



Volume 17, Issue 11
December, 2015

At a Glance...



Salvation
Army
Angels due
Dec 6th

Christmas Caroling
Dec 6 at 4pm

Men's Club Dinner
Dec 7 at 7pm

UMW Xmas Tea
Dec 13 3-5pm

Book Club
Dec 15 at 7:30pm

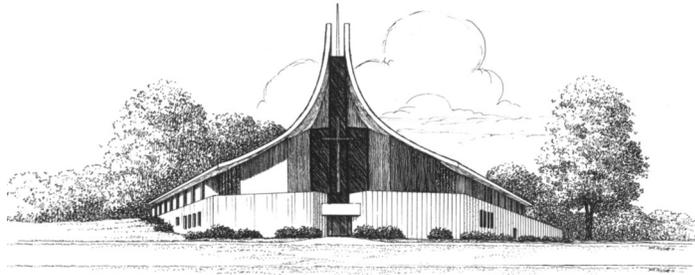


Christmas Eve
Services
5:00pm & 7:30pm

No Sunday School
Dec 27

Church office closed
for the Holidays
Dec 25, 28 & Jan 1

THE FLAME



The United Methodist Church of Danbury

Message from Pastor Kim

The Holy in our Midst

One surprise that God reveals to us at Christmas is that God feels very much at home in a humble address. In the Christmas event, God manages to plant majesty in a manger. Another surprise to be found is that not only is God at home in a humble address, but also in a secular setting. In the words of retired Bishop Melvin Wheatley, the God of Christmas is a "this worldly" God:

- who meets us in a baby's low cry as well as the vastness of the universe;
- who is just as much at home in the acrid odors of the stable as in the incensed atmosphere of the sanctuary,
- who is with us in the sweat hours of toil as well as in the sweet hour of prayer;
- who uses our secular activities quite as much as our sacred liturgies to accomplish holy intentions.

During Advent and Christmas, the common pastoral wisdom is : Don't get go busy you forget the true meaning of the season. But we all know, don't we, that many of us enjoy decorating our homes, having friends and family over, sending greetings. This is part of our holiday routine. These are our traditions. And we are not going to give up our traditions, even if it does make us busy.

Perhaps we need to think not so much of giving up our routines to find God, but in letting God find us in the midst of our routines. Perhaps we need to think not so much in terms of finding extra time for prayer, which is always a good thing, but how about trying to make ordinary daily moments prayerful times? After all, how do you create love and generosity except by living them? How do you live them except in relationships? And what are relationships made of outside of our daily routines, and that includes decorating our homes, having friends over, sending greetings, participating in worship services, sharing with those in need. Perhaps what we need to do is not eliminate our routine but to illuminate it.

Pastor's Message, continued

As we prepare this Advent season to make room in our hearts and lives for the gift of the manger, may we remember that the Holy is already here: in our hearts, in our relationships, and even in our daily routine. Instead of trying to create extra moments, let's turn all our ordinary moments into prayerful ones by simply being kind and thanking God for the gift of Jesus Christ.

Blessings, Pastor Kim

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



DECEMBER 6	2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9:30am 10:30am	Sunday School for all ages Worship; Holy Communion; Advent Candle lighting; Pastor Kim preaching.
DECEMBER 13	3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9:30am 10:30am	Sunday School for all ages Worship Children's Christmas Drama in worship; Advent Candle lighting.
DECEMBER 17	BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE	7:30pm	Quiet worship for those grieving or needing a respite from the chaos of the season.
DECEMBER 20	4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	9:30am 10:30am	Sunday School for all ages Worship; Christmas Carol Communion; Pastor Kim preaching.
DECEMBER 24	CHRISTMAS EVE	5:00pm 7:30pm	Family Service--Special Children's Message; Candlelight & Carols. Special Music. Carol, Candlelight and Communion Service. Special Music.
DECEMBER 27	1ST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMAS	10:30am	Worship; Christmas Carols; Pastor Kim preaching.

Christmas Poinsettias 2015



The Altar Guild is now taking flower orders for Christmas.
They will be displayed in the Sanctuary on
Christmas Sunday, December 20 and Christmas Eve, December 24.

The Beautiful Poinsettias are \$10.00 per plant.

*Remember how spectacular the sanctuary looks when it is elegantly blessed
with multitudes of beautiful poinsettias. Please don't miss this opportunity to
help create such a wonderful sight during Christmas.*

Cash or checks made payable to the United Methodist Church of Danbury may be given directly to
Altar Guild Members: Valerie Bose, Tonya Clark, Barbara Fulton, Barbara Kunicki or Marcia Vietrogoski
by Sunday, December 13, 2015.

You may also mail your order & check payment to Valerie Bose, 8 Hitching Post Lane, Danbury CT 06811. For
additional information, please contact Val at 203-744-5712.

*We request that you take your poinsettia(s) with you after the Christmas Eve service you attend.
If you are not able to attend any of the services, please make arrangements to have someone else
take your plant(s) home. Plants left behind may be damaged by the cold in the church.*

=====

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - DEADLINE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Your Name _____ Telephone # _____

Pink _____ # Red _____ # White _____ Total # Plants _____

Plants I will keep _____ # Plants I wish given to shut-in(s) _____

Name(s) of shut-in(s) _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

Flowers given in honor of: _____

Flowers given in memory of: _____

Sunday School News

Christmas Pageant ★ We hope everyone will be able to participate



The pageant is scheduled for **December 13th** during the Worship service.

Rehearsals will be: Sunday, November 29th 9:30 to 10:15 am
Sunday, December 6th 9:30 to 10:15 am
Saturday, December 12th 10:00 to 11:30 am
Sunday, December 13th 9:30 to 10:15 am

A possible snow date for the pageant is Dec. 20th.

If any adults would like to participate and/or help with costumes, etc., that would be most wonderful.

There will be no Sunday school on Dec. 27th.



Thanks to all of our youth and children who made some beautiful Thanksgiving Cards that were distributed by our Visitation Committee.



LET'S GO CAROLING——SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 9 FOR ALL THE DETAILS.



LUMINARY SET-UP NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

The altar Guild is looking for someone to set up the luminaries before the 5pm

Christmas Eve service and later take charge of putting them away. (Clean up can be after Christmas) The Thursday Night Life Team will have them all ready to go.

Our Driveway and walkways look lovely with the lights leading the way into the sanctuary. Please see Barbara Kunicki if you can take charge of this beautiful service.

Thanks, Barbara (203-746-5814)

United Methodist Women

COME TO THE HOLIDAY GATHERING All are welcome!!

Sunday December 13, 2015



8 Hitchingpost Lane
Danbury, Connecticut

On **Sunday, December 13th** there will be a special opportunity for the women of our church to gather together at the home of Valerie Bose. A celebratory *Christmas Tea* will be held from 3PM to 5PM. This annual Christmas meeting will feature tea, coffee, or punch and finger foods, a "Chinese Auction" grab bag gift exchange, and the signing of the cards that accompany the gifts for the shut ins. Please bring an appetizer, cookies, bar desserts or tea sandwiches to share. Beverages will be provided. The gift for the exchange should cost no more than \$10.00. This meeting is open to **all women** of our church and in our community. Bring a friend! If you like to have fun and join in with singing and fellowship....this is the meeting for you! The United Methodist Women will also be collecting: paper plates, disposable hot & cold cups, plastic cutlery, paper towels, paper napkins, hot sauce, powdered drink mix and powdered cocoa mix, for the Shelter from the Cold Program. If you would like to get a ride from the church, or have any concerns call: Karlene Lombardo at (203) 743-1260, or Shirley Fogle at (203) 748-1307 Mark your calendar now for a fun afternoon!



Men's Club Dinner

December 7th 7pm

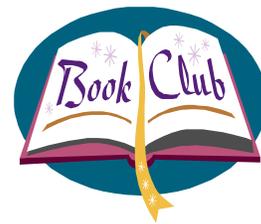
Whitlock's, Greenwood Avenue,
Bethel (next to the Bethel Cinema)

Join us on the 1st Monday evening of the month for food and fellowship.

For more information talk to Zeke Zahara
elaine7079@aol.com

Visitation Committee

On **Dec. 13th**, Karlene Lombardo will be holding the UMW meeting at Val Bose's house at 3pm. At this time, we will also be signing Christmas cards for the shut ins, as well as handing out a small gift for the contact person to deliver to them. This is always a fun time and nice of us to spend some time together spreading the holiday cheer. Mark your calendars for this special date....Val Stagen



Join the group

Come once-come every time

Everyone is welcome

Tuesday, December 15, 7:30pm.

We will be reviewing

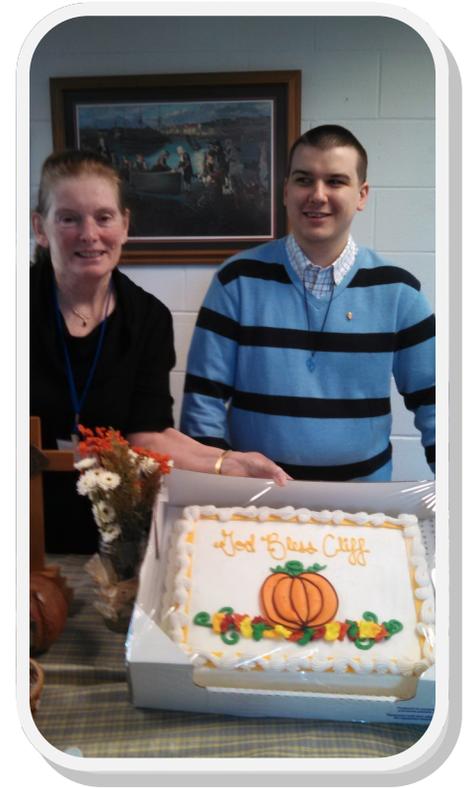
Seven Stories Of Christmas Love
by Leo Bascaglia

Pastor Kim will be hosting this month at the parsonage 4 Alan Avenue, Danbury. Please meet at the Church at 7:00 to carpool.

Aasta Moser Award 2015 Recipient—Cliff Davis

Each year the United Methodist Women give a donation in the name of the recipient of our Special Membership Award. This award money is used for mission. Our honoree also receives a pin and a certificate. The Special Membership Award at the Danbury United Methodist Church is called the Aasta Moser Award.

This year's recipient is Cliff Davis. Cliff became a member of the church, in 2001, when he was confirmed. He is the youngest person to receive this award. He has served our church as a member of the Altar Guild, the Dive Team, the Green Team and as a regular helper at Thursday Night Life. He has played the drums with the Praise Band and is a bell ringer with the Bell Choir. He continues to be an advocate for the homeless and he has served the clients of Dorothy Day for seventeen years. This year he has been an invaluable member of the team that coordinated the Contemporary Worship Services during the winter and summer. His help, participation, and willingness to learn the technical skills needed for visual projections were greatly appreciated. Congratulations, Cliff!



Four more weeks till He arrives.....

Three more weeks till He arrives.....

This is the first phrase of a song from my youth that the choir frequently sang each week during Advent with the number of weeks changing each week. Before you know it we will again be in Advent and waiting with great anticipation for the birth of Jesus.

Won't you consider joining the choir for the Advent and Christmas season? We would love to have you join us! There are no requirements other than to be willing to lift your voice in song. So join us for the month of December.

Please see Carol Spaulding (203-778-4066) or Barbara Kunicki (203-746-5814) for more information! See you in the choir!

Best Wishes and God's Blessings
To those celebrating birthdays in



Betty Ziegler	12/1
Allison McWilliams	12/3
Dot Gadoci	12/4
Clarence Holston	12/4
Ed March	12/4
Bishop Rouse	12/4
Kathy Curran	12/6
Debbie Davis	12/6
Leslie Gartland	12/8
Bob Fulton	12/10
Phyllis Tranzillo	12/11
Yaniyah Knight	12/15
Robert Elwell	12/16
Carol Spaulding	12/16
Zeke Zahara	12/17
Joseph Rouse	12/18
Betty March	12/23
Pastor Kim Bosley	12/26
Chris Ziegler	12/27
Emma Pavao	12/29

Trustees Report

November Meeting Notes

There was a proposal by A & N construction to use steel post to reinforce both beams (6" x 8" in size and 3/8" thick). Questions were raised regarding the merits of this proposal as the pipes were not capable of supporting the roof by themselves and were reliant up being bolted to existing columns (one of which is rotten).

It was suggested we go back to Cenaxo with the idea that there is a second proposal from A & N and possibly we could renegotiate new terms with Cenaxo. An alternative suggestion was made for a neutral party be brought on board to view these proposals and it was suggested we contact Peter Sierup, a structural engineer, to review both proposals and make a presentation to the Trustees on his recommendations.

Larry brought up the painting of the church doors, which need another coat.

An arrangement has been made for a company to plow the parsonage driveway and walkways with payments made per plow.

Meeting adjourned 8:30.

Jim Teer, Secretary of Trustees

Police Investigate Recent Vandalism and Thefts at Danbury UMC

Beginning in Sept., strange things turned up missing in our church building. First it was wreaths, candy apples, and horseshoe pumpkins that had been made for our Pumpkin Festival. Then the large old chair that had been sitting in the narthex suddenly disappeared. Most recently, flowers on the altar in honor of someone's birthday disappeared. At first, it seemed that perhaps someone had picked up the items for the Pumpkin Festival with a plan to pay later. But as other items started disappearing, the situation became more of a concern.

The Trustees phoned the police on Nov. 23 to report the missing items. The Chair of the Trustees walked an officer with the Danbury Police Dept. around our building to show him where items had turned up missing and what the items were. The officer made a list of all that had been taken and will continue to monitor the situation.

In the meantime, to use a familiar phrase, if you see something, say something. These thefts are taking place in our church home and in God's House.



*If we keep Christ in our
heart.
Christmas has no end.*



Thank you to our hard working Altar Guild. The altar was especially lovely for Thanksgiving!

Outreach

This is a busy season for the Outreach Committee:

Thanksgiving Bags were filled and delivered (see Phyllis Tranzillo's article below).

26 Salvation Army "Angels" have been distributed. The angels list the gifts that less fortunate children would like for Christmas and will be delivered to the Salvation Army by December 11.

Shelter from the Cold started in a new location this season. We are at the St James AME church on William Street. It is a very comfortable location and the folks seem to like it. It can comfortably seat 60 people. We don't have a huge storage space there, so I need to bring everything with me, food, serving utensils, etc. We can always use donations of any of the following items: plastic plates, plastic cups, plastic ware, hot cups, napkins, paper towels, egg nog, whole milk, juice, as well as gloves and socks. While you are shopping this season, please keep your eyes open for gloves and socks.



"Everything that ever has been is now, and will always be, a gift from God. God gives. And so we give.."
From *First* by Mike Slaughter

Covenant to Care

On Monday Bev Anderson and I delivered 42 filled grocery bags to our social worker at DCF to distribute to at-risk families in our community. 42 bags! That is a record number since I have been doing Covenant to Care. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Sharing our blessings is what we are called to do as Christians. Reaching out to those in need is part of who we are as Christ's Church. One of the things I am thankful for this Thanksgiving is my generous, caring church family. I appreciate your willingness to do God's work by helping those who have less. I am grateful for your response to my requests for help. You, my church family, make my job easier and more enjoyable. I am thankful to be a part of a church family that demonstrates their love of God by loving their neighbor.

Wishing you a blessed Thanksgiving.

With much gratitude,

Phyllis Tranzillo



42 BAGS!!! What a Blessing.
Thank you all.

Youth Group News- Things are happening!



Join Us for Caroling"

Sing a song - to share the Christmas miracle"

When: December 6th

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Time: 4:00pm for cookies and cocoa

4:45 depart to sing in groups

Who: 8-12 grade students, friends and parents

RSVP to Kim Goodwin 203-778-4897 or k2goodwin@yahoo.com or Coralee DeMouth cjanddt@aol.com and let them know you'll be joining in the fun!

Sponsored by *Your Youth Group Team: Brian Spaulding, Carol Spaulding, Kim Goodwin, Dave Ziegler, with Pastor Kim's guidance*

**It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...
Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.**
Mother Theresa

The United Methodist Church of Danbury

5 Clapboard Ridge Road • Danbury, CT 06811

Phone: 203-743-1503 • Fax: 203-743-1533
danburyum@sbcglobal.net



A Safe Sanctuary for Children

Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Kimberly A. Bosley
Associate Music Director: Carol Spaulding
Church Administrator: Patti Cohen-Hecht
Lay Leaders: Minnie Rouse and David Zeigler

THE FLAME

This December Flame was made possible by:

Editor.....Kathy O'Shea
Contributors Pastor Kim, Kathy Roig, Larry Bornemeir, Coralee Demouth, Kim Goodwin, Val Stagen, Karlene Lombardo, Barbara Kunicki, Beverly Anderson, Phyllis Tranzillo and Patti Cohen-Hecht.

Deadline for the January 2016 Flame is December 22
Please, add your contact information to your articles