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January 2016 Newsletter

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While we were preparing to welcome in the new year, my all-time favorite singer Natalie Cole was preparing to welcome a new existence by entering the Kingdom of Heaven. Natalie Cole died on 31 December 2015. Natalie is so special to me because her beautiful voice is a reflection of the wonderful person God created her to be. And throughout the major milestones in my life a song by Natalie has been there for me.

Each of my children has a song. Their song describes who they are to me, and who I believe God has made them to be. When my daughter Ashley was born on 2 March 1992 her song became "Unforgettable" which Natalie recorded in 1991. The magic of the song is that she dubbed her father into the recording so they are in essence singing to each other. A perfect father, daughter dance. Since her birth Ashley has been my Unforgettable.

Unforgettable, that's what you are

Unforgettable, though near or far

Like a song of love that clings to me, how the thought of you does things to me

Never before has someone been more unforgettable.

When Jonathan was born, Natalie's rendition of "The Music That Makes Me Dance" became Jonathan's song.

I know he's around when sky and the ground started ringing

I know that he's near by the thunder I hear in advance

*His words are the words that can start my heart singing
And his is the only music that makes me dance*

Whenever I have a major decision to make and need to seek God's will Natalie Cole's version of "So Many Stars" becomes my prayer. At Christmastime Natalie Cole helps me worship Jesus through her versions of "The Christmas Song", "A Song For Christmas" and "The First Noel". In each of her albums Natalie includes a note of gratitude to God. This makes Natalie Cole one of Jesus' great evangelists.

The final words in Natalie Cole's album jacket "Ask A Woman Who Knows" continue to draw me close to Jesus. I close this tribute to Natalie with her beautiful, powerful and sublime words of faith. My prayer is that Jesus will use them in your life as He has used them in my life. Natalie Cole writes:

Lastly and most important: Thank you to my creator, my heavenly Father, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He is my all in all, and it is through Him that I can do all things.

I am so grateful for his many blessings.

Praise be to God for the life and resurrection of the faithful Christian named Natalie Cole!

Affectionately,

Pastor Ric

Prayer List

Please Be Praying For
 -Bill Burns – healing
 -Marjorie Nishan – healing
 -JoAnne Palmer as she mourns the death of her beloved daughter Lynn
 -Shannon Davis – healing of her legs from severe nerve damage
 -Those suffering from the Midwest floods
 -Those suffering from the California wildfires
 -Governor Molloy
 -President Obama
 -Bishop Middleton
 -District Superintendent Ken Kieffer

Memorial Donations

In memory of Anita Ellsworth

Memorial Fund

Jim & Gini Armstrong
 Shirley George
 Ken & Karen Loveland
 April Parsons
 Shirley Wuelfing

Endowment Fund

Ramona Beckius

In memory of Lynn Spear

Memorial Fund

Karen Ellsworth

Wednesday Night Lift

13 January – 16 March 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Get to know new friends, and strengthen friendships you already enjoy in your West Hartford Church Family through Wednesday Night Lift. Each Wednesday we begin with supper together at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. At 6:30 we break into small groups that conclude promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Pioneer Clubs For Children Led by Ashley Hanse

Children ages preschool through Grade 6 enjoy Pioneer Club - a hands on, fun way to learn about the Christian Faith.

“War Room – Prayer Is A Powerful Weapon” Led by Pastor Ric

During the first three sessions we will watch the movie “War Room”.

Sessions 4-8 are a Bible Study experience based on the movie that is designed to strengthen our relationship with Jesus and improve our prayer life. The study guide is written by the movie producers Stephen and Alex Kendrick.

Study session topics include:

- Honest Evaluation – Discovering where we can grow.
- Real Accountability – Having a trusted “go to” friend.
- Living The Gospel – The Good News is that by God’s grace we are changed.
- Victory Accomplished – Experiencing the victory Christ has for us in the battles we face.
- Impacted By Grace – Enjoying our identity in Jesus.

Preparing Ourselves For Jesus / Coming Alive Led by Dale Petersen

A. FINDING YOURSELF (INDIVIDUALLY) IN JESUS

January 20 Isaiah 58 -- The Values Of Fasting

January 27 Self Examination -- God's Gracious Path To Maturity

February 3 Understanding Your Motivational Blueprint -- What are the motivational gifts? Do you have one or more? They are most easily seen in how you misuse them.

February 17 The Gifts of Office -- What is their function? What is 'the work of the ministry? Do you find yourself here? Do these exist today?

February 24 The Manifestation Gifts -- Are these appropriate for today? How might the Lord manifest these in our church today? Have you asked for or

sought one of these?

B. FINDING OURSELVES (CORPORATELY) IN JESUS

March 2 The 7 Churches in Revelation – On what criteria does the Lord evaluate these Churches?

March 9 The 7 Churches in Revelation – For what were they praised?

How did they fall short? What were they told to do to rectify their shortfall?

March 16 What might Jesus declare as our strengths at WHUMC? What might HE declare as HIS concerns for us? How can you be a positive catalyst for change?

SUPER BOWL PARTY!!!



Please join us on Sunday February 7, 2016 @ 6:00pm
For a Super Bowl Party!

We will watch Super Bowl 50
on our gigantic screen in the fellowship hall

The UMW will provide our popular chicken drumsticks!

Please bring a side dish or appetizer to share.

R.S.V.P to April Parsons at acparsons111@comcast.net



Greetings WHUMC Church Family!

I am humbled by all that has happened, and is happening in the children's and youth ministries since I became the Interim Director of Christian Education. I will be leading

Midders Youth Fellowship which begins in February. This will be a wonderful opportunity for middle school students to grow together learning about God's word in a fun and relatable way. In terms of my work with the younger children, a fantastic

Christmas pageant called "Twas the Light Before Christmas" was rehearsed and performed with the help of generous volunteers and parents. For me, this was a beautiful display of Christ's community coming together to create something for His glory. I have also begun a new JAM curriculum called "All-In-One Sunday School" that I am extremely excited about. This curriculum is meant to work with kids of many ages. It breaks down the daily aims and objectives of every lesson so that both teacher and child have a clear direction plan around. It also simply displays procedures, activities, and real life applications which I've found to be quite useful. My intention is to use this new curriculum to build a strong and passionate JAM team for 2016. I intend to come along side potential JAM teachers, and help them feel comfortable and confident implementing the given lessons, as I am extremely passionate about teaching, and would love to share that with others. By working together as a family of faith, believe we can further grow our already exemplary JAM ministry into a lasting beacon God's love for our kids. If working with children, or teaching, makes you come alive, please contact me at amhanse23@gmail.com.

Blessings,

Ashley Hanse

Interim Director of Christian Education

Notes from the Nursery School

The new year brings new activities and fun for the nursery school children!

First, Ashley Hanse, our Interim Director of Christian Education, will be visiting our classrooms next week to share the story of Noah's Ark. In addition to reading the story she has an activity planned that will enhance the lesson through play. We are excited to have her join us!

Second, after participating in 3 service projects in November & December (Friendship Service Center Thanksgiving Basket, Holiday Drive, and Chatfield visit with ornaments for the residents) we have decided, as a school, to incorporate a service project into our curriculum each month. For January we will be providing one of the "Move-In Baskets" for the Friendship Service Center as part of the church donation.

Our doors are always open to church members who would like to visit. Feel free to contact us if you have a special activity you might like to share or if you just want to stop by and say "Hi".

Lisa Brown, Director

West Hartford Methodist Nursery School

7 Berkshire Road West Hartford, CT 06110 [\(860\)521-8063](tel:(860)521-8063) whmns@snet.net

U.M. 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 two groups to UMArmy this summer: a mixed age group of youth and adults - Youth who will complete grade 7 by the end of June 2016 are eligible to participate. And a group of young adults – one year out of high school or older. **We are in need of adult volunteers this year, so let me know if you are interested in attending.**

Young Adults May 29-June 4 to Amityville, NY

Mixed Age Group - We are awaiting final dates and locations, but it is expected to be July 10-16 (with July 17-23 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 coordinator Mary Suter at mary.suter@att.net or 860-409-9232 or talk to one of the prior year's participants: Kumar Ponnudurai, Peter Suter, Serf Piedrasanta, Onyx Sanchez, Ethan Speranza, Andrew Suter, Jen Bush, Karen Loveland, and Katey Zea 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.

ADOPT A CHURCH GRANDPARENT NEWS

Children's Mission Project

Twenty-one pounds of travel size toiletries are being donated to the Friendship Center January 11. We are continuing to collect travel size toiletries to The Friendship Center for the use of their residents. Residents have a shoe box size space for storage and are not allowed to share with others. Our donations make a difference in the lives of many individuals. Please consider tucking hotel toiletries in your suitcase when you travel and/or picking some up when you are shopping. A basket will be placed outside Fellowship Hall for donations. Thank you to everyone who has made donations to this worthwhile cause.

Pancake Supper & Movie

Sunday, January 24th

4 – 6 P.M.

If you are interested information on becoming a church grandparent, or having church grandparents for your child, please contact me at 860-665-7981.

Blessings,

Edyie Steimer

Program Coordinator

Greetings,

Isaiah records that there are many blessings that come to those who "spend themselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed" and thus participate in 'true fasting'.

Your light will rise in the darkness

Your night will become like the noonday

The Lord will guide you always

The Lord will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land

The Lord will strengthen your frame

You will be like a well-watered garden, a spring whose waters never fail

Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins

They will raise up the age-old foundations

You will be called 'Repairer of Broken Walls'

You will be called 'Restorer of Streets with Dwellings'

Another element of 'true fasting' is that it provides a reverent process whereby we step into a place of humility before the Lord and have the eyes of our heart opened to certain realities that we are blinded to in our typical pride. Some verses on this topic are Psalm 18:27; Psalm 25:9; Psalm 149:4; Isaiah 23:9, 29:19, 58:5, 66:2; Daniel 10:9; Zephaniah 2:3; James 1:9, 4:6, 4:10.

Among the many people noted in the Bible who entered this discipline, the early Apostles fasted Acts 13:3; Ezra and Nehemiah great builders in the faith fasted (Ezra 8:23 and Nehemiah 1:4); Daniel fasted (10:9); Jesus predicted his followers would fast (Mark 2:20).

This year, with Pastor Ric's blessing, I am appealing to anyone so inspired to join me in light fasting during the season of Lent. My personal plan (with God's grace and help) will be to pass on breakfast and lunch each Wednesday during this special time. Perhaps you might give up dessert a couple of times a week. Maybe you sense a call to do more. I do not share what I have shared for your praise, but as the one making the appeal, I feel that it is right that you know what my intentions are and that I am not asking for major sacrifice, but that we might 'in the Spirit' as a Church humble ourselves together before our Lord who GAVE IT ALL for us – trusting that He is one who rewards those who diligently seek him!

God bless you as you prayerfully consider participation,

Dale Petersen

United Methodist Women's Meeting

All women are invited to attend the United Methodist Women's Meeting that is scheduled for Saturday, February 6th from 9:00am to 10:00am. It is a wonderful time of fellowship, breakfast and working on the missions ministries that make our church a shining beacon of God's love. If you have a mission's idea that you would like to bring to the United Methodist Women's meeting please contact Nancy Janusauskas (UMW President) at Nancyjay@comcast.net

UMW 2016 Save the Dates

Date	Event	Notes	Contact
2/6/2016 (Sat.) 9:00am – 10:00am	UMW Meeting	Meet in the Fellowship Hall	Nancy Janusauskas
2/7/2016 (Sun.)	Super Bowl Party	More info to follow	April Parsons
2/9/2016 (Tue.) 5:00pm – 7:00pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	More info to follow	Nancy Janusauskas
2/14/2016 (Sun.) 10:00am – 11:00am	Valentine Cupcake Sale	This will occur during common hour	April Parsons
3/17/2016 (Thu.)	Belle's Breakfast	UMW Catering Event	Nancy Janusauskas
3/20/2016 (Sun.) 11:00am to 12:00am	Palm Sunday Easter Bake Sale	This will follow the 10:00am Combined Service	Karen Powers
3/24/2016 (Thu.) 5:00pm – 8:00pm	Seder Dinner	More info to follow	April Parsons
3/27/2016 (Sun.) 10:00am – 11:00am	Easter Cupcake Sale	This will occur during common hour	April Parsons
4/17/2016 (Sun.)	Swedish Smorgasbord	More info to follow	April Parsons
4/29/2016 (Fri.) 7-9pm 4/30/2016 (Sat.) 8-1pm	Rummage Sale	Set-up starts on Sun 4/24	Doris Shuskus
9/10/2016 (Sat.) 9:00am – 10:00am	UMW Meeting	Meet in the Fellowship Hall	Nancy Janusauskas
9/15/2016 (Thu.)	Belle's Luncheon	UMW Catering Event	Nancy Janusauskas
-TBD- (Thu.)	1st Pumpkin Unloading	Serve dinner for helpers	Nancy Janusauskas
-TBD- (Thu.)	2nd Pumpkin Unloading	Serve dinner for helpers	Nancy Janusauskas
	Harvest Fair		

10/22/2016 (Sat.) 9:00am – 2:00pm		Set-up starts on Tue 10/16. Tue 10/18 – Thu 10/20 anytime you can help ,and Friday 9:00 am	Joy Fergusson
10/28/2016 (Fri.) 7-9pm 10/29/2016 (Sat.) 8-1pm	Rummage Sale	Set-up starts on Sun 10/23	Doris Shuskus
11/27/2016 (Sun.) 4:00pm – 6:00pm	Tree Lighting and Carol Sing Dinner	More info to Follow	April Parsons
12/3/2016 (Sat.) 12:00pm – 3:00pm	Holiday Luncheon	More info to Follow	Nancy Janusauskas
12/4/2016 (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

Dear West Hartford UMC Family,

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. And, may I add, thank you for your ongoing gifts of patience, nurturing and acceptance as I continue to learn and navigate my way in this position. I love and appreciate my Church Family on a whole new level!

Sincerely yours,

Karen Loveland, Church Secretary, striving to become “Director of Administration”

Dear WHUMC,

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. It is greatly appreciated. It is always a joy and a pleasure to be a part of this church and to serve as choir director for the 9:00 service. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Gail Harris

January Birthdays

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 - Judy Greene
January 18 - Peter Suter, William Haverkamp
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

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



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