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West Hartford United Methodist Church Happenings

Volume 58 Issue 5

March 2015

Charles Wesley was the song writing brother of Methodist Church founder John Wesley. Among his best known songs are "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", and "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today". But some of his lesser known songs are truly inspiring.

Throughout most of our lives we experience days of simultaneous pain and joy. Through all of our days Jesus is with us. During this season of Lent (the forty day period of self-examination that leads us to Easter) I would like very much for you to join me on spending each day praying Charles Wesley's song, "Thou Hidden Source Of Calm Repose".

*Thou hidden source of calm repose,
Thou all sufficient love divine
My help and refuge from my foes
Secure I am if thou art mine;
And lo! from sin and grief and shame
I hide myself in Jesus' name.*

*Thy mighty name salvation is,
And keeps my happy soul above;
Comfort it brings, and power and peace,
And joy and everlasting love;
To me with Thy dear name are given
Pardon and holiness and heaven.*

*Jesus, my all in all Thou art,
My rest in toil, my ease in pain,
The healing of my broken heart,
In war my peace, in loss my gain,
My smile beneath the tyrant's frown,
In shame my glory and my crown,*

*In want my plentiful supply,
In weakness my almighty power,
In bonds my perfect liberty,
My light in Satan's darkest hour,
In grief my joy unspeakable,
My life in death, my heaven in hell.*

Jesus who is the perfect embodiment of these words lived with us, died for us on the cross and rose to indestructible everlasting life so that we could know Him, be found in Him and become the one through whom Jesus lives His life. By living His life through us, Jesus makes these wonderful words our joyous, never ending reality. Jesus will always be our joy unspeakable and our everlasting life.

Sincerely,
Pastor Ric

Prayer List

Please Pray For:

- Bokko Haram hostages – That God will keep them safe
- Those suffering under the terrorist reign of ISIS
- President Obama & the U.S. Leaders
- Governor Molloy and Connecticut's Leaders
- Bishop Jane Allen Middleton
- District Superintendent Ken Kieffer
- The Homeless suffering in the winter's cold.
- The animals suffering in the winter's cold.
- Jimmy Quinn – Healing from surgery.
- Betty Anderson – Healing from her fractured hip.
- Our homebound members.
- Those suffering from seasonal affective light disorder.

Memorials

Ann Bell - Dolores Vanderbilt, Jane Wood

UM ARMY

WHUMC will be sending a mixed age group of youth and adults on a UMArmy trip again this summer to Scranton, PA from July 12-18 (We will be staying at Elm Park UMC, in Scranton, PA). Youth who will complete grade 7 by the end of June 2015 are eligible to participate. Registration is now open and available at: <https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Indv/1392/>

We will be holding an informational meeting on this Sunday, March 1st between services from 10:15-11:00. If interested in learning more about the program, please attend the meeting or 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. For details on the program see: <http://ne.umarmy.org/>

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.



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



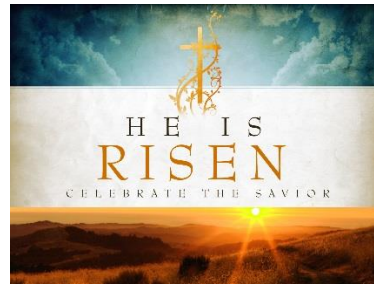
Good Friday Service

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!

A Breakfast Fundraiser Benefiting



The RiseUP Group, Inc

The mission of The RiseUP Group, Inc. is to empower our youth to become the catalysts that **UPLIFT** and **INSPIRE** urban communities. The RiseUP Group, Inc. provides participating scholars 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.

"Breakfast Fundraiser"

Date: Sunday March 15th

Time: 10:00am to 11:00am

(Between Services)

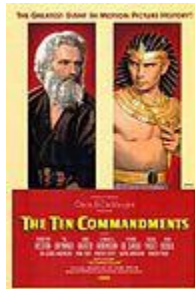
Where: WHUMC Fellowship Hall

Suggested Donation: \$6.00

Please come and enjoy a delicious hot breakfast on Sunday, March 15th!

If you attend the 9:00 service, please stick around afterwards!

If you attend the 11:00 service, please consider coming a half hour earlier!!!



DINNER AND A MOVIE WITH MOSES — SATURDAY MARCH 21ST

4:00 pm - start dinner - 4:15 pm - start movie

Please join us in dedicating our new sixteen foot screen and Audio Video (AV) system as we begin the season of Lent with a Chili Dinner and a showing of the 1956 religious epic movie "The Ten Commandments." The movie is approximately 3 and 1/2 hours, so you might want to bring a comfortable chair or blanket. Free will offerings will be taken to offset the final costs of the AV project. To help us plan for dinner, please notify the church office if you plan on attending.

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-** 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.



South Park Inn - Bright Space project

WHUMC is partnering with HAI Group (April Parson's Employer), and the Bright Horizons Foundation For Children – we are very excited to begin our journey to build a Bright Space at South Park Inn a homeless shelter in Hartford, CT.

Through Bright Spaces, the Bright Horizons Foundation for Children partners with agencies across the country to create and support warm, safe, enriching spaces for children of all ages to build caring relationships, heal from trauma through play, and experience the joy of childhood.

Bright Spaces are not only wonderful rooms for children to play, but they also create a place for children where they can connect with other children, their family, and supportive adults who can provide needed services. Having a place for families to relax together helps them to build important bonds that strengthen the family during this difficult time. In an atmosphere of safety and trust, children and adults are able to make better decisions, regulate their emotions, and provide important emotional support to each other.

RUMMAGE SALE
Friday March 27th. 7-9pm
Saturday March 28th. 8am-1pm



What to Bring:

Clothes' (all kinds), kitchen supplies, domestics (towels, blankets, tablecloths), toys, baby items, seasonal decorations, household items (lamps, etc), purses, Flat Screen TV's shoes, Small Furniture jewelry!

**Please do not bring these items that are difficult to sell:
exercise equipment, old computers, text books/ encyclopedias,
heavy furniture, stereo equipment, skis, cribs, baby car seats,**

**Come Monday - Thursday 4-7:30 PM
to help set up for the sale!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Please Drop Off Items after 11:00 Service on
Sunday March 22nd. and all week**

**Call Nancy Jay @860-604-3857
Or Doris Shuskus 860-561-2752
If you need to Drop off after 4:00PM**

SAVE THE DATES

Church Grounds Spring Cleanup – Saturday April 11th 8:00 a.m. until the job is complete (hopefully around 1:00ish).

Please plan on spending Saturday morning April 11th 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

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 March 29, 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
- Potatos
- Turnips
- An assortment of breads
- Rice pudding
- Swedish Cookies
- Swedish Tarts
- Please contact April Parsons with questions: acparsons111@comcast.net or 860-778-3528

MEN'S GROUP

Dear West Hartford United Methodist Church Family Members,

Over two thousand years ago during an age when slavery was common, outcasts lived in squalor, and women were seen as chattel, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ demonstrated by word and deed that all people were equal before the Lord and that our Lord God loved all of mankind. The West Hartford United Methodist Men's Group is starting a study of the importance that our Lord Jesus Christ and God has put upon us in terms of understanding this simple teaching. I note that our society has wrestled with implementing this simple teaching in the nations we created as peoples of the faith for better than two thousand years.

To increase its' understanding of God's teachings on this matter, the Men's Group is starting a study of the Book of Ruth on Tuesday morning March 3, 2015 in the Church office at 7:00 to 8:00 am. This study will continue each Tuesday morning at the mentioned time until the Men's Group completes its' study of the Book of Ruth. Pastor Rick Hanse will lead the study.

All male members of our Church family are welcome to participate in the study and will be welcome as part-time or full-time members of this study group. Even if you can only attend one or two sessions you are still welcome to attend. In this day and age our world continues to wrestle with the issue of God's love for and view on the equal worth of all of the members of the human family, the Book Ruth is telling story of love, honor, respect and how God draws to him people of faith that understand God's love for the human race and that he has a purpose and plan for us that still lives on today. Should you feel moved to attend this study please let Pastor Rick Hanse know so that we can welcome you to this study of the teachings of our Lord and Savior and God.

Respectfully,
Edward A. Chesky, Chairman Church Council

Harvest Fair Notes

Are you going stir-crazy after the long winter? Ready to get out of the house and enjoy the company of a small, friendly group? Then join a Harvest Fair Craft workshop the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Monday evenings 4:00PM-7:00PM or every Tuesday morning 9:30AM-1:00PM (or both) for fellowship, conversation, and of course crafting for our October fair. All types of craft are needed, and all skill levels are encouraged to join. Don't be shy! There is a job for everyone! We have a need for skilled sewers, in particular.

If scheduled workshops are not convenient there are plenty of projects that can be done at home, just ask! Materials and patterns will be provided.

We still need "glitzy" buttons of all types - metallic, jeweled, etc. Please leave in a bag in the John Wesley room labeled "FAIR."

In Christ's Service,
Joy Ferguson
[860 523-8017](tel:8605238017)
grammy2drewski@yahoo.com



2015 Save the Dates!

Date	Event	Notes	Contact
3/27/2015 (Fri.) 7-9pm 3/28/2015 (Sat.) 8-1pm	Rummage Sale	Set-up starts on Sun 3/22	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	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 United Methodist Church:

This season, and with your donations, we were able to provide 60 families in our PEAK and ASH supportive housing programs with Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas gifts. Your contribution allowed the parents of these families to feel they gave their children, and themselves, something special for the holidays.

On behalf of those families and the entire Friendship Center staff, we say thank you. Whether it was a Thanksgiving basket, gifts for Christmas or contributing to both programs, the families felt loved with the tremendous generosity you provided. The food, gift cards, clothing, toiletries, toys and other gifts helped families come together and enjoy each other's company.

You have been a real blessing for so many. Thanks for being a friend to The Friendship Service Center family and have a wonderful New Year!

Sincerely,
Catherine Evans
Outreach Case Manager

Thank you to West Hartford UMC for your generous donation of \$250 for PET, our district Mission Project. As you know, the PET is a hand-crafted Wheelchair that is designed to provide mobility to those who have lost the use of their legs. What a wonderful gift – a gift of mobility. Thank you again for your generosity.

Peace,
Kenneth J. Keiffer, Superintendent

Thank You For Your Support!

Together, we raised \$325 at the Valentine's Cupcake fundraiser that was held on Sunday February 8th. The UMW has generously combined this total with an additional \$175, totaling \$500, which will benefit the Bright Space project at the South Park Inn in Hartford, CT.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity!

Many thanks and blessings!
The Cupcake Crew

March Birthdays

March 2 - Ashley Hanse

March 3 - Matt Powers

March 5 - Stephen Hirschthal, Bruce Morris

March 8 - Laura Molin

March 11 - William Chien

March 12 - Judy Hildebrand

March 17 - Maile Buckley

March 18 - Oliver Buckley

March 19 - Joonha Hong, Xanthe Sasser, Nicholas Larson

March 22 - Gabrielle Gaulin, Peter White

March 23 - Gelaine Bauer

March 30 - Grace Sullivan, Andrei Golli



March Anniversaries

March 12 - Jo-Ann & John Savonis

March 17 - Judy & Chuck Hildebrand