



Yalesville United Methodist Church

Anne Bracket, Pastor

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APRIL 2011

Sunday, April 17 Palm Sunday: *Walk Through Holy Week*

Experience the Story of Holy Week with the Sunday School and 7up children and youth as they share it with both the 8:30 and 10 a.m. worship services.

Monday, April 18: *Godspell*

Watch this movie of the Gospel of Matthew set to music. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 21 : Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion, Tenebrae Service. A service where we hear Jesus give his commandment to "love one another".

Friday, April 22, Good Friday: Prayer Vigil begins @ Noon

Plan on spending some time in prayer as we remember Jesus on the Cross. A sign-up sheet will be available so that all hours will be covered.



Easter is
the
Promise
realized

Easter Sunday April 24, come and celebrate the Risen Christ at 8:30 or 10 a.m.

This will be a family service where the entire family is encouraged to worship together. A special children's story will be shared and familiar hymns sung.



Lay Leader

By the time this Newsletter reaches you, spring will have arrived, our clocks will have sprung forward, snowdrops and croci will be peeking above the thawed earth and we will be rejoicing as we once again witness the faithfulness of God's promise of new life as a new spring season is revealed before our eyes.

While we have our struggles – finances and furnaces – the Spirit is on the move in our congregation. Numerous ministries are invoking the Sprit on a variety of levels.

Three Disciple classes continue to meet every week seeking knowledge of the Bible and taking a spiritual journey that bring participants closer to one another and closer to our Lord and Savior. This powerful study promises to have an amazing impact on our faith community.

The Witness Ministry Team recently held a visitation training with Barbara Barlock from the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers. This program equips us to visit the homebound members of our congregation. If you missed the training, but are interested in this ministry, please speak to Helen Albert, Witness Ministry Chairperson or Pastor Anne.

The Nurture Ministry Team continues to research new projects and events that gather our community in celebration of our fellowship and relationship to our faith.

The Outreach Ministry Team invites us to follow Christ by reaching out to the lost and the least. Some specific events planned for the upcoming months are: a cereal drive, UMCOR Blankets for Mother's Day & Tools of Hope for Father's Day, the second Sunday collection of food for Master's Manna and general assistance as needed for the Wallingford Community Homeless Center.

The Yalesville UMC Bell Choir will provide selections to enhance our Lenten worship on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Kendra Henderson, our Music Ministry Director and a benefactor have collaborated to liberate the bells from storage and direct them to ring out with a resounding and joyful noise once again in the Sanctuary.

All of the ministry teams invite your participation during the Lenten Season as we spend time in prayer examining our personal faith, the needs of our world and our abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. As we ponder where we are on our spiritual journey and reflect on how we can live each day to become more *Christ like*, we join in Lenten activities that weave penitence and ultimately celebration into the experience of being Easter people.

During Lent, I invite you to begin each day with the following prayer to strengthen you as you navigate through *your* season in the desert toward the celebration and presence of a Risen Christ:

"O God, for another day, for another morning, for another hour, for another minute,

for another chance to live and serve you, we are truly grateful.

"May we be filled –

With Love that knows no barrier,

With Compassion that reaches to all,

With Courage that cannot be shaken,

With Faith strong enough for darkness,

With Strength sufficient for our tasks,

With Loyalty to Your Kingdom's goal,

With Wisdom to meet life's complexities,

With Power to lift us to You.

Be with us for another day and help us to live for you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen"

In Christian Love,

Gail Powell, Lay Leader

TRUSTEES

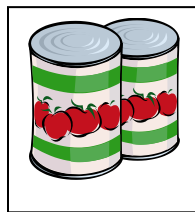
The Trustees major concern at this time is the replacement of the old oil fired heating system which heats the Sanctuary. Roman Oil has done many repairs over the past months but has advised that the present system is very suspect and is surprised, considering the repairs they have done, that it lasted over this past winter.

We have secured proposals from 4 contractors to replace the present system with gas units. These furnaces are far more efficient, easier to maintain and, historically, less expensive to operate. The proposed costs range from \$26,100 to \$43,000. Two are for hot air heat and two for hot water. One includes air conditioning and the others can provide AC at an additional cost. Please speak with a Trustee for additional information.

Of course financing this is a huge concern as are our Church finances in general. The Trustees rely on the interest from the mortgage repayment for operating expenses and this has not been forthcoming. This year's church budget combined the mortgage obligation and current expenses. Although pledges were up slightly, there does not seem to be sufficient funding to meet the mortgage obligation. The Trustees spend approximately \$16,500 a year for insurance, maintenance contracts, copier, snow removal (MORE this year than past years), supplies and church and parsonage upkeep. Of that, 70% should come from repayment of the building loan. We receive \$4400 from interest and building rental... sometimes more, sometimes less.

The Trustees have close to \$15,000 in unrestricted funds which could be applied to the new furnace costs. There is a possibility of two small bequests and two small grants. Note that you cannot even apply for a grant until you contract the work so the amount is an unknown. *It is in cases such as this as well as the continued growth of our church community that remembering your Church in your will is an important consideration.*

Saturday, April 16th will be our Spring Clean Up morning. We are hoping many of you will participate. Sign up in the Gathering Area.



Needed Food Pantry items are:

April - Tomato Sauce and Pasta

May - Peanut Butter and Jelly

United Methodist Women

We continue to work on the Church World Service kits.

Please check with Priscilla Reynolds to see what is needed.

We will meet on April 11th for our next meeting. Laura Clementsen will present the second part of her program on the *Beauty of Water*.

Rummage Sale

Save your items for the Spring Rummage Sale. After Easter we will begin accepting items for sale. The sale is May 20th and 21st. Of course we will need lots of help with set up and on the days of the sale and with clean up!

Witness News

On March 15, we were fortunate to have Barbara Barlock from Interfaith Caregivers share her expertise, enthusiasm and cheerfulness with us. We began visits last month and already we have accomplished much.

Our goal for the next few months is to get enough volunteers from the congregation to be able to provide visitors to all homebound members on a regular basis. If you are interested in doing visits, please let Pastor Anne or Helen Albert know. Maybe you would like to visit but don't feel experienced or knowledgeable enough, that's o.k. we will do training. If you like people, are a good listener, a caring person, or have faith, you can be the person to alleviate the loneliness of a homebound person, to bring a little bit of happiness in his/her life. Think about it. Pray on it.

We are also working on life review for our elders over 90 years old. If you have a relative, neighbors, an acquaintance who is a nonagenarian and belongs to this congregation, please contact Dolores or Helen.

Nurture News

On Sunday, March 6th the Nurture Committee hosted a "Shrove Tuesday" on Sunday pancake breakfast under the leadership of committee member, Michelle Bloom. The breakfast was deemed a great success, and there are already plans in the works to hold the breakfast again next year. Thanks to all who attended the event.

A "fun time" was also had by many of our church members and friends on March 15th when we traveled to Rocky Hill to sit in on the taping of the television show "Better Connecticut" Not only was it interesting to see how a television show is produced and taped for future viewing, but the studio audience was also treated to an impromptu lunch by a restaurant located in West Farms Mall. Of course, it was also a treat to meet and talk with Kara Sundland and Scott Haney of WFSB Channel 3. Then....to top it off...we were able to enjoy the show again when it was televised that afternoon. It seems we have some of our own TV stars.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class, Braden Disbrow, Alayna Lausier, Amanda Staski, Mark Sumner, Jamie Chace, Dianna Bloom and Sarah Heslin will be confirmed on Sunday June 5th at the 10 a.m. service.

Thank You

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our Yalesville UMC community of faith for all of your prayers and expressions of sympathy following the recent loss of my mother. We were uplifted by all the emotional support we received from our church family. We hope you will join us April 30th at a Memorial Service at Yalesville UMC, as we gather to celebrate her life and legacy.

In His name,

Gary Powell

OUTREACH

UMARMY: This year the group will be going to attend a camp in the Greater Hartford Area during the week of July 17th. Several of the youth are already planning on attending but we need adult volunteers! Youth who have completed seventh grade are eligible to attend.

The Wallingford Shelter is always in need of the following items: Juice - large bottles, not concentrate, Coffee, Cereal, and Sugar

Dates Coming UP Blanket Sunday -May 1st and May 8th May 6th & 7th 3rd Annual Cereal Drive
Tool Sunday -June 12th and June 19th

Field Trip to Heifer Learning Center at Overlook Farm

All in the congregation are invited for a field trip to Heifer's Learning Center at Overlook Farm, located in Rutland, MA. The programs offer the extraordinary opportunity for people to **experience some of the challenges of global hunger and poverty** - and come away with a re-energized determination to be part of the solution.

Heifer Learning Center at Overlook Farm is one opportunity to experience Heifer's educational efforts. Education opportunities include Overlook Farm tours, Global Village immersion experiences, Service-Learning programs and more! Experiential, hands-on, interactive and fun, Overlook is also a working example of the sustainable agriculture Heifer supports around the world.

The trip is planned for Saturday, June 11th. We will leave from the Church early morning. We should arrive at the farm around 10:30 am. Upon our arrival, we will have a guided tour of the farm and view a presentation. Please plan on packing a brown bag lunch. Also plan on wearing the proper foot ware for walking around (it may be muddy).

If you would like more detailed information about the Heifer initiatives you can go to www.heifer.org. A sign-up sheet for the field trip will be located in the gathering area.

Shopping Card Program

Our shopping card program contributed close to five thousand dollars towards our church expenses since last April 18, when the program began. That has helped pay for the heat, for salaries, and for other budgeted items. Thanks to those of you who have purchased cards for special occasions as well as weekly groceries. With more participation, next year we'll double our contribution.

Spring is here! Families will be cleaning their yards and doing landscaping. This might be the time to buy a few tools and certainly buy fertilizer, grass seed and flowers. Do you need minor or major renovations around the house? What about the items you need for cleaning inside... paint, cleaning supplies, mops, etc.? We have the cards you need to purchase these items at your favorite home improvement store.

Easter is around the corner. A new Easter Bonnet? A chocolate bunny? Easter Baskets? Gift flowers? Why not help the church while helping the Easter Bunny? Buy cards this Sunday.

College students will come home. They like to eat out and need new clothes. Every Sunday, we have members who happily volunteer their time to help you select just the right shopping card.

If you do not understand how the program works, ask any of the following people: Pastor Anne, Helen Albert, Nancy Lindsay, Muriel Creed, Mary Anne Heidgerd, Maria Joy, Elizabeth Verdini, Jane Hinde, Christine Jackson, Shelby Weyant, Sue Wasdyke.

We are doing well. Can you imagine how well we would do if more people participated?

2011 DEDICATIONS

Easter Plants

Once again we offer the opportunity for you to acknowledge or remember your loved ones the Easter Season by ordering an Easter / Spring plant or by making a donation to an Outreach Mission.. The contribution for each plant or donation is \$10.00 (please make your check payable to Yalesville UMC).

I would like to order an Easter Plant: *(Check Box)*

(Please indicate the number of each plant you select - if
you order more than one.)

Daffodil *Lily* *Tulip* *Mum*

I/We will take the plant(s) after the Easter Service.

I/We will leave the plant(s) for a homebound friend.

I/We would like to make a charitable donation

DEADLINE April 10, 2011 (PLEASE PRINT)

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given By: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Choir Fundraiser!!

Mystery Dinner Theater

You are invited to attend the birthday celebration of Big Daddy Sugarbaker . This may be the last family gathering before he passes to the great beyond. He is one of the richest men in the world, and he is not at all well. I wonder who will be heir to his family fortune ? Who will benefit from his death ? Who can't wait any longer ?

This birthday celebration promises to be one of great excitement. There might even be a murder, or two. Could you solve the mystery? Are you up to the challenge? The church choir is going to give you the opportunity to do just that. Please put Saturday, April 9, 2011, on your calendar as the evening to come to Big Daddy's party held in the downstairs church fellowship hall. There will be a pot luck supper and a "free will" offering to provide monies for the choir director to purchase music for the choir to sing during the upcoming year. Come and enjoy the food, the fellowship, and the foolishness that only some of our more notorious church members can provide. Oh, and the choir will not only be there to serve you but also to add to the entertainment with some of Big Daddy's favorite old time music. See you at 5:30 PM on April 9th...sign-up sheets and invitations available to you after church. (A count is needed so that all may be provided for with both food and seating.

spring cleaning!!

Women, Children and Men. Our spring clean up will be Saturday morning April 16. Rain date is the 23rd. Spiff up our church grounds and parking lots. Bring tools. Refreshments!

Sign up in the Gathering Area so we can call you if there is a change. Thanks.



Visit us online at yalesvilleumc.org