



# The Cross & Flame



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**March 2019**

## ***Pastor's Ponderings***

***A weekly celebration of Holy Communion will be offered during Lent!***

Lent is a time when we make an extra effort to add spiritual practices into our daily routine. For some, that may mean “giving up” something for Lent while for others it means adding a devotional exercise like fasting or spiritual readings.

John Wesley believed that the celebration of The Lord's Supper was so central to our faith that he proscribed not only frequent but “Constant” communion for the people called Methodist. Wesley's belief was that we should partake of The Lord's Supper every time we gather as the body of Christ, worship, Bible Study, fellowship, etc.

With all of this in mind, we will have a weekly opportunity during Lent to receive The Lord's Supper as part of our regular Sunday morning liturgy. It is my prayer that you will find this to be a meaningful extension of our worship celebration during this holy season of Lent.

### ***Abundant Health***

Now that we have a start...we could use more help!!! Mike Cartwright, Diane Nerkowski, and Pastor Kent have started to plan an event to be held on the Branford Green in May for about 3 hours on a Saturday or Sunday. We want to invite different health related agencies, physical, mental, nutritional, etc. to be present and provide some healthy activities for people of all ages. And that is where we need your help. What activity can you lead? Simon Sez? Relay Races? Exercise? In addition to the information tables, we would like to have a different activity every half-hour. Please contact Mike, Diane or Pastor Kent and let us know how you will help.

As we get closer to the date we will need set-up & clean-up help, pop-up tents, and other materials. Please put your thinking caps on and let us know what other ideas you have!

### ***Preaching & Study Series CONTINUES***

Grounded in carefully selected scripture - like The Story - Believe is a church-wide spiritual growth experience for all ages, taking each person on a journey, showing how to think, act, and be more like Jesus. Each chapter focuses on one of the 10 core beliefs, 10 key practices, and 10 essential virtues that have unified believers around the world for over 2000 years.

The first 10 weeks will take us through March 10 as we look at 10 Core Beliefs. We will then take a break to focus on a Lenten Study. After Easter, we will resume Believe with 10 weeks focusing on Key Practices. The final 10 weeks on the theme of 10 Essential Virtues will be scheduled for early Fall.

Copies of the text are available for \$5 each in the Connector Hall.

### ***Communion in the Community***

Pastor Kent leads regular Worship Services with Holy Communion at Artis Senior Living and Guilford House. You are invited to join him any Sunday at 11:30 AM at Artis or on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 3 PM at the Guilford House.

### ***Office Hours and Pastor's Availability***

Pastor Kent will be in the office or around the church building Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8am-1pm (with the exception of being at Artis from 11-11:30 am on Wednesdays). Anyone is welcome to stop in and visit during those times.

If you would like to be in touch or schedule an appointment outside of those hours, Pastor Kent can be reached on his cell phone (845-522-1233) or email ([UMCBPastor@gmail.com](mailto:UMCBPastor@gmail.com)).

Blessings,  
*Pastor Kent*

*“Where the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit converge to change hearts and lives.”*



### **March Events**

March 1	12pm	World Day of Prayer
March 6	7pm	Ash Wednesday service
March 7	3pm	Guilford House Worship
March 10		Second Sunday Stewardship - Diaper Drive
March 13	5:30pm	Learn & Play Board
March 16	8am	Men's Breakfast
March 18	12:30pm	Women's Luncheon
March 20	6:15pm	Prayer Meeting
	7pm	Faithful Stewards
March 21	3pm	Guilford House Worship
March 27	7pm	Finance Committee
March 29	6pm	Community Dinner

### Weekly Calendar

#### SUNDAYS:

9:30am	Worship Service/Sunday School
11:30am	Communion at Artis

#### MONDAYS:

10am	Monday Morning Quarterbacking
4:30pm	Sewing for God

#### TUESDAYS:

7-8:30pm	Pastor's Bible Study Group
7:30pm	AA meeting

#### WEDNESDAYS:

10am	Learn & Play Chapel
10:30am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
11am	Faith Talk at Artis

#### THURSDAYS:

10am	Pastor's Bible Study Group
7:30pm	Al-Anon meeting

#### SATURDAYS:

7pm	AA meeting
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### **March Birthdays**

March 1	Ruth Moon
March 2	Hannah Jackson
	Kaylee Roberts
	Jean Sunny
March 3	Gabriel Maggay
March 8	Helen Werns
March 9	Judy Loukides
March 13	Sean Deveau
	Joan Gerlach
March 14	Erin Marszalek
March 21	June Ann Greeley
	Sterwin Maggay
	David Simon
March 25	Madison Ballard
March 26	Bob Nerkowski
March 28	Kylie James
March 30	Ginny Busca
	Aubrey Simon

### **March Anniversaries**

March 21	John Blossom & June Ann Greeley
March 26	John & Connie Nickou
March 29	John & Sue Beatty

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship & Sunday School - 9:30am  
(No Sunday School first Sunday of the month)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tues thru Thurs 9:00am-2:00pm

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The 20<sup>th</sup> of every month - please send articles to  
Lori Cartwright at [loriahcart@gmail.com](mailto:loriahcart@gmail.com)

*Missed a Sunday? Unable to attend worship?*  
You can catch the weekly sermon video at  
[www.umcbranford.org](http://www.umcbranford.org)



Learn & Play was able to donate 160 cans of soup to the church food closet this year as part of its Soup-er Bowl collection. I think we sure did score a touchdown on that collection!

We finished up February with a visit from our Dental Consultant, Dr. Gallo, who met with the children and discussed healthy smiles and proper brushing.

During the month of March, we will continue our Bible focus on the Fruits of the Spirit. This month we will talk about Bible stories that depict the fruit of gentleness. We will also start our preparations for Easter with Lenten activities. Our traditional themes will be Dr. Seuss' Birthday, St Patrick's Day, and Spring!

Our Prayer Partner Program started this month with children from Learn & Play partnered with members from the church who have signed up to pray for the children daily. What could be better than being covered in prayer each day? We are excited to see how God will use this in the life of all that are participating!

**Summer Camp Registration** has begun for 3-5 year olds. This summer, Learn & Play will conduct a 9-week summer camp from June 24 through August 22. This year's theme will be The Adventures of Eric Carle. Each week, we will focus on a different book with fun activities and special enhancement guests scheduled to visit, as well as Bible stories. Some of the visitors planned this year are A Place Called Hope (bird rescue), Megis' Point, Curious Creatures, and Children's Museum of West Hartford (traveling planetarium). Registration for half day and full day programs are open to the public as space is available. Brochures with specific weekly information are on the table in Connector Hall for anyone who might like to attend or knows of someone looking for a week or more of fun for their child.

**Fall Registration** will begin as of March 4, 2019. Now is the time to register for fall classes for children between the ages of 6 weeks and 5 years old.

# STEWARDSHIP



Time ♦ Talent ♦ Treasure

## DIAPER DRIVE

*Hey everybody, it's time once again to show the community how Christian Stewardship works.*

On March 10, our Second Sunday Stewardship will be focused on community outreach. During our stewardship moment in the service, Judy Barron from the Community Dining Room will be speaking on the need for diapers. We are asking that you bring in diapers and/or baby wipes for the sharing table that day. All sizes are welcomed and will be greatly appreciated. Let's really pile those diapers and wipes to the sky! (Well, the ceiling will do.) Many thanks!



Childcare, as well as preschool and kindergarten readiness programs, are available. Please contact the school office at (203) 488-4028 if you wish to arrange a tour or have any questions.

**Family Easter Event** with Learn & Play and UMCB has been scheduled for Saturday, April 13 from 10:00 to 11:30 am. This year, we will offer Easter crafts, Music and Movement program provided by Turn It Up! Music, and—of course—an Easter Egg Hunt! Please plan to join us for a fun morning for families. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in Connector Hallway so that we prepare enough eggs for hunting.

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## SEWING FOR GOD

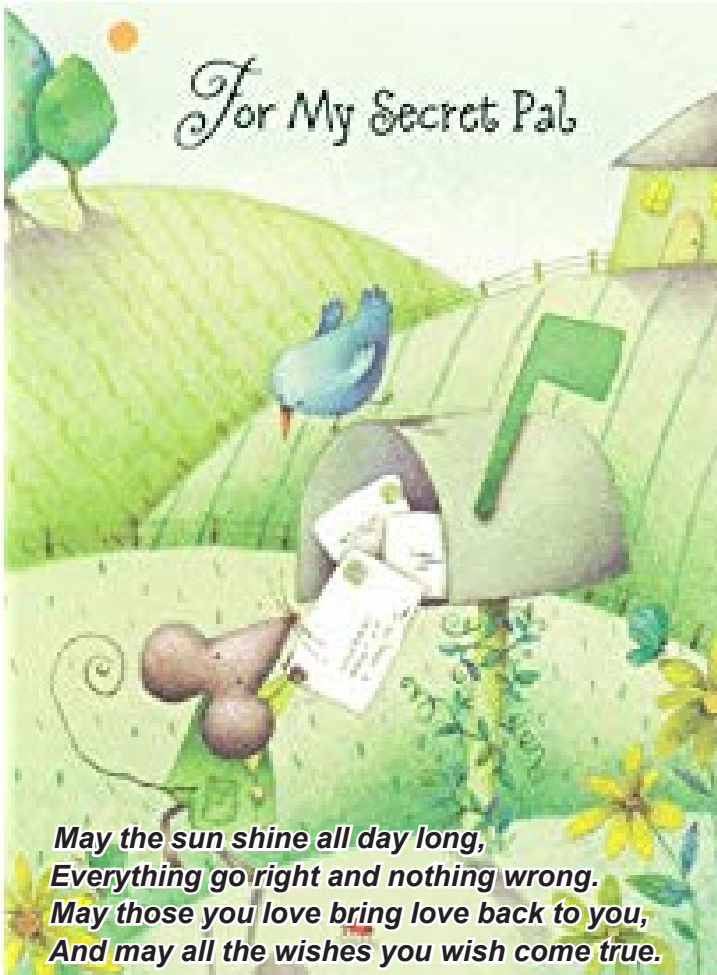
*Mondays 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm (weather permitting)*

Where did February go? If you need a couple hours away from the daily grind, join us as we sew and fellowship together. All the quilt tops are easy to make. Even if you don't sew, we can always use someone to press!

This month, on the 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be making microwave bowls for the Holiday Fair. As always, all supplies are provided. Any questions, please see Rosemary.

## SOUPER BOWL: THANK YOU – THANK YOU!

We collected over \$280 for the women's shelters this year. We had 12 soups (and breads) donated by our wonderful cooks – to whom I give a *Great Big Thank You!!*



## LET'S DO LUNCH

### Women's St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Monday, March 18 at 12:30 pm

Donovan's Reef, 1212 Main Street, Branford

Order off of the menu

RSVP: sign-up sheet in Connector Hall

*Next month: April 15 at Doody's*



**LOOKING FOR YOUR TABS!!**

Collecting soda can tabs is an easy way to support the Ronald McDonald House of Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Just remove the tab from each can before it goes in your recycle bin. Then place them in the collection jug in Connector Hall. **Next collection date: April 2019.**

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