



From the
Pastor

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

I love reading the Bible and listening to God's Holy Word especially during my morning devotional time with God in bible study and in sermon preparation, or when I'm simply reading, studying, or meditating on the Bible for personal and spiritual growth. I really get excited! I even find myself wanting to share this excitement with everyone who is willing to listen and engage in conversation.

During one of my devotional times with God, I read one of the assigned Lectionary readings for the 4th Sunday in Lent, 1 Samuel 16:1-13. God had rejected Saul as king over Israel and commissioned Samuel to find a new king. God told Samuel to invite Jesse to the sacrifice and Samuel obeyed God. The Bible tells us that Samuel looked over seven of Jesse's sons, before choosing David to be the new king of Israel. During the process, the Lord had said to Samuel, in order to quell Samuel's fears of retribution for rejecting all of the favored sons whom Jesse had put forth, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

Response: Consider your heart today. What do others see? What does God see?¹

Prayer: Thank you, God, for seeing me through your eyes of love.²

Peace,
Pastor Rhonda

¹ Daily Feast: Meditations from
Feasting on the Word, Year A

² Ibid

Lectionary Readings for the Month of May 2017

May 7 – 4th Sunday of Easter (Color: White)

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23 (UM134/754); 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Liturgist: Marcia Ramos

May 14 – 5th Sunday of Easter / Festival of the Christian Home / Mother's Day (Color: White)

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (UM764); 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Liturgist: Richard Muirhead

May 21 – 6th Sunday of Easter (Color: White)

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20 (UM790); 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21

Liturgists: United Methodist Women

May 25 – Ascension Day (Color: White)

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 (UM781); Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 28 – 7th Sunday of Easter (Color: White)

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10 (UM792); 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; John 7:1-11

Liturgist: Kevin Loveland

MAY

UMW NEWS

JUNE



The May United Methodist Women's gathering will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017.



Marcia Ramos will present the program - **“Mothers in Action”** - a celebration of the role of mothers in the Bible who saved children's lives and a discovery of UMW's continuing priority to improve the health of mothers and their children around the world.

Remember: It's a potluck supper. If you are unable to bring food, the cost is \$5.00. Please bring your table setting!



The June United Methodist Women's gathering will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017.

Alberta Elliott will present the program - **“The Call Goes On”** - We will look back on this year's amazing topics. Since serving women, children and youth is our purpose, we will consider WHO we are and WHAT we are. We will enjoy a social time together as we always do.

The UMW officers for 2017-2018 will be installed at this meeting, also.

SUPPER AT 6:30 PM - - MEETING AT 7:15 PM - - PROGRAM AT 7:45 PM

THE EXECUTIVE TEAM will be providing supper. The meal is NOT a potluck. However, please remember to bring your table setting!

If you are interested, please call the church office (860-523-5132).

All are welcome! We look forward to seeing you!



ALTAR FLOWERS

Our sanctuary is enhanced by flowers on the altar during worship on Sunday mornings. You can sign up now for an upcoming date on which you would like to honor or remember an event or loved one. The cost is \$35, and you should note “flowers” on the memo line of your check. You can sign up in the schedule book, which is now kept in the mail slots near the elevator outside the church office, or by phoning (860-523-5132) or emailing the church (staff@umcofhartford.org).

FUNDS NEEDED FOR OUR FEEDING MINISTRIES

Our various Feeding Ministries (Loaves & Fishes, South Park Inn, and West End Food Pantry) rely on money to keep serving hungry people. Currently the funds are quite low for Loaves & Fishes and South Park Inn. Consider making a donation in honor or memory of someone; write Feeding Ministries on your check memo line. Look for the “Spare Change” coin containers where we can drop our loose change weekly; one is at the back of the sanctuary as you enter. Join in the effort to refill our Feeding Ministries Fund.



Mother's Day Diaper Drive

MAY 14th

At our May 14th Community Breakfast we will be collecting baby diapers, wipes, blankets, oil, powder, lotion, and ointment, all things necessary for changing an infant. We are looking for all diaper sizes especially 3, 4, and 5. Donations will be given to South Park Inn and My Sister's Place to supply families in need.

• **OUR NEXT COMMUNITY BREAKFAST IS ON MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 14** •
BRING YOUR MOM OR SOMEONE ELSE'S, BUT DON'T MISS IT!

For over a year the Breakfast Ministry has been providing a robust connection with our community. Please help us by donating the following kitchen items: **Knives, Cutting Boards, a Stock Pot, Hair Nets, Gloves.** We are always thrilled to have new volunteers to assist with our ministry and we would also love it if you would share your favorite baked goods with us as a donation towards the breakfast.

You are all encouraged to invite your mother, a neighbor, co-worker, other family member, or friend to have a great **FREE** meal and then come to our worship service. Together let's show the community the love of God. Please ask Ashley Blount or Guetty Antiste how you can help or contact Ashley at (860) 994-0100.



SUNDAY, MAY 14 2017 • 8:30 AM MENU

- EGGS
- PANCAKES
- SAUSAGE (PORK, TURKEY)
- BACON (PORK, TURKEY)
- BISCUITS
- ASSORTED BAKED GOODS
- JUICE (ORANGE, APPLE, GRAPEFRUIT)
- HOT TEA, COFFEE

UMC of Hartford will be serving breakfast on the **2nd Sunday** of each month. The prayer is that people of the neighborhood will know that they are loved by God and cared for by the UMC Hartford community.

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in."

☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ **MAY CELEBRATIONS** ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

3 - Willis Peters, Jr.	15 - George Morrill	25 - John Bacon	28 - Annette Bacon
9 - Jocelyn Cudjoe	16 - Aisha Connor (c)	Robert Cudjoe	30 - Erin Connor
11 - Evelyn Todd	23 - John Swanson	27 - Egya Aggrey	
13 - Eugene Lehrer		Jessica Nix	

Edith & Jim
Tresner
5/31/80