes Christmas in a secular sense, and at the center of that idealization is the longing to be home with family. Some of our most popular carols express this sentiment. "I'll be home for Christmas; you can count on me," one proclaims. Another gives the same message: "Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays." These songs remind us that Christmas is a time to go home. And over the coming weeks, millions of people all across the country will be loading into planes, trains, and automobiles to head home for Christmas.

And if you are familiar with the scripture passages proclaiming Christ's birth, you may remember that the first Christmas was literally an occasion for people to come home. Luke's gospel explains that because of the command from the Roman emperor, Joseph and Mary were required to go back to their hometown of Bethlehem to register for the census. And once Jesus was born there, God sent out an invitation for all the world to come home, to come home to the child in the manger. That word of invitation began with the shepherds out in the moon-lit fields. The angel came to them and said, in so many words, "Come home to Bethlehem." And later on, as learned wise men peered at the night sky, the very stars spoke to them, saying, "Come home. Come home and meet your King." When Jesus was born in Bethlehem and was laid in the manger, all the world was invited to come home for Christmas.

It seems to me that's an invitation we desperately want and need to hear. As a nation, we've become such nomads that we aren't that different from the shepherds in the Christmas story. Just like those shepherds, many of us don't have a place where we feel a deep sense of belonging. The reality of modern times is that we don't for the most part make deep connections with one another, at least outside of our family and social circles. If we stay in touch with people outside of those circles, it's often through technology. While technology has enabled us to stay in touch with a larger group of people, it's often at a more superficial level.

(Continued on page 2)

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PASTOR KIM

(Continued from page 1)

In addition, recent events in our country and world have stirred up even more fears of strife and violence, contributing to a sense of darkness around us. Into such a world, God comes and Christ is born, offering us NOT the promise of a perfect world but the hope that God will be with us in whatever we face.

And so the Christmas message of “Come Home” should be a welcome one for just about all of us. Each of us has a different understanding of what home means but all of us have a need for a place of belonging. I remember a number of years ago when I was going through a difficult time and an older and wiser friend and mentor said simply, “Home is being with the people who love you.” Indeed it is. And that is what makes Christmas so special and its meaning so personal and universal at one and the same time.

This is the season in which to listen for heavenly angels winging across the sky. A season in which to look for stars up above, through the cold air, beaming to all the world an invitation. Together they join in saying, “Come home to Christmas. Come home to your Savior. All is forgiven. You are cherished. You are loved as you are.” Who among us would turn away from that message? Coming home to God is coming home to ourselves. It is coming home to the only place and person who can offer us a home no matter where we live and even beyond our lifetime.

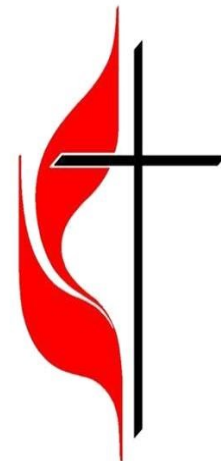
I invite you to come home to be with your church family this Advent season as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We have special features of our Advent worship services, as well as numerous ministry/fellowship events planned this month. Please review the calendar and this newsletter for a detailed description of all that is planned.

And plan now to be with us on Christmas Eve for our worship opportunities. We will have a 5 pm and a 7:30 pm service. At 5 pm, we will offer a Candlelight service with carols, special music and a Children’s Message. At 7:30 p.m., we will gather for a traditional candlelight service with special music, carols, and a Christmas Eve message. I look forward to joining you at our church home and with our church family on this very special night.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Kim Bosley

Pastor Kim



JOIN US FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES
10:30AM WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES
10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE - NEW MEMBERS JOINING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES
**10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE, PRAYERS, CAROLS
AND CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES
**10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE - "MARY'S SUNDAY"
PASTOR KIM PREACHING**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

**5:00 PM - CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH CAROLS & CANDLELIGHT;
SPECIAL MUSIC, CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE;
PASTOR KIM PREACHING**

**7:30 PM - CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH CAROLS & CANDLELIGHT;
SPECIAL MUSIC, PASTOR KIM PREACHING**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 - 1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

No SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30AM WORSHIP - PASTOR KIM PREACHING



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

**Thank you all for another successful Stewardship Campaign.
We received 45 pledges for a total of \$144,208.00.**

We are still accepting pledges, if you have not had a chance to get yours in. We would like them all in before the end of December, so the finance Committee can enter the correct amount pledged into the budget.

Thank you everyone who made the campaign successful, your faithfulness to our church encourages me.

Thank to Pastor Kim for her leadership, especially the study group discussion “Defying Gravity”. Thank you to all who attended the study group.

Thank you to Barbara Fulton, Jumar Dixon and David Johnson for their inspiring Stewardship moments.

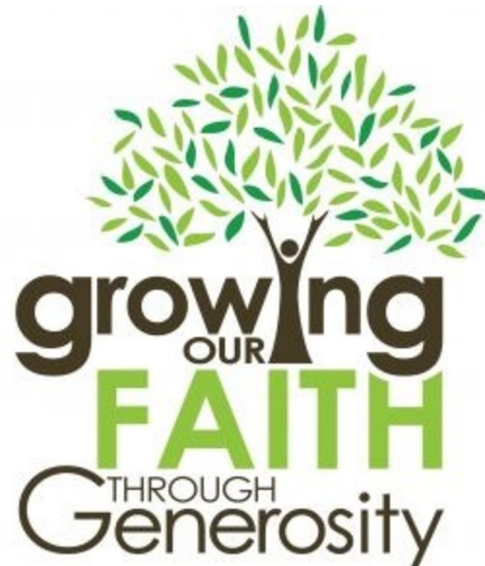
Thank you to Jim, Debbie and Cliff Davis and Phyllis Tranzillo for your setup and decoration of Fellowship Hall for our Luncheon, the hall looked beautiful. Thank you Coralee Demouth for the table center pieces.

Thank you to Kim Cain-Moreira and Alice Corso for the delicious Meatloaf lunch and to Star Auer for the wonderfully decorated and delicious cake for dessert.

Thank you to all the people who helped clean up after lunch, the many people who helped clear tables and to Chris Ziegler and Carlos Ferreira for washing all those dishes.

I appreciate you all.

Carla Pierce
Stewardship Chair



**FROM THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE**



The Finance Team would like to thank all of you for all of your giving this year. Without all of your support, our church would not be able to continue to fulfill our mission.

As we end 2019 and begin 2020, here are some small ways you can help keep our expenses down:

- ◆ If you are using a room please be mindful of how high you turn the heat on and remember to turn it off when you leave.
- ◆ If you are buying stamps or copier paper for yourself consider picking up an extra ream or small book of stamps if you are able for the office.
- ◆ As you clean out your house, remember we do two tag sales, one in the spring and one as part of our pumpkin festival. If it is possible for you to store those items until then, that is always helpful. We also have our clothing drive in the spring.

Once again, thank you for all you do in keeping our church a vibrant vital faith community.

****Please note ** Following worship on Sunday, December 15, the 2020 Budget will be presented to the membership and voted on.**



CHRISTMAS CAROLING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14



You don't have to be an opera singer. You don't have to be a famous recording artist. You don't have to be in the church choir. You don't even need to know how to carry a tune. You just need to want to share your Christmas spirit and share the love Christ to those in our church family that can't always make it out to worship with us on Sundays. **On Saturday, December 14 from 1:00 - 3:00pm** we hope to have two small groups of people to visit 2 or 3 locations and share their Christmas cheer.

For more information speak to Minnie Rouse, Kim Cain-Moreira or Lorena Tesbir



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers to set up the luminaries before our 5:30pm Christmas Eve service. In addition we need a team to put the luminaries away after worship. Our Driveway and walkways look lovely with the lights leading the way into the sanctuary.

Please contact
Barbara Kunicki 203-746-5814
if are willing and able to help
with this beautiful service.



Save the Date

Saturday, December 7 - 5:00pm

4th Annual Advent Auction

Sponsored by
The United Methodist Church
of Danbury

*A Holiday event open
to the public for
Food
Fellowship
Fund Raising*

*Please plan to join us in Fellowship
Hall for an evening of Fun!*





**COME TO THE HOLIDAY GATHERING
of the UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2019 3:00PM-5:00PM**

**AT THE HOME OF VAL BOSE
8 HITCHINGPOST LANE, DANBURY, CONNECTICUT**



Join the United Methodist Women on Sunday, December 15 from 3:00pm - 5:00pm at the home of Val Bose for a celebratory Christmas Tea. This is a special opportunity for the women of our church to gather together in fellowship. This annual Christmas meeting will feature tea, coffee, punch and finger foods. There will be a "Chinese Auction" grab bag gift exchange. Valerie Stagen will have Christmas cards to sign. These cards accompany the gifts for the home bound members of our church. Please bring an appetizer, cookies, bar desserts or tea sandwiches to share. Beverages will be provided. The gift for the exchange should cost no more than \$12.00. This meeting is open to all women of our church and in our community. Bring a friend! If you like to have fun and join in with singing and fellowship, this is the meeting for you!

The United Methodist Women will also be collecting: Hand warmers, powdered fruit juice mix and powdered cocoa mix, for the Shelter from the Cold Program. *If you would like to get a ride from the church, or have any questions, please contact: Karlene Lombardo at (203) 743-1260, or Valerie Stagen at (203) 792-9641. Mark your calendar now for a fun afternoon!*

AASTA MOSER AWARD 2019



Each year the United Methodist Women gives a donation in the name of the recipient of our Special Membership Award. This award money is used for mission. Our honoree also receives a pin and a certificate. The Special Membership Award at the United Methodist Church of Danbury is called the Aasta Moser Award. **This year's recipient is Jim Davis.**

Jim became a member of the church, in 1998. He was instrumental in starting the Praise Choir, the Praise Band and is a bell ringer with the Bell Choir. Jim is also a member of our Chancel Choir and has performed as a soloist. He started the church's outreach to the homeless even before he became a member.

He continues to be an advocate for the homeless and he has served the clients of Dorothy Day for many years. He and the Davis family provide the sound amplification for our worship services. He is a valuable member of the Contemporary Worship Team during the winter services that are held in the Fellowship Hall. His help and willingness to enthusiastically participate in many church projects is greatly appreciated. **Congratulations, Jim!**



THANK YOU FROM THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

We sincerely thank everyone for supporting the Children's Sabbath, held on November 17. This year's theme was "***Uniting Hearts and Voices to End Child Poverty***". We would like to thank the following church members for participating in this inspiring worship service: Lorena Tesbir, Tonya Clark, Penny McKown, Phyllis Tranzillo, Maureen Zahara, Minnie Rouse, Beverly Anderson, Karlene Lombardo, Carla Pierce and Pastor Kim. The bulletin cover art was designed and provided by Jade Cain.

We appreciate the music coordination by Andrew Levine. We were truly uplifted by the special music and singing. Thank you to Carol Spaulding, Alvin Atkinson, Claudia Atkinson, Bishop Rouse, members of the Chancel Choir and Andrew Levine.

We are thankful for the children in our congregation. They remind us daily how precious life is and inspire us to reach out to other children in our community and indeed around the world. As Minnie Rouse preached this certainly should be a time for "A New Beginning".

Faithfully yours, *Minnie Rouse and Karlene Lombardo*



Photos by Chris Russock





The United Methodist Men
meet for dinner on the
1st Monday of each month at 7:00pm

Please join them for comradery, good food,
and interesting discussions on

Monday, December 2 at 7:00pm

99 Restaurant

80 Newtown Rd, Danbury, CT

Ninety 99 Nine

RESTAURANT & PUB

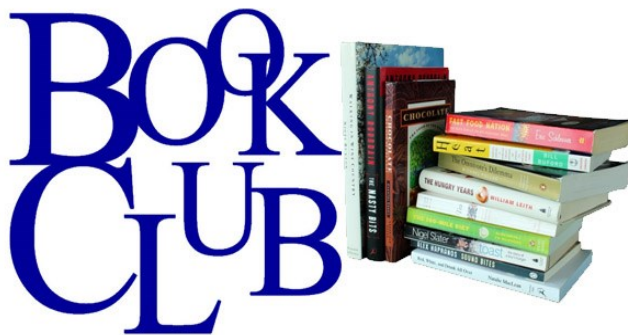
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AMOS, EVELYN AND JOANNA SACKEY



We are so pleased to welcome Amos, Evelyn,
and Joanna Sackey into our church family!

Amos and Evelyn grew up in the United
Methodist Church of Ghana.

We are so happy they have chosen us to be
their church family and we look forward to
baptizing Joanna in the coming months.

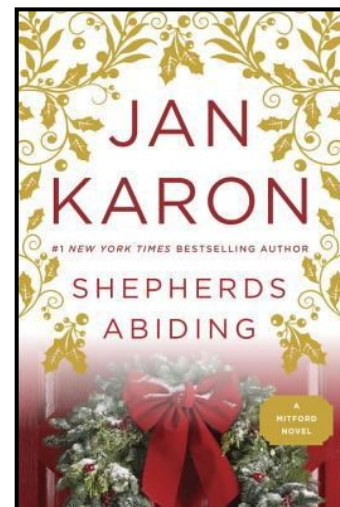


**The United Methodist Church
Book Club meets the 3rd
Tuesday of each month.**

The December meeting will take place on
Tuesday, December 17 - 7:30pm
at the home of Karlene Lombardo
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Participants are requested to bring book suggestions for
2020. The book club will be making their selections for the
entire year at this meeting.

Book Selection:
Shepherd's Abiding



Christmas Poinsettias 2019



The Altar Guild is now taking flower orders for Christmas.
They will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

The Beautiful Poinsettias are \$10.00 per plant.

Remember how spectacular the sanctuary looks when it is elegantly blessed with multitudes of beautiful poinsettias. Please don't miss this opportunity to help create such a wonderful sight during Christmas.

Cash or checks made payable to: **UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY** may be given directly to
Altar Guild Members: Valerie Bose, Tonya Clark, Barbara Fulton or Barbara Kunicki
by Sunday, December 15, 2019.

You may also mail your order & payment to Valerie Bose, 8 Hitching Post Lane, Danbury CT 06811.
For additional information, please contact Val at 203-744-5712.

*We request that you take your poinsettia(s) with you after the Christmas Eve service.
If you are not able to attend services, please make arrangements to have someone else take your plant(s) home. Plants left behind may be damaged by the cold in the church.*

=====

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - DEADLINE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019

Your Name _____ Telephone # _____

Pink _____ # Red _____ # White _____ Total # Plants _____

Plants I will keep _____ # Plants I wish to give to a homebound member _____

Name(s) of homebound member(s) _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

Flowers given in honor of: _____

Flowers given in memory of: _____



**CHRISTMAS BASKET FOR
DOROTHY DAY SHELTER**

Our Outreach Team is collecting items for the homeless shelter for Christmas Eve. Please donate to our Christmas Basket in the Narthex. We are accepting donations until December 24.

Here is a suggested list of items:

- ◆ Gloves, Hats, Scarves
- ◆ Warm Socks, Hair Combs
- ◆ Hand Warmers
- ◆ Chocolate or other candy
- ◆ Dunkin Donut gift cards
- ◆ Small memo pads, pencils and pens



Helping Connecticut's Children in Need



It is with a grateful heart that I can report I was able to deliver 32 Thanksgiving bags to our social worker at DCF to be distributed to families in need. The filled bags were received with smiles and gratitude.

I would like to thank all who participated in helping make it a happier Thanksgiving for some members of our community. I am constantly amazed at the generosity of our congregation. Reaching out to the less fortunate is what the people of God are called to do. I am so very grateful to be part of a church family that puts faith into action.

With gratitude,
Phyllis Tranzillo



BABY / TODDLER CLOTHING MINISTRY



“NAME THE BABY” Bank

A team of volunteers has been hard at work planning the details for our new Baby/Toddler Clothing Ministry. Our target date to open the doors of the ministry will be early March.

In early January, we will begin accepting donations of new and gently used Baby and Toddler Clothing. Drop off sites and times include Beautiful News Christian Books and Gifts - Monday–Saturday 10am-5pm; **and** the church office on Friday mornings from 10:30am-12:30pm and on Sunday mornings in the “Moses Basket” in the Narthex.

We ask that clothes be washed and folded if possible. We will need volunteers to help with the ministry once we get into the new year, so if you know you would like to help, please contact either Patti at or Don DeMouth at: 203-743-1503 or danburyumc@sbcglobal.net

In the meantime, our new ministry needs a name. If you would like to name the baby bank, please send your idea to the church at: danburyumc@sbcglobal.net

The winning name will be selected by our Steering Committee. Steering Committee members include: Patti Cohn-Hecht, Don DeMouth, Phyllis Tranzillo, Peter Eaton, and Pastor Kim.

The Baby/Toddler Clothing Bank will benefit at-risk families in our community.



DECEMBER 1

Greeter	Carla Pierce
Scripture Reader	Joey Masood
People's Prayers	Jim Davis
Counters	Carla Pierce Don DeMouth

DECEMBER 8

Greeter	Allison Kent
Scripture Reader	Minnie Rouse
People's Prayers	Barbara Kunicki
Counters	Phyllis Tranzillo Bev Anderson

DECEMBER 15

Greeter	Chris Russock
Scripture Reader	Pastor Kim Bosley
People's Prayers	Carol Spaulding
Counters	Myra Tesbir Norma Bucko

DECEMBER 22

Greeter	Phyllis Tranzillo
Scripture Reader	Mary Lou Heyel
People's Prayers	Pastor Kim Bosley
Counters	Star Auer Sue Teer

DECEMBER 29

Greeter	Allison Kent
Scripture Reader	Roger Warmbir
People's Prayers	Dr. Lucinda Johnson
Counters	Carla Pierce Don DeMouth

**BEST WISHES AND GOD'S BLESSINGS
TO THOSE
CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN**



Betty Zeigler	December 1
Allison McWilliams	December 3
Clarence Holston	December 4
Edgar March	December 4
Bishop Rouse	December 4
Kathy Curran	December 6
Debbie Davis	December 6
Leslie Gartland	December 8
Robert Fulton	December 10
Phyllis Tranzillo	December 11
Joan Eaton	December 15
Carol Spaulding	December 16
Martin Zahara	December 17
Joseph Rouse	December 18
Vincent Kempster	December 21
William Bodnar	December 26
Kimberly Bosley	December 26
Chris Ziegler	December 27
David Slater	December 30



*Merry Christmas and
God's Blessings for
the New Year!*



From

The United Methodist Church of Danbury

Administrative Council and Trustees

Reverend Kim Bosley, Pastor

Andrew Levine, Music Director

Patti Cohen-Hecht, Administrator



THURSDAY NIGHT LIFE
DINNER IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
6:00PM - 6:30PM

Thursday Night Life is an informal, affordable dinner served buffet style. The cost is \$3.00 per person with a family maximum of \$15.00

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

OUR MISSION

**WE ARE A WELCOMING FAMILY OF DISCIPLES
WHO SEEK TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH AND
ALLOW THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO GUIDE US
AS WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**



5 CLAPBOARD RIDGE ROAD, DANBURY, CT 06811

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MINISTERS: THE CONGREGATION

PASTOR: REV. KIMBERLY A. BOSLEY

MUSIC DIRECTOR: ANDREW LEVINE

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: PATTI COHEN-HECHT

LAY LEADER: CHRIS RUSSOCK

DECEMBER 2019 FLAME

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CHRIS RUSSOCK, PHYLLIS TRANZILLO AND ZEKE ZAHARA.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY FLAME IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 16