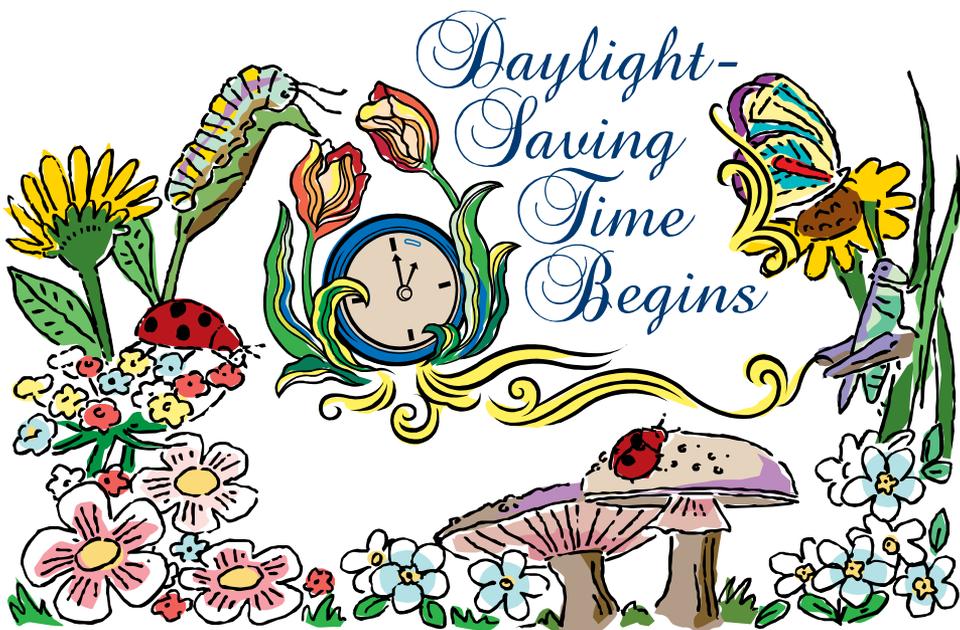


The Messenger

March 2019



The United Methodist Church, Clinton, CT
Pastor Martha Rice Epstein



March 10, 2019



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Our mission statement

We celebrate the presence
of the Holy Spirit;
being and making disciples of Christ
by sharing God's gifts
through word and deed.



From the Pastor's Desk

March 6th we will worship together on Ash Wednesday, marking the first day of Lent, the 40 days, excluding Sundays, that lead to Easter. According to *The United Methodist Book of Worship* we are encouraged “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.” So, what exactly does that mean, to “observe a holy Lent” and how might we do it this year?

The good news is there is no one right way. I can’t prescribe you the proper amount of time to pray, fast and read. Instead, I encourage you to find your own way of contemplating your relationship with Christ and ways to deepen that relationship. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- Fasting: Be it from social media, watching the news at dinner or refraining from eating dessert: fasting should not just be about giving something up but about either using that time or money to spend refocusing away from distractions and back toward God.
- Bible reading: Pick up the most recent copy of The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide at church. Set aside time each day to read this. Attend our Thursday morning Bible Study; reading and studying the Word with others is so enriching.
- Prayer: Lent is a great time to intentionally work on your prayer time. Try praying at a different time of the day, try praying while walking, and/or take home the bulletin each Sunday and pray for those on our prayer list.
- Service: Lent is also a time to be doing the work of Christ. Volunteer at the Food Pantry or at church, write to those in prison, or visit someone who is homebound.
- Rest: Sabbath is something we all struggle with given our busy lives. You don’t need to put aside an entire day; start by spending time during an ordinary day to be still in God’s presence and work your way up. Instead of eating lunch in front of the computer, take your lunch outside and listen to the birds.

- Learning: Attend our Tuesday evening Study on the last 24 hours of Jesus' life or read a theological book (*I have a ton of books to choose from or check out our church library*). Listen to a podcast about Lent or about the history of Methodism.
- Worship: Decide to not only attend Ash Wednesday service but all Sundays in Lent. If you have to miss one or are unable physically to attend, worship via our wonderful video ministry. Invite someone to attend church with you too.

Whatever you choose to do this is your time to move along in your Christian journey. Whether you are new to the faith or a cradle Methodist use this 40-day journey as an opportunity to grow in your faith. Observe a holy Lent and open yourself up to a time of self-discovery. Bring someone along with you and behold the blessings!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Martha

Sign up for the Lenten study

There will be a place at the table for you if you sign up in Fellowship Hall for the new format for Tuesday evenings during Lent. Beginning with a soup and sandwich supper at 6:00; then watch the video, "24 Hours That Changed the World." If you do not wish to come for supper, just come at 7:00 for our study time.

Duckpin bowling

The Family Fun Coordinators invite the church family to the Johnson Duckpin Lanes, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden at 2 PM, Sunday, March 31.

Duckpin balls are small and weigh less than four pounds. The pins are shorter, smaller and lighter, making a strike more difficult. Each bowler is allowed three rolls per frame.

A Verse by Art Allen

Oh you worry 'bout your clothes,
and you worry 'bout your nose,
And you worry 'bout the hair on your head,
But God is taking care of the birds in the air,
And will take good care of you.

Month of Services

March 3

Transfiguration Sunday

Greeter

Deb Anderson

Ushers

Sally and Alex Maxwell

Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione

Infant/toddler care

Corinne Brown

Children's church

Gail Whitney

Sound coordinator

Nicholas Dollahite

Camera operator

Lisa Sutherland

Worship leader

Bob Hawes

Lectionary scriptures

Exodus 34:19-35; Psalm 99;

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36

Sermon

Pastor Martha Epstein

Communion steward

Sharon Minick

Fellowship hostess

Jeane Jarusik Howard

March 6, 7:00 PM



Greeter

Lyle Cubberly, Lynn Sellers,

Ushers

Dave Moore, Bob Morrison

????

Worship leader

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51;

Lectionary scriptures

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon

Pastor Martha Epstein

Communion steward

Evelyn Scaglione

March 10

Greeter
Ushers

Infant/toddler care
Children's church
Sound coordinator
Camera operator
Worship leader
Lectionary scriptures

Sermon
Fellowship hostesses

First Sunday in Lent

Daylight Saving Time begins
Lynn Sellers
Jeane Howard, Sherry Hynes,
Rebecca and Richard Faust
Gail Whitney
Karin Thelin
Tammy Drena
Dan Attanasio
David Moore
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91;
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
Pastor Martha Epstein
Sharon Minick, Tammy Drena

March 17

Greeter
Ushers

Infant/toddler care
Children's church
Sound coordinator
Camera operator
Worship leader
Lectionary scriptures

Sermon
Fellowship hosts

Second Sunday in Lent

Jessica Ryan
Sharon Minick, Ellen Hoyt,
Lynda Larson, Bill Hancock
Judy LeVesque
Tammy Drena
Nicholas Dollahite
Dan Attanasio
Ray Silvernale
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27;
Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
Pastor Martha Epstein
Rebecca and Richard Faust

St. Patrick's Day, March 17

The patron saint of Ireland was born in 387 and died in 493. He led thousands of people into Christianity. Here is a portion of his devotional statement: *I bind myself today with God's power to guide me, God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to teach me, God's eye to watch over me, God's ear to hear me, God's Word to give me speech, God's hand to guide me, God's way to lie before me, God's shield to shelter me, God's Host to secure me against the snares of demons, against the seduction of vices, against the lusts of nature, whether far or near, few or many.*

March 24

Greeters
Ushers

Infant/toddler care
Children's church
Sound coordinator
Camera operator
Worship leader
Lectionary scriptures

Sermon
Fellowship hosts

Third Sunday in Lent

Lisa and Natalie Sutherland
Sally and Alex Maxwell
Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione
Beth Kluz
Becky Faust
Lisa Sutherland
Gerry Carlone
Karin Thelin
Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9
Pastor Martha Epstein
Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione

March 31

Greeters
Ushers

Infant/toddler care
Children's church
Sound coordinator
Camera operator
Worship leader
Lectionary scriptures

Sermon
Fellowship hosts

Fourth Sunday in Lent UMCOR Sunday

???
Lyle Cubberly, Ray Lenda,
David Moore, Bob Morrison
Corinne Brown
Gail Whitney
Tammy Drena
Lisa Sutherland
Mickey Brown
Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21;
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Pastor Martha Epstein
Beckers and Cubberlys

United Methodist Committee on Relief offering

March 31 is the day for an General Church offering. It used to be called the One Great Hour of Sharing - a nice name, but the UMC likes to change names often.

Regardless of the name, the offering means that all contributions designated for a specific area or disaster can go 100% to that cause because this March offering has covered UMCOR's basic expenses.

March Anniversaries

<i>Debbie and Alan Anderson</i>	21
<i>Linda and Robert Colvin</i>	30

March Birthdays

<i>Joanna Taczanowsky</i>	1
<i>Jean Andres</i>	2
<i>Jeffry Bell</i>	5
<i>Christine Blomberg</i>	5
<i>Michael Blomberg</i>	5
<i>Drew Dupre</i>	6
<i>Marina Clark</i>	7
<i>Neal Sorensen</i>	9
<i>David Moore</i>	10
<i>Wayne Hawes</i>	10
<i>Gay McPhee</i>	13
<i>Liam Bell</i>	16
<i>Lynda Larson</i>	23
<i>Lindsey Griswold</i>	23
<i>Amanda Strukus</i>	24
<i>Dottie Capece</i>	25
<i>Karen Carlone</i>	26
<i>Peggy Stigler</i>	27

Souper Bowl Sunday report

The New England Patriots won.

The United Methodists of Clinton held their annual meeting to elect leadership, reflect on the past year and consider the state of the church. Pastor Martha spoke about the upcoming General Conference February 23 to 26.

This was preceded by a delicious soup and sandwich lunch arranged by the youth.



Those who remembered brought seventy **70** items of nonperishable food and funds for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Food Pantries.





Satisfying Soup

Scouting Sunday Worship Leaders



Troop 55 was well represented on Scouting Sunday. They participated in the worship service, acolyting, ushering and reading the scriptures and had a great display of their activities in Fellowship Hall.

Do you look at the permanent Scout corner in the Hall? A plaque shows the many Troop 55 Scouts who have earned Eagle status.

The Epiphany of the 4th Day

Last month we spoke to “Three Day Movements”, Ecumenical Christian cloistered retreats that bring together Participants, Clergy and Lay Leaders for seventy-two hours of prayer, meditation, fellowship, team work wrapped in a short course in Christianity.



is sponsored by The Upper Room and is the UMC 4th Day retreat. Bev and I attended Grace Emmaus of NC weekends in 2002. We were sponsored by a friend from our church.

Our decision to attend proved to be a life transforming experience that truly elevated our understanding and participation in our Christian journey. Connecticut does not have an Emmaus Community. So, we have worked with the community in Southeast Massachusetts. If you are curious about Emmaus check <http://www.sneemmaus.org/wp/pilgrims/> or talk to Bev or me. Our NC Pastor observed the transformation in us. He questioned as to why we had attended the retreat. The answer was, “because a trusted friend asked us”.



www.kairosct.org/about.html is a 4th Day retreat that is alive and well in CT. Many UMC-Clinton members have baked cookies and offered up Prayer Vigils for these 72 hour retreats held within the walls of prisons. The purpose of the KAIROS program is to develop a Christian community, led by the inmates, within the prison. The 4th day result of KAIROS is participant’s recidivism rate drops from 75-80% to 15-25%.

Kairos CT is doing something unique this Spring. The Team will train during Feb/Mar and then will conduct two weekends at Radgowski/Corrigan RCCI ending on **Sunday 4/7/19 and 5/5/19**. There will be closing ceremonies that can ***be attended by the public***. Advance security clearance is required for anyone interested in attending the closings inside the walls of RCCI in ***Uncasville CT***.

Matthew 25:36 “*I was in prison and you came to visit me*” is a tough command for many people to realize. Attending the Kairos closings at RCCI could be a step for you to follow JESUS into prison to visit the KAIROS graduates. They are incredulous when they walk into the closing and find dozens of strangers singing GOD’s praises and applauding them.

So the ask is; would you be willing to attend the Kairos closing in Uncasville CT 4/7/19, 5/5/19? If so, please contact me and we can discuss security clearance, time, place etc. I will be on both teams and it would be heart warming to look up and see familiar faces from *UMC-Clinton Body of CHRIST!*

Carl Engelhart 13Feb19, carlengelhart@comcast.net 828-288-1315

“I am the church, you are the church... ”

We are the church - a worldwide family and Jesus Christ's living body. Last month we had our annual meeting. Ask the Church Office for the report on our activities of 2018. There are financial records of income and expenses as well as the budget for this year.

A amazing lot of ministry happens in Clinton, on the Shoreline and throughout the world. In addition to Sunday morning worship, we learn in Sunday School, bible studies and sharing faith with each other.

Church members watch over one another through the Membercare and Outreach Committee by visiting, phoning and sometimes feeding.

Our church family also has “household” responsibilities. Maintenance and repairs are a steady need given the age of our buildings and the large amount of use they provide. The pastor, organist and office staff receive salaries. We buy books, candles, music and paper. We have utilities: gas for heating, electricity for light, phones for keeping in touch. We have insurance.

So it is obvious that you are needed; your prayers are necessary, your presence, especially on Sunday morning - our weekly get together and your offerings to underwrite it all.

“All who follow Jesus all around the world, YES, we're the church together.”

Book Club

The discussion on Monday, March 25 will be about Booker T. Washington's biography, *Up From Slavery*. Born to former slaves, Washington was the founder of Tuskegee Institute, a noted speaker and wrote four books.

Please join us in Room 103 at 7 pm for talk and refreshments.

Holy, Holy, Holy, a hymn of trinity

We sang the familiar hymn # 64 on February 10. *Holy, Holy, Holy* was written by Reginald Heber to be sung on Trinity Sunday at Hodnet, where he was the vicar from 1807 to 1823.

Heber was an uncommon man. Born into wealth and culture, he devoted his life to serving God in England and India. His greatest ambition was to improve the hymn singing in his own church. In 1823 he accepted the post of Bishop of Calcutta, a diocese that included much of the South Pacific.

On April 3, 1826 he preached a sermon at Trichinopoly and afterward had a stroke and drowned in the swimming pool at the home where he was staying. In 1875 the Prince of Wales honored his memory with a tablet at his grave in the Anglican Church of Trichinopoly.

Heber used a “trinity of words” in this hymn. In the first verse God is “holy, merciful and mighty.” In the second, he closes with a trinity of phrases - “which wert, and art and evermore shalt be.”

The third stanza avows that God is “perfect in power, love and purity” and in the final verse “the earth, the sky and sea” all praise Him.

When it was published in 1861 a tune by John B. Dykes was used. He was also an Anglican rector and he called the tune “Nicaea” because it was at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. that the church worked through the belief in the Trinity.

Smile with Amazon

Our church is now a registered charity with the SMILE donation program through Amazon! Amazon will donate a small percentage of your purchase prices to the United Methodist Church of Clinton. We are listed as the Clinton UMC (CT) and since there are many Clinton United Methodist Churches be sure to find the (CT)

Whenever you are shopping at Amazon, just log on to

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Fern Pope, Mission Chair



Women's History Month

In Washington D. C.'s Hall of Statuary there is one woman among the statesmen. Frances Elizabeth Caroline Willard. She is closely identified with the Women's Christian Temperance Union, but that was only one "cause" for Frances. From girlhood she "revolted against the purely artificial limitations which prevented woman's participation in all the professions."

She was born in Churchville, NY near Rochester, where many revivals began. Two years later the family moved to Oberlin, Ohio. Her father and mother both took classes at Oberlin, the first coed college in the country. In 1845 the family moved to Wisconsin and joined the Methodist Church. When Frances entered Northwestern Female College in Evanston, Illinois, the whole family moved there.

Later Frances wrote, "The deepest thought and desire of my life would have been met, if my dear old Mother Church had permitted me to be a minister. The wandering life of an evangelist or a reformer comes nearest to, but cannot fill, the ideal which I early cherished, but did not expect ever publicly to confess." Eventually she wrote *Women in the Pulpit*, arguing women's right to be ordained and urging them to seek seminary training.

Frances Willard worked hard for her church. In 1865-66, she served as secretary of the American Methodist Ladies Centenary Assn. She helped to raise \$30,000 to build (Barbara) Heck Hall at Garrett Seminary. At the building's dedication, not one woman graced the platform. Frances wrote a speech, but a man read it.

She stopped by the Methodist Church's General Conference to bring ten-minute greetings from the W. C. T. U. She was aghast when a motion to let her speak provoked two hours of acrimonious debate.

(over)

In her presidential address to the WCTU that year she said, The time will come when the laying on of hands in consecration shall be decreed on a basis of “gifts, graces and usefulness: irrespective of sex.

An avid worker for Women’s right to vote, Frances didn’t live to see the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920.

Her goal was to make “the whole world homelike” because what the world needs now is mothering.” The difference between chaos and order is the incessant occupation of God. But, next to God, the greatest organizer is the mother.”

Africa University’s new president

Bishop Mande Muyombo is the first graduate of Africa University to become the chair of its Board of Directors. The 45-year-old North Katanga Area bishop was elected during the board’s October meeting. Mande holds a bachelor’s degree in Theology and a master’s degree in Peace, Leadership and Governance from the university.

“This is an expression of hope for the future. Here you have a young man who could not afford to go to school but was trained through the dedication in mission by the church to invest in the future.” Mande said. “The unity of the church, which is the gift of God, produced Africa University.”

Not only does the UMC of Clinton fully support Africa University through our apportionments, but the New York Conference paid 107.18% of its share in this institution.

John Wesley wrote this about the author of Colossians

How truly wise is this man! . . . He knows God:
his Father and his friend, parent of all good,
the center of the spirits of all flesh,
the sole happiness of all intelligent beings.
He sees, clearer than the light of the noonday sun,
that this is the end of human life:
to glorify God who made us for himself,
and to love and enjoy God for ever.
And with special clearness he sees the means to that end,
to the enjoyment of God in glory; even now to know,
to love, to imitate God,
and to believe in Jesus Christ whom God hath sent.

from Sermon on the Mount XIII

Church family notes

January 30, 2019

Dear Friends in Mission,

Thank you for your support of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). 100% of your contribution will go to “Where Most Needed, Advance #999895.” Your gift received on December 31st of \$700. is supporting programs that fight hunger and poverty, assist the displaced, and respond to disasters.

Please let us know if you have questions and/or concerns, as we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. You can find out more about UMCOR’s work by visiting our website at www.umcor.org. To receive weekly updates about our work, sign up on our website for the UMCOR Hotline, a weekly email about the latest happenings at UMCOR.

Your gift will bring hope to those who need it most.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes, General Treasurer
Rev. Russell Pierce, Director, The Advance

January 31, 2019

Dear Ms. Anderson,

We would like to thank you for the donation of handmade knitted hats, scarves and mittens that you gave to the Anchor House Women’s Facility. They most certainly kept the women warm and they loved them. Your generosity is well received by everyone who is currently in treatment.

Once again, thank you for your thoughtfulness and we pray for the Lord’s continued blessing upon you.

“I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these, you have done it for me.” Matthew 25:40

Sincerely,

Alison King
Executive Director

Thank you to Gail Brown and her neighbor , Lynda Larson, who brought to the church several books and much music, which will be added to the collections we already have. Sometimes organists and music directors come here in search of a more obscure hymn or anthem!

When I was young and lived on Lake Erie's shore, the nearest fire department was six miles away. It was a volunteer operation so the fighters had to assemble from wherever they lived when notified of a fire. If it were at night they probably had to dress and find their clothing, shoes and car keys, etc. before locating the fire.

Editor's Corner

The worst problem the fire company had when called to a fire in the northern part of our very large township, was crossing the New York Central and Nickel Plate railroad tracks. If long freight trains were passing by, one's house or barn would be ashes before fire trucks could arrive.

Around 1906 my grandparent's barn burned and my very young mother remembers being taken to the next farm away from the flames. A hired man who slept in the barn survived, but Grandma had his pocket change which had been fused together by the heat.

At the Atkin's farm next door it was the house that burned. It was replaced by a smaller home where my brother lived while the couple vacationed in Florida. It still had gas lighting.

The only neighborhood fire that I saw was a summer home that was being renovated. Combustible items set the big fire off at night. I am sure that the whole lakeshore area was relieved when another fire station was built there.

One day after we had moved to Killingworth, I was hosting a women's circle, when someone mentioned smoke at the window. One of the neighborhood's small children had ignited the woods behind our houses. I called the KVFD and they were coming up our driveway (the only way to the woods) in just a few minutes. I was so impressed!

Firepersons are now called "first responders" and daily we see them in the news extinguishing fires, rescuing people and pets, directing traffic, etc.

We have had two fires in the church - one caused by a stove that was in Fellowship Hall and the other by arson. The arsonist had already set the Stafford Building on fire, so the volunteers were on the scene.

Our church has an excellent alarm system. In case of fire it does not go to the fire department directly. Data on fire location etc. goes to USA Alarm Company which immediately reports all information to the Clinton Fire Department and to our pastor or secretary. If any of the five sensors becomes inoperative by such things as dirt or broken wires the company notifies us.

SAA

The information page

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Council Chair: Ray Silvernale
Trustee President: Barbara Cubberly
Treasurer: Carol Bell
Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg



Find us on Facebook

<i>Worship service</i>	<i>10 AM Sunday</i>
<i>Classes</i>	<i>9 AM Sunday, September to June</i>
<i>Crafters</i>	<i>10AM - 2 PM Monday</i>
<i>Soup kitchen</i>	<i>5:00 PM Wednesday</i>
<i>Boy Scout Troop 55</i>	<i>7:00 PM Thursday</i>

If you have a smart phone scan this code for electronic contributions. You may also go to www.clintonumc.org and click on "Donate" to set up one time or recurring electronic giving. It is quick and easy.



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