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West Hartford United Methodist Church Happenings

Volume 58 Issue 6

April 2015



²⁷ “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! – Luke 12:27-28

I saw my first crocuses on the Friday before Palm Sunday. The bright yellow and cheerful purple of these two tiny flowers living less than a half an inch from the ground are a message from God assuring us that Resurrection is real. Resurrection happens – spring comes from winter. Resurrection is real – good is born from bad. Resurrection happens – life comes forth from death (be it a dead relationship, a deceased loved one, extinct dreams, or lifeless expectations).

Resurrection happens because God our loving Father raises Jesus Christ from the dead. That means that death never has the final say. Tragedy never triumphs. Ends are never final. Jesus IS alive. Life has the final say. So as spring progresses, consider the flowers that fill God’s world, and be assured that you are Jesus’ beloved, and Jesus is supplying your every need. For if God clothes the flowers with such beauty, think of how much more our risen Jesus Christ is clothing you with His life, clothing you with His love, clothing you with His care, and clothing you with His opportunities to clothe others in the Resurrection love of God.

Sincerely,
Pastor Ric

Prayer List

Please Pray For

- Mary Quinn and her family as they mourn her Father's death.
- The friends and family of the late Eleanor Leary (who lived across the street from the Church).
- Shannon Davis – healing for her legs.
- All anywhere in the world who are mourning the death of someone they love.
- Betty Anderson – healing.
- Mary Larson – healing.
- Teresa Mercaldi (Pastor Ric's Granny)
- Those suffering the cruelty of Bokko Haram and ISIS
- District Superintendent Ken Kieffer – that God will guard his health and strength.
- Bishop Jane Allen Middleton



Artisan Easter Cupcakes

On Easter Sunday April 5th, you are invited to come and enjoy a festive Easter cupcake during the 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - and then if you would like, please consider purchasing a tray of six cupcakes for \$6.00.

Monies raised will support UMW missions

Adopt-a-Grandparent Event April 12th – 4:30 – 5:30 P.M.

The children will decorate birthday cards and help assemble birthday boxes for the children at the Friendship Center. Cheese pizza supper to follow. **Sunday, April 12th from 3:30 –5:30 P.M. in Fellowship Hall.** For more information please contact Edyie Steimer 860-665-7981.



Passover Seder

Come be a part of a sacred and meaningful experience at with your West Hartford UMC Family at our 6th Passover Seder at 6:30 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, April 2. We will enjoy a full Passover meal just as Jesus did on the night He created the Lord's Supper. The menu will feature Matzo Ball Soup, Lamb, Beef Brisket and other ceremonial foods as well as dessert. Gluten free matzos will be available and the lamb and vegetables are gluten free.

Because this is a very elaborate meal we are requiring pre-paid reservations. Tickets will be given to those who make a prepaid reservation. You may make a reservation by filling out the information below and including your payment or by e-mailing Pastor Rick at rhanse@snet.net

Cost: \$10.00 per each person 13 Years old through Adult, Children 7-12 years old \$5.00 each, Children below 7 years old free

Name _____

Number attending _____

Total Cost _____

____ Payment Included



Good Friday Service

On Friday 3 April at 7:00pm please join your West Hartford Church family in the sanctuary for our Good Friday service of the cross. We will spend time reading the account of Jesus' death and remembering that Jesus in His love for us offers His life so that we can experience life that lasts beyond the bounds of physical life in this world.



Easter Egg Hunt

At 10:00am on Saturday 4 April plan on bringing your children to our 17th Annual Easter Egg Hunt. There will be coffee, tea, punch and donuts to enjoy before the hunt and Pastor Rick will explain the meaning of the Easter Egg, and why we give out candy at Easter. The children will be divided into age brackets for the hunt. Please be with us, rain or shine.



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES 5 APRIL

6:05 am Sunrise Service

Begin celebrating the Resurrection of our Savior with our 6:15am Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden. Starting our Easter Celebration in the church's cemetery gives us a special connection to the women who first discovered that Jesus was not in the tomb but risen from the dead! After the service enjoy fellowship and a light breakfast in the John Wesley Room

9:00am Traditional Worship

Celebrate Christ's Resurrection with the triumphant sounds of timeless Easter Hymns. Enjoy the bright beauty that the Risen Savior brings during this joyous and meaningful worship experience. The service will feature our guest organist Ms. Suzanne Gates who directs the Hartford City Singers.

10:00am Common Hour

Celebrate the Resurrection with a cup of coffee and a designer cupcake hand crafted by our Cupcake Small Group.

11:00am Morning Joy Worship

Make this fun and festive service the spiritual centerpiece of your Easter Celebration by singing God's praises to contemporary songs that enthusiastically proclaim the great story of Christ's Resurrection. Enjoy the closing processional of the flower-covered cross as we carry it to the front lawn of the church grounds to show the world that Jesus Christ is alive!

Support the Friendship Service Center of New Britain in the Foodshare Walk Against Hunger

Howdy!

On **Sunday, May 3rd** , Aldo and I will be walking with other folks from WHUMC and lots of other places. Why? For the same reason I have done this for about 15 years: to raise money to combat hunger in my community. For me, it is a Walk of Faith, trusting that God will supply our needs as promised, through our own hard work and through the gifts of people just like you!

Approximately, 80% of what I (and others) raise will go to the **Friendship Service Center of New Britain**, where I am blessed to work (yes, where my ministry and heart are!), 5% will go to End Hunger CT and 15% will support Foodshare, the food bank from which we get much of our food. In Connecticut, more than 128,000 local residents are unable to have enough food on their table, and 50,000 of them are children. Nationwide, the numbers are even greater. This is truly an injustice!

Because of your support last year, we helped make possible for the Friendship Center to serve more than **90,000** meals and snacks to our hungry and sometimes homeless neighbors. Wow!

I am asking for your support again. Please pray for my effort AND make a donation! You can donate online through this link by picking any WHUMC walker you would like to support (support as many as you want! ☺):

http://site.foodshare.org/site/TR/Walk/General?pg=team&fr_id=1300&team_id=12440

Or, you can give a check or cash to someone at church who is walking. If you need to reach me, try rivera@friendshippervicecenter.org or [860-225-0211](tel:860-225-0211), [extension 208](#). OR, if you would like to walk WITH me, let's do it!!!

Thank you in advance for your participation in the 2015 Walk. Together, we can make an amazing difference reaching out to God's children and having fun doing it.

Rev. B. Suzy Rivera

UM ARMY

Reminder: UMArmy Individual Registrations are due soon!

WHUMC will be sending a mixed age group of youth and adults on a UMArmy trip again this summer. Youth who will complete grade 7 by the end of June 2015 are eligible to participate. We will be going to Scranton, PA from July 12-18 (We will be staying at Elm Park UMC, in Scranton, PA). Registration is now open and available <https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Indv/1392/> If interested in learning more about the program, please contact Mary Suter at mary.suter@att.net or [860-409-9232](tel:860-409-9232) or talk to one of last year's participants: Karen Loveland, Katey Welch, Jen Bush, Kumar Ponnudurai, or Peter Suter. See: <http://ne.umarmy.org/> for more details on the program.

Christian Education News

Vacation Bible School

We will be having our VBS camp the week of July 6-10, 2015 this summer. Each year, our numbers have grown for this camp and it has always proven to be a huge success. This year the theme will be “**Everest: Conquering Challenges with God’s Great Power**”. We hope to have another amazing backdrop set-up for the camp like we had last year. If you have artistic abilities and are interested in helping, we would truly appreciate it. We will need volunteers to help make this camp the success that it has been in the past so please consider volunteering your time. It is so much fun! The children are wonderful and will bring you so much joy.

Jam

I would like to thank all of those who continue to help out with Jam. I cannot express my gratitude enough for all of your hard work and dedication to the Christian Education of the children of our church. As a result of this, Jam continues to run smoothly and the children seem to be learning a lot and continue to grow in their faith. We still need more volunteers, so I urge you to please see me to choose a date to teach.

Easter Egg Hunt

We will be having our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 4th at 10:00. I look forward to seeing all of the children there! We sincerely appreciate your generosity with all of the candy donations.

Pioneer Club

I am busy planning activities for the Pioneer Club for the next session. We will be doing many fun activities as we continue to grow in our faith and love for Jesus. Please contact me via email ASAP to let me know if your child will be attending so I can plan the groups and activities accordingly. I will need parents to help lead the group this session as there are a few Wednesday nights that I am not available.

Please contact me with any questions, suggestions or concerns at whmns@snet.net or 860.521.8063. I always welcome your thoughts and your interest in becoming a volunteer for Jam, VBS, or at our Nursery School.

Sincerely,
Tracey Cappellucci, Director of Christian Education

SAVE THE DATES

The Church Grounds Cleanup has been rescheduled - Please note the new date below

Church Grounds Spring Cleanup – Saturday **April 25th** 8:00 a.m. until the job is complete (hopefully around 1:00ish).

Please plan on spending Saturday morning **April 25th** with us as we work on making our church grounds beautiful for the spring season. Any time you can give would be a blessing. In the morning there will be plenty of coffee and donuts. For lunch we will be serving pizzas.

We will be spreading mulch, cleaning up sticks and limbs, clearing leaves, and cleaning up the memorial garden and the stone gardens. So bring your pruners, trimmers, garden and lawn rakes, flat shovels, snow shovels leaf blowers, work gloves and wheel barrows.

If you are able to help, we are trying to get a headcount. Please contact April Parsons 860 778-3528 or acparsons111@comcast.net and let her know your availability. This is a big job and we need your help – many hands make light work!

Swedish Smorgasbord, Sun. April 26th 5:00pm

Sun. April 26th 5:00pm

Cost: \$15.00 Adult | \$7.00 Child

You will not want to miss this delicious meal! In addition to many traditional buffet dishes we will also have a selection of Swedish dishes as well (Swedish dishes will be clearly marked). We promise you will not be disappointed.

Tickets will go on sale beginning Sunday April 5, 2015

Our menu will consist of the following dishes:

- An assortment of Cheeses
- An assortment of salads (cucumber salad, cole slaw, gelatin salad, several Swedish specialty salads, etc.)
- Deviled Eggs
- Baked Ham
- Swedish Meatballs
- Swedish sausage
- Baked macaroni
- Baked beans
- Potatoes
- Turnips
- An assortment of breads
- Rice pudding
- Swedish Cookies
- Swedish Tarts

Please contact April Parsons with questions: acparsons111@comcast.net or 860-778-3528



WHUMC Scholarship Applications

Scholarship Applications are now available from the WHUMC office. High School seniors and prior scholarship award recipients continuing their full-time post high school education in an undergraduate, vocational, or technical degree/certificate program for the duration of their participation in the program, are eligible to apply. Scholarship eligibility requirements and applications can be obtained from the church office.

Undergraduate students who received a WHUMC Scholarship Award in their senior year of high school will only need to complete the “2015 WHUMC Continuing Higher Education Scholarship Application.”

Applications must be returned to the WHUMC office no later than **May 15th, 2015**.

Please contact the church office if you want to apply for a scholarship and the appropriate application(s) will be sent to you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Janusauskas at nancyjay@comcast.net or Debbie Haverkamp at (860) 521-7766.

Harvest Fair Notes

Harvest Fair preparations are in full swing for our October 24, 2015 event. While doing your spring cleaning please keep the White Elephant booth in mind. If you're planting a vegetable garden perhaps you can grow pickling cukes for the Deli.

If you knit, crochet, sew, paint, do woodworking or other crafts we need your help! Workshops are Monday evenings 4:00PM-7:00PM the 2nd, 4th, & 5th weeks of the month and every Tuesday morning 9:30AM-1:00PM. Join us for crafting and conversation. Workshops are open to all members of the church family; men, women & teens. Don't be shy! If you prefer to work at home materials and patterns will be provided.

Silent Auctions letters will be mailed in a few weeks. If you have suggestions please give them to Larry Wilder, Joy Ferguson, or Debbie Haverkamp in the church office.

WE HAVE SEVERAL UNSOLD SILENT AUCTION ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM LAST YEAR. Please contact me if you're interested in purchasing some of them.

After Glow Tanning & Beauty Bar, Avon. Certificate for 1 Auto Bronzer Session, Value \$24.99.

Quassy Amusement Park After 5 pass for 2 valid Monday-Thursday in June, July, & August 2015, not valid July 4th. Value \$22.00.

Two month family membership to Healthtrax in Newington.

Villari Martial Arts Center, Elmwood - 2 weeks of lessons for an adult or child.

\$100 Gift Certificate to All In Its Place, LLC for an in home or office consultation to help you de-clutter, organize and re-purpose for better usage and efficiency.

Minimum bids of \$5.00 please by April 12 at 10:30AM, coffee hour.

In His Service,
Joy Ferguson, Harvest Fair Chairperson
grammy2drewski@yahoo.com
[860 523-8017](tel:8605238017)



2015 Save the Dates!

Date	Event	Notes	Contact
4/2/2015 (Thu.) 5:00pm – 8:00pm	Seder Dinner	More info to follow	April Parsons
4/5/2015 (Sun.) 10:00am – 11:00am	Easter Cupcake Sale	This will occur during common hour	April Parsons
4/26/2015 (Sun.) 5:00pm	Swedish Smorgasbord	More info to follow	April Parsons
9/12/2015 (Sat.) 9:00am – 10:00am	UMW Meeting	Meet in the Fellowship Hall	Nancy Janusauskas
9/24/2014 (Thu.)	1st Pumpkin Unloading	Serve dinner for helpers	Nancy Janusauskas
10/8/2014 (Thu.)	2nd Pumpkin Unloading	Serve dinner for helpers	Nancy Janusauskas
10/17/2015 (Sat.) 9:00am – 2:00pm	Harvest Fair	Set-up starts on Tue 10/13. Tue 10/13 – Thu 10/15 anytime you can help ,and Friday 9:00 am	Joy Fergusson
10/23/2015 (Fri.) 7-9pm 10/24/2015 (Sat.) 8-1pm	Rummage Sale	Set-up starts on Sun 10/18	Doris Shuskus
11/29/2015 (Sun.) 4:00pm – 6:00pm	Tree Lighting and Carol Sing Dinner	More info to Follow	April Parsons
12/5/2015 (Sat.) 12:00pm – 3:00pm	Holiday Luncheon	More info to Follow	Nancy Janusauskas
12/6/2015 (Sun.)	Christmas Tea	More info to Follow	Judy Morris

UMW Officers 2014-2015

Nancy Janusauskas, President &
Financial Secretary
April Parsons, Vice President
Mary Suter, Treasurer
Cheryl Sansone, Secretary

UMW Contact Info:

April Parsons	860 778-3528	acparsons111@comcast.net
Doris Shuskus	860 561-2752	
Joy Fergusson	860 523-8017	
	grammy2drewski@yahoo.com	
Judy Morris	860 747-6228	bjemorris@comcast.net
Karen Powers	860 665-0786	
Nancy Janusauskas	860 521-1166	nancyjay@comcast.net

THANK YOU

Thank You For Your Support!

Together, we raised \$564 at the RiseUP Breakfast fundraiser that was held on Sunday March 15th. The UMW has generously combined this total with an additional \$186, totaling \$750, which will benefit The RiseUP Group (See below for more information).

We are deeply grateful for your generosity!

Many thanks and blessings!

April Parsons, UMW & Matt Conway, The RiseUP Group

ABOUT RISEUP

MISSION

To empower our youth to become the catalysts that **UPLIFT** and **INSPIRE** urban communities

VISION

To breakdown all the barriers to accessing equal education and opportunities.

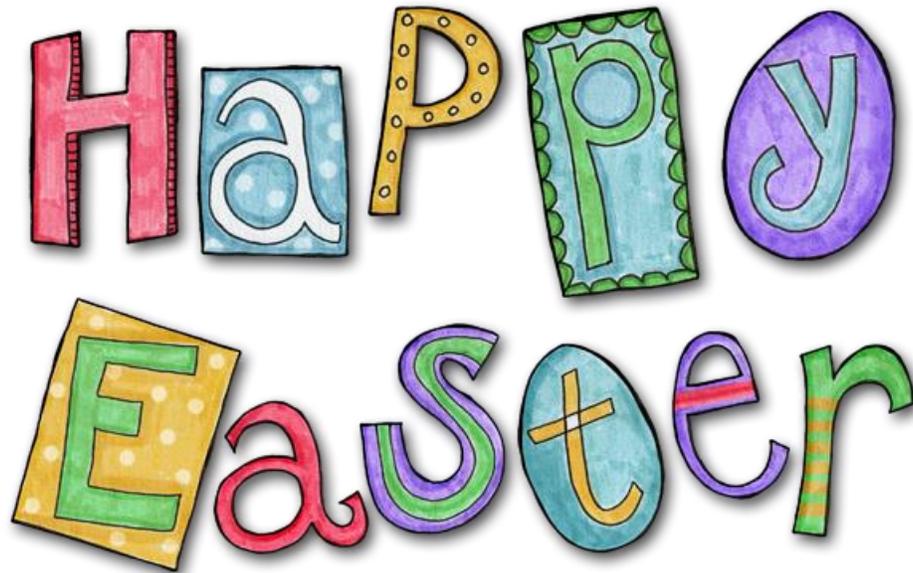
GOAL

To provide underserved youth across the country with the necessary resources needed to achieve their maximum level of academic excellence, personal growth, and professional prosperity. RiseUP's "**pay it forward**" philosophy will drive social equality in our partner schools and communities.

April Birthdays

April 2 - Kathy Barnowski, Matt DeLeon
April 4 - Gabrielle Cappellucci, Ray
Fairchild
April 7 - Marianne Black
April 8 - Betty Anderson
April 13 - Carey Greene
April 15 - Gabriel Cortes, Liz Michelson

April 16 - Alberto Cortes
April 17 - Robyn Weiss, Kristen Wilder
April 24 - Karen Ellsworth
April 25 - Ken Styron
April 26 - Camille Miofsky, Tina Greene
April 29 - Abigail Styron



Please contact Debbie Haverkamp at 860-521-7766
or whumc1959@sbcglobal.net to have your birthday or anniversary added.