



Pastor's Corner

TAKE A VACATION!

In its May edition, *Time Magazine* presented an interesting article on the increasing difficulty for Americans to take a vacation. The staggering numbers revealed that only 55% of service jobs offered paid vacation time, compared to the 96% of management and financial occupations. Without the federal government's oversight, private sectors are left to their own discretion; oftentimes resulting in the corporate abuse of supervisors towards their employees. Traditionally, larger corporations offer paid vacation time and other benefits to their employees. However, the employee's actual utilization of this time may vary as it relates to their employment in the service and business sectors.

According to an August 2014 Huffington Post survey, some of the reasons why workers did not take their vacation days were:

"I would come back to a mountain of work."

"No one else at my company can do the work while I am away."

"I can't afford a vacation."

"I am afraid I would lose my job."

"I feel guilty using my time off."

The list of reasons pertaining to why people do not take their vacation time goes on. It seems as if Americans today are not taking enough time to rest.

Reflecting upon what seems to be an epidemic in our society, I could not help myself as I looked to scripture on this delicate issue. In Genesis 2, God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus would minister to masses of people and then withdraw to a quiet place to sit and pray with God. Now, it seems to me, that if God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and His Son, our Savior, Jesus, took moments to rest without feeling guilty or worried about what people thought, why can't we? Are we not trying to emulate the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords?

One thing I have come to learn and appreciate (thanks to my colleague Rev. T.) is that vacation time is essential. Taking the time to rest and relax is critical to being a healthy human being and a fruitful disciple in God's Kingdom.

Therefore, my dearly beloved brothers and sisters, I submit to you this marvelous, but seemingly crazy idea... TAKE YOUR VACATION! Go ahead! Take a few days or even weeks just to kick off your shoes! I know I will!

Peace, Pastor Rhonda

Lectionary Readings for the Month of July

July 5 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

2Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 † Psalm 48 † 2Corinthians 12:2-10 † Mark 6:1-13
Liturgist: Mary Cockram

July 12 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

2Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 † Psalm 24 † Ephesians 1:3-14 † Mark 6:14-29
Liturgist: Tim Smith

July 19 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

2Samuel 7:1-14 † Psalm 89:20-37 † Ephesians 2:11-22 † Mark 4:35-41
Liturgist: Beth Ann Loveland-Sennett

July 26 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

2Samuel 11:1-15 † Psalm 14 † Ephesians 3:14-21 † John 6:1-21
Liturgist: Mensimah Shabbaz

Lectionary Readings for the Month of August

August 2 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

2Samuel 11:26-12:13a † Psalm 51:1-12 † Ephesians 4:1-16 † John 6:24-35

Liturgist: TBA

August 9 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

2Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 † Psalm 130 † Ephesians 4:25-5:2 † John 6:35, 41-51

Liturgists: John & Jasmine Swanson

August 16 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

1Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 † Psalm 111 † Ephesians 5:15-20 † John 6:51-58

Liturgist: Elaina Mends

August 23 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

1Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11), 22:30, 41-43 † Psalm 84 † Ephesians 6:10-20 † John 6:56-69

Liturgist: Sandra Ann Craig

August 30 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

Song of Songs 2:8-13 † Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 † James 11:17-27 † Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Liturgist: Kevin Loveland



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

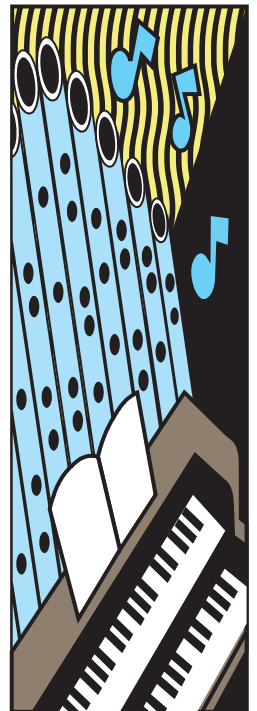
I can hardly believe it's already been eight months since I began my tenure here at UMCofH... how the time flies! I am thankful to God for bringing me to this place, and I'm filled with even more appreciation in getting to know the great people of this church.

Sadly, the beginning of the summer also means the end of regular participation of our Chancel Choir. But do not despair! The summer is going to be filled with just as much great music, and I hope that you will join me in this endeavor. Here are some possibilities for you to share your gift with us during July and August.

Do you sing or play an instrument? If you're interested in performing as part of a worship service, be it a solo or playing along with a hymn, let me, a choir member, or Pastor Rhonda know! We are always in search of special music.

SUMMER CHOIR: This will be a pick-up choir that will sing at the first and last Sunday service of July and August---a total of four times (July 5 & 26, August 2 & 30). But wait, there's more! This choir will only rehearse the day of the service, at 9:15am. If you've always been interested in choir, but are afraid of the commitment, this is your big chance. I believe there will be coffee available before service for this, too.

Yours in music and worship,
Stephen



Have a Blessed Summer!



BRIGHTEST AND BEST - SOME GOOD NEWS AND SOME BAD NEWS

Let's get the bad news out of the way first. A little more than two years ago, the school got a letter from a negative group named the "Freedom From Religion Foundation". It threatened action if the public school permitted its children to perform in a building where they could be exposed to religious artwork or symbols of religion. School systems understandably run very cautious of such threats and Brightest and Best was unable to hold the music event in the sanctuary. Plans for the event to be held at the school that December were made, but the event was postponed twice because of snow and school closings. Hoping for more favorable weather, this year's date was changed to May 9, 2015.

- The next big change comes as the President of WECA announces that she is leaving that position this summer.

That means beginning anew with as yet an unannounced president.

- Noah Webster School is eliminating the position of community liaison who was our main contact with school work.
- Many grants for school outreach refuse to make checks out to churches. That makes managing funding exceedingly complicated.

- Neither the president nor vice president/production manager of Brightest and Best can continue in these positions.

Let's look at the good news.

- To everything there is a season and the season of Brightest and Best from 2009-2015 has been a successful venture. In 2009 Brightest and Best held its first event ever successfully engaging the West End community, Noah Webster School and our church. The concert event was held in the sanctuary with our chancel choir providing the anchor and including the school's advanced orchestra, a children's choir and neighborhood story tellers. Following the concert the community event was held downstairs with community tables showing volunteer opportunities throughout this greater community. Refreshments were provided by the West End Farmers Market and church members.

- Each year, involvement of performing groups became more successful as children musicians and adult musicians performed together. Also the school Micro-Society worked with more community organizations including the West End Food Pantry – here in this church.

- These collaborations were not a "one-night stand" but ongoing planning and cooperation all year.

- The Brightest and Best event for 2012 had an air and atmosphere that could not have been planned or rehearsed. It took place only a few days after the Newtown Sandy Hook School tragedy. Every student and every adult entered the sanctuary which was adorned with two massive poinsettia trees. They listened or performed music, poetry and stories that followed a theme of love in action. Fear and sadness was present in the hearts of everyone. Miraculously, from a deep well of shared compassion, people felt peace and comfort. It was palpable.

The planned event of 2012 was in recognition of hunger that exists in close proximity to the church and the school. The Brightest and Best became a 2 part festival. Part I with music by church and school, poetry reading by school students, stories by church students took place in the church to a standing-room only crowd. Then, with the help of security guards and Hartford Police, the entire audience of approximately 300 and performers of approximately 100 were walked from the church to the school where Part 2 of the festival saw more community displays and school artworks and all 400 people were fed a pasta, salad, and dessert meal.

- Throughout each of the 6 years of Brightest and Best, a free will offering was taken which went entirely to the school music program for the ongoing repair and purchase of musical instruments. Over these six years, the total gift from Brightest and Best for the Noah Webster Micro-Society Music Department was a little more than \$4,000.

- May 2015 was unique because of the season. The outdoor festival included an outdoor band and face painting provided by the school. WECA provided a free meal on the lawn to anyone who came.

The joyous outdoor feeling came into the gym for the concert, storytelling and poetry. The song, "I've Got Peace Like a River" was a crowd-pleaser with it's audience participation. This year's theme of Peace through the Arts came to full fruition in the choral piece set to a Teasdale poem by Stephen Chatman.

In closing, the church can feel that the mission of Brightest and Best has been reached. Relationships with the school and the community have opened doors to future ventures. Brightest and Best can rest in the Teasdale text and say: Peace flows into me as the tide to the pool by the shore.

The pool is full. What will be the next church venture?

BRIGHTEST AND BEST “THANK YOU”

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderful Brightest and Best program that you all helped to put together. The idea was conceived years ago by Bert Elliott as a way for the community to have a relationship with the school. As they say, "It takes a village" and that is what we have tried to accomplish with this concert. The program would never have been as successful as it was without all of your efforts. I am deeply grateful for the contributions that have been made to the music department over the years. Each year's offering has been put to great use purchasing a new instrument for a music student that will be used for years to come.

Thank you again to Bert for her vision and her lasting legacy as a music educator and community leader. If there is anyone else that I have left out, please thank them for me.

Thank you,
Kathy Peet, Noah Webster School

CHURCH WORD OF THE MONTH - CHANCEL

The CHANCEL is the space around the altar of a church for the clergy and usually the choir. The area is often enclosed by a railing.



FEEDING CHILDREN EVERYWHERE – THE RALLY HUNGER PROJECT

You don't want to miss being at church for Rally Sunday, September 13th! Along with worshipping the Lord, we start our program year for the church. On that day, we kick things off by participating in a **Feeding Children Everywhere** event. **Feeding Children Everywhere** is “a social charity that empowers and mobilizes people to assemble healthy meals for hungry children.” The Northeast regional office is in Windsor. This event enables us to make a tangible difference in the lives of hungry children around the world and right here in the U.S., wherever the need is greatest at the time.

Following the worship service, we will head to Wesley Hall where there will be music, good fun and assembly lines to hand-package healthy lentil casseroles, under the direction of staff from **Feeding Children Everywhere**. We will package 5000 meals in about an hour's time. There will be a job for everyone – adults and kids. We will end with a pot-luck lunch.

What needs to happen now for *The Rally Hunger Project*? Well, we need to raise the money for the meals. Each meal costs \$.25 (that's right, only twenty-five cents!) So, that means we need to collect \$1,250 by the first Sunday in September. And how will we accomplish that, you ask? For example, if 50 people collect \$25 each, we reach our goal! So, get to work - some suggestions for fundraising are: ask friends to spare you a quarter (or more) for this event; put out a container at work and ask your colleagues to help **Feed Children Everywhere**; hold a tag sale with part of your proceeds going to the event; put in your own donation, etc. You can turn your money in anytime up until Sunday, September 6th, by putting it in the offering plate or sending it to the church office. Make sure to mark any donations with the words “***Rally Hunger Project***”. Checks should be made out to UMC of Hartford with ***Rally Hunger Project*** in the memo line.

Watch for further information about *The Rally Hunger Project* throughout the summer!

"HEADS UP!" UMCofH WOMEN

Women of the church, save the date: October 3, 2015, from 11:30AM - 2PM. Watch for more information over the summer.

CHECK OUT OUR CHURCH WEBSITE

What's happening at United Methodist Church of Hartford? Timely updates can be found at our very own church website (www.umcofhartford.org). There you will find announcements of upcoming events, the official up-to-date church calendar, contact information and pictures, as well as other information about both our church and the United Methodist church generally. If you have internet access, this is a great way to keep up to date.

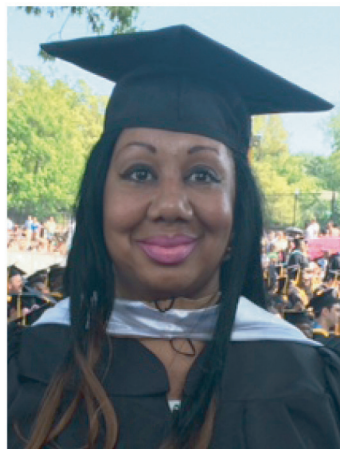


WE CONGRATULATE ALL OUR RECENT GRADUATES ON GRADUATION RECOGNITION SUNDAY, JUNE 28

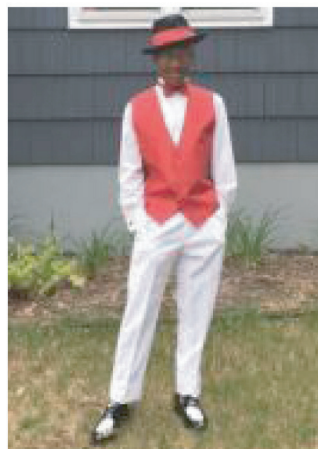
It's that time of year! We will be recognizing graduates during worship on June 28. A cake reception will be held following our morning worship service. We are proud of all the achievements of all the members of our church family. The list of graduates that has been submitted to us is as follows:



MEGHAN ERIN WELSH



CONNIE DUNLOP



JALAUN JOHNSON



JESSICA LOLA NIX

JULIA SOLLARS received a Bachelors Degree in Multi Disciplinary Studies with a minor in Religion from Liberty Univesity. Julia plans to go on to be an art teacher.

CONNIE DUNLOP graduated from Albertus Magnus College with a Masters Degree in Management and Organizational Leadership.

KATHLEEN CRAIG graduated from Northwest Catholic High School.

ELLE RAMOS graduated from 5th Grade at Noah Webster MicroSociety Magnet School and will be transitioning to a new school, Classical Magnet School, for 6th Grade.

TARYN SMITH graduated from 8th grade at King Phillip Middle School and will be going to Hall High School.

MEGHAN ERIN WELSH received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Natural Science with a concentration in Chemistry from Temple University - College of Science and Technology.

JALAUN JOHNSON graduated from 8th grade at the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Middle School. In the fall he will attend the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering High School in Windsor.

JESSICA LOLA NIX graduated Magna cum Laude from the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music, Dance, and Theatre with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and a Minor in Health Sciences. She will begin her studies towards a Master's Degree in Music Education with a Pedagogy Emphasis this summer at Hartt. She would like to thank everyone for their unending support and the Pat Coombs Scholarship for helping her financially.

BETH ANN LOVELAND SENNETT received her Doctor of Education degree from the University of Hartford. The subject of her dissertation was "Teachers' Intentions to Use Feedback Provided Through the Formal Teacher Supervision and Evaluation Process".

☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ JULY - AUGUST CELEBRATIONS ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

6 - Stephen Derby	19 - Ethan Atkinson (c)	29 - Carol Fisher
12 - Markus Gabbidon (Mathews) (c)	Owen Atkinson (c)	Barbara Mansfield
13 - Katherine Hudson	20 - Cleon Greenwood	Dorcas Sewell
Paul Stevens	28 - Rae Thompson	31 - Sharon Kirton

AUGUST

3 - Emme Miller (c)	13 - Carol Williams	24 - Natalie Rose Bacon
8 - Angel Villegas (Connor) (c)	21 - John Boyce, Jr.	25 - Christine Atkinson
12 - Robin Griffith	23 - Brendan Loveland	27 - Thomas Sennett

ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

Ava Nepaul & Jason Siegal - 7/4/99
Rae & Eddie Thompson - 7/5
The Sombrics - 7/13/94

AUGUST

Beth Ann & Tom Sennett - 8/7
Katherine Lahti & Frank Caso - 8/8
Heather & Tony Muirhead - 8/8
Robert & Jocelyn Cudjoe - 8/23/13
Christine & Silbert Welsh - 8/25
Kate & Chad Mikkelsen - 8/31/03

May 22, 2015

General Board of Global Ministries
Conf-Dist-Donor: 341-05-000003852
470 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115
212-870-3600 • umcmmission.org

United Methodist Church of Hartford
571 Farmington Ave
Hartford, CT 06105

Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for your gift received on 05/05/15 of \$140.00 to the Imagine No Malaria campaign through The Advance, the designated mission giving channel of The United Methodist Church. We are pleased to share that **100 percent** of your contribution will go towards eliminating one of the world's most deadly diseases. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to support one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for partnering with us in God's mission.

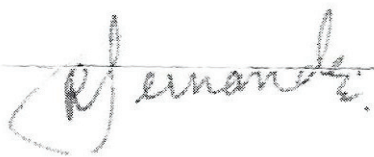
Through gifts like yours, Imagine No Malaria has already distributed 1.2 million insecticide-treated bed nets throughout Africa. We have also trained more than 5,400 community health workers to personally deliver mosquito nets and measure usage rates. Today, because of the dedicated and generous support of people like you, **malaria's impact has been cut in half!**

Your gift supports the work of the United Methodist Church and our many partners including The Global Fund to Fight AIDS; Tuberculosis and Malaria; The United Nations Foundation; the International Federation of the Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, Nets for Life®, and United Methodist central conferences across Africa.

Please visit www.imaginenomalaria.org to learn more about how your support is making an impact with a full range of interventions to combat malaria. If you have questions about your gift, please feel free to contact the Gift Processing Unit at 212-870-3611.

May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission and as we advance towards a day with no malaria.

Grace and Peace,



Roland Fernandes
General Treasurer
General Board of Global Ministries



Emily Miller
Associate General Secretary
Communications and Development
General Board of Global Ministries