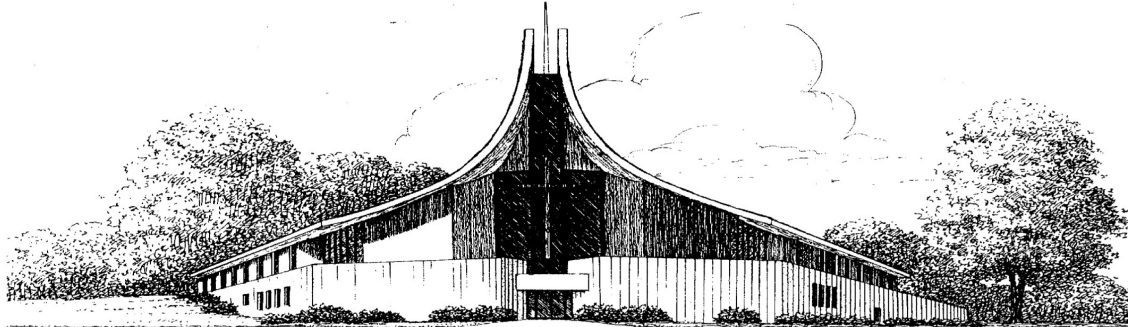




UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

THE FLAME

VOLUME 21
ISSUE 5
MAY
2019



MAY EVENTS

EVERY THURSDAY 6PM
Thursday Night Life

Wednesday, May 1

6:00pm Chapel Bells
6:30pm ASP Orientation 2
7:00pm Trustees Meeting

Saturday, May 4

10:00am ASP Advanced
Training

Sunday, May 5

3:00pm Celebration of DS

Monday, May 6

7:00pm UMM Dinner

Wednesday, May 8

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

Saturday, May 11

10:00am ASP Car Wash
12:00pm Dorothy Day
Ministry

Wednesday, May 15

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

Saturday, May 18

9:00am SPRING FLING

Sunday, May 19

12:00pm ASP Car Wash
12:00pm Education
Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 21

7:30pm UMCD Book
Club

Wednesday, May 22

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

Wednesday, May 29

6:00pm Chapel Bells

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PASTOR KIM

“Why did Jesus flee Capernaum, as told in Luke 4:42-46? Jesus went to a deserted place in order to be renewed in his identity and mission. It is always hard to remember who we are when we are in the midst of a crowd. We all live in the midst of a “crowd.” We all have personal “crowds” and professional “crowds” to whom we feel accountable. Each crowd has an agenda for your life. The agenda is to tell you who you are. The crowd sometimes tries to define you by your productivity. Jesus loved the crowd. But he never let the crowd tell him who he was.

Jesus was very clear about his need to go off to a deserted place. So if Jesus, the incarnated Son of God, needed to get away to a deserted place to be renewed in his identity and mission, chances are great that we do also. To go away to a deserted place is to set aside life’s successes and failures, life’s affirmations and criticisms, in order to walk alone with your Creator, who is the only one you dare let define your life.

Abraham, Moses, Elijah, John the Baptist, Paul, Mary and many other Biblical figures all had to periodically move into “deserted places” where they could hear angels speak to them; where they could hear the still, small voice of God. Everybody has to have some time alone with God where you get clarity about who you are from the One who created you. To go to a deserted place is sometimes difficult—it is not a place of entertainment. Sometimes it is a barren place and it is not always comfortable to be there.

Part of communing with God through a devotional life is to be renewed in your identity as one who lives in Christ—as one who is created and can only be created by the hands of God: it is to remember who we are and whose we are. It is to remember that you are the beloved of God in whom God is so pleased and NO ONE can add conditions to that—certainly no crowd.

Jesus loved the crowds and he calls us to that also. But if you are going to be of any sacred use to your crowds, you have to find something holy to give them, something found best in the deserted places.”

(Continued on page 2)

Dear friends,

(Continued from page 1)

The above is an excerpt from a sermon given to a group of clergy by the Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes, President of Princeton Theological Seminary. As I was in the midst of applying for my upcoming spiritual renewal leave, a good friend forwarded me this sermon by Rev. Barnes. It describes, far better than I could, the need for clergy to pull away at occasional times for spiritual re-orienting. Although he was speaking primarily to clergy, I am sure we can all relate to the danger he describes when we find ourselves defined by the “crowd”— In other words, letting other people’s expectations and needs define who we are and what we do. While we all have groups to whom we are accountable, our main accountability needs to be to God, and sometimes it may take a separation from “the crowd” to be reminded of this.

After many, many years of ministry, I have never had a sustained break from preaching or from the expectations that go with being a pastor. And so while I do look forward to a period of renewal, I certainly have some concerns about it. For example, even when I am on a brief vacation, I think about the church a lot. I pray for the church and hope that all is well. And so while I will continue to pray for the church while on renewal, I hope not to be thinking about its operation constantly, as that would defeat the purpose of the time away. The best way I know how to address the concerns I have about the 10 weeks away is to do everything I can now to ensure the church will continue to run smoothly. I believe I have set up a schedule of high quality preachers and pastors for each Sunday. The complete list is in this newsletter. I will prepare the worship bulletins for each week in advance. The Leadership Team in charge while I am away will be Chris Russock (Lay Leader), Peter Eaton (Trustee chair) and Dee Skidmore (SPR chair). They will be the point persons to contact if any problem should arise. And they will consult with each other if needs do occur. Our administrator Patti Cohen-Hecht will be in the office each day as usual, with the exception of the first two weeks in July, when she will be on vacation. During the time that Patti is away, we will have volunteers in the office most mornings. All committees, with the exception of SPR, will continue to meet as planned. I say with all sincerity that the present team of church leaders is as strong and competent as any group of leaders that I have seen in any church. I will also leave the names of pastors who will be on call in the case of an emergency.

I want to share with you some responses to the two questions I have been asked most frequently. The questions are: will you be out of town the whole time? And what will you be doing? I will NOT be away the whole time. I don’t have the financial resources that would enable me to be away that long. I will be away about half of the time. I have arranged four 5-day retreat periods during which I will travel alone to quiet places that I believe will be renewing for me. These times will be my “deserted places.” During that time, I plan to do some personal reading; some Bible study that is not related to preparing sermons and is just for my own growth; some quiet meditation and prayer; some nature photography (a hobby that I love that somehow fell by the wayside in recent years); and some writing. During the weeks that I am at the parsonage, I hope to continue with the above disciplines; work at my own pace on some upcoming sermons; and hopefully even clean out a closet or two! Finally, I have planned two brief periods of renewing time with friends at their homes/summer homes out of state.

It should also be noted that the week of June 3 is not counted as one of my renewal weeks. I am expected to attend Annual Conference that week, and in the early part of that week, I will be completing any church tasks that I do not get to before I leave.

I appreciate the members of the SPR who have been very encouraging and supportive through this process. I appreciate each person who has wished me blessings during my renewal. And I understand those who have mixed feelings about the leave. I have mixed feelings myself. Though our Conference is more broadly encouraging spiritual renewal leaves as an important component of clergy self-care, it is still a concept that may be new for congregations, as well as clergy. It is an opportunity I have never had before and am not likely to have again. Therefore, I am very grateful for it and am looking forward to it as a new experience. I am hoping to catch a glimpse of the holiness Rev. Barnes talks about when he describes retreating to the deserted places. I will continue to pray for each of you and I would greatly appreciate your prayers for me during this upcoming “time apart.”

Blessings in Christ,

Pasta Kim



JOIN US FOR MAY



SUNDAY, MAY 5 - 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES
10:30AM WORSHIP - COMMUNION
PASTOR KIM PREACHING

SUNDAY, MAY 12 - 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHER'S DAY

9:30AM MOTHER'S DAY TEA IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
10:30AM WORSHIP
PASTOR KIM PREACHING

SUNDAY, MAY 19 - 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES
10:30AM WORSHIP: PASTOR KIM AND DS REV. BETSY OTT
WILL LEAD WORSHIP TOGETHER.
REV. OTT WILL OFFER THE MESSAGE (IN PLACE OF
THE SERMON SHE WAS SCHEDULED TO PREACH LAST
FALL).
THIS WILL BE OUR DS'S LAST SUNDAY WITH US.

SUNDAY, MAY 26 - 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:30AM WORSHIP
LAY SPEAKER MINNIE ROUSE WILL LEAD WORSHIP
AND OFFER THE MESSAGE.

CHILD CARE IS PROVIDED DURING OUR SERVICES

**JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP**



PREACHING SCHEDULE MAY 20 - AUGUST 4

FROM PASTOR KIM:

I have carefully lined up the following group of ministers and lay speakers to cover the Sundays I will be away. In the group are several excellent preachers, Including a former assoc. pastor from our church and DS from our district. With the exception of our lay speakers and one of the preachers, all of the pastors are driving a distance to come here to offer the word of God for our worship services. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if you would give them the courtesy of your faithful attendance in worship. I also think it is good to occasionally hear the Word of God spoken in a different voice than the one you usually hear, and these upcoming few months will be an opportunity to do so.

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday, May 26 | Lay speaker Minnie Rouse will preach. |
| Sunday, June 2 | Rev. PJ Leopold will preach and serve Communion.
Rev. Leopold is a UM Pastor and Director of ARC. |
| Sunday, June 9 | Rev. Frank Basler will preach on Pentecost and Annual Conference Sunday. Rev. Basler is a United Church or Christ pastor and psychotherapist. |
| Sunday, June 16 | Rev. Edward Horne will preach.
Rev. Horne most recently served as Pastor at Westport, CT UMC. |
| Sunday, June 23 | Rev. Jin Kim will preach.
UM Pastor, NOW Cooperative Parish, Carmel, NY. |
| Sunday, June 30 | One of our Lay Speakers. |
| Sunday, July 7 | Rev. Dennis Winkleblack will preach and serve Communion.
Rev. Winkleblack is Former Assistant to the Bishop and former District Superintendent of our district. |
| Sunday, July 14 | Rev. Sara Goold will preach.
Rev. Goold is a Gestalt Psychotherapist and Former Assoc Pastor at Danbury in the 1980's. |
| Sunday, July 21 | Rev Frank Basler will preach. (See credentials above) |
| Sunday, July 28 | Rev. Karen Eiler will preach.
Rev. Eiler is the former pastor of UMC of Danbury. |
| Sunday, August 4 | Rev. Karen Eiler will preach and lead Communion. |





MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 12

Our Sunday School students will present a Mother's Day Tea on Sunday, May 12 at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall. **Everyone is invited and welcome to attend!**

There will be no Sunday School on May 26, Memorial Day Weekend.

HONORING OUR GRADUATES



We would like to honor all graduating members of our congregation on Sunday, June 2 at the Sunday School Recognition Sunday. If someone is graduating with a college degree, please inform Lorena Tesbir, School Co-Superintendent. **Lorena can be reached by email at:**

ljt66@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, May 18
10:00am - 3:00pm

Spring Fling Café
Tag Sale

ASP Bottle and Can Drive
Bagged Clothing Drive

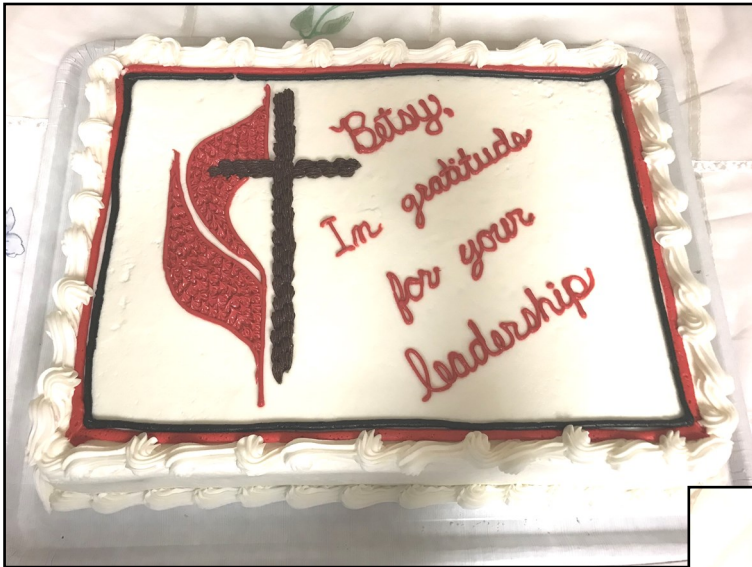
Drop off Times: Week of May 13
9:00am- noon Daily in Fellowship Hall
5:00pm-7:00pm Wednesday and Thursday



The United Methodist Church of Danbury hosted the New York-Connecticut 2019 Annual District Conference on Sunday, May 5. The Conference included a Farewell Celebration for our District Superintendent Rev. Betsy Ott, who has served her maximum term as a DS and will be retiring at the end of June.

Thank you to the following UMCD members for making this a wonderful event:

Bev Anderson, Karlene and Don Lombardo, Jim and Debbie Davis, Jack Pavao, Sue Teer, Myra Tesbir, Audrey Cain, Janet Hinderliter, the members of our Chancel Choir and Andrew Levine, Music Director.



**Farewell Celebration for
District Superintendent
Betsy Ott**





SUMMER COOKOUT

On Tuesday, June 4, there will be a United Methodist Women's cookout at the home of Donald and Karlene Lombardo. This gathering will start at 6:00pm. The Lombardo's will be providing grilled chicken and hot dogs. Plan to bring a salad, chips or a dessert to share. There will be a sign-up in the Narthex. However, there will be plenty of food and mostly we want to see you!

We will have a brief service, after the meal, to commemorate the World Thank Offering. Feel free to bring your spouse or a friend. Come and have fun!

Please bring any labels for education. These will be sent to The Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. They are used to provide much needed items. We are also collecting juice packs and fruit packs to be used at the Association of Religious Communities' "Peace Camp" for middle school age children. The camp is held in July.

Please make every effort to attend, and enjoy an evening of fellowship. If you have any questions, or need a ride, contact Karlene Lombardo at 203-743-1260 or at lombardodk@gmail.com.





It's Spring! Time for Geraniums
Celebrating our veterans - Sunday, May 19

Plants on sale through May 12

Red only - \$5.00 each (4" pot size)

Sponsored by:

United Methodist Women of Danbury

The geraniums may be purchased to keep,
or to be given to a veteran living at a local
assisted living home.

Each geranium may be given in honor of or in
memory of a special veteran or a loved one.



These geraniums will be placed around our church altar on Sunday, May 19.

There will be a special red, white and blue bunting to add to this presentation to honor our veterans.

To place orders: Contact Karlene Lombardo at 203-743-1260 or lombardodk@gmail.com

Checks should be made out to:

The United Methodist Women of Danbury (All proceeds go to mission giving.)

DEADLINE : MAY 12, 2019.

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Number of Plants: _____

Please check:

In Honor of : _____

In Memory of: _____

Will Keep _____ Will Donate _____



DIAPER DRIVE



COVENANT TO CARE

It's May - the month of Mother's Day! Mothers make us think of babies. Babies make us think of many sweet and joyful things and diapers!

It is time for our annual "Diaper Drive". The first Sunday of May you will find a basket in the Narthex to collect assorted sizes of disposable diapers. We deliver these diapers to our Covenant to Care partner at the Department of Children and Family (DCF). They get distributed to families in need.

It has been quite some time since many of us had to purchase diapers for our families, but we can still remember how many those adorable little ones used in a day and how expensive they were and still are. This is one way our church family can reach out to families in our community who are having a difficult time. It is a small way to show God's love.

As always, if you can't get out to shop or you are too busy or if you just don't like to shop, we will be happy to take donations and do the shopping for you! For more information, please contact Phyllis Tranzillo.



STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE SATURDAY, MAY 11

On Saturday, May 11, Letter Carriers will be collecting non-perishable food (soup, juice, vegetables, pasta sauce etc.).

Put your donation next to your mailbox on May 11 and your Letter Carrier will pick it up.

If you have questions you can call Food Drive Coordinators C.J. Volpe (203) 482-5807 or Paul Nicolaisen (475) 529-6866.

TRAVEL SIZE PERSONAL CARE ITEMS FOR ARC

The Association of Religious Communities here in Danbury has let us know that their clients have a need for travel size toiletries. Travel size toiletries are the small size samples you get at hotels, such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, lotion, mouthwash, etc. Please bring any travel size personal care items you would willing to donate to ARC to the church between now and Sunday, June 2. Rev. PJ Leopold, Director of ARC, will be preaching at our church June 2, and we will present her with our collection. Please place your collection of toiletries in a small bag and bring it to the church any Sunday through Sunday, June 2. The items can be kept in the Memorial Parlor outside of Pastor Kim's office until June 2. **Thank you in advance for your support.**



Each June, our neighbor, The Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, hosts their hugely popular Greek Festival. Last year, at their request, our church began handling the parking detail for attendees who wished to park near all the festivities. As a result, over the 3 days of the event, our Trustees were able to collect an incredible \$6,000 in parking “donations” all of which benefited UMCD.



This year, the Trustees would like to recruit additional volunteers to make it an even more successful event for us to manage. **Volunteer shifts will begin in late afternoon on Friday, June 7th and run through Sunday, June 9th and broken up into 3-hour blocks during the time the festival is open to the public.**

Whether directing cars where to park, or collecting money, the “work” can be done by any volunteer. We guarantee a wonderful time spent with your fellow congregants as well as a great sense of satisfaction that your efforts helped raise quite a bit of money for our church.

To sign up, please choose one or two of the open blocks of time listed on the board in the Narthex. We would really like to see a full roster of volunteers signed up by Friday, May 31st. Both adults and teens are encouraged to participate.

If you have any questions, please email Peter Eaton at: peter5olazerspot@gmail.com.



**PUMPKIN FESTIVAL 2019
IS ONLY 5 MONTHS AWAY!
LET THE PLANNING BEGIN**

SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

The first meeting for this year’s PUMPKIN FESTIVAL will be held on Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00pm. New ideas and participants are welcome!

This is our largest fundraiser of the year and we need your help to make it our best one ever!

PAPER AND OFFICE SUPPLY DRIVE UPDATE



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE MADE DONATIONS

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

Please consider donating:



- ◆ Copy Paper: 8 x 11½ Reams of Pastel Colored
- ◆ Postage: Forever Postage Stamps



United Methodist Women Annual Mother's Day Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, May 12 in the Pink Room. We are asking for donations of baked goods for this wonderful event.

Please package as follows: cookies 6 to a bag and brownies 4 to a bag. Cakes, pies and mini-breads are also welcome. If you aren't able to bake, why not take home some nice treats!

All monies collected will benefit the mission work of the UMW.

The goodies will be available before and after church.

For more information, please contact: Valerie Stagen or Penny McKown.

Thank you to everyone for making our bake sale a success.

Now for sure, your Mother's Day will be extra sweet.



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, May 6 at 7:00pm

JK's

126 South Street, Danbury, CT



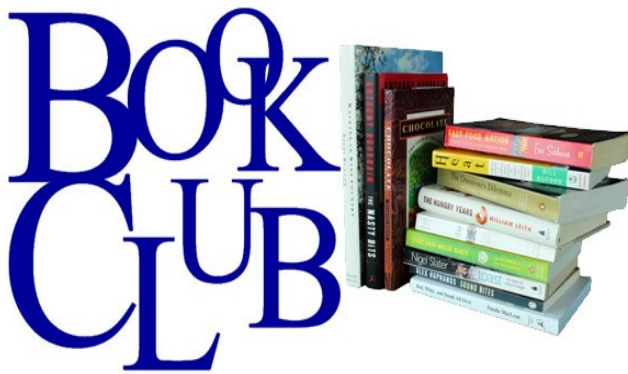
Thank you from Peg Slater

I'd like to thank my church family for keeping me connected to my beloved church and our members.

thank you!

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

The May meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 21 - 7:30pm at the home of Leslie Gartland Everyone is welcome to attend.



Book Selection: *Three Days Missing* By Kimberly Belle

LARRY, LOIS, AND IMANE GET TOGETHER IN MOROCCO!

Submitted by Marti Foster

At the end of October last year, Larry Bornemeier sent me an email that he and Lois were planning a trip in April 2019 to Spain, Portugal and Morocco. He remembered that our exchange student from a few years ago, Imane Tourabi, is from Morocco. He noted her “wit and humor” and that she did a lot of volunteer work for the church, especially at Dorothy Day. It was a long shot but wondered if he and Lois would be able to get together with Imane for a short visit while they were in Morocco. I e-mailed and texted with Imane and Larry and found that Imane is currently studying Engineering in college in Rabat, the capital of Morocco, where Larry and Lois’s tour would be stopping!

Although departing from the agenda of a tour can prove challenging, Larry, Lois, and Imane were able to meet at a tour stop. In mid-April, Larry, Lois, and Imane got together at the Mohammed V Mausoleum in Rabat. Imane brought them tea and Moroccan pastries, where they had a good time reminiscing and enjoying the goodies.

I asked Lois, Larry, and Imane to also send me some messages they wanted to share with the church. Imane said to thank the congregation and Pastor Kim for never making her never feel excluded because of her religion or her home country. Larry and Lois said to greet everyone at UMCD noting that they miss their Danbury church home yet know that their move close to home was the right decision for them and their family. It is truly wonderful that our church family stretches both across the world and across the years and a blessing that these kind of meetups can occur.



Here are photos from their time together.





MAY 5

Greeter	Allison Kent
Scripture Reader	Roger Warmbir
People's Prayers	Carla Pierce
Counters	Myra Tesbir Norma Bucko

MAY 12

Greeter	Barbara Fulton
Scripture Reader	Beverly Anderson
People's Prayers	Jim Davis
Counters	Star Auer Sue Teer

MAY 19

Greeter	Kim Goodwin
Scripture Reader	David Johnson V.
People's Prayers	Carol Spaulding
Counters	Carla Pierce Don DeMouth

MAY 26

Greeter	Dr. Lucinda Johnson
Scripture Reader	Coralee DeMouth
People's Prayers	Phyllis Tranzillo
Counters	Phyllis Tranzillo Bev Anderson

**BEST WISHES AND GOD'S BLESSINGS
TO THOSE**



Mark Clemens	May 3
Justin Goodwin	May 6
Kathy Chambers	May 7
Kaitlynn Jackson-Slocum	May 7
Jack Pavao	May 9
Brian Spaulding	May 11
Elizabeth Mitchell	May 16
Matthew Salamon	May 20
Laura Zeigler	May 20
Carlos Ferreira	May 24



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 NEW MISSION STATEMENT

**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.**



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MUSIC DIRECTOR: ANDREW LEVINE

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: PATTI COHEN-HECHT

LAY LEADER: CHRIS RUSSOCK

MAY 2019 FLAME

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DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2019 FLAME IS MONDAY, MAY 20.