

West Hartford United Methodist Church Happenings

Volume 58 Issue 4

February 2015

Fourteen February is Valentine's Day – the day we celebrate love. Curious about the origins of Valentine's Day I did a little research. At the history.com website I discovered two interesting things about Valentine's Day. Here's what they have to say about the origins of the day of love and chocolate.

There are about a dozen St. Valentines, plus a pope. The saint we celebrate on Valentine's Day is known officially as St. Valentine of Rome in order to differentiate him from the dozen or so other Valentines on the list. Because "Valentinus"—from the Latin word for worthy, strong or powerful—was a popular moniker between the second and eighth centuries A.D., several martyrs over the centuries have carried this name. The official Roman Catholic roster of saints shows about a dozen who were named Valentine or some variation thereof. The most recently beatified Valentine is St. Valentine Berrio-Ochoa, a Spaniard of the Dominican order who traveled to Vietnam, where he served as bishop until his beheading in 1861. Pope John Paul II canonized Berrio-Ochoa in 1988. There was even a Pope Valentine, though little is known about him except that he served a mere 40 days around A.D. 827.

Chaucer may have invented Valentine's Day. The medieval English poet Geoffrey Chaucer often took liberties with history, placing his poetic characters into fictitious historical contexts that he represented as real. No record exists of romantic celebrations on Valentine's Day prior to a poem Chaucer wrote around 1375. In his work "Parliament of Fowles," he links a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine's feast day—an association that didn't exist until after his poem received widespread attention. The poem refers to February 14 as the day birds (and humans) come together to find a mate. When Chaucer wrote, "For this was sent on Seynt Valentyne's day / Whan every foul cometh ther to choose his mate," he may have invented the holiday we know today.

Whatever the origin of Valentine's Day, we who follow Jesus Christ belong to the God who is Love made human. God is love. All who live in God live in love. When Jesus lives within us, He enables us to love as he love – doing whatever it takes for the well-being of others (even if they are our enemies). May Valentine's Day be for us a time for celebrating how much Jesus loves us by loving others with the life-enriching love of Jesus.

Sincerely,
Pastor Ric

Prayer List

Please Pray For

- Betty Anderson – Healing from a fall.
- Jim Armstrong – Recovering from surgery to repair an aneurysm.
- Shannon Davis – Healing for her legs which are in terrible pain and cannot be used.
- Linda Wohlgemuth – Recovering from a recent hospitalization.
- Shirley Wuelfing – Recovering from pneumonia at the Covenant Village Manner.
- Those suffering from Ebola.
- The people treating Ebola victims.
- People being terrorized by Boko Haram
- District Superintendent Ken Kieffer
- Bishop Jane Middleton
- Governor Molloy
- President Obama



Please plan on worshipping the Lord on **Wednesday, 18 February at 7:00pm**. Join your church family as we mark the beginning of Lent, the season of reflection and repentance that leads to Easter. A service of the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion will take place in the sanctuary. During this service we will remember that we are human beings who need God's grace, God's love and God's forgiveness.



A Valentine Cupcake Fundraiser

Sunday February 8th

(During the 10:00 am Common Hour)

A tray of six cupcakes for \$6.00

All proceeds will benefit

The South Park Inn Of Hartford





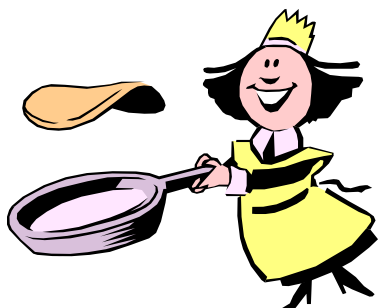
Pancake Supper!

**Come join us for food and fellowship as the
UMW celebrates Shrove Tuesday**

**Menu: All you can eat pancakes, sausages,
applesauce, coffee, and orange juice**

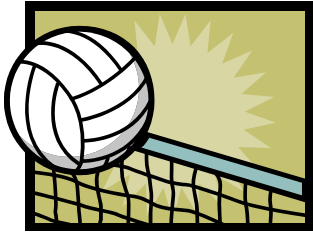
Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2015

**Time: 5:00-7:00 p.m.
(Children under 4 free)
Children 5-10 \$4.00
12 and older \$ 6.00 each**



Scrapbooking

The scrapbooking group will be meeting in Fellowship Hall on Sat 2/21 at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome. Please join us for fun, creativity, and fellowship.



Fit 4 God

Fit 4 God continues with volleyball on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month until it gets warmer and lighter. All skill levels welcome. Games begin at 6 pm and go until around 8 pm. Any questions, email fit4godwhumc@gmail.com.

Christian Education News

from Tracey Cappellucci

JAM

- Jam for children ages 3-10 continues to meet during both the 9am and 11 am services dividing into 2 age groups; ages 3-5 and ages 6-10. Jam is held in the education wing in the purple and orange classrooms.
- **NEW Middlers Jam Schedule**-Starting in February. Middlers will attend service on communion Sunday. Middlers Jam will be held during the 11 am service on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday of every month.
- **Middlers Youth Group**-The first Friday night of every month will be Friday Fun Night. February 6th from 5:30-7:00 will be pizza and Search and Fire with Pastor Ric.

Try JAM! A new sign- up sheet will be posted for parents to sign-up to teach Jam. There are still many parents of children in Jam who have not taught a class yet. I need **all** of you to commit some time to our Jam program this year. I look forward to another successful year in helping our children grow in their faith.

ADOPT-A-GRANDPARENT NEWS

“And a little child will lead us.” Isaiah 11:6

Adopt-a-Grandparent Meeting March 1st - 2 P.M.

There will be a 2015 Event and Activity meeting for the children in the Adopt- a -Grandparent program. The meeting is open to Parents and Grandparents participating in the program as well as anyone who is interest in getting information and/or joining the group. The meeting is **Sunday, March 1st, at 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Children are welcome to attend. Please contact me if you have any questions. Please RSVP if you will be attending the meeting johnandedyie@cox.net or [860-665-7981](tel:860-665-7981).

The Adopt-a-Grandparent children’s mission for the Fall of 2014 was to collect travel sized toiletries to be donated to The Friendship Center for their residents and overnight guests. Our church family was made aware of the project and a box decorated by the children was placed outside the sanctuary doors. The response was amazing. People responded with bags of items from vacations and purchases from local stores. Andrea Fairchild told her co-workers about our project. Her doing so resulted in donations from individuals who attend training at The Hartford. The result of the pilot program was unbelievable! 40 pounds of toiletries that included shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, hand cream, toothpaste, toothbrushes, tissues, q- tips, etc. were delivered to The Friendship Center by Pastor Suzy in January 2015. Since this is a perfect mission for our “little children” and the need for our support is ongoing, the project will resume on Sunday February 8th. Please look for the box outside of the sanctuary.

In the Master’s Name,
Edyie Steimer
Adopt a Grandparent Coordinator





2014-2015 Save the Dates!

Date	Event	Notes	Contact
2/7/2015 (Sat.) 9:30am – 10:30am	UMW Meeting	Meet in the Fellowship Hall	Nancy Janusauskas
2/8/2015 (Sun.) 10:00am – 11:00am	Valentine Cupcake Sale	This will occur during common hour	April Parsons
2/17/2015 (Tue.) 5:00pm – 7:00pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	More info to follow	Nancy Janusauskas
3/6/2015 (Fri.) 7-9pm 3/7/2015 (Sat.) 8-1pm	Rummage Sale	Set-up starts on Sun 3/1	Doris Shuskus
3/29/2015 (Sun.) 11:00am to 12:00am	Palm Sunday Easter Bake Sale	This will follow the 10:00am Combined Service	Karen Powers
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.)	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
Doris Shuskus 860 561-2752
Joy Fergusson 860 523-8017
grammy2drewski@yahoo.com
Judy Morris 860 747-6228
Karen Powers 860 665-0786
Nancy Janusauskas 860 521-1166

acparsons111@comcast.net

bjemorris@comcast.net

nancyjay@comcast.net

Harvest Fair Notes

Harvest Fair workshops are held every Tuesday morning 9:30AM-1:00PM. Monday evening workshops are the 2nd, 4th, & 5th weeks of the month 4:00PM-7:00PM. Please join us for crafts and conversation for all or part of any workshop. All skill levels are welcome, just bring your enthusiasm and ideas. Morning workshops are canceled if West Hartford schools are delayed 2 hours or canceled due to weather conditions. Monday evening workshops are canceled if schools are dismissed early due to the weather.

We are still in need of "glitzy" buttons of all sizes. Please bring in any metallic buttons or buttons with rhinestones or other fancy stones or decorations on them. They may be left in the John Wesley room in a bag or envelope marked FAIR.

We still have a few bottles of "Bird Seed Wine" available, now only \$2.00 each, perfect for the bird lover. Contact me if you'd like to pick up a few.

In His Service,

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

THANK YOU

Dear West Hartford United Methodist Church family,

I am truly grateful for your prayers, cards, emails, food and driving for Aldo, and other forms of support that you provided when my Mom (Dortha Hall) experienced a horrific accident in which she broke her back. She is now in Rehab and faces a long road and a lot of work. But, praise God, she is not paralyzed or worse!

Reading to her the emails (e-cards) you sent directly to the hospital provided her a great amount of comfort when she was in the most pain. Your support in providing transportation for Aldo made it possible for me to fly to Texas at the last minute without worrying about whether or not he would be able to continue his therapy. I cannot really express the depth of my awe and appreciation for the folks who reached out in so many ways. We are all blessed to call WHUMC our church home.

In gratitude and praise,
B. Suzy Rivera & Dortha Hall, as well as Katey and Khris Welch

A BIG thank you to the person who left the bag of Dove chocolates on my desk. It was not necessary but much appreciated.

Debbie Haverkamp

Dear West Hartford UMC,

Thank you so much for the Christmas bonus check. It was greatly appreciated! It has been a pleasure to serve as the 9:00 choir director for 2014. I look forward to another great year of music in 2015.

Sincerely,
Gail Harris

Dear Friends of WHUMC,

Bill and I wish to thank each one of you for all of your help to us during our two months of being homebound because of various reasons. We so appreciate the many meals brought to us, the shopping, rides to the doctor, and your phone calls and prayers. We feel so fortunate to have such caring people in our church. God bless each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Ann Burns

Dear Pastor Ric and West Hartford UMC,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$100 to support the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network. We are proud to have WHUMC as an organizational member! Our press conference regarding the CL&P rate hike was very successful on Monday, December 22 and we are looking forward to the 2015 legislative session, where we will push for a cap to the fixed rate and a more climate-friendly energy policy.

Because of people like you, this year was an incredible one full of growth and hope and I think 2015 will be even better! Together, we can build a better world for all of God's creatures. Thank you!

Very best regards,
Terri Eickel
Executive Director, Interreligious Eco-Justice Network

February Birthdays

February 1 - Rose Morey, Anderson
Wilder
February 3 - Brayden Lamprecht
February 4 - Laura Bauer
February 6 - Elena Borio
February 7 - Alicia Bauer
February 9 - Alan Ennis
February 10 - Lisa Hanse
February 11 - Linda Wohlgemuth
February 13 - Laura Carlin, Peter
Casey

February 15 - Nicholas Bush
February 17 - Amy Borio
February 18 - Bill Stumpf
February 20 - Dale Petersen
February 21 - Colin Fairchild, Tyler
Fairchild
February 22 - Vivek Singavarapu,
Jeffrey Weiss
February 24 - Tilden Wilder
February 25 - Jonathan Hanse,
Nancy Janusauskas



February Anniversaries

February 12 - Amy & Derek Meredith
February 14 - Laura & Joseph Carlin
February 20 - Andrea & Ray Fairchild