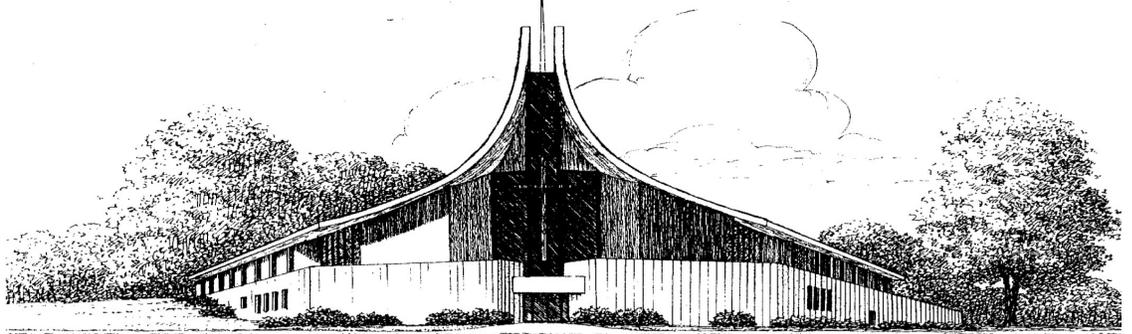


UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

THE FLAME

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NOVEMBER
2020



WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PASTOR KIM

Dear friends,

I greet you in the name of Christ, who continues to bring us through the choppy waters we have all faced these past months. It has been a challenging season in so many ways- physically, emotionally, spiritually, and socially.

And yet even in the midst of a time none of us would have ever wanted and all of us want to end, we have been forced to learn new things, we have had to embrace technology in order to worship, and we have tried to find creative ways to connect.

And this week we arrive at another transition point. After weeks of planning and preparation that took place late in the summer and early fall, we submitted our plans for reopening to Rev. Tim Riss, our District Superintendent. The plans followed the guidelines laid out by Bishop Thomas Bickerton that were required of each church to reopen. We just received word yesterday that our request to reopen has been approved.

We will reopen for live worship this Sunday, November 1, at 10:30am (All Saints Sunday). In order to do so safely, we will take many precautions, which you will find detailed later in this letter. I will very much look forward to seeing those of you who feel comfortable attending. And those of you who don't yet feel comfortable -I understand. Please know our Technology Team has been hard at work for weeks purchasing equipment and putting together a plan to live stream our worship so that those at home can continue to worship with us.

In the meantime, all meetings and Bible studies will continue online, using the Zoom platform. Indeed our annual Church Conference with the Rev. Tim Riss will take place by Zoom, on Monday, November 16, at 7:30 p.m.

For those who will be joining us for worship this Sunday, here is a summary of what you can expect when you arrive.

- A deep cleaning of the sanctuary and entire building will take place this Saturday, and the sanctuary will be cleaned again before each use.
- Persons are asked to enter the church through the center glass doors and exit through the side doors (so that all traffic is moving in the same direction).
- Due to the requirement for social distancing, we are not able to offer childcare at this time. Our Education Committee is working on the possibility of a socially distanced Sunday School class. More info will be available about this in the next week or so.
- One of the ushers will check your name off so that we will be able to have an attendance record and perform contact tracing if that should become necessary at a later point.

(Continued on page 2)

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PASTOR KIM

(Continued from page 1)

- Our bulletins will be laid out on a table in the narthex so that you can pick one up. You will not be handed anything, as all points of common touching will be eliminated.
- You will need to wear a mask at all times in our building. If you have forgotten a mask, one will be provided for you.
- We will observe social distancing while seated in the sanctuary. Every other pew has been roped off. Families can sit together but there needs to be at least six feet between persons and groups.
- All Bibles, hymnals, pencils, etc., have been temporarily removed from the sanctuary to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 by contact.
- Perhaps most difficult of all, you will not be able to sing the hymns or pray responsively. Singing especially is problematic because of the wider spread of aerosol. Many of the hymns you are familiar with will be played instrumentally and Andrew will use a soloist when possible.
- An offering basket will be placed in the narthex for you to place your gifts when you are arriving or leaving. You may also continue to mail your gifts, bring them to the church office, or give online.
- There will not be a common piece of paper in the narthex to write your prayer concerns, due to the need to eliminate all points of common touching. You may email me your prayer concerns and I will include them or pass them along to the prayer leader.
- We will not be able to offer Communion or Fellowship Hour at the present time, due to the risk of contact spread and due to the requirement for social distancing.
- I will conduct worship from behind the altar, so that I can preach without a mask. The first few pews have been roped off, so that I will be four times the recommended safety distance. The scripture reader and prayer leader will speak from the lower pulpit and the soloist will also be placed back at a safe distance.
- Wear a sweater or jacket. Though the heat will be on, there will be a few windows open for ventilation.
- Expect a shorter service. The Bishop has recommended shorter services as shorter lengths of time are safer in indoor settings. As with our online service, we will be aiming for a 30 to 35 minute service
- Finally, at the conclusion of worship, you will be asked to exit by the side doors in an orderly manner and following social distancing guidelines. I hate to have to say this, but it has to be said: **NO HUGS OR HANDSHAKES OR PHYSICAL CONTACT.** If you would like to have a brief conversation with someone, it would be safest to have it outside in the parking lot. You may also speak with someone in one of the classrooms, but you **MUST** keep your mask on and maintain social distance,

I realize these changes are daunting and may feel overwhelming. However, the only way we can assure our ability to remain open and maintain our health as a church family will be dependent upon the compliance of every person in our building. Thank you in advance for your commitment to help keep everyone safe.

If you have any questions or concerns that this article does not address, please feel free to be in contact with me.

Again, I am looking forward to our being together again very soon!

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Kim



JOIN US FOR NOVEMBER



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 - ALL SAINTS DAY

10:30AM

**WORSHIP - COMMUNION
PASTOR KIM PREACHING**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 - 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30AM

PASTOR KIM PREACHING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 - 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:30AM

PASTOR KIM PREACHING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 - CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

10:30AM

PASTOR KIM PREACHING

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:30AM

PASTOR KIM PREACHING

**YOU ARE ALSO ABLE LIVE STREAM OUR 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:

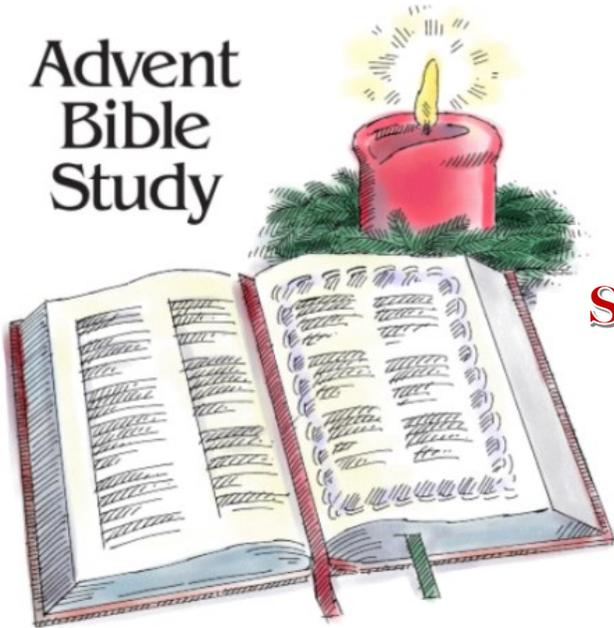
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQUWFtriBq-CJTwwT5EH-Jw>

OR ON FACEBOOK PAGE:

<https://www.facebook.com/danburymethodist>



Advent Bible Study



JOIN US FOR “**INCARNATION: REDISCOVERING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS**”

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BIBLE STUDY

Join us for **“Incarnation: Rediscovering the Significance of Christmas”**
an Advent/Christmas Bible Study.

Description: His parents gave him the name Jesus. But prophets, shepherds, wisemen and angels addressed him by other names. They called him Lord, Messiah, Savior, Emmanuel, Light of the World, and the Word Made Flesh.

This study will explore the historical and personal significance of his birth. Advent is a time to remember what is important. In the face of uncertainty and conflict, let’s gather as Christians to reclaim the Christ child who brings us together, heals our hearts, and calls us to bring light into the darkness.

Sessions include:

Session 1 - November 19: Presidents and Kings

Session 2 - December 3: The Savior and Our Need for Saving

Session 3 - December 10: Emmanuel in the Midst of a Pandemic

Session 4 - December 17: The Light of the World

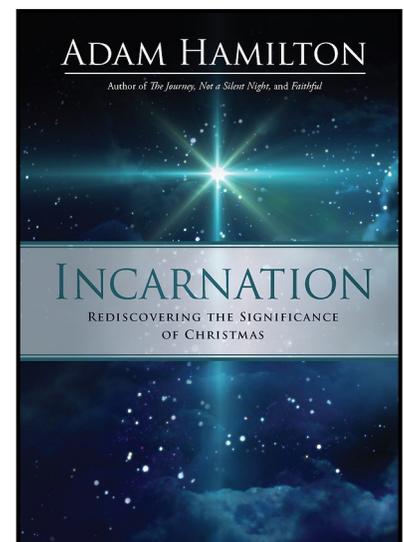
Session 5 - Epilogue: Epiphany- Falling to our Knees *

**Date to be determined later*

The book for the study “Incarnation” is written by UM Pastor Adam Hamilton. Participants will all receive a copy.

Please see Pastor Kim to sign up. Everyone is welcome.

This would be a great way for us all to connect during Advent, so please do sign sign up soon so we can order you a book.



**THE STUDY WILL BE CONDUCTED BY ZOOM,
SO YOU WILL NOT EVEN NEED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME TO JOIN US.**

**FROM THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE:**



This has been, to say the least, a challenging year for the finance committee.

First and foremost, we wish to thank our members for their thoughtful and continued giving throughout this year. We have faced the unexpected expenses of setting up a live stream service, the loss of our space users income and the loss of our major fund-raisers. In conjunction with our members support, we were blessed with the Payroll Protection Loan which allowed up to continue to pay our salaries and our other obligations for a 3 month period.

In addition to members giving traditionally, our on line giving service continues to be used by many members. If you have been thinking about using that service but are unsure please feel free to reach out to Tonya at tlartclark@comcast.net for help.

There are many unknowns for 2021. We do not know when it will be possible to resume our fundraisers, and if and when our building users will return. In essence, we do not know when things will return to “normal”, but we remain thankful for your generosity in the midst of challenging times and hopeful that we will be able to continue to meet our expenses.





**ANNUAL
CHURCH CONFERENCE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16
7:30pm**

This year's Annual Church Conference will be held via ZOOM on Monday, November 16 at 7:30pm. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Tim Riss, will preside. The Conference is held annually in every church in order to allow every member of the congregation to have a voice and vote in matters pertaining to the church. **The ZOOM meeting information will be emailed to our members in advance of the meeting.**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

FROM THE "TECH TEAM"

Even as we look forward to resuming live worship, our Tech team has been preparing for a better quality live streamed worship. We started out with virtually no equipment. Several of us then met with Peter Hoerness, a member of Shrub Oak UMC who has been serving as an informal consultant to churches trying to build their online worship program. He recommended equipment that was critical for a good quality but also reasonably priced. Andrew and Tonya have been purchasing the equipment. How did we pay for it? We received an \$800 Conference grant and several donations, which have covered nearly all of the cost of around \$2600.



In addition, Andrew helped us locate an intern from WestConn in Media Arts, who will be working with us for Oct through December. He assembled the equipment and is helping set up our live streaming operation.

A change you will notice when you return is that we had to remove one of the back pews to make room for the equipment. The reason that was necessary is the location of the computer table, which needed to be close to the newly installed ethernet cable and sound room. We also had to make sure we were in compliance with the fire codes and not block the aisle.

You may also remember that our Bishop mandated from the start that every church develop an online presence. And so we are in the midst of trying to make that happen for manageable costs. While some of these additions and changes may be difficult for some, it offers us an opportunity to offer our worship services to a much wider audience from now on.

We are asking our members to prayerfully consider the opportunity to be a part of our online worship team at this time. Ideally we would like to build a team of 6 to 8 people. Initially it will be to help operate the camera. Training will be provided and this is technology that you can learn how to do. In addition, in the upcoming weeks, we will be looking to train two or more people to operate the software. We believe that actively participating in the worship service may even add another spiritual aspect to your Sunday morning.

In order for us to continue in this new endeavor, we will need people to help in these capacities. If you have an interest in being a part of the online worship process, please see Andrew or Tonya.

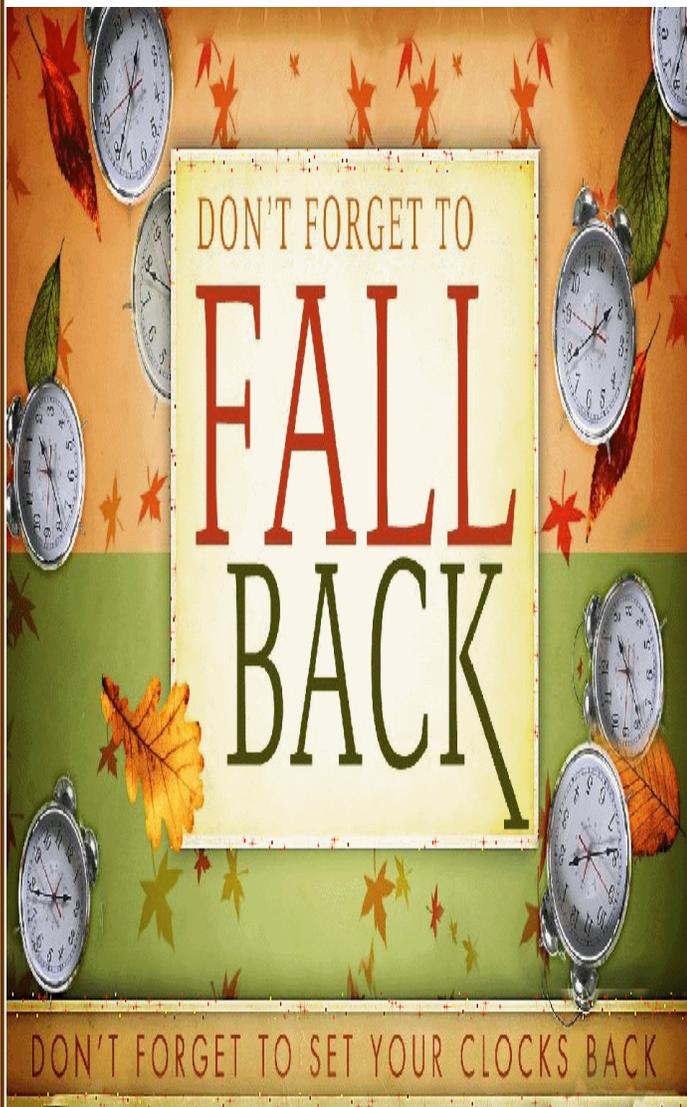
The Salvation Army sponsors a program called the **Angel Tree**. Each Angel has a list of clothing with sizes and toys. A donor is asked to buy something on the angel card for the child and they suggest not spending more than \$30.

If you are interested in purchasing something for a child you can send a check to the church with a notation that the money is to purchase something on the angel card and I will purchase the gift and forward the receipt to you.

Bev Anderson



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS ON
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR
CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 1**



DID YOU KNOW....

Did you know that during these past many months, all of our standing committees (Admin Council, Trustees, SPR, and Finance) have continued to meet monthly by Zoom? Yes, we have all learned to Zoom; we have conducted church business; we have stayed in touch; and we have enjoyed the convenience of attending church meetings from home even while we have missed seeing each other. This practice of meeting by Zoom will continue for the foreseeable future, for safety reasons.

MANY THANKS to church leaders ***Chris Russock, Phyllis Tranzillo, Peter Eaton, Tonya Clark and Dee Skidmore*** for their continued and faithful leadership during this difficult time.

MANY THANKS to our staff members ***Pastor Kim, Andrew Levine, and Patti Cohen-Hecht***, who have not stopped working, even for one week, during the pandemic.

And ***MANY THANKS*** to ***Jim and Sue Teer*** who have been de facto "building custodians" during these many months—Sue counted and deposited money weekly and Jim performed numerous building repairs (including replacing a broken window and the removal of a dead bat the day of the tornado!). They truly gave new meaning to the phrase "holding down the fort."

COVENANT TO CARE



Helping Connecticut's Children in Need.

These unusual times have made the usual much more difficult, including participating in our usual outreach programs. We were not able to do our “Backpack Drive” but we are still able to continue our Thanksgiving outreach, only in a different manner.

For years our congregation has generously filled shopping bags with the makings for a Thanksgiving feast, including a gift card. After speaking with our social worker from DCF (Department of Children & Families), it was decided that it would be safer for everyone if we just contributed gift cards to a local supermarket this year. We will still be making it possible for families in need to benefit from our commitment to share our blessings.

Our social worker recommended Stop & Shop or ShopRite. I am sure if you shop at another local supermarket, a card from there would be fine. Since the cost of a Thanksgiving dinner for a family of four is estimated at about \$50.00, we are recommending gift cards in that amount. In order to make the expense more manageable, gift cards of \$25.00 can be given by several people and put together.

Please put the card/cards in an envelope marked to my attention and drop them off at the church office or put them in our church mailbox (we now have a secure locked mailbox by the road).

I know that these are especially hard times in many ways for many people. At these times it is especially important to show our commitment to help at-risk families in our community. I encourage you to use this opportunity as a way of showing God’s love and our caring for God’s children.

As always, I am very grateful for your support. I miss our church family and look forward to the time we can be together in person without restrictions. Be well and be safe.

Blessings,
Phyllis Tranzillo



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



Marjorie Underhill November 1

Craig Dibble November 3

James Kunicki November 4

Penny McKown November 9

Emily McWilliams November 18

Joyce Morrison November 21

Barbara Kunicki November 23

Jade Cain November 24

Julius Rouse November 25

Elaine Zahara November 26

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.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DANBURY

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PASTOR: REV. KIMBERLY A. BOSLEY

MUSIC DIRECTOR: ANDREW LEVINE

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR: PATTI COHEN-HECHT

LAY LEADER: CHRIS RUSSOCK

NOVEMBER 2020 FLAME

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