

The Flame News from Canaan UMC

Spring 2016



Good things have been happening at our church in the last few months. Our monthly Saturday morning men's group had a high of 20 men that came out for breakfast, fellowship and a short meditation in January. We have started a mid-week men's group for those that aren't able to make our Saturday morning group. We celebrated the Baptism of Adelyn Perry in December, and our church attendance has increased over 50%. Beginning on Sunday March 6, we began a children's ministry (yes, we now have children in our church!) Our church has taken the lead in organizing the Ecumenical Lenten gatherings which will be hosted by a total of five different churches in the community. We will be hosting on March 9.

Ok, for a bit of personal news, Maddie and I have a new family member. A fellow Pastor (Laura Galbraith) who is part of the extended Body of Christ enabled us to identify a family that was moving to Nebraska and wasn't able to take their dog along. Her name is Bella, a pure-bred Chocolate Lab. While our cat Jonah is still filled with a little trepidation, Bella seems to be adjusting just fine.

This new change in our lives got me to thinking. If someone can make a fortune from coming into a house and telling you what your dog is thinking, is there someone out there that has the gift to tell me what the birds outside your windows are saying. The truth is I haven't a clue, but I heard the birds singing away the other morning as I took Bella out for a walk. The song filled the woods behind our home with its message of hope, that despite the fearful winds the night before, or the rains, a new day had emerged. And then turning around and looking at our bird feeder there I saw a cardinal, a sparrow, woodpecker, and some gold finches all taking turns eating away. I couldn't help but think about Jesus' words in Matthew's Gospel, "look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:26) Sometimes our souls get burdened with doing, being, striving, worrying, that we forget how to just "be still" and remember that we are the beloved of God. Maybe I couldn't understand what was going on in the minds of those birds, but God certainly got my attention in their song and frenzy by the bird feeder.

Recent Events

Adelyn Perry daughter of Ben and Amber Perry baptized-Dec. 5

**Valentine breakfast raises \$200 for Nicaraguan water filter project.
Thanks to the Bernoi's, Dean's and Gasparini's-Feb. 15**

**Children's ministry begins-Mar. 6 Maddie Brown has begun Sunday
School for our children.**

**Marty and Ken Towle renew their vows to celebrate their 50th wedding
anniversary-March 18**

**Brotherhood of Christ bringing 15-20 men together for breakfast,
fellowship, and a meditation once a month on Saturday from 8:00-9:00
AM. (check website for dates)**

**Men's Fellowship group begins once a month on Tuesday evenings from
6:00-7:00 PM (check website for dates)**

Pepi Capezzone leads a joyful time of worship on Palm Sunday-March 20

Easter Sunrise with North Canaan Congregational-March 27

On the mend:

**Eileen Arnold
Norma Hawver
Mary Adams
Skip Dearborn**

News from our Denomination:

Conference Global Missions Event-April 2: AM session Beacon, NY UMC, PM session Putnam Valley, NY UMC

District Conference-Sunday April 10 at West Hartford UMC from 2:00-4:00

Bishop's Day in the CT District- Theme: "A More Excellent Way".

Nichols United Methodist Church
35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT

Date:

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Clergy: 10:30 a.m. to Noon

Lunch: 12 – 1 p.m.

Laity: 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.



UMCOR Health Kits

Last year we put together 20 Health Kits for UMCOR. Our goal this year is 30! Below is a listing of items needed:

Hand Towels: 15x25 to 17x27

Wash Cloths

Combs: minimum 6" in length. Must be very sturdy (no pocket combs please)

Metal nail file or nail clippers

Bath-size soap: must be 3 oz. or larger. No Ivory or Jergens. Must be in original packing.

Toothbrush: Adult size only

Adhesive Bandages: 3/4-1"

Plastic Bag: One gallon sealable bag only

All items must be new. Please do not wash any items.

**Contact Sandy Gessford for any questions!
Let's work together and meet or exceed our goal!!**

Parking for Sunday AM Services

Please leave space for our along the Main St. entrance for our older members.

Parking is available behind the church in the new Berkshire Hills Design lot in back of the church, and across the street at the Post Office (please do not use spaces directly in front of the main entrance as the PO is open 24/7).

Because of our limited parking availability, where possible please car pool.



Easter at Canaan United Methodist Church



**Northwest Community Kitchen
Free Dinner
Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday
Bitterman Center
2 Daisy Hill Rd.
Canaan, CT**

4:30-6:00 PM

For more information on 860-824-7078



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