Fruit, Faith & Fellowship

Let’s go pick apples!!! The entire UMC, Branford church family is invited to join in a fun outdoor time of fellowship on October 17. And you are encouraged to bring friends.

Here’s the plan. Let’s meet at the church at 10am for a time of devotion and prayer. Then we will journey to Bishop’s “Pick Your Own” orchard to pick apples (all participants will need to travel in their own vehicles).

The church will purchase several ½ bushel bags, which we can fill together and then everyone can take home some of the fruits of our labor. Please bring your own facemask and know that we will practice appropriate social distancing throughout the entire event.

Please plan to join in this time of fellowship as we celebrate being part of the body of Christ and take time to enjoy God’s creation!!

Food Pantry Challenge

Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” Matthew 14:16

Our goal is to collect 5,000 cans of fruits and vegetables by the end of the year 2020. By the time this newsletter goes to print we will have exceeded the 750 can mark!!!

Everything we collect will be donated to the local food pantries in Branford, Guilford, and North Branford. You are welcome to donate any non-perishable items, but we are specifically “counting” all the cans of fruits and vegetables that you donate.

Please place your donations in the green collection bin which is outside the front door of the church. Items are removed daily and stored inside the building for weekly distribution to the food pantries.

Please spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to join the challenge as we respond to Jesus’ instruction by committing to feed the hungry in our communities.

Please note: if it would be easier to make a financial contribution, please feel free to send a check made out to UMC, Branford, writing “Food Pantry Challenge” in the memo and mailing it to 811 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405. We will use your donation to purchase cans of fruits and vegetables to be donated.

Sunday Morning Worship

Everyone is invited to attend LIVE at 9:30am in the sanctuary. Appropriate COVID-19 policies and protocols will be in effect until further notice.

For those desiring to worship remotely, a live stream of the 9:30am service may be accessed through the church website or directly on our UMC Branford YouTube channel (look for the account with the RED doors).

If you wish to participate at a later time, a recording of the service will be posted on the church website and the audio recording will be available using the “Dial My Calls” number (959) 202-4862.

Blessings,

Pastor Kent

“Where the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit converge to change hearts and lives.”
**Please note:** While social gathering restrictions are in place, no events (besides Sunday worship) are taking place at the church. Committee meetings and some activities are happening online. Please contact your committee chair for more information.

**October Events**

**Wed 10/7, 7pm:** Church Council

**Wed 10/14, 6:30pm:** L&P Advisory Council

**Sat 10/17, 10am:** Apple Picking Trip

**Wed 10/28, 6:30pm:** Staff Parish Relations

**Fri 10/30, 6pm:** Community Dinner

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**SUNDAYS:**

9:30am  Worship Service

**MONDAYS:**

10:10am  Monday Morning Quarterbacking:  During the quarantine we will be meeting by conference call. Please dial in at (425) 436-6385 using access code 841200#

**TUESDAYS:**

7-8:30pm  Pastor’s Bible Study Group:  Meeting online during the quarantine period. Please email Pastor Kent for a Zoom link or telephone number if you would like to join.

**THURSDAYS:**

10am  Pastor’s Bible Study Group:  Meeting online during the quarantine period via conference call. Please call (425) 436-6385 and use access code 841200#.

**October Birthdays**

2  Bob Shepard, Michelle Werns

4  Larry Appleton

16  Harry Chamberlain, Barbara Marks

17  Gwen Bush

18  Ken Cronk

20  Scott Carr

21  Daniel Appleton, Laurie Gagné

23  Carmel Staplins

27  Conny Umile

**October Anniversaries**

2  Bob & Diane Nerkowski

23  Marcia & Brian Donnelly

24  Bea & Bob Shepard

25  Carmel & William Staplins

**AA Online Meetings**

For those in need, links to online and voice meetings can be found at:
https://www.aa-intergroup.org/directory.php

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The 20th of every month - please send articles to Lori Cartwright at loriahlcart@gmail.com

**Missed a Sunday? Unable to attend worship?**

You can catch the weekly sermon video at www.umcbranford.org

**KEEP UP-TO-DATE WITH WHAT’S HAPPENING AT UMCB:**

www.facebook.com/umcbranford

Also check out:

www.facebook.com/unitedmethodistchurch

www.facebook.com/umcgeneralconference

www.facebook.com/NYACUMC

“Where the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit converge to change hearts and lives.”
Learn & Play still has a few openings for the Fall program!

We offer children ages 6 weeks to 5 years fulfilling age-appropriate childcare and preschool education for families in Branford, Guilford, and other Shoreline communities. The Center’s caring and well-trained staff provides full-day and part-day programs grounded in the Bible and exemplified by the love and teachings of Jesus Christ.

More info: learnandplaychristian.org

HELP US SPREAD THE NEWS! Visit either L&P or the church’s Facebook pages to find the post with the photo above, then share it to your news feed so we go viral!

Ministry While Practicing Social Distancing

PASTORAL CARE: Please know that Pastor Kent is available for Pastoral Care “visits” either by telephone or individual Zoom meetings. If you would like to be in conversation to help process an issue you are dealing with or just to “catch up,” please text or email Pastor Kent to arrange a meeting.

MEETINGS: Our committee meetings will be meeting via Zoom. Please go to www.zoom.us and click “Sign Up. It’s Free” to create your account.

All committee members will automatically be sent an invitation to their meetings. If you would like to receive an invitation to join a meeting, please contact Pastor Kent ahead of time so you can receive the log-in information.

FINANCES: Your weekly offerings may be placed in the Offering Box at the entrance to the sanctuary or mailed to the church office if you are not attending in-person worship. Please consider using our online giving platform by clicking the “Give Now” button on the church website at www.UMCBranford.org

COMMUNICATION: The church office is open from 9am-2pm Tuesday through Thursday. In the interest of social distancing, we are asking that you DO NOT visit the church office during those hours. If you must be in the office, please be sure to be wearing a mask. You are welcome to call the church office during these times if there is church information that Brenda can help you with.

Monday Morning Quarterbacking

An opportunity to dig deeper into the Sunday Sermon! Pastor Kent shares additional insight into the scriptures and the participants are encouraged to ask questions and share reflections on the material which was preached. Please consider attending on a weekly basis or occasionally as the Spirit moves. During the quarantine, we will be meeting by Conference Call at 10am. Please dial in at 425-436-6385 using access code 841200#.
Small Study Groups

Our Tuesday 7pm and Thursday 10:10am Study Groups continue to meet online. Please email Pastor Kent for a Zoom link or telephone number if you would like to join the Tuesday evening study. The Thursday morning group is meeting via conference call. Please call 425-436-6385 and use access code 841200#

I WILL! Nine Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian by Thom S. Rainer

Could you be the answer to the problems you see?

Every day we are faced with the needs of those around us. Emotional. Physical. Spiritual. What are we to do about it? Are these problems for our pastors to address, or is there a way for the church member to make an impact that will last?

Bestselling author Thom S. Rainer answers these questions by offering nine simple traits that you can incorporate into your life, no matter your background, stage of life, or sense of capability.

You can do it. Now it’s time to just stand up and say you will!

• I Will Move from “I am” to “I will”
• I Will Worship with Others
• I Will Grow Together with Others
• I Will Serve
• I Will Go
• I Will Give Generously
• I Will Not Be a Church Dropout
• I Will Avoid the Traps of Churchianity
• I Will Make a Difference

Welcome To The New Jackson Family Member!

Say hello to Roxy, who was adopted from Cosgrove Animal Shelter. She’s a good girl!

Friday, October 30, 6pm

We will be making food and serving to any and all via "curbside" pickup.

Please pull into the church parking lot and into one of the spaces. One of the volunteers will bring out dinner(s) to you wrapped up and ready for travel.

"Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:37-40

KEEP SAVING YOUR SODA CAN TABS!

Look for the green collection bin outside the church. Drop them off anytime: before the community dinner – when you are out and about – before or after a doctor appointment. We’re hoping to collect at least another 2 to 3 bags by the end of 2020. Every tab makes a difference - just like you do!
Sewing For God

Cool weather has certainly made itself known. Time to snuggle up with a warm quilt!

I will remind you that our Veterans are still not far from our thoughts! If you know of a group who might like to receive Veteran’s Quilt from SFG, please let us know ASAP, so that one can be created for them. I currently have 3 tops made and 3 more in the works.

I look forward to when we can gather again to start sewing together.

Rosemary

Hi, Secret Pal!

Can you believe Fall is here? The leaves are falling, the air is brisk, and the moon is brighter. Hope you receive lots of treats and never a trick. Have a great October, friends.

LADIES LUNCHEON

Ladies, I’m sorry to say that we are still not able to have our monthly luncheons until further notice.

Please know that I am thinking of each of you every month and miss our time together. Stay safe until we meet again.

If you have any questions, please call Rosemary at (203) 589-1620.

TALLY AS OF 9/23:
750 CANS COLLECTED

• ONLY 4,250 TO GO BY DECEMBER - SPREAD THE WORD!

Get the word out to all your friends on Facebook - anyone can participate! Find the post on the church’s Facebook page with this photo (or any of our other updates) and share it to your feed.

Or take a photo of yourself when you drop off your donation and tag it with #FeedThe5000.
Blessing Bags

Our church community has been so very generous with regards to our outreach ministries. There is such a need - today, more than ever - to help our neighbors and those less fortunate. On almost every corner, we see people who are forced to ask for a handout to feed themselves and take care of their families. We would love to put together more Blessing Bags. Last time, our church was able to put together 35 bags to hand out. Once again, we are asking for you to go through your drawers and gather all those travel size toiletries you’ve been hanging on to, thinking you would use some day, - those treasures would make a great addition to a Blessings Bag! (Please, only new unopened items in good condition!) Nothing in your drawers? Your local dollar store has many of the items on the list. There are also many other items on the list (opposite side) that would be a blessing to someone in need! Please prayerfully consider donating.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."    - Matthew 25:40

CHECKLIST FOR BLESSING BAGS

No products that contain any alcohol

Only new or unused items in good condition, please!

NECESSITIES:
· Hand-warmers
· Band-Aids
· Baby wipes
· Wash cloth
· Travel size First Aid kit
· Hand sanitizer
· Face mask

TOILETRIES (travel size work great!):
· Toothbrush
· Toothpaste
· Floss
· Soap
· Deodorant
· Small facial tissue packs
· Shampoo or conditioner
· Comb
· Personal hygiene items for women
· Sunscreen
· Chapstick

NON-PERISHABLE FOODS:
· Instant oatmeal packs
· Granola or energy bars
· Tuna or cracker packs
· Trail mix (no nuts) or raisins
· Fruit or applesauce (with a spoon)
· Gum or hard candy
· Beef jerky sticks
· Single serve coffee packs or tea bags

PERSONAL ITEMS:
· Socks
· Hats
· Inexpensive gloves
· Disposable raincoat

EXTRAS:
· Deck of cards or UNO game
· Prepaid phone or grocery store gift card
· A note of encouragement!