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# West Hartford United Methodist Church Happenings

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Ben Hur, the epic movie about a Jewish Prince named Judah Ben Hur who is falsely accused by his traitorous friend Messala of trying to kill the Roman governor of Judea. Judah, who is born at the same time of Jesus, comes across the Jewish Messiah twice during his life. Judah and Jesus first meet when Jesus offers the exhausted prince a drink of water while Judah is being marched across the desert with other prisoners who will serve as slave rowers on Roman ships. Judah next meets Jesus on the day of Christ's death. From the moment of his arrest until the day of Jesus' death Judah Ben Hur is filled with hatred for Messala. His bitter anger leads Judah to become like Messala. But on the day of Jesus' death something happens to Judah. Arriving home after the crucifixion Judah says to his close friend Esther, "Almost at the moment He died, I heard Him say, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' And I felt His voice take the sword out of my hand."

Each of us, in the corner of our hearts, harbors some bitter anger towards something, some circumstance or someone. The only One who can heal the bitter anger in our hearts is Jesus. Today please hear Jesus saying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And let Jesus voice take the sword of bitterness out of your hand. It is then that you will know the freedom Jesus has for you to enjoy. As the apostle Paul says, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free!"

Sincerely,  
Pastor Ric

## *Prayer List*

Please Pray For

- The victims of the earthquake in Nepal.
- The rescue and aid workers serving the Nepalese earthquake victims.
- Mary Quinn and her family as they mourn the death of Mary's Dad, Raymond Johns.
- Mary Larson – Healing.
- Dortha Hall (Suzy Rivera's Mom) – Healing.
- Shannon Davis – Continued healing for her legs.
- Betty Anderson
- Eddie Vargas (our Custodian) as he mourns the death of his Dad.
- District Superintendent Ken Kieffer – That God will guard his health and give him strength.
- Bishop Jane Allen Middleton – Wisdom, Strength and God's protecting care.

## *Memorial*

In memory of Ann Bell – given by Dorothy Ahlstrin

## *An Opportunity To Give*

Eddie Vargas, our Custodian had to make an emergency flight to his homeland of Puerto Rico after the unexpected death of his father. The trip is was very costly. Please support Eddie by helping to defray the cost of his trip. Checks can be made out to West Hartford UMC. Please put "Eddie" in the memo section.

## *Audio Visual Installation Update*

We are making wonderful progress on the installation of new audio/visual ministry tools. The Fellowship Hall now boasts a state of the art, commercial grade High Definition Projector and a 16 foot screen – all connected to a wonderful sound system.

The Sanctuary audio system is two thirds complete. The new Drum Enclosure made with spare pews that have been repurposed is complete. The new computerized sound board has been installed. The High Definition remote camera that will broadcast the worship services to the Fellowship Hall and the Internet is in place. Within two weeks the new speakers will be installed and everything fine-tuned.

A special thank you to the generosity of the Church Family members who are making this vitally important ministry enhancement possible.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIFT – A 5 WEEK EXPERIENCE

**Every Wednesday 29 April – 27 May**

6:00pm Dinner Together

6:30-7:30 Small Group Time

### **Vanishing Grace – A Video Experience by Philip Yancey**

As opinions about Christianity are dropping, interest in spirituality is growing. Why the disconnect? Why are so many asking, “What’s so good about the Good News?” In *Vanishing Grace* Philip Yancey shows the desperate need our world has for grace, and how Christians can make the gospel good news again. During this five week experience you’ll explore what kind of news is good to a culture that thinks it has grown beyond the Christian version of good news. Discover illuminating stories of how faith can be expressed in ways make the Christian Faith something that will offer new and true hope.

Session Titles:

1. We’ve Got Problems
2. What Can We Do About It?
3. Who Are The Grace Dispensers?
4. Is It Really Good News?
5. Holy Subversives

Leader: Reverend Suzy Rivera

### **Before Amen – The Power Of A Simple Prayer – A Video Experience by Max Lucado**

We all pray. But wouldn’t we like to pray more? Better? Stronger? With more faith? In this five week study, author Max Lucado reveals his struggles with prayer and how he discovered that it is not a privilege for the pious but a simple tool everyone has been given to have a conversation with God. Max shows us how to let go of uncertainties about prayer, trust that God hears us, and embrace a prayer life that brings peace and rest.

Session Titles:

1. Father, You Are Good
2. I Need Help
3. They Need Help
4. Thank You

Leader: Lisa Hanse

### **Pioneer Club**

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.

Leader: Tracey Cappellucci

### **Experiencing God In “The Lord Of The Rings – Return Of The King”**

Continue the journey through Middle Earth and discover through J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord Of The Rings the Return of the King*, the message of God’s strength, grace, love, perseverance and power. Enjoy five weeks watching, discussing and discovering spiritual truths in this epic movie.

Leader: Pastor Ric Hanse

## Support the Friendship Service Center of New Britain in the Foodshare Walk Against Hunger

Howdy!

On **Sunday, May 3rd**, Aldo and I will be walking with other folks from WHUMC and lots of other places. Why? For the same reason I have done this for about 15 years: to raise money to combat hunger in my community. For me, it is a Walk of Faith, trusting that God will supply our needs as promised, through our own hard work and through the gifts of people just like you!

Approximately, 80% of what I (and others) raise will go to the **Friendship Service Center of New Britain**, where I am blessed to work (yes, where my ministry and heart are!), 5% will go to End Hunger CT and 15% will support Foodshare, the food bank from which we get much of our food. In Connecticut, more than 128,000 local residents are unable to have enough food on their table, and 50,000 of them are children. Nationwide, the numbers are even greater. This is truly an injustice!

Because of your support last year, we helped make possible for the Friendship Center to serve more than **90,000** meals and snacks to our hungry and sometimes homeless neighbors. Wow!

I am asking for your support again. Please pray for my effort AND make a donation! You can donate online through this link by picking any WHUMC walker you would like to support (support as many as you want! ☺):

[http://site.foodshare.org/site/TR/Walk/General?pg=team&fr\\_id=1300&team\\_id=12440](http://site.foodshare.org/site/TR/Walk/General?pg=team&fr_id=1300&team_id=12440)

Or, you can give a check or cash to someone at church who is walking. If you need to reach me, try [srivera@friendshipservicecenter.org](mailto:srivera@friendshipservicecenter.org) or [860-225-0211, extension 208](tel:860-225-0211). OR, if you would like to walk WITH me, let's do it!!!

Thank you in advance for your participation in the 2015 Walk. Together, we can make an amazing difference reaching out to God's children and having fun doing it.

Rev. B. Suzy Rivera

## UM ARMY

Reminder: UMArmy Individual Registrations are due soon!

WHUMC will be sending a mixed age group of youth and adults on an UMArmy trip again this summer. Youth who will complete grade 7 by the end of June 2015 are eligible to participate. We will be going to Scranton, PA from July 12-18 (We will be staying at Elm Park UMC, in Scranton, PA). Registration is now open and available <https://www.umarmy.net/Registration/Indv/1392/> If interested in learning more about the program, please contact Mary Suter at [mary.suter@att.net](mailto:mary.suter@att.net) or [860-409-9232](tel: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 more details on the program.

## Christian Education News

### **Vacation Bible School**

VBS camp is the week of July 6-10, 2015 running from 9-12. This year the theme will be **“Everest: Conquering Challenges with God’s Great Power”**. **I am still looking for volunteers so please consider joining our team to help make our camp successful!!**  
**Jam**

**Mother’s Day: May 10<sup>th</sup>**...I’m hoping to have some dads volunteer to teach Jam this day to give moms the morning off!!! Parents and families are their children’s first teachers so thank you for the amazing work you do with your children. Thank you to all of you who volunteer your time on Sunday mornings to teach JAM to the beautiful children of our church.

**Children’s Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**: Combined 10:00 Service with Lunch to follow!

**Nursery School-** I am pleased to announce that our Nursery School is almost at 100% enrollment for next year. The dedication and talent of my faculty and volunteers makes the WHMNS community an amazing place for children to learn and grow.

Please contact me with any questions, suggestions or concerns at [whmns@snet.net](mailto:whmns@snet.net) or 860.521.8063. I always welcome your thoughts and your interest in becoming a volunteer for Jam, VBS, or at our Nursery School.

Sincerely,  
Tracey Cappellucci, Director of Christian Education

# *family* MOVIE NIGHT

Please join us on  
**Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:30 pm** as we  
view the movie:  
**“Heaven Is For Real”**

This is a beautiful  
movie that will warm  
your heart! Bring  
your favorite snack  
and a comfy chair!



Synopsis:  
A small-town  
father must find  
the courage and  
conviction to share  
his son's  
extraordinary, life-  
changing  
experience with  
the world.  
PG | 90 minutes

Please contact April Parsons with any questions  
(860) 778-3528 | [acparsons111@comcast.net](mailto:acparsons111@comcast.net)

**See you at the movies!**



## WHUMC Scholarship Applications

Scholarship Applications are now available from the WHUMC office. High School seniors and prior scholarship award recipients continuing their full-time post high school education in an undergraduate, vocational, or technical degree/certificate program for the duration of their participation in the program, are eligible to apply. Scholarship eligibility requirements and applications can be obtained from the church office.

Undergraduate students who received a WHUMC Scholarship Award in their senior year of high school will only need to complete the “2015 WHUMC Continuing Higher Education Scholarship Application.”

Applications must be returned to the WHUMC office no later than **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**.

Please contact the church office if you want to apply for a scholarship and the appropriate application(s) will be sent to you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Janusauskas at [nancyjay@comcast.net](mailto:nancyjay@comcast.net) or Karen Loveland at (860) 521-7766.



### **Spring cleaning? Time to clean out that spare room or basement?**

Rummage sale donations of small furniture items in good condition are accepted all year long.

Please contact:

Nancy Janusauskas (860) 521-1166

Doris Shuskus (860) 561-2752

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.



## Harvest Fair Notes

In just five and a half very short months we will be having our annual Harvest Fair. Time has certainly been going by very quickly.

We have been blessed with significant growth over the last few years. With this growth comes need for participation from every member of our church family; men, women, and teens. If you think that there's nothing you can do (but would like to participate) let's talk! We work year round to hold this event, so even if you're not available October 24th there are still plenty of ways for you to help.

If you sew, knit, or crochet we have an urgent need for your skills. Please join us for fun and fellowship with your ideas and enthusiasm. If you're not able to come to our workshops Tuesday mornings 9:30AM - 1:00PM; or the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Monday evenings from 4:00PM - 7:00PM we do have projects that you may do at home, materials will be provided.

Please give prayerful consideration as to how you can help to insure the continued growth and success of our fair. You'll meet members of our church family from the "other" service, form new friendships, and have a great time while helping our church, and find another wonderful experience that will make you come alive!

In His Service,

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



## 2015 Save the Dates!

Date	Event	Notes	Contact
<b>9/12/2015 (Sat.)</b> 9:00am – 10:00am	<b>UMW Meeting</b>	Meet in the Fellowship Hall	Nancy Janusauskas
<b>9/24/2014 (Thu.)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Pumpkin Unloading</b>	Serve dinner for helpers	Nancy Janusauskas
<b>10/8/2014 (Thu.)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Pumpkin Unloading</b>	Serve dinner for helpers	Nancy Janusauskas
<b>10/17/2015 (Sat.)</b> 9:00am – 2:00pm	<b>Harvest Fair</b>	Set-up starts on Tue 10/13. Tue 10/13 – Thu 10/15 anytime you can help ,and Friday 9:00 am	Joy Fergusson
<b>10/23/2015 (Fri.) 7-9pm</b> <b>10/24/2015 (Sat.) 8-1pm</b>	<b>Rummage Sale</b>	Set-up starts on Sun 10/18	Doris Shuskus
<b>11/29/2015 (Sun.)</b> 4:00pm – 6:00pm	<b>Tree Lighting and Carol Sing Dinner</b>	More info to Follow	April Parsons
<b>12/5/2015 (Sat.)</b> 12:00pm – 3:00pm	<b>Holiday Luncheon</b>	More info to Follow	Nancy Janusauskas
<b>12/6/2015 (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	<a href="mailto:acparsons111@comcast.net">acparsons111@comcast.net</a>
Doris Shuskus	860 561-2752	
Joy Fergusson	860 523-8017	
<a href="mailto:grammy2drewski@yahoo.com">grammy2drewski@yahoo.com</a>		
Judy Morris	860 747-6228	<a href="mailto:bjemorris@comcast.net">bjemorris@comcast.net</a>
Karen Powers	860 665-0786	
Nancy Janusauskas	860 521-1166	<a href="mailto:nancyjay@comcast.net">nancyjay@comcast.net</a>

## THANK YOU

### **Church Grounds Work Day Volunteers – Thank You!!!**

The Board of Trustees would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to everyone who participated in last weekend's (Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>) spring church grounds work day. The church grounds cleanup work that was performed confirms the notion that 'Many hands really DO make light work!'.

In total, we had 19 workers - add to that mix; a Bobcat, and the 'dynamic duo' team of Vince and Alex Dube and you have got yourself one heck of a grounds keeping crew!!! We were able to complete the job in record breaking time, finishing up around 11:30. You all worked so hard and your time and efforts are deeply appreciated!

Special thanks to Vince and Alex Dube for arranging and transporting the Bobcat; to Scott Powers for ordering and scheduling the mulch, and to Ken Styron for providing several Boy Scout volunteers.

We are going to have church grounds work days on the second Saturday of the month throughout the summer, and our next work day is scheduled for Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. Mark this date on your calendars and we look forward to seeing you all then!



### **WHUMC Swedish Smorgasbord 2015 Tack så mycket!!! (Thank you very much)**

The 3rd Annual Swedish Smörgåsbord that was held on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> was a huge success! We had over 90 guests in attendance. It was a wonderful celebration of the Swedish heritage of our church, and a fond reminder to many of our long-time members of past Smorgasbords that were held almost 40 years ago.

Many thanks to our Swedish Advisors – Ann Burns, Stuart Carlson, Karen Ellsworth, Joy Ferguson, Doris Shuskus, Linda Weber, Shirley Wuelfing, Barbara Zyla – for sharing their wisdom and past Smörgåsbord experiences. Thanks also to the remarkable kitchen staff who helped in planning and preparing all of the Swedish dishes. But the biggest thanks go to all of you who attended and supported this wonderful event! On behalf of the UMW and the entire Smörgåsbord committee, we extend our most sincere thanks and gratitude.

We look forward to seeing you all next year on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 as we prepare to extend our Swedish hospitality once again!

## May Birthdays

May 3	Maximus Edward-Lee	May 15	Karen Loveland
Ricks, Kent	Sinram	May 19	Liana Kinsella
May 5	Leah Kimble	May 21	Will Ennis, Marcia Forbes
May 7	Jeremy Shuskus	May 25	Russ Fleming
May 9	Len Gaulin	May 28	Diane Leja
May 10	Maya Delaire, Tyler Delaire	May 29	Jake Barnowski, Eleanor
May 11	Mitchell Weiss	Lankin, Evan Roy	
May 14	Doris Shuskus	May 31	Nicholas Meredith



## May Anniversaries

May 7	Ann Sylvia & Bill Burns
May 14	Kristen & Larry Wilder
May 16	Linda & Bill Weber
May 18	Jeanne & Alan Ennis
May 21	Lisa & Ric Hanse
May 26	Lisa & Robert Hazzard
May 31	Gini & Jim Armstrong, Kim & Peter White

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