

West Hartford United Methodist Church Happenings

Volume 58 Issue 3

January 2015

After a near fatal plane crash during World War II, Louis Zamperini survived for forty-seven days in a rubber raft in the Pacific Ocean with his plane's pilot, Phil. Storms battered, sharks attacked, and the sun blistered Louie's and Phil's skin. When Louis and Phil are finally rescued, it is by a Japanese naval ship. Louis and Phil end up in a Japanese prisoner of war camp where Louis is tortured and beaten. While on the raft in the midst of a terrible storm Louie prays, "Lord if you'll get me out of this I will serve you." The "get out" takes years and involves horrific pain, but Louis Zamperini lived his life convinced that God answered his prayer. God designed into Mr. Zamperini a spirit that could not be broken.

"Unbroken" is a movie that is well worth your time. And the book is worth reading. Throughout the movie that my son Jonathan and I watched together I thought about all of the amazing World War II veterans God gave me the privilege to pastor at West Hartford Church.

Tears streamed down my cheeks as I remembered the stories told me by Dave Anderson (a B 17 Flying Fortress pilot in the Pacific), Bud Bauer (a Corsair pilot) and Bob Wuelfing (an airplane mechanic, and front line soldier in France and Germany) and Harry McGlinchey (a B 17 bombardier in the Pacific). Their experiences and trials were extraordinary. Harry is our only remaining World War II veteran.

Like Louie Zamperini, Dave, Bud, Bob, and Harry have a perspective, a strength, a faith and an integrity that makes our church great, our spirits strong and our country good. They truly are among those of the greatest generation.

While we all experience trials, few of us will ever experience trials like those of our World War II veterans. I pray that God will grant us the grace and strength to live with their faith, courage, integrity, and perseverance so that we might faithfully serve Jesus Christ, our Savior and God who makes us unbroken.

Sincerely,
Pastor Ric

Prayer List

Please Pray For

- Ann Bell that God will give her a full measure of strength, grace and courage.
- Dortha Hall for healing of her broken back.
- Rose Morey that God will give her a full measure of strength, grace and courage for dialysis.
- Shannon Davis – healing for her legs.
- Those who live in fear.
- The girls who remain hostages of Boko Haram
- Veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm, the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan
- The children of Haiti
- District Superintendent Ken Kieffer – God's grace, strength and protecting care.
- Bishop Jane Middleton – God's wisdom and joy.

Harvest Fair Notes

After a relaxing break, Harvest Fair workshops will resume this month in preparation for our October 2015 fair. We'd love to have you join us for either group, or both! Just bring your creative ideas and talent. If you sew, knit, crochet, paint, do woodworking, papercrafting, or any other craft we need you to help make our fair even better!

Monday evening workshops, starting Jan.12th., are every 2nd., 4th., and 5th. Monday 4:00PM-7:00PM. If schools dismiss early due to weather, we cancel the workshop.

Tuesday morning workshops will resume every week on January 27th., 9:30AM-1:00PM. If school is delayed 2 hours or cancelled we do not meet.

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)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIFT

14 JANUARY – 25 MARCH

6:00-7:30PM

Get to know new friends, and strengthen friendships you already enjoy in your West Hartford Church Family through Wednesday Night Lift. Beginning on **Wednesday 14 January** and running through **25 March** this ten week experience runs from **6:00-7:30pm**. Each Wednesday we begin with supper together at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. At 6:30 we break into four small groups that conclude promptly at 7:30pm.

Children ages preschool through Grade 5 enjoy Pioneer Clubs, a hands on, fun way to learn about the Christian Faith. Adults will enjoy one of the three groups that makes them come alive.

Dinners throughout Lift will include:

- Pizza
- Chicken Divan
- Hot Dogs
- Pasta
- Lasagna

Gluten Free and Vegetarian options are available.

Small Groups Include:

Freedom From Worry – Led by Edyie Steimer and Judy Morris (begins 14 February)

Patricia Wilson brings her warmth and encouragement to readers who struggle with the sometimes debilitating habit of worry. Based on the Psalms, *Freedom from Worry* emphasizes God's loving-kindness and power to relieve every anxiety. For each of the 28 days of prayer you will find--a thoughtful meditation, a reflection based on a psalm, a prayer to personalize with your own hopes and fears, and a mindfulness exercise. Guidance for small-group conversation or extended personal meditation is included.

Forgiveness – Finding Peace Through Letting Go – Led by Cheryl Sansone (begins 21 February)

Learn how to receive the freedom that comes with forgiving---even if the person who needs grace is yourself! In this 4-session DVD study featuring 10- to 12-minute video teachings, Adam Hamilton (Pastor of Church of the Resurrection, United Methodist in Leewood Kansas) uses stories and Scripture to expand on key points from his best-selling book. Includes a leader's guide with lesson plans, discussion questions, and activities.

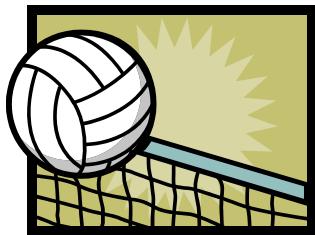
Experiencing God In The Lord Of The Rings – Led by Pastor Ric Hanse (begins 14 February)

Come on a journey through Middle Earth and discover through J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord Of The Rings* trilogy the message of God's strength, grace, love, perseverance and power. Enjoy ten weeks watching, discussing and discovering spiritual truths in the movies, "The Fellowship of the Ring", "Two Towers" and "The Return of the King".

Pioneer Clubs – Led by Tracey Cappellucci (begins 14 February)

An exciting and fun group for children ages pre-school through grade 5. In Pioneer Club your children will enjoy activity driven, hands-on Bible study. They learn verses in the Bible and earn cloth badge awards for completing skill-building activities in a noncompetitive atmosphere that fosters cooperation and teamwork. These activities help kids develop a variety of life skills, such as art, sports, music, first aid, hiking, woodworking, drama and lots more.

So come give your Wednesday night and your entire week at Lift at Wednesday Night Lift!



Fit 4 God

After taking a Christmas break, Fit 4 God will resume on January 26th and continue 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 we are finished. Any questions, email fit4godwhumc@gmail.com.

Christian Education News

from Tracey Cappellucci

Thank you!

I'd like to say thank you for the very generous Christmas gift I received. I sincerely appreciate your thoughtful ness and generosity. It continues to be my great pleasure to be your Director of Christian Education and serve your children.

Christmas Pageant

I'd like to say thank you to all who were involved in our Christmas Pageant, titled "Letters from Santa". The children were wonderful and Aldo Rivera was a fantastic Santa. We had beautiful music played be Jane Wood. It was truly perfect; a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by all!

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.

Start 2015 trying something new! 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.





2015 Save the Dates!

Date	Event	Notes	Contact
2/1/2015 (Sun.)	Super Bowl Chili Fundraiser	More info to follow	April Parsons
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
3/29/2015 (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
5/8/2015 (Fri.) 7-9pm 5/9/2015 (Sat.) 8-1pm	Rummage Sale	Set-up starts on Sun 5/3	Doris Shuskus
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

UM ARMY

U.M. ARMY offers high-quality weeklong mission programs for youth and young adults that serve people in need and build leadership skills in young people! 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 are awaiting final dates and locations, but it is expected to be July 12-18 (with July 5-11 as our second choice). We will remain in New England, so travel time will be minimal. If interested in learning more about the program, please contact Mary Suter at mary.suter@att.net or 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 details on the program.

Basics About Our Program - Participants sleep, eat, worship, and enjoy fellowship at a local church beginning on Sunday evening and ending on Saturday afternoon of camp week. Each weekday small teams consisting of one adult and 3-5 youth set out to a worksite in the local area. Additional adults act as support to the teams bringing needed tools, supplies, technical expertise and safety checks to the site each day (We also bring popsicles, watermelon, and other cooling treats).

The Clients and Projects -We believe our relationship to those being served is the top priority and central to our work. Our clients are referred by local social service agencies and churches. Generally they are elderly but some are families who are unable to do the work for themselves due to financial concerns or disabilities. The work is anything from simple projects such as yard work or painting to small home repairs on doors, windows, stairs, porches and construction of handicap access ramps. The teams bring a lunch to share with their client each day and are encouraged to interact as much as possible. Often the idea that someone cares is much more important than the actual work!

The Activities - Throughout the week, fun evening activities are planned. They often include swimming, dancing and/or games. One evening during the week is reserved as "Client Night". We invite those whom we have served to a dinner at our host church and they are given the opportunity to speak to the young people about what their service has meant. (Definitely a highlight of the week!) We begin each day with a 15 min devotional service and end each evening with a contemporary worship service that is uplifting to youth.

Thank you

Dear Church Family -

Thank you for your generous Christmas gift. Your expression of thoughtful kindness showed us the generous love of Christmas. It is truly an honor to serve as your pastoral team. Thank you again for your kind generosity.

Sincerely,

Pastor Ric Hanse, Tracey Cappellucci, Director of Christian Education, Judy Morris, Director of Membership Care, Jane Wood, Organist, Phil Delibero, Praise Band Director, Debbie Haverkamp, Director of Administration, Eddie Vargas, Sexton, Salma Nizami, Nursery Care, Emily Shepherd, Nursery Care

Dear West Hartford Church Family Member:

Thank you ever so much for the many generous expressions of Christmas love and kindness you shared with us. We are deeply grateful to you for all you do to sow us the love of Jesus. You made our celebrations of Jesus' birth truly extraordinary.

Love,

Pastor Ric, Lisa, Ashley, Anna and Jonathan Hanse

Dear Members of West Hartford United Methodist Church,

How can I thank you all for your prayers during my time of crisis. Both my husband and I feel blessed. Your prayers, with God's help, got us through our difficult times.

I see your "Hope Chest" and your prayer shawl – both so comforting! I am on my road to full recovery thanks to God and your support. Again, thank you ALL for your love, comfort, support and prayers. My husband and I are truly blessed.

Blessings to you all,
The Ellisons

January Birthdays

January 1 – Jordan Rivera, Frankie Rivera, Serf Rivera, Kumar Ponnudurai, Nasan Ponnudurai, Tyler Frohock
January 2 - Robert Hazzard, Zachary Shuskus
January 4 - Kaitlyn Stumpf
January 8 - Remy Gaulin
January 13 - Bill Burns, Jeff Shuskus

January 15 - Anne Boettger
January 17 - Ann Bell, Judy Greene
January 18 - Peter Suter
January 22 - David Larson, Jane Hupfer
January 23 - Linda Smith, Alyssa Frohock
January 25 - Evan Parsons, Anthony Sasser



January Anniversaries

January 2 - Laura & Seth Baker
January 21 - Kathy & John Barnowski, Rebecca & Jim Bowers
January 29 - Lynda & Cliff Anderson