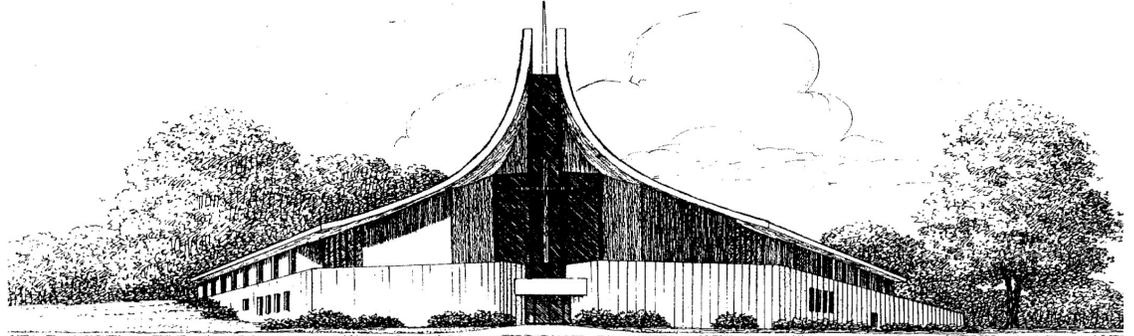


UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

# THE FLAME

VOLUME 22  
ISSUE 1  
**SPRING**  
2021



## **WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PASTOR KIM**

We have all experienced quite the year: it has been a year of losses; uncertainty; illness; death; jolting changes; fear; prayer; hope; cooperation and teamwork; recovery and sacrifice, among other things. It was one year ago when the pandemic stopped our life as we knew it: we went into lockdown - our churches were shuttered; schools were shuttered; theaters; restaurants; workplaces; etc. The images of people isolated and dying alone in ICU's were unbearable. Things that we were told we needed—cleaners, disinfectants, and hand sanitizers were nowhere to be found. Grocery store shelves were empty. After six months of this, we saw glimmers of hope in the fall: church reopened and many things came back to life, and then the numbers of the infected went up again and we shut down again.

The same week last March that the Bishop told us we had to close, he also told us we had to develop a worship presence online immediately. Thanks to the technological wizardry of Tonya Clark, Musa Masood, and Andrew Levine, we were up and running with an online worship service within a week. Not long after, several of us attended a Zoom meeting with a “master” on Online worship from our Conference, who shared his experience and ideas re: needed equipment. Shortly after that, we applied for and received a Conference matching grant that helped us purchase a camera and laptop needed for a much better online worship. And then Andrew secured a West Conn intern to help us get up and running with the new equipment and train a team of people on the mechanics of producing a good online experience. Remember that the goal is that even when we begin to worship in person again, we will continue to make our worship service available online.

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

And so yes, the year of the pandemic was unlike no other. And yet here we are one year later with tentative signs of hope all around us. Here is what I give thanks to God for:

- ◆ I give thanks that as far as we know no one in our immediate church family lost their life to COVID. It was reported at one point that Shirley Fogle had contracted it, but it was not felt to be the cause of her death. And some of our members had extended family members who lost lives or have been severely impacted. And some of our families were in quarantine at various times and some of our members contracted COVID, but were not hospitalized.
- ◆ I give thanks for the day I received my first Pfizer vaccine at Stamford Hospital on March 1, and the feeling I had that maybe we really are turning a corner.
- ◆ I never thought I would be saying this, but I give thanks for Zoom, because it was Zoom and Zoom only that allowed all of our standing church committees to continue to meet regularly and conduct the business of the church throughout this entire time. Your Ad Council, Trustees, Finance, and SPR met EVERY month this past year and remained faithful to their tasks in the midst of uncertain and chaotic times.
- ◆ I give thanks for all of you who continued to support us through online participation, contributions, and occasional office visits - all reminders that we are held together by the invisible thread of our faith in a God who has walked with us every step of this past year.
- ◆ I give thanks for Andrew Levine and Patti Cohen-Hecht, my fellow staff members. Andrew was a faithful colleague and friend, as we consulted each week to discuss and plan each Sunday's worship. Patti has been a true friend and great co-worker, and the hours in the office this past year would have been very lonely without her.
- ◆ And here is another Zoom "shout out." Our cooperative parish was able to offer a 3 part series on cultural differences and racial awareness this past fall due to the wonders of zoom. Several persons from our church participated. In addition, our church offered a winter Bible Study, with great participation, thanks to Zoom.
- ◆ I give thanks for signs of spring that are beginning to pop up all around us: the lengthening of daylight hours; warm days this past week; robin sightings in my yard; small green bulbs beginning to push up from the ground. Yes, we are moving into a new season in more ways than one and it is indeed a time to give thanks.

I am hopeful we will be together for in-person worship soon. There are still some hurdles we have to get through, but as more people get vaccinated and if the COVID numbers come down, we do hope to re-open later this spring. In the meantime, after a very difficult year, we desperately need the good news of Easter. And so I wish you the renewal of a true spring and the blessing of knowing in your soul that Christ is Risen...Christ is Risen indeed!

*Pastor Kim*

**PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US FOR OUR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES**



**Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7 pm:** Please join us online for a 30 minute meditative service as we remember Jesus' last supper and final commandment. It would not seem like Maundy Thursday if we didn't have some form of communion. Bishop Bickerton has given clergy permission to consecrate the elements online so that our members can then partake of the elements safely at home. PLEASE PREPARE BY HAVING SOME BREAD OR CRACKERS AND JUICE ready so that you can participate in this at-home communion with symbols of the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

**Good Friday, April 2, 7 pm:** Join us online for a Good Friday Stations of the Cross service of dramatic readings, prayers, and music. This will be a reflective and somber service as we walk the way of the cross with our Lord Jesus and consider the meaning of his sacrifice for us.

**Easter Sunday, April 4, 10:30 am:** Join us online as we gather to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. This service will be live-streamed so that we will be leading it in our sanctuary the same time you are watching it. This Service of Resurrection will offer celebratory music, readings, an Easter message, and a sanctuary decorated with beautiful flowers. Though we cannot all physically be together yet, we can all be together spiritually as we worship together online.

**In gratitude:** Many thanks to the Worship Team who continue to go above and beyond in bringing our congregation online worship: Tonya Clark; Andrew Levine; Calvin Sevoia (our intern); Pastor Kim; Valerie Bose; Jim and Sue Teer; Jack Pavao.

# JOIN US FOR SPRING WORSHIP

**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP  
VIA YOUTUBE OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

**TO ACCESS OUR WORSHIP SERVICE PLEASE GO TO OUR DEDICATED  
CHANNEL ON YOUTUBE OR OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.**

**YOU WILL BE ABLE TO VIEW OUR LIVE WORSHIP SERVICE  
ON YOUR PHONE, TABLET, OR COMPUTER.**

**THE CHURCH WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER THIS ONLINE WORSHIP  
EXPERIENCE EACH SUNDAY AT 10:30AM.**

**THE FILMED SERVICE WILL STAY ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL  
AFTER THE LIVESTREAM IN CASE PARISHIONERS WANT TO  
VIEW IT AGAIN OR ARE UNABLE TO VIEW IT IN REAL TIME.**

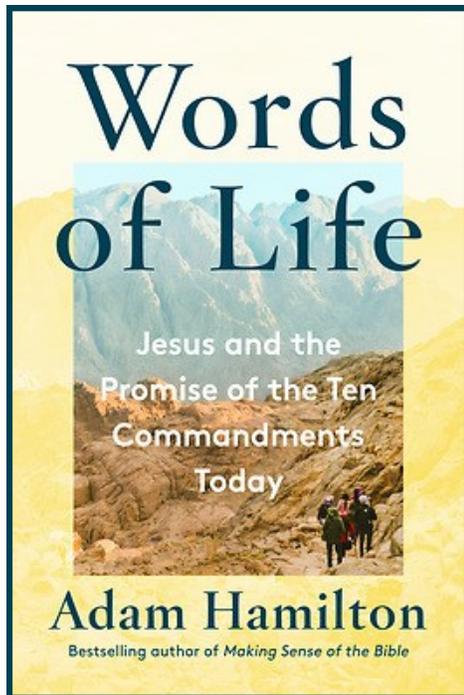
**JOIN US ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCQUWFTRIBo-  
CJTwwT5EH-Jw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQUWFTRIBo-CJTwwT5EH-Jw)**

**OR ON FACEBOOK PAGE:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DANBURYMETHODIST](https://www.facebook.com/danburymethodist)**





## **BIBLE STUDY ON MOSES AND THE 10 COMMANDMENTS**

### **From Pastor Kim:**

I would like to offer a spring Bible Study entitled: “Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today”.

The book to accompany the study is the latest book written by UM Pastor Rev. Adam Hamilton. In his book, Rev. Hamilton brings modern eyes to the most important set of ethics in history.

We will consider the question: What if the 10 commandments were not just a set of ancient rules but also a guide to experiencing the good life and a life rooted in God’s love today?

The study will be offered on Thursday evenings for one hour starting at 7 pm.

All sessions will be by Zoom, so you can learn from the comfort of your own home.

It is a ten session study (one session for each commandment) and we would like to begin shortly after Easter.

Please let me know if you will plan to join us. I will not order books or set any definite plans until I hear from you. We would like to have a minimum of 8 to 10 people in order to move ahead with the study. So please let me know as soon as you can. Phyllis Tranzillo will be assisting me with the study and will be teaching a few of the sessions.



## FROM PASTOR KIM

Dear friends in Christ,

Our hearts and prayers go out to our Asian-American brothers and sisters over the terrible loss of life from the shootings in Atlanta, including the six Asian-American women who were killed. This is on top of the recent spate of violence directed toward Asian Americans over the past several months. These are bias related hate crimes and as United Methodist Christians we stand against any and all violence directed toward persons because of their race or ethnicity. I am including a prayer, reflection, and photo by my colleague and fellow parish coordinator Rev. Dong Hyun Choi, pastor of the Greenwich United Methodist Church.

***Pastor Kim***

***How are you today?***

***I am not ok. I am very sad and angry. I am not able to function well. My body, mind, and soul are aching. It is painful to hear the traumatic news that people are killed by hatred and discrimination.***

***Gracious and merciful God, in the midst of our lives, we call your name. When I face illogical situations and experience irrational circumstances, I cry out to you. You are just and righteous, but I am not. You are good, but I am not. You are slow to anger, but I am not. You are compassionate, but I am not. I need your help. I need you, o Lord. We need your peace which is filled with justice. So, today, I ask your Holy Spirt. Please come and touch your children. Let us know you are with us and listen to our crying. Please reveal that You are Good, Just, Righteous through Love! We are holding your Living Word, Jesus Christ. Amen!***



*photo by Dong Hyun Choi  
All are welcome to use this prayer  
and photo for the ministry of God!*

*My son, James was happy and laughing. He was playing "Hide and Seek" with his big brother, Jason. I change this photo to black and white and try to express different feelings what the original photo has. I try to say that this joyful playing moment can be interrupted by someone who is filled with hatred. I want to keep my children and their lives. So, intentionally use this joyful moment.*

***Pastor Dong Hyun Choi***  
**First United Methodist Church of Greenwich**



## **THE EASTERN AND NORTHERN FAIRFIELD COOPERATIVE PARISH**

Since our church became a part of one of the many cooperative parishes within the New York Annual Conference, many steps have been taken to encourage and enhance communications between the individual churches within our parish. As many of you probably know, our cooperative parish includes Danbury, Rowayton, Jesse Lee, Zion's Hill, Stevens Memorial, and Cornerstone in Norwalk. Also, Rev. Maria Pia Seirup who formerly served at Jesse Lee, has created a special ministry program called Peaceworks which is also part of our cooperative parish.

For several months, Pastor Kim, as the clergy coordinator, has been meeting weekly with all the clergy in our cooperative parish. Their meetings provide time not only for the exchange of ideas, but also as an opportunity for mutual support during the Covid-19 crisis. With the clergy committee well established, the District Lay Leader, Marie Bell, was asked to create laity committees for each cooperative parish headed by a Laity Coordinator. To date, Marie and Gary Gomes – the other District Lay Leader – have hosted three online meetings of all the Laity Coordinators. Within our parish, as the Laity Coordinator, I have met with the lay reps from the six churches several times including one combined meeting with the clergy group.

The short-term goal of our laity committee is a simple one: to open the lines of communication between our churches. It is also our hope that opportunities can be made available to congregants to attend a wider array of events, special worship services, or Bible Studies. In the future, church resources may also be exchanged as well as the chance to work together on ministries either in our own community or in others.

Given the different sizes and cultures of our partner churches, we know there will be challenges trying to create an entity that is both equitable and productive. However, learning about some of the creative ideas other churches are working on, and witnessing the deep commitment of other lay representatives, success is certainly within our reach.

In order to facilitate cross communication, a Facebook page will be created for our cooperative parish. There has also been some discussion about surveying members of the six churches to help determine what types of programs would have the most interest. These ideas include a parish-wide hymn sing; some type of online or in-person Fellowship meeting; and the development of parish-wide book or Bible studies.

While each individual congregation in the cooperative parish will retain its own special identity and community outreach, partnering with other churches should provide opportunities to enrich our faith and increase the impact of all our ministries.

*Chris Russock*

## **FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**



Happy Spring everyone.

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that regardless of the uncertainty of 2020 we were able to meet our financial obligations last year due to the continued and faithful support of our members and the tireless efforts of Christine Russock who secured a PPP grant of \$24,000 for the church. This grant helped us offset the fundraisers we were unable to have. The grant has been completely forgiven after we completed all the required paperwork.

We hope 2021 will have us on a more secure financial footing, but like many of us, financially we are still on shaky ground. If you have not yet pledged please reach out to our Stewardship chair, Carla Pierce. We have applied for another PPP loan but as of this newsletter, we have not yet been approved. We hope to be able to offer fundraising events that occur later in 2021, but those events are still uncertain with so much unknown.

I am happy to report that more of our members are taking advantage of our online giving platform. The Conference negotiated lower fees for the churches in our conference that use Vanco. This is good news for everyone. The advantages of using Vanco is two-fold: the money is available to us within a day or two and it also reduces the burden on our counters and finance secretary. This also reduces possibility of human error when inputting the information into our data base-Breeze, as it is automatically imported weekly. Those volunteer positions are vital to our financial health, but are also time consuming. Paying online alleviates some of the work for them. Those of you that may have been considering using the system for your giving but are unsure how to do it, the weekly newsletter has a short video explaining it. But no matter how you give, we deeply appreciate and are thankful for your faithful giving.

We also invite all of our members to take a few moments to log in to their Breeze account to make sure your email is correct in the system, so your giving statement can be accurately sent. Please use the link: <https://danburymethodist.breezechms.com/> to login, if you cannot remember your password click on forgot password and they will be able to send your password reset link. If you have changed your email address in the last couple of years or are unable to login to the system, please let the church know and we will update your email.

As we enter spring and hope is on the horizon to worship together soon, the finance committee once again thanks you for your support and looks forward to seeing everyone in person.

**THANK YOU**



## **DOROTHY DAY HOUSE NEEDS FOOD AND SNACK DONATIONS**

We are seeking donations for any of the following items for the Dorothy Day Hospitality House. Please consider helping this vital group by dropping off your food donation at our church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am to 1:00pm. There will be a box just inside the door to leave donations.

- ◆ Juice boxes
- ◆ Granola bars
- ◆ Fruit (apples or oranges are best)
- ◆ Individual wrapped cookie packages
- ◆ Nutella with breadsticks
- ◆ Crackers and cheese packages
- ◆ Individual chip packages
- ◆ Individual cereal boxes
- ◆ Anything that can be put into a bagged breakfast or bagged lunch

The Dorothy Day Hospitality House delivers 90 bagged breakfast and 90 bagged lunches to the motel for the homeless, as well as a hot meal everyday. In addition to these 90 meals we also serve approximately 80 meals at the door of Dorothy Day from 3:00pm to 4:30pm.

Patrons are given a hot meal, a lunch bag and breakfast bag for each person in their family at the entrance of the hospitality house. There is also a bakery table for patrons to point and receive their choice of whatever they want. We also receive donations of special bags for children that have special surprises.

There is a real need for food during the pandemic, so whatever help you can offer it will be greatly appreciated. If you can't shop or not sure what to get I'm willing to shop for you!

***Bev Anderson***  
Outreach Chair

# Easter Flowers 2021



**THE ALTAR GUILD IS NOW TAKING FLOWER ORDERS FOR EASTER.**

**THEY WILL BE DISPLAYED IN THE SANCTUARY FOR EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021.**

**THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ARE \$10.00 EACH FOR TULIP, DAFFODIL AND LILY.**

**HYACINTH AND AZALEA PLANTS ARE \$15.00 EACH.**

*Remember how spectacular the sanctuary looks when it is elegantly blessed with multitudes of beautiful Spring flowers.*

*Please don't miss this opportunity to help create such a wonderful sight for Easter.*

Cash or checks made payable to the United Methodist Church of Danbury may be sent to the church by Monday, March 29, 2021. For additional information, please contact Val at 203-744-5712.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - DEADLINE MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2021**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

# Tulip \_\_\_\_\_ # Daffodil \_\_\_\_\_ # Lily \_\_\_\_\_ Total # Plants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

# Hyacinth \_\_\_\_\_ # Azalea \_\_\_\_\_ Total # Plants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers given in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Flowers given in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PLANTS MAY BE PICKED UP AT CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY  
BETWEEN 2:00-3:00PM OR MONDAY, APRIL 5 FROM 10:00-11:00AM**



**CAN YOU SPARE ONE HOUR EVERY 6 WEEKS?  
THE ALTAR GUILD NEEDS YOU**

We are recruiting new volunteers to join our current Altar Guild volunteers.



Each week a “Head of the Week” serves with you and provides training and guidance - you are never alone! The Head of the Week is either the chairperson or one of the assistants. An email reminder is sent to you the week you are scheduled to serve. The Altar Guild committees are set up so that you only have to serve once every six weeks.

Here are the Altar Guild Committees and a description of their duties.

- ◆ **Saturday Committee:** One person and the “Head of the Week” prepare the sanctuary for Sunday Worship. Flowers are arranged, altar area is dusted, oil candles filled, hymn boards are changed. In addition, appropriate items are placed on the Altar.
- ◆ **Sunday Committee:** One person stays after church and assists the Head of the Week. They put away all items used in the sanctuary during worship.

**Communion Committee Members and Bread Bakers are not included in this form, because Communion is indefinitely on hold due to Covid-19 protocols.**

Serving on the Altar Guild is an ideal way to serve without making a heavy commitment. It brings a great deal of satisfaction to those who serve, knowing they have played an essential part in the preparation of worship.

*It is a wonderful way to serve the Lord and the United Methodist Church of Danbury.  
Come and join us!*

**Valerie Bose, Altar Guild Chair (203) 744-5712**

**THE ALTAR GUILD 2021-2022**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to serve on the following Committees:**

- Saturday Committee       Sunday Committee

**Please complete this form and return to:  
Valerie Bose, 8 Hitching Post Lane, Danbury, CT 06811**



## SUMMER TAG SALE

A tag sale is planned for this summer, possibly just outdoor or possibly indoor/outdoor. If you are doing your spring cleaning please think of the church and gather your items, but hold on to them for now. The date of when we will start accepting goods, and the sale date, will be announced in the FLAME.

Do all the good **YOU CAN.**

**BY** *all the means*  *you can.*

**IN ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN.**

**IN ALL THE PLACES**  
 **YOU CAN.**

At all the times **YOU CAN.**

To **ALL THE PEOPLE**

**AS LONG** *you can.*  


 *as you ever can.*

john wesley

**BEST WISHES AND GOD'S BLESSINGS  
TO THOSE  
CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN**



Renee Childs	April 1	Kwaku Aurelien	May 3
Kim Goodwin	April 2	Mark Clemens	May 3
Chris Russock	April 4	Michael Pietras	May 4
Robert Clark	April 9	Justin Goodwin	May 6
Peter Hornik	April 10	Kaitlynn Jackson-Slocum	May 7
Barry Pirro	April 10	Jack Pavao	May 9
Mark Pierce	April 11	Kofi Aurelien	May 11
Jim Davis	April 15	Brian Spaulding	May 11
Jessica Rutledge	April 24	Elizabeth Mitchell	May 16
Brian Kempter	April 27	Matthew Salamon	May 20
Mary Mattoni	April 28	Laura Zeigler	May 20
Tonya Clark	April 30	Julia Goodwin	May 21
		Aiden McAllister	May 21
		Brooke Grippio	May 22
		Carlos Ferreira	May 24
		Kevin Andrees	May 26
		Elisa Dos Santos	May 27



# *Easter Blessings*

*From*  
*The United Methodist Church of Danbury*  
*Administrative Council and Trustees*  
*Reverend Kim Bosley, Pastor*  
*Andrew Levine, Music Director*  
*Patti Cohen-Hecht, Administrator*

# UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

## OUR MISSION

WE ARE A WELCOMING FAMILY OF DISCIPLES  
WHO SEEK TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH AND  
ALLOW THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO GUIDE US  
AS WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

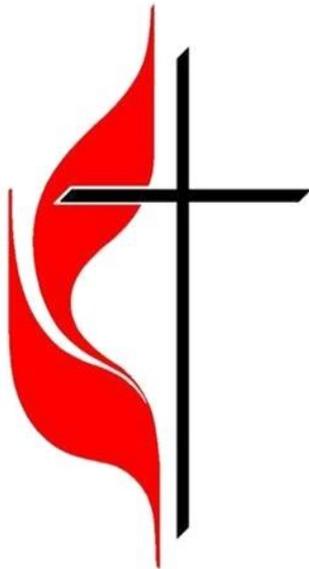
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MINISTERS: THE CONGREGATION

PASTOR: REV. KIMBERLY A. BOSLEY

MUSIC DIRECTOR: ANDREW LEVINE

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: PATTI COHEN-HECHT

LAY LEADER: CHRIS RUSSOCK

### SPRING 2021 FLAME

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