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December 2015 Newsletter

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The first Christmas came ever so quietly as an unknown family takes up temporary residence in an animal stable where the woman lies on the straw-covered floor to give birth to her baby boy. Her husband, serving as the midwife, helps deliver the baby and then wraps the newborn boy in bands of cloth used to keep his body warm and straight.

Christmas comes and the world moves on ahead, completely unaware that God's greatest miracle has happened, and that the most important rescue mission in human history is underway. In the stillness of a stable God goes to work through three people who are nobodies to the world. It is through these "nobodies" named Mary, Joseph, and Jesus that God works to rescue everybody.

Please take some time during Christmastime to calm your mind, quiet your schedule, stow your smartphone, and invite Jesus to be born in your heart and born in your mind. Allow sacred time to be Christ's Christmas gift to you. I promise you that if you will take this time

seriously you will experience Christmas in new and wonderful ways that will be born out of the presence of the Prince of Peace living in and through you.

**Christmastime Blessings,**

**Pastor Ric**

**Prayer List**

Please Pray For

-Expectant Mom Surbhi Das and the child in her womb. The baby is suffering from enlarged kidneys.

-Larry Allen (brother of Lynda Anderson) who underwent unexpected cancer surgery.

Shannon Davis – healing for her legs which have caused her excruciating pain for three years.

**Memorials**

Donations to the Memorial Fund  
in memory of Anita Ellsworth

*Ann Burns*

*Bill and Linda Weber*

*Marjorie Lewis*

*Dorothy Ahlstrin*

*Anne Jones*

*Barbara Zyla*

*Frank & Nancy Salamon*

*Kenneth Shuskus*

*Doris Shuskus*

*Dolores Vanderbilt*

*Rose Morey*

*Scott & Karen Powers*

*Jane Wood*

*Nancy & Al Janusauskas*

*Fred & Linda Wohlgemuth*



**Christmas Eve At West Hartford UMC**

***7:00pm Informal Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service***

Gather with children of all ages for this fun and festive celebration of Jesus'

birthday. Come sing Christmas Carols. Pastor Ric will read a special Christmas story. After the service enjoy cookies and hot chocolate in the Fellowship Hall.

### ***10:00pm Service Of Lessons and Carols***

Join in a sublime celebration of our Savior's birth. Hear the Christmas story from the Bible, sing your favorite Christmas carols and allow the light of Jesus to fill your heart.

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## **Christmas Play**

Join us for our annual Christmas play as the children of our church perform  
Twas the Light Before Christmas on  
**Sunday, December 13th at 4 pm.**

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## **Harvest Fair Notes**

Many thanks to all who helped to make the Harvest Fair a success again this year! Plans are already underway for our 2016 fair! Craft workshops will resume after the holidays. We still need "glitzy" buttons and new cotton rope. If you purchased Silent Auction tickets, passes, etc. please be sure to be aware of any restrictions and redeem them in a timely manner.

In Christ's Service,

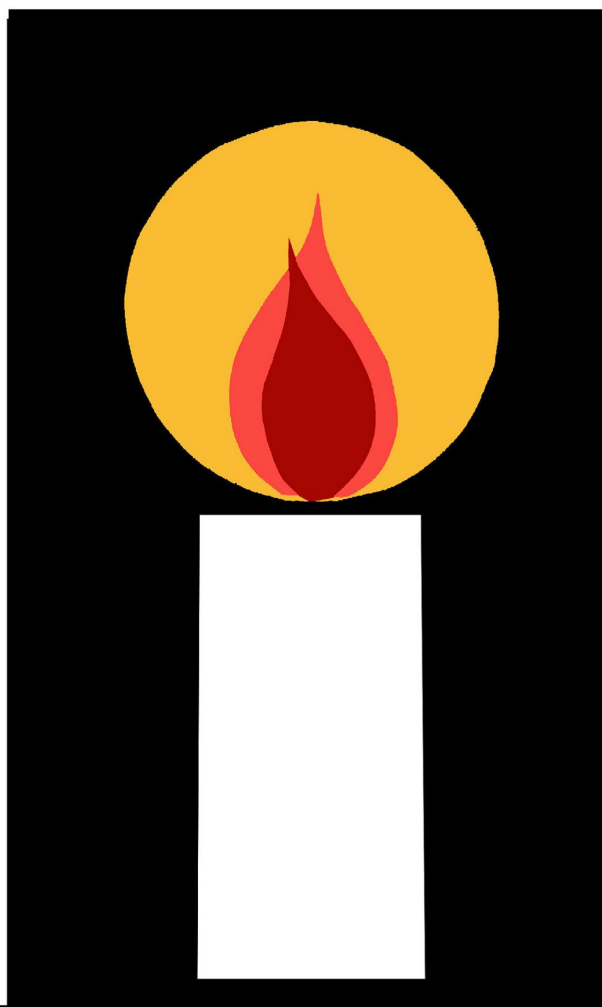
Joy Ferguson,  
Harvest Fair Chairperson  
[grammy2drewski@yahoo.com](mailto:grammy2drewski@yahoo.com)  
[860 523-8017](tel:8605238017)

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# Be the Light On The Longest Night

Help Raise Awareness of Homelessness

**December 22, 2015**



**Buy Your Luminary  
And Support The Efforts  
Of The Friends Of The  
Friendship Service Center  
Of New Britain**



**To Assist The  
Homeless And  
Needy Among Us.**

**(\$5.00 per Luminary)**

*To place an order or for further information:*

**Orders are due by December 6th**

Nancy Janusauskus:

860-604-3857 or [nancyjay@comcast.net](mailto:nancyjay@comcast.net)

Karen Loveland, Director of Administration:

860-521-7766 or [whumc1959@sbcglobal.net](mailto:whumc1959@sbcglobal.net)

Rev. B. Suzy Rivera:

860-965-2531 or [srivera@friendshipservicecenter.org](mailto:srivera@friendshipservicecenter.org)

*Website:*

<http://friendshipservicecenter.org/friends/>

*Email:* [friends@friendshipservicecenter.org](mailto:friends@friendshipservicecenter.org)

**UMW**

**2015-2016 Save the Dates!**

| Date | Event            | Notes               | Contact |
|------|------------------|---------------------|---------|
|      | Holiday Luncheon | More info to Follow |         |

|  |  |  |                   |
|--|--|--|-------------------|
| <b>12/5/2015 (Sat.)</b><br>12:00pm – 3:00pm                      |  |  | Nancy Janusauskas |
| <b>12/6/2015 (Sun.)</b>  | <b>Christmas Tea</b>                           | More info to Follow  | Judy Morris       |
| <b>12/20/2015 (Sun.)</b><br>10:00am – 11:00am                    | <b>Christmas Cupcake Sale</b>                  | This will occur during common hour   | April Parsons     |
| <b>2/6/2016 (Sat.)</b><br>9:00am – 10:00am                       | <b>UMW Meeting</b>                             | Meet in the Fellowship Hall  | Nancy Janusauskas |
| <b>2/7/2016 (Sun.)</b>   | <b>Super Bowl Party</b>                        | More info to follow  | April Parsons     |
| <b>2/9/2016 (Tue.)</b><br>5:00pm – 7:00pm                        | <b>Shrove Tuesday<br/>Pancake Supper</b>       | More info to follow  | Nancy Janusauskas |
| <b>2/14/2016 (Sun.)</b><br>10:00am – 11:00am                     | <b>Valentine Cupcake Sale</b>                  | This will occur during common hour   | April Parsons     |
| <b>3/17/2016 (Thu.)</b>  | <b>Belle's Breakfast</b>                       | UMW Catering Event   | Nancy Janusauskas |
| <b>3/20/2016 (Sun.)</b><br>11:00am to 12:00am                    | <b>Palm Sunday<br/>Easter Bake Sale</b>        | This will follow the 10:00am<br>Combined Service   | Karen Powers      |
| <b>3/24/2016 (Thu.)</b><br>5:00pm – 8:00pm                       | <b>Seder Dinner</b>                            | More info to follow  | April Parsons     |
| <b>3/27/2016 (Sun.)</b><br>10:00am – 11:00am                     | <b>Easter Cupcake Sale</b>                     | This will occur during common hour   | April Parsons     |
| <b>4/17/2016 (Sun.)</b>  | <b>Swedish Smorgasbord</b>                     | More info to follow  | April Parsons     |
| <b>4/29/2016 (Fri.) 7-9pm</b><br><b>4/30/2016 (Sat.) 8-1pm</b>   | <b>Rummage Sale</b>                            | Set-up starts on Sun 4/24  | Doris Shuskus     |
| <b>9/10/2016 (Sat.)</b><br>9:00am – 10:00am                      | <b>UMW Meeting</b>                             | Meet in the Fellowship Hall  | Nancy Janusauskas |
| <b>9/15/2016 (Thu.)</b>  | <b>Belle's Luncheon</b>                        | UMW Catering Event   | Nancy Janusauskas |
| <b>-TBD- (Thu.)</b>  | <b>1<sup>st</sup> Pumpkin Unloading</b>        | Serve dinner for helpers   | Nancy Janusauskas |
| <b>-TBD- (Thu.)</b>  | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Pumpkin Unloading</b>        | Serve dinner for helpers   | Nancy Janusauskas |
| <b>10/22/2016 (Sat.)</b><br>9:00am – 2:00pm                      | <b>Harvest Fair</b>                            | Set-up starts on Tue 10/16.<br>Tue 10/18 – Thu 10/20 anytime you<br>can help ,and Friday 9:00 am | Joy Fergusson     |
| <b>10/28/2016 (Fri.) 7-9pm</b><br><b>10/29/2016 (Sat.) 8-1pm</b> | <b>Rummage Sale</b>                            | Set-up starts on Sun 10/23   | Doris Shuskus     |
| <b>11/27/2016 (Sun.)</b><br>4:00pm – 6:00pm                      | <b>Tree Lighting and Carol<br/>Sing Dinner</b> | More info to Follow  | April Parsons     |
| <b>12/3/2016 (Sat.)</b><br>12:00pm – 3:00pm                      | <b>Holiday Luncheon</b>                        | More info to Follow  | Nancy Janusauskas |
| <b>12/4/2016 (Sun.)</b>  | <b>Christmas Tea</b>                           | 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](mailto:acparsons111@comcast.net)  
Doris Shuskus 860 561-2752  
Joy Fergusson 860 523-8017  
[grammy2drewski@yahoo.com](mailto:grammy2drewski@yahoo.com)  
Judy Morris 860 747-6228  
[bjemorris@comcast.net](mailto:bjemorris@comcast.net)  
Karen Powers 860 665-0786

Nancy Janusauskas  
[nancyjay@comcast.net](mailto:nancyjay@comcast.net)

860 521-1166



### Artisan Christmas Cupcakes

On Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to come and enjoy a festive Christmas 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.

*Please Join us  
for a Cup of Christmas Tea*

Date: Sunday, December 6th

Time: 4:00 pm

Place: West Hartford United

Methodist Church

1358 New Britain Avenue

West Hartford, CT

RSVP by Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
521-7766

The United Methodist Women invite all ladies to bring your relatives, neighbors and friends and join us for a special afternoon of fellowship as we share poignant holiday stories and carols served with cookies and a cup of Christmas tea – a lovely, centering way to begin the Advent season.

ALL WOMEN OF THE WEST  
HARTFORD UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

*THE UMW'S  
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON  
ON SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup> 2015  
AT 12:00 NOON  
Angelo's On Main  
289 South Main Street, West  
Hartford*

AS WE ENTER THE MOST  
JOYOUS OF HOLIDAYS ENJOY  
AN AFTERNOON OF CHRISTMAS  
CAMARADERIE, SAVOR FOOD  
AND THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

## Thank you

The Board of Trustees would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to everyone who participated in the 2015 Church Grounds Work Days. Whether it was pulling weeds, spreading mulch, mowing the lawn, raking, trimming, weed whacking – you were there to make it all happen, month after month. As a result, our church grounds thrived over the various seasons of 2015 and this year the grounds were exceptionally beautiful! Thanks to each and every one of you for your time and commitment!!!

Sincerely,  
The Trustees Committee

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A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Thank you to everyone who donated and packed a shoebox this year and helped become a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child. With your help, the West Hartford United Methodist Church was able to provide 120 shoeboxes that were filled with a variety of gifts for children of all ages and will ship to over 100 countries around the world. On behalf of the United Methodist Women, thank you for your faithful support in helping children in underserved areas.

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Dear Pastor Hanse,

I am just writing to say thank you for supporting our troop and also for giving it a home where we can gather together. Without your support and hospitality, I would not have been able to gain the knowledge and friends that scouting has provided me with. I have spent many years at WHUMC and have not come to think of it as a very familiar place in which I have become comfortable and at peace in. I have achieved my Eagle Scout and have many people to thank for it, including you, so I will now say thanks again.

Sincerely,  
Benjamin Meis

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Dear UMW,

Thank you so much for doing the reception following mom's memorial service. You always do such a beautiful job, and it means so much to family. Again, sincere thanks for your kindness.

Love,  
Karen

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The Men's Tuesday morning study group would like to thank everyone who contributed to our

collection to benefit CCMC. Your generous gifts will help support families as they face the challenges of their child's serious illness.

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Dear Pastor Ric and Church family,

Thank you so much for the projector you have given us to use for our worship services at First UMC Middletown. It will help enhance our services in joyful music and spirit filled prayer. It will also allow us to leave behind heavy hymnals we have to transport each week. You have blessed us West Hartford UMC! Thanks and praise for your generous gift!

Pastor Barbara & First Middletown UMC

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### **December Birthdays**

|                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| December 2                      | Jonah White              |
| December 10                     | James Quinn              |
| December 12                     | Lucy Fleming             |
| December 13                     | Gary Fleming             |
| December 14                     | Susan McKnight           |
| December 19                     | Damien Saila-Ngita,      |
| Onyx Sanchez                    |                          |
| December 20                     | T J Fravel, Tom          |
| Haverkamp                       |                          |
| December 21                     | Calvin Borio             |
| December 23                     | Wayne Ferguson           |
| December 24                     | Jessica Serrano,         |
| Beverly Johnson                 |                          |
| December 26                     | Dorothy Ahlstrin, Stuart |
| Carlson, Alex Dube, Debbie Paul |                          |
| December 29                     | Nathaniel Child          |
| December 30                     | Emma George              |

### **December Anniversaries**

|             |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|
| December 27 | Anne Jones & Kent |
|             | Sinram            |
| December 29 | Sharon & A J      |
|             | Speranza          |

Please contact Karen Loveland at  
860-521-7766  
or [whumc1959@sbcglobal.net](mailto:whumc1959@sbcglobal.net) to have your  
birthday or anniversary added.



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**Our mailing address is:**

1358 New Britain Ave., West Hartford, CT 06110

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