### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

# THE FLAME

Volume 21 Issue 2 MARCH 2020

#### MARCH EVENTS

Every ThursDAY 6:00pm Thursday Night Life

Monday, March 2 7:00pm UMM Dinner

Wednesday, March 4 6:00pm Chapel Bells 7:00pm Trustees Meeting

*Thursday, March 5* 7:00pm Lenten Bible Study

Wednesday, March 116:00pmChapel Bells6:30pmSPR Committee7:30pmChurch Council

*Thursday, March 12* 7:00pm Lenten Bible Study

Saturday, March 14 12:00pm DorothyDayMinistry 5:00pm Corned Beef Dinner

*Sunday, March 15* 12:00pm Education Committee Meeting

*Tuesday, March 17* 7:30pm UMCD Book Club

Wednesday, March 186:00pmChapel Bells7:00pmASP Meeting

*Thursday, March 19* 7:00pm Lenten Bible Study

*Tuesday, March 24* 7:00pm Pumpkin Festival Committee Meeting

*Wednesday, March 25* 6:00pm Chapel Bells 7:00pm Finance Meeting

*Thursday, March 26* 7:00pm Lenten Bible Study

Saturday, March 28 10:00am School Supplies Committee Meeting

*Sunday, March 29* 12:00pm Safe Sanctuary Training

### WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PASTOR KIM

As we continue the journey through Lent, the 40 day season of spiritual preparation for Easter, it's a good time to take stock and ask ourselves the traditional Wesleyan question: "How goes it with your soul?" "How goes it" with your soul as you journey to the cross with Jesus Christ?

Wij -

As I said in last Sunday's sermon, Lent is a season filled with contradictions. It is a season during which we are invited to take a hard look at our failures, but also one in which we are reminded who we are and where we belong. It is a season during which we are asked to repent but also one during which we are reminded how very much God loves us.

An image that I am finding helpful in my own spiritual journey through Lent this year is that of the Good Shepherd: the shepherd who protects; watches over, and offers abundance. Left to our own de-vices, we humans get into all manner of difficulties. Facing challenges of all sorts, the journey would be so much more difficult if we were left alone to find our own way. But we are not left alone: we have a shepherd to guide us and lead us through treacherous passes into meadows of comfort.

As I was reflecting on the image of God as our Good Shepherd, I happened upon the 23rd Psalm from The Message translation of the Bible. In my younger days, I was something of a purist in terms of wanting to rely only the Revised Standard Version of the Bible (which I learned in seminary is closest to the original Hebrew and Greek texts of the Bible, respectively). However, I have felt for some time now that whatever avenue gets us closer to God is the avenue we should take, and that avenue may be more contemporary translations of the Bible in our devotional studies. I encourage you to experiment to find the translation that makes God the most accessible to you.

(Continued on page 2)

#### (Continued from page 1)

Along those lines, I offer you the words from the 23rd Psalm from The Message translation of the Bible for your own Lenten contemplation:

### Psalm 23 (The Message)

God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.

Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure.

You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.

Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.

Blessings in Christ,

Parter King



### **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

### Join us for The Walk.

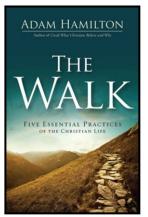
How do we walk with Christ - daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him?

Join us this Lent for The Walk, a six week study in which we will learn about and discuss five essential spiritual practices, each of which is intended to be part of our daily walk with Christ.

The Walk Bible Study is held Thursday evenings through April 2 from 7:00pm-8:30pm.

Our study book "The Walk" is written by UM pastor Rev. Adam Hamilton, known for his engaging studies. Pastor Kim will lead the group.

Please sign up so we can be sure to order you a book. The first 10 people who sign up will receive a free The Walk Prayer Journal.



## JOIN US FOR MARCH



### WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Winter worship will be held in Fellowship Hall. This cost saving measure has reduced our annual winter heating bill by upwards of \$3,000 for the past several years. Each week we will be blessed with the opportunity to enhance our worship experience with a visual projection by Roger Warmbir. We look forward to a joyous winter season as we worship God in faith and fellowship.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 1 - 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30AM 10:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES Worship - Communion in Fellowship Hall Pastor Kim Preaching

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8 - 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30AM 10:30AM Sunday school for all ages Worship in Fellowship Hall Pastor Kim Preaching

### SUNDAY, MARCH 15 - 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

10:30AM

No Sunday school Worship in Fellowship Hall Pastor Kim Preaching

### SUNDAY, MARCH 22 - 4TH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30AM 10:30AM Sunday school for all ages Worship in Fellowship Hall Pastor Kim Preaching

### SUNDAY, MARCH 29 - 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:30AM 10:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES Worship in Fellowship Hall Pastor Kim Preaching

### A LENTEN LETTER FROM THE BISHOPS OF THE NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

Members of the UMC Northeastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops - Active and Retired

Seated (from left): Bishops Peggy Johnson, Latrelle Easterling, Violet Fisher, John Schol and Jane Middleton.

Standing (from left): Bishops Jeremiah Park, Ernest Lyght, Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Mark Webb, Sudarshana Devadhar, Thomas Bickerton, Marcus Matthews, Sandra Steiner-Ball and Peter Weaver. *Photo credit: John Coleman* 



The season of Lent invites us, individually and collectively, to a deep assessment of and prayer filled reflection on our *faithfulness* and *fruitfulness*. At times, we use Lent to anticipate the coming of the resurrected Christ without taking the gift of these 40 days to also examine our faith; to intentionally concentrate on our faithful response as disciples. Lent is a journey we take with Christ and one another. It is a journey that helps us to focus on our discipleship formation beginning with the reminder of our shared humanity on Ash Wednesday; traveling through the days of searching and repentance to the eager anticipation of Palm Sunday, experiencing the solemn and sorrow filled journey to the cross on Good Friday, and then celebrating the empty tomb on Easter Sunday.

As we begin this Lenten journey, **"we are reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the** Gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. We invite you, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word."

Why do we accept this invitation and enter this kind of journey? We enter this journey because we are called to reflect on how our faithful response to Christ bears fruit in our own lives and in the lives of those around us. As Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice to bring us new life, we too are called to bring new life to our congregations, neighborhoods, and communities, called to live as resurrection people.

Our call to live as a resurrection people is especially important in these uncertain and anxious times. As our beloved United Methodist Church prepares for General Conference 2020, we know these practices of the Lenten journey will prepare our hearts, minds and spirits for whatever future God holds for the people of The United Methodist Church, and there is a future! While plans and legislation tend to consume our focus and tempt us from fully engaging in Christ's mission, our God calls us to stay focused on our reason for being. No matter the result of General Conference 2020, Jesus will be Lord, and the mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" will continue.

As we move towards our Lenten opportunity and General Conference, we invite you to join us in a deep season of fasting and prayer. We invite you to an even deeper listening of God and one another. As we engage in conversation and discernment together, may a deeper respect and love for one another permeate all that we think, say, and do. Together, let us reflect and build upon our faithfulness to God so that we might experience the joys of fruitfulness that come with the journey of discipleship. For even in the midst of our current wilderness, God's desire is that we might bear fruit to whomever God places in our paths and wherever discipleship leads us.

So, let us travel this path together, allowing the fruit of the Spirit to be evident, knowing that if we do this, our future will be one where God's people will not be shattered and bruised, but blessed and strengthened to be the community of faith God calls us to be. We, your NEJ bishops, united in love of God and one another, remain steadfast in providing spiritual leadership that unapologetically calls the Church to her mission and invites you to this faithful discipline.

While there is much uncertainty in many things, Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us of God's unfailing certainty – **"For I** know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Yours in servant leadership, The Bishops of the Northeastern Jurisdiction

### THE CHURCH AND CORONAVIRUS...TAKING PRECAUTIONS

As all of you are aware, we are living in uncertain times right now with multiple updates a day re: the spread of CoVid- 19 (Coronavirus). The theme of most of the messages we are hearing seems to be: Don't panic but be prepared.

Bishop Bickerton sent out a pastoral letter just yesterday asking that we all pray for those affected by the virus as well as health care workers on the front line and for speed in developing a vaccine. He indicated that the virus has so far not affected anyone in our Conference, but it has affected persons within our Conference bounds, in Westchester county and NYC. He urged calm and suggested that each church develop measures to help congregants feel safe and comfortable while attending worship. Early this week, the NY Times published an article called: "Worship in the Age of Coronavirus: Prayer, Elbow Bumps, and Hand Sanitizer."

Marti Foster is our Contingency Coordinator here at UMCD. He has professional training in Disaster Preparedness as well as Pandemic Planning. Even before we received the Bishop's letter, Marti and Pastor Kim consulted and have come up with the following measures that we are asking everyone to observe for the time being in order to air on the side of caution:

1. During the Passing of the Peace, everyone should avoid shaking hands. Elbow bumping is gaining currency as a friendly alternative or a simple friendly hello is fine.

2. Holding hands during prayer times should be avoided for now.

3. Although we will continue to monitor the situation, given that the virus has now been detected in a county just south of us, Communion will probably not be offered the first Sunday in April. The virus is transmitted when we have contact with a contaminated object or person and then touch our mouth, nose, or eyes. The preparation, giving and receiving of Communion inevitably involves some "common touching" that it would be safer to avoid for now. In addition, Pastor Kim was informed that some people dipped the bread but never ate it this past Sunday, which suggests that several people had concerns about this.

4. During the Time for Young Disciples, the mic and other objects will not be passed around for common touching.

5. Treats prepared for Fellowship Hour should be individually wrapped. If you touch anything on the fellowship table, please take it.

6. Anyone preparing or serving food at any church dinner or function should wear gloves.

7. Constant hand washing is critical, with hand sanitizer a back up. Hand sanitizer should be on the Fellowship Table and on any table serving food. Unfortunately, hand sanitizer is currently in short supply, so persons should carry their own.

Finally, we will distribute a bulletin insert this Sunday called Coronavirus and the Church, which has general suggestions helpful to everyone.

While some of you may think some of these measures extreme, we believe most people in our church will welcome these "abundance of caution" measures. We want people to have confidence that they can continue to come to church and we will do everything possible to create a safe environment.

Feel free to contact Marti by email at <u>martifostr@aol.com</u> with any comments or questions, or Pastor Kim.

Blessings,

Marti Foster Marti Foster Contingency Coordinator

Pasta Kins

**Pastor Kim** 



The United Methodist Church of Danbury has been serving the Greater Danbury area since the 1850's.

Please help us continue our mission as 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.

To do so, please consider making a donation to our church either on a one-time basis or as a recurring contribution. You may do so online by clicking the donate button found below. As in previous years, you may also mail a donation to the attention of the Treasurer, UMC of Danbury, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811.

Congregants may pay weekly or monthly pledges online using the same donation button found below. The donation button will take you to a page where you can make your pledge in a secure manner. However, as in the past, you still have the option to use the pledge envelopes and place them in the donation plate during Sunday worship

When donating online for the first time, you must create a donor profile. You will see the link to do so on the right-hand side of the "Online Donation" page. All pledges are posted to our general fund. Your pledge will also be entered on your membership account so that it will appear on your quarterly giving statement.

The Online Donation page also provides the option to pay for altar flowers.

Electronic giving is fast and secure – and reduces administrative costs. It is also our hope that this will allow more of our precious resources to go towards the important work that we do.

### **CLICK HERE TO DONATE:**







### SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING SUNDAY, MARCH 29 12:00PM-2:00PM

All people who work with our children and youth or are interested in working with our children and youth are required to attend this annual training. A light lunch will be served.

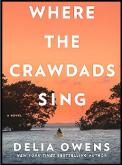


The United Methodist Church Book Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

The March meeting will take place on **Tuesday, March 17, 7:30pm at the church.** 

Phyllis Tranzillo will serve as hostess Everyone is welcome to attend.

Book Selection: Where the Crawdads Sing By Delia Owens





### PAPER AND OFFICE SUPPLY DRIVE

This new year, we are asking for your help to keep our office supplies fully stocked without putting a strain on our budget.

Please keep in mind that we use a minimum of 1 ream of white paper per week and 1 ream of pastel colored paper per month for our Sunday Bulletins and Announcements.

### **Please consider donating:**

- Copy Paper: Ream or case of 8 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> x 11 Bright White and/or Pastel Colors.
- Postage: Forever Postage Stamps
- New Pencils and Pens
- Scotch Tape: Standard Size for a dispenser
   Our greatest need is for copy paper and postage, but all donations will be greatly appreciated.

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

-2

### Join us for a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Includes Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes & Irish Soda Bread

### Saturday, March 14

Continuous Servings from 5:00pm - 7:00pm Fellowship Hall - Lower Level

OME ONE, COME ALL

PRICES: Adults \$12.00 Seniors (65+) \$10.00 Children (7-15) \$8.00 Children (under 6) \$4.00

Dinners to-go ~ \$1.00 additional

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY 5 CLAPBOARD RIDGE ROAD

DANBURY, CT 06811



THIS EASTER, PLEASE SUPPORT UMCD'S TRUSTEES COMMITTEE HONEY BAKED HAM FUNDRAISER!
All funds raised will go toward expenses to maintain our building.
For each Honey Baked gift card you purchase, our Trustees will receive 20% of the sale.
All orders must be placed by Friday, April 3 through our custom Honey Baked Ham web page.
The link to this page is: <a href="https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/umcd\_easter\_fundraiser">https://honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/umcd\_easter\_fundraiser</a>
Please know that your support will help our church remain a vibrant spiritual community.
MAY GOD REWARD YOUR GENEROSITY.

### **UMCD Easter Fundraiser**

### HELP US MEET OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL 20% OF EVERY PURCHASE SUPPORTS OUR GROUP





### COME TO THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 31 AT 7:00PM

The next United Methodist Women's meeting will be Tuesday, March 31, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the church. There will be a dessert social following the meeting. The program "Meeting God's Call to Transform Communities" will highlight some of the community groups that are represented in our UMW community. We will be encouraged to continue to create opportunities for families so that all may have enough to thrive.



Our speaker will be the new Executive Director of *Amos House*, Ms. Lisa Casagrande Koeppel. *Amos House* is a residential living facility, for women and children, located in Danbury. It is not a shelter, but a comprehensive program where residents obtain life skills, job skills, counseling and support in a safe environment. The participants are referred by agencies and must complete a rigorous application process. They transition to independence within two years.

Our unit will be looking to donate some items from their wish list. Try to make every effort to attend. This meeting is open to all women in the church. If you have any questions, concerns or you need a ride please call Karlene Lombardo at 203-743-1260.



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful floral arrangement sent to the church for my mother's memorial service. It was a wonderful surprise. All your prayers and notes of concern and support over the course of my mother's illness and subsequent passing has been a tremendous source of comfort for me during this difficult time. I shared some of

the emails the church office sent out to the congregation with my brothers, This sense of community is less apparent in their respective large congregations, I continue to be touched by your love and care as I grieve and move forward.

Love in Christ, Janet Hinderliter



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, March 2 at 7:00pm

**Applebee's Grill** 57 Federal Rd, Danbury



Day in G For by Saving

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8

REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY, MARCH 7



### SATURDAY, APRIL 25 8:00am - 12:00n00n

Spring is finally here and it is time to spruce up the church grounds

Calling all volunteers to help rake, spread mulch, sweep, trim and generally clean up. Please bring gloves, rakes, shovels, wheelbarrow, and any other tools you think you might need. All hands are appreciated to help make the outside of our church clean and tidy for the coming year. Even if you can stay only a short while, all help is appreciated and many hands make the work go faster.



### Shelter From The Cold

Each Saturday evening we serve dinner for the Shelter from the Cold program. While you are out and about perhaps you can find gloves, hats and socks that the homeless can use!

If you have extra large jackets that you no longer need these can be donated too.



The Dorothy Day Hospitality House is in need of canned vegetables: corn, peas, carrots, green beans, baked beans and powdered drink mix.

### There is a basket in the Narthex where these items can be placed.

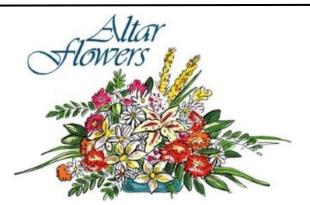
Thank you so much for your help! *Bev Anderson, Outreach Chair* 



#### UNITED METHODIST FRONTIER FOUNDATION 2020 REV. DR. KEITH MUHLEMAN MINISTRY GRANTS

The purpose of the UMFF Rev. Dr. Keith Muhleman Ministry Grants is to encourage and support creative and vital ministry in the local church.

We have the opportunity to apply for a grant. If your committee has a project or ministry that would like to apply, the application is now available. Grants will be awarded to local churches whose initiative, creativity, and commitment to the Gospel is evident in a ministry or program designed to meet an existing or emerging need within the congregation or greater community. The grants may be used either to establish a new ministry or to support an existing ministry, and may not be used simply as an additional revenue source for the church's operating budget. Please contact Pastor Kim for more information.



Please consider sponsoring the Altar Flowers for an upcoming Sunday. The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$25.00

This is a wonderful opportunity to honor your loved ones: Birthdays Anniversaries and Memorials

Contact Val Bose for more information 203-744-5712

### Easter Flowers 2020



### THE ALTAR GUILD IS NOW TAKING FLOWER ORDERS FOR EASTER. THEY WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020.

THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ARE \$10.00 EACH FOR TULIP, DAFFODIL, HYACINTH AND LILY. AZALEA PLANTS ARE \$12.50 EACH.

Remember how spectacular the sanctuary looks when it is elegantly blessed with multitudes of beautiful Spring flowers.

Please don't miss this opportunity to help create such a wonderful sight for Easter.

Cash or checks made payable to the United Methodist Church of Danbury may be given directly to Altar Guild Members: Valerie Bose, Tonya Clark, Barbara Fulton or Barbara Kunicki by Sunday, April 5, 2020.

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

### PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY ~ DEADLINE SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020

Your Name	Telephone #
	# Lily Total # Plants @ \$10 = GRAND TOTAL \$
Amount Enclosed Check #	
# Plants I will keep # Plants Name(s) of home-bound member(s)	wish given to home-bound member(s)
Flowers given in honor of:	
Flowers given in memory of:	



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 **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** 

### JOSIAH'S CLOSET - BABY AND TODDLER CLOTHING BANK



We are now accepting donations of new and gently used Baby and Toddler Clothing to size 4T. We are also accepting financial donations to be used for supplies for this project.

Drop off sites and times include Beautiful News Christian Books and Gifts from Monday through Saturday 10am-6pm; **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 also need volunteers to help with the ministry. Please contact either Patti Cohen-Hecht at: 203-743-1503 or <u>danburyumc@sbcglobal.net</u> or Don DeMouth:<u>ddemouth@netscape.net</u> for more information.



#### CALENDAR for LAY READERS

March 1 Greeter Scripture Reader People's Prayers Counters

March 8

Greeters

Scripture Reader People's Prayers Counters

#### March 15

Greeter Scripture Reader People's Prayers Counters

#### March 22

Greeter Scripture Reader People's Prayers Counters

March 29 Greeter Scripture Reader People's Prayers

Counters

Kim Goodwin Chris Russock Beverly Anderson Phyllis Tranzillo Bev Anderson

Elaine Zahara Zeke Zahara Carla Pierce Dr. Lucinda Johnson Myra Tesbir Norma Bucko

Sue Teer Pastor Kim Bosley Carol Spaulding Star Auer Sue Teer

Carla Pierce Carol Spaulding Phyllis Tranzillo Carla Pierce Don DeMouth

Kim Goodwin Mary Lou Heyel Jim Davis Phyllis Tranzillo Bev Anderson





### 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.

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY



5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811 Phone: 203~743~1503 Website: www.DanburyMethodist.org Email: DanburyUMC@sbcglobal.net

MINISTERS: THE CONGREGATION PASTOR: REV. KIMBERLY A. BOSLEY MUSIC DIRECTOR: ANDREW LEVINE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: PATTI COHEN-HECHT LAY LEADER: CHRIS RUSSOCK

### MARCH 2020 FLAME

Editors: Pastor Kim Bosley and Patti Cohen-Hecht

Contributors: Pastor Kim, Bev Anderson, Val Bose, Tonya Clark, Janet Hinderliter, Karlene Lombardo, Sue Teer and Zeke Zahara DEADLINE FOR APRIL 2020 FLAME IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18