

2016



The Epistle

The Official Newsletter of United Methodist Church of Hartford

Be Rooted in God's Love
Grow in Grace
Bear Fruit of
Justice and Peace

SUMMER

Pastor's Corner

BREAK TIME

“Be still, and know that I am God”

Psalm 46:10

I have to confess, I'm a little exhausted. I'm almost certain that I'm not alone. If people were to be honest, they too would admit to occasionally feeling drained from life's ongoing demands.

Today, life seems increasingly busy. People are always on the go. We live in a society where texting, eating while running to the next appointment and constantly talking on the cell phones seem to be the “norm”. Convenience has caused the American people to rush, rush, and rush.

While convenience has its good points, we must learn how to rest and have quiet moments with God. There is nothing like being renewed and rejuvenated. Jesus understood the importance of rest. Jesus also knew how to have fun and laugh!

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus always took time to withdraw from the busyness of ministry to spend time with God. The gospels tell us that Jesus would withdraw to places of peace and tranquility. Jesus taught us how to be still and know that He is God and how it is important to take time from our busy schedule and just be present with God.

We need quiet moments of peace and rest with God. As we continue on this spiritual journey, I pray that all of us find sweet rest in God. It will make a major difference in our lives.

So, as we enter into the final weeks of summer, let's encourage one another to rest, have fun, and LAUGH for goodness sake.

Peace,
Pastor Rhonda

Lectionary Readings for the Month of August 2016

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

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 † Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 (UM783) † Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 † Luke 12:32-40
Liturgist: Elaina Mends

August 14 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

Isaiah 5:1-7 † Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 (UM80) † Hebrews 11:29-12:2 † Luke 12:49-56
Liturgist: Beth Ann Loveland-Sennett

August 21 - 14th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

Jeremiah 1:4-10 † Psalm 71:1-6 (UM794) † Hebrews 12:18-29 † Luke 13:10-17
Liturgists: John & Jasmine Swanson

August 28 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)

Jeremiah 2:4-13 † Psalm 81:1, 10-16 (UM803) † Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 † Luke 14:1, 7-14
Liturgist: Beverley Nepaul

OUR NEXT COMMUNITY BREAKFAST IS ON AUGUST 13 - *DON'T MISS IT!*

The Breakfast Ministry would like to thank the congregation for their continued prayers and support. We pray to see you ALL at the Community Breakfast. You are all encouraged to invite a neighbor, co-worker, 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 share with us your favorite baked goods as a donation towards the breakfast. Please contact Ashley Blount if you are able to help in any way (860) 994-0100.



SUNDAY, AUG. 13, 2016 • 8:30AM

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."*



BISHOP THOMAS J. BICKERTON APPOINTED TO NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2016*

“Thomas J. Bickerton was born in Glen Dale, West Virginia. He is a graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College (B.A. degree in Sociology/Psychology), a graduate of Duke University Divinity School (M.Div.), and a graduate of United Theological Seminary (D.Min.).

Tom was ordained elder in the West Virginia Annual Conference by Bishop William Boyd Grove in 1985. Following seminary he served the Perry Memorial UMC in Shady Spring, West Virginia, for six years. During his time there the congregation grew from an average worship attendance of fifteen to one hundred fifty. He then spent the next nine years serving as the Senior Pastor of Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC in Hurricane, West Virginia. During his tenure there the congregation grew from 575 members to nearly 1,400. In 1998, he became the District Superintendent of his home

area, the Northern District. He had just begun his seventh year as District Superintendent when the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference elected him to the episcopacy in 2004.

Tom was first elected to Jurisdictional Conference at the age of 30 in 1988 and again in 1992. He was first elected to General Conference in 1996 and then to successive General Conferences in 2000 and 2004. He twice served as the Head of the West Virginia delegation. He served on the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (1976-1980), the General Commission on Archives & History (1980-1988) and the General Commission on United Methodist Communications (2000-2004).

Tom is currently assigned to the Pittsburgh Area. He enjoys golf, movies, professional baseball/football, college basketball, and travel opportunities with his family.

Sally Forbes and Tom Bickerton were married on August 16, 2003. They have four children: Elizabeth Anne, Thomas James II ("T.J."), Ian Robert and Nicholas Bruce.”

*taken from NYAC Connecticut District Facebook page

United Methodist Church of Hartford is part of the New York Annual Conference. We welcome our new Bishop and look forward to his guidance.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016:

- Emily Loveland graduated with a Masters Degree in Social Work from the UConn School of Social Work.
- Cheyenne Starling graduated from Global Experience Magnet School and will be attending UCONN.
- Timothy Smith Jr. (TJ) graduated from King Philip Middle School and will be entering Hall High School in the fall.

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM CHRISTINE ATKINSON

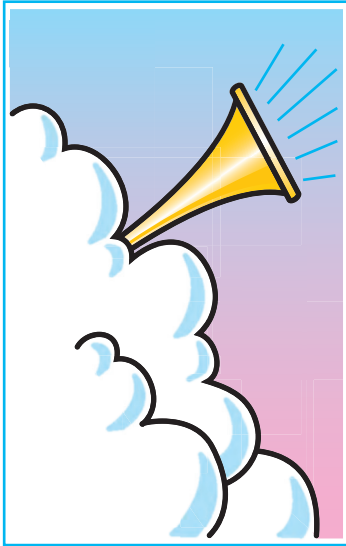
Dear Pastor and My Church Family,

Thank you so much for the Mother's Day special recognition. I was deeply touched. Yes, being a mother of special needs children has been challenging, but also very rewarding. I'm very honored to be their mom. There's a Christian saying that I love, "God only gives you what you can handle", and on some rough days, I hold on to this belief tightly. My family and I are very blessed to belong to this church. Thanks again. God Bless.

Love,
Christine

CONFIRMATION CLASS IS COMING!

Pastor Rhonda will be holding an introduction meeting on Sunday, September 18 at 11:15 a.m. in the youth room for all sixth graders and up along with their parents and guardians. Adults interested in Confirmation are also welcome to attend this meeting. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Rhonda or call the church office at (860) 523-5132.



THE LORD WATCHES

by Eleanor Prevost

The Lord watches us from above.
He is there to show us all His Love.

We don't understand why troubles come to us.
Our faith in Him should be strong enough.

He will be coming soon with the sounding of the horn.
To see how many people have faith in Him and take them Home.

Amen

FIRST CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD'S YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
PRESENTS

KINETIC FAITH KARES COMMUNITY DAY BRIDGING THE GAP

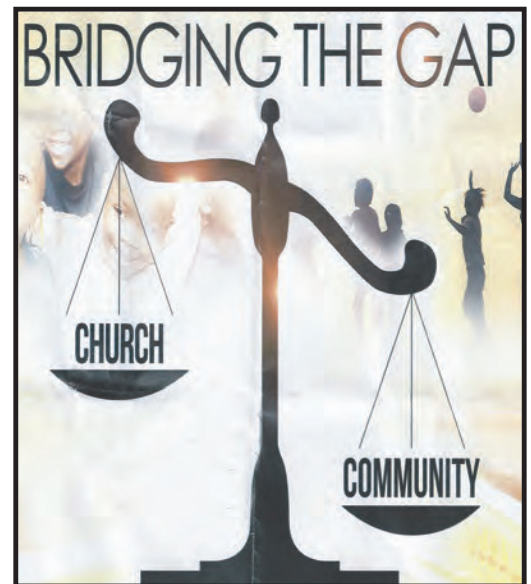
BRING YOUR CHILDREN & FAMILY OUT FOR A FUN FILLED DAY OF
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES:

FACE PAINTING • BOUNCE HOUSE • CUPCAKE DECORATING • ICE CREAM • FOOD

EVERYTHING IS FREE FOR ALL

10 AM - 3 PM • SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE FIRST CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD
70 WHITNEY ST., HARTFORD, CT



JULY - AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

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

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 - Pastor Rhonda Taylor	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