



# The Cross & Flame



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**June 2019**

## Pastor's Ponderings

### Marvelously Unique

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*  
Psalm 139:14

Human beings are not special—at least according to the London Zoo. In 2005, the Zoo introduced a four-day exhibit: "Humans in Their Natural Environment." The human "captives" were chosen through an online contest. To help visitors understand the humans, the zoo workers created a sign detailing their diet, habitat, and threats. According to the zoo's spokesperson, the goal of the exhibit was to downplay the uniqueness of human beings. One participant in the exhibit seemed to agree. "When they see humans as animals, here, it kind of reminds them that we're not that special."

What a stark contrast to what the Bible says about human beings: God "fearfully and wonderfully" made us in "his image" (Psalm 139:14; Genesis 1:26-27).

David began Psalm 139 by celebrating God's intimate knowledge of him (vv. 1-6) and His all-encompassing presence (vv. 7-12). Like a master weaver, God not only formed the intricacies of David's internal and external features (vv. 13-14), but He also made him a living soul, giving spiritual life and the ability to intimately relate to God. Meditating on God's handiwork, David responded in awe, wonder, and praise (v. 14).

Human beings are special. God created us with marvelous uniqueness and the awesome ability to have an intimate relationship with Him. Like David, we can praise Him because we're the workmanship of His loving hands.

*by Marvin Williams (from Our Daily Bread 5-21=19)*

Blessings,  
*Pastor Kent*

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



## BRANFORD FESTIVAL ON THE GREEN

### HELP WANTED!!!

On Saturday, June 15, we will have a booth at the Branford Festival on the Green. This will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community and to promote random acts of kindness. Please contact Cheryl Torello, Roger Gagne, or Rosemary Luzzi and tell them you would like to help. We need people to help with set-up, clean -up, and just being there to talk with those who come by our table from 9am-3pm.

We will have a display of balloons. When people come by they will be invited to pop a balloon to reveal a "random act of kindness" to perform. They will also get another balloon to inflate and keep.

### Pastor's Time Away

Pastor Kent will be attending Annual Conference from June 6 to 8. He will also be on vacation from June 10 to 16. In case of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Laurie Gagne; she will be able to get in touch with Pastor Kent, if necessary.



### Take Me Out To The Ballgame!

Church Family Outing  
New Britain Bees vs.  
Sugar Land Skeeters  
Sunday, June 23 at 1:30

We have 25 tickets for the New Britain Bees game on June 23! Please let Pastor Kent know if you need tickets, which are available for \$8 each. This promises to be a wonderful day of fun and fellowship for our church family!



**June Events**

- June 11: Community Dining Room on the Green
- June 13, 5:30pm: Learn & Play Board
- June 15, 8am: Men's Breakfast
- June 15, 9am-3pm: Branford Festival on the Green
- June 17, 12:20pm: Ladies Lunch
- June 17, 6:16pm: Prayer Meeting
- June 17, 7pm: Faithful Stewards Committee
- June 19, 4pm: L&P Graduation
- June 23 1:30pm: New Britain Bees game
- June 24, 7pm: Church Council
- June 26, 6:30pm: Staff Parish Relations Committee
- June 28: Whole-in-One Golf Tournament
- June 28, 6pm: Community Dinner

WEEKLY CALENDAR

**SUNDAYS:**

- 9:30am Worship Service/Sunday School
- 11:30am Worship/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
- 3pm Workshop/Communion at Guilford House (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of the month)
- 7:30pm Al-Anon meeting

**SATURDAYS:**

- 7pm AA meeting

**June Birthdays**

- 1 Steven Anderson
- 6 Chris Furtak
- 10 Lisa Schickler
- 11 Bud Cochran  
Margaret Norton
- 13 Eleanor Schickler  
Anthony Torello  
Melanie Viets
- 16 Benjamin Mazzucco  
David Wells  
Pastor Kent
- 17 JOHN WESLEY (b. 1703)
- 19 Brian Wolek
- 20 Paul Wezenski
- 21 George Klein
- 28 Robert McMahan
- 29 Jesse Rader
- 30 Grace Carr  
Joey Steeves

**June Anniversaries**

- 4 Jean & Guy Sunny
- 13 Anne & Kent Jackson
- 14 Linda & Bill Beagle
- 19 Beverly & Scott Carr
- 20 Larry & Sam Appleton
- 24 Bob & Jean Massage

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship & Sunday School - 9:30am  
(No Sunday School on 1st 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)



It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to a close! Our last day for the school year will be Wednesday, June 19. We will celebrate with an End Of Year Program and Pre-K graduation. Following our celebration, we will hold our annual family picnic. We have so much to celebrate and be thankful for this year. The children and teachers all did an outstanding job learning our Bible stories and participating in so many fun activities. Ask any one of our children about the Fruits of the Spirit and not only will they be able to tell you what they are, they will sing it to you, too! (The Fruit of the Spirit's not a co-co-nut!)

We are getting ready for 9 weeks of summer camp focusing on the books of Eric Carle. Our Bible focus will mainly be Creation and Noah. We have lots of fun activities and a special guest enhancement program planned for each week. We are looking forward to new programs from Meig's Point, Cool-ology, and Mr. Rob the beekeeper, and look forward to welcoming back Mad Science, A Place called Hope, Curious Creatures, and the Children's Museum. Limited spaces are still available for between 1 and 9 weeks, full or half day.

Fall enrollment is filling very quickly. Once again, very limited spaces are still available. If you know of anyone looking for a quality Christian childcare, Preschool, and Pre-K program, have them contact our office at (203) 488-4028.



### 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 11:30am at Artis or on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 3pm at the Guilford House.

### SEWING FOR GOD

**Mondays 4:30 to 6:30 pm**

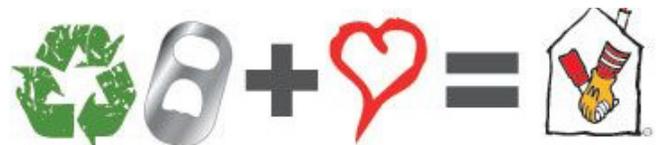
(no sewing the 3rd week of the month)



During the summer months, we'll work on quilt tops for our friends across the street at Artis We have lots of super easy patterns that can be put together in one day.

Come join us for an hour or two as we sew and fellowship gether. Even if you don't sew – come join as we can always use someone to press.

The last week of each month is devoted to making something for the Holiday Fair: Teddy Bears, mug holders, pot holders, table runners, dog Advent calendars. All sewing materials, machines are provided. Any questions, please see Rosemary Luzzi.



### 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.

### Your Help Is Needed!

Please consider helping serve dinner on the Branford Green this Spring and Summer. The dates UMCB has committed to help with are:

- Tuesday, June 11
- Tuesday, August 13
- Tuesday, September 3



Please see Larry or Sam Appleton if you would like to be part of this outreach.

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## Let's Do Lunch!

Ladies, mark your calendars for some great Summer fellowship and food, starting at 12:30pm to approximately 2:30pm.

June 17: Nellie Greens / Branford

July 15: Lenny and Joe's / Long Wharf, New Haven

Aug 19: Sam's Dock Side / Branford

## Congrats to our Graduates!

Adam Jackson, Branford High School



Please send info about any other church members who are graduating from college or high school to Lori C. at [loriahcart@gmail.com](mailto:loriahcart@gmail.com)

## Ride Share to Church

Sometimes members of our church family are unable to come to church because they need a ride. Would you be willing to be on a list of drivers who would be willing to provide a ride for them? If so, please see Mike Cartwright.



## **Holiday Festival 2019: Save the Date! November 9**

As of now, given that the committee is pretty much the same, we are open for new ideas. Plans are for the usual departments.

It's not too early to start working on items to be sold at the craft tables, looking for jewelry for the "boutique," thinking about gathering gently used items for Granny's Cellar, places that might donate gift cards and other items for the silent auction. Of course, we will be selling food.

Most important of all, we have an aging committee. New volunteers are desperately needed to be understudies. It's time to "pass the baton."

Ideas? Volunteers? See Ginger any time.

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## Abundant Health

On July 14, we will have a presence on the Branford Green, promoting healthy living in body, mind & spirit!!!

We need everyone's participation and help to make this a successful outreach event. Here are some ways you can lend a hand:

- Plan to attend our event from 2-5 pm on July 14;
- Offer to lead a half hour of games for children and youth, such as relay races or Simon Sez;
- Hang flyers up around town;
- Invite your friends and neighbors;
- Make a donation to children's global health initiative.

This will be a key opportunity to engage our community, and we need everyone to be involved!!!



Office Hours and  
Pastor's Availability

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

He welcomes anyone who wants 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 or by email:  
(845) 522-1233 [UMCBPastor@gmail.com](mailto:UMCBPastor@gmail.com)