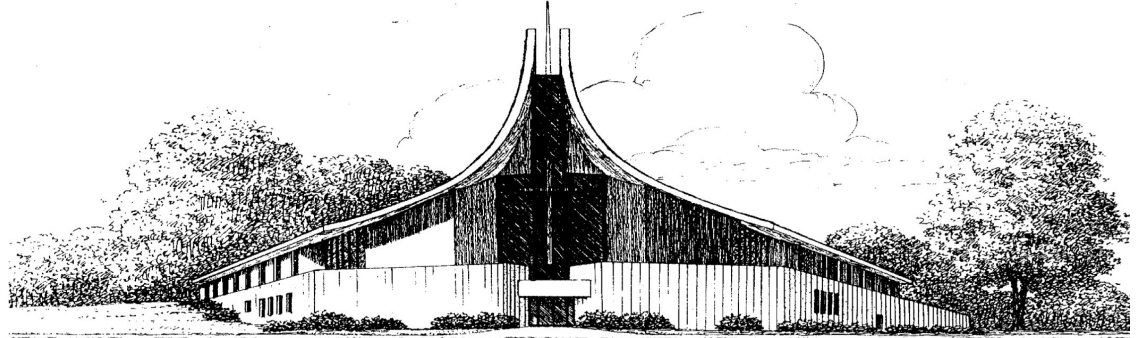




UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

# THE FLAME

VOLUME 21  
ISSUE 3  
**SEPTEMBER**  
**2020**



## **WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PASTOR KIM**

### **NEWS ON REOPENING FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP**

Dear friends,

I want to begin by saying I am so grateful for your patience and your faithful online participation as we continue to wend our way through continued complications with our plans to reopen.

***Here is the most recent update regarding the reopening process.***

Last week, we submitted our paperwork to the district superintendent that outlined our plans re: safety protocols that the Conference is requiring (based on CDC protocols). If you would like more information on these requirements, please feel free to go to the Conference website at New York Annual Conference and access the document: Covid-19 Guidelines for Church Reopening.

Our paperwork was returned to us seeking greater detail and more specifics on our plans. (This has happened to several churches who turn in the check list, as we did, not realizing that supporting documents were required.) In any case, we spent several hours the past few days going through meeting minutes, etc., to pull together all the supporting documents for our plans. This afternoon, the remainder of our paperwork will be submitted for review by our district superintendent. Rev. Riss will get back to us with permission to reopen when he is satisfied that we have completed all necessary preparations. We hope that this will help to reassure you that every step of this process will be taken with great care.

A second complication emerged a few weeks ago when the CT state health department declared a Covid-19 alert for Danbury. The state health department and Mayor Boughton stated that the sudden spike in Covid-19 cases resulted from four factors, one of which was the reopening of churches. As a result of this announcement, some churches that were already meeting in person went back online and we are all in a holding pattern, waiting to see if the city's numbers go back down to an acceptable level. A meeting for Danbury clergy to discuss safety measures re: Covid-19 has been called for next week. Hopefully, more information will be available in the next week or two that will allow us to set a date for reopening.

(Continued on page 2)

## WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PASTOR KIM NEWS ON REOPENING FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

(Continued from page 1)

In the meantime, thank you to all who completed the survey that we sent regarding reopening. Approximately 25 persons indicated that they are ready to return for in-person worship. This number is in line with what most UM churches are finding, which is that we can anticipate that about 1/3 of our worship community feels ready to return.

In the meantime, feel free to call me with any concerns. I am in the office most days, and have enjoyed the visits of many of you who have stopped by (all wearing the required masks). I miss seeing you and our worship together, and I am grateful for your online participation with us. We will continue to do our best to offer you a meaningful online service, and the live streamed services will continue even after we are again meeting in person.

Finally, many thanks to the team who has worked along side me to make our online worship possible: Tonya Clark, Andrew Levine, and Patti Cohen-Hecht.

Blessings in Christ,

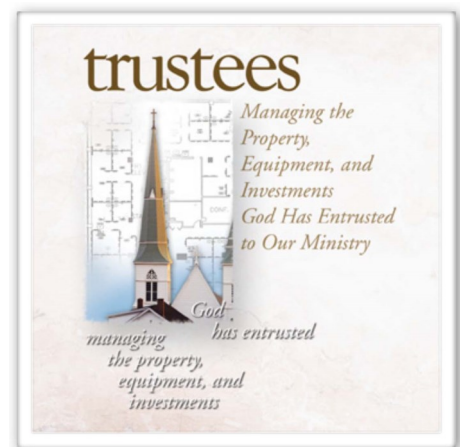
*Pastor Kim*



### NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES:

At the present time, we are unable to accept **any** donations of clothes, books or rummage. As you know, we had to cancel our spring tag sale and the upcoming fall sale that is scheduled the day of our Pumpkin festival.

Due to the restrictions related to Covid-19, we cannot predict when it will be safe to have the next tag sale. In the meantime, numerous donations have continued to come in, to the point of filling our furnace room, which is a fire hazard. The Trustees then had to find space for all the bags that were in the furnace room. Right now, we don't have space for any more donations. We will let you know when we can again accept donations. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep our church safe and clean.



# JOIN US FOR SEPTEMBER



**WE ARE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING WORSHIP WITH YOU  
SUNDAY MORNING VIA YOUTUBE.**

**To access our worship service please go to our dedicated channel on YouTube. You will be able to view our worship service on your phone, tablet, or computer.**

**The church will continue to offer this online worship experience each Sunday at 10:30am until we can gather together again in our Sanctuary.**

**JOIN US ON OUR YouTube Channel:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQUWFtriBq-CJTwwT5EH-Jw>**

## **GUEST SPEAKER:**

On Sunday, September 13, Pastor Maria Pia Seirup will be offering the message for our online worship. Pastor Maria Pia is a candidate for ordination in our Conference this year, and part of that process is for her to offer a sermon at a neighboring church. I have gotten to know her well through our Cooperative Parish, and am pleased that she will be offering her message at our church. Maria Pia was on staff at Jesse Lee UMC for many years working on Children's Ministries and most recently on Older Adult Ministries. She has left Jesse Lee and is now the Executive Director of PeaceWork, Inc. She also leads retreats and does extensive work with contemplative prayer.

***Pastor Kim***



*From Pastor Kim:*

Our Cooperative Parish clergy, who meet weekly, have been in conversation regarding how best our churches can address the problem of systemic racism. One of the ideas that emerged from these discussions is to invite the Rev. Doris Dalton, the Conference director of Leadership Training and Intercultural Competency, to lead members of our churches in a 3 part discussion on “white culture” and its impact on racism.

All meetings will be by Zoom. The first session will be Wednesday, September 16, from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Members from all 7 churches in our parish can participate. Please see the accompanying flyer on “**The Culture of Privilege.**”

We will send more information early the week of September 14 to give you the info you need to access the Zoom session. In the meantime, please mark this date and time on your calendar. It is so critical that we as Christians participate in discussions about how to address the systemic racism in our culture.





EASTERN AND NORTHERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY  
COOPERATIVE PARISH DISCUSSIONS ABOUT PRIVILEGE

# THE CULTURE OF PRIVILEGE

*What is "White Culture"? Is it normalized in our communities?*

*What is its impact?*

Please join us to discuss these questions and more in the first of three monthly ZOOM calls that address systemic racism.

SEPTEMBER 16TH, 2020 7:00-8:30 P.M.

Rev. Doris Dalton, Director of Leadership Development and Intercultural Competency of the New York Annual Conference, is the **facilitator**





Dear Church family,

The Finance Committee would first and foremost like to thank you for your continued support of our church. Your devotion has not only been an outstanding example of good stewardship, but also an exceptional expression of your faith in our future. We also want to recognize the fact that not being able to worship in person has been difficult for all of us; and salute all your efforts to care not only for our church, but also for one another.

Please know that the Finance Committee has been in regular contact with one another and continues to meet virtually each month. We are consistently monitoring our expenses and attempting to plan for potential financial challenges.

There are many things for us to be thankful for and to celebrate. The Payroll Protection loan we received in May has allowed us to meet short-term payroll expenses as well as some of our utility costs. We are now in the process of applying for the loan to be “forgiven” under the rules set out by the US Treasury Department and the Small Business Association. Our pledges continue to be essentially on target compared to the budget set for 2020, and we have managed to keep current with our apportionments.

Expenses for the remainder of 2020 may, however, prove to be a challenge. This is due to the potential loss of all of our major fundraisers as well as the planned income from our space users. We also anticipate some unbudgeted expenses as we develop a more sophisticated set up to live stream our services. This will entail not only costs for equipment, but there will also be costs associated with making major improvements to the Wi-Fi capability in the church building. Added to this are the expenses associated with the safety precautions we are required to meet before reopening such as regular sanitizing of the Sanctuary, providing hand sanitizer, extra masks for those who may need them, etc. will be added to our tight budget

Some things that have helped to offset these costs include some donations for video equipment; a small Conference grant to help with the live stream equipment; and the Conference donation to every church that included PPE equipment, that included hand sanitizing stations; disinfectant; masks; hand sanitizing bottles; gloves; and posters re: precautions re: Covid-19. All of these things have helped, but there will certainly be unanticipated costs with all the extra cleaning needed as well as the equipment needed and the transition to a Comcast Business plan for high speed WiFi in the sanctuary.

Just so you know, all churches are required to have a plan in place to live stream worship. Moving in this direction was something we have to do and our technology team is making sure we do it with careful consideration of the costs involved and of the need to provide online worship to those who are not able to join us in person.

We will continue to keep you posted and again we remain very grateful for your continued support.

Blessings in Christ.  
Tonya Clark, Chair  
Finance Committee

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



Benjamin Zahara	September 1
Peter Hornik	September 8
Kojo Aurelien	September 9
Robert Bose	September 9
Marcia Lowe	September 11
Valerie Bose	September 15
Ann Mitchell	September 15
Amanda Clark	September 16
Ashley Clemens	September 16
Mary Dietzel	September 18
Kathy Roig	September 21
Deana Skidmore	September 24
Minnie Rouse	September 26
Edward Clark	September 27
Michael Rogowski	September 27
Lauren Rouse	September 30

# 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

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EMAIL: [DANBURYUMC@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:DANBURYUMC@SBCGLOBAL.NET)



MINISTERS: THE CONGREGATION

PASTOR: REV. KIMBERLY A. BOSLEY

MUSIC DIRECTOR: ANDREW LEVINE

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: PATTI COHEN-HECHT

LAY LEADER: CHRIS RUSSOCK

### **SEPTEMBER 2020 FLAME**

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