Ministries of Prayer & Care

As we continue to navigate through the changes in ministry in light of the pandemic, I am constantly looking for new ways that we can be the church. In the coming weeks, I would like to establish Ministries of Prayer and Care.

Would you be interested in attending a virtual Prayer Meeting? Please contact Pastor Kent by text/phone at 845-522-1233 or by email at umcbpastor@gmail.com. We will find a time (or multiple times) to gather virtually for sharing joys and concerns and praying for the needs of our church, community, and the world.

It is essential during this time that we engage in new ways of keeping in touch with one another. If you would be willing to make phone calls as part of a Care Ministry, please contact Pastor Kent by phone or email. Each volunteer will be assigned 3-4 families to keep in touch with on a monthly basis. Volunteers will also share with Pastor Kent any joys or concerns they become aware of.

Please know that you are always welcome to contact Pastor Kent directly if you have any needs or information you would like to share.

Charge Conference

This year’s Charge Conference with the District Superintendent will be held in 2 parts on November 8th and 9th. Both sessions will be held virtually. You will need a telephone number or Zoom log in information to join the meetings. All necessary information will be provided through our weekly EMAIL BLAST!! If you are not currently signed up to receive the blast, please visit our church website to sign up. Those without internet access are invited to call Pastor Kent to get the appropriate phone call-in information for each session.

The General Session on Sunday, Nov. 8th at 2:00 PM will include worship and an address from the District Superintendent, as well as Nomination of the Trustees. All 8 churches from our Cooperative Parish will be included.

On Monday, Nov. 9th at 6:30 PM, the D.S. will meet with Branford only, to handle the necessary business of the Charge.

All materials for Charge Conference will be provided electronically through a link on our weekly blast on Thursday, November 5th. We will have a few copies available for pick-up on Saturday, Nov. 7th.

Food Pantry Challenge

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

We’re well on the way to meeting our goal of collecting 5,000 cans of fruits and vegetables by the end of 2020. By the time this newsletter goes to print we will have exceeded the 2,000 can mark!!!

Everything collected will be donated to the local food pantries in Branford, Guilford, and North Branford. We are specifically “counting” all the cans of fruits and vegetables that are donated. Place your donations in the green collection bin outside the church’s front door. 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, 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.

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.

**November Events**

**Sun 11/1, 9:30am:** All Saints Sunday  
**Wed 11/4, 7pm:** Trustees  
**Sun 11/8, 2pm:** Charge Conference  
**Mon 11/9, 6:30pm:** Charge Conference  
**Wed 11/11, 6:30pm:** L&P Advisory Council  
**Wed 11/18, 7pm:** Faithful Stewards  
**Wed 11/25, 7pm:** Finance Committee  
**Fri 11/27, 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#.

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

**November Birthdays**

1. Janice Samoel, Cheryl Torello  
2. Lucy Mazzucco, Brent Talbott  
3. Ro Robinson, Deb Talbott  
4. Victoria Rezman, Debbie Shapiro  
5. Gloria Carr  
6. Brian Donnelly  
7. Bradley Bowman  
8. Joe Polio  
9. Linda Beagle  
10. Karen Bussey  
11. Erich Bussey  
12. Bea Shepard  
13. Haley Bussey, Marisa Bussey  
14. Ava Juliette Caruso

**November Anniversaries**

7. Bob & Cindy Anderson  
10. Brad & Trina Bowman  
12. Ron Arena & Toni Ginnetti  
28. Paul & Nancy Dineen

**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.”
We’re Back and Live!

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 9:30 am service may be accessed through the church website or directly on our UMC Bradford 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. An audio-only recording will also be available using the “Dial My Calls” number: (959) 202-4862.

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#

7 Men and 7 Women and the Secret of Their Greatness
by Eric Metaxas

Meet 14 heroic individuals who changed the course of history! Combining his two popular books into one volume, Metaxas explores the qualities that make a person great. Discover the captivating stories of Mother Teresa, martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer, abolitionist William Wilberforce, Corrie ten Boom, athlete Jackie Robinson, civil rights figure Rosa Parks, and many others.

After discussing the introductions to both books, we will alternate our readings by studying one of the men, then one of the women, etc.

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE
TALLY AS OF 10/22:
2,000+ CANS COLLECTED

• ONLY 3,000 TO GO BY DECEMBER - SPREAD THE WORD!

Get the word out to all your friends on Facebook - anyone can participate! Find any post about the challenge on the church’s Facebook page and share it to your feed.

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

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Save the Dates!!

On Sunday, November 8 at 2 PM the Shoreline and the Havens Cooperative Parish Churches will be meeting with the District Superintendent.

On Monday, November 9 at 6:30 PM UMC, Bradford will be meeting with the District Superintendent for our conference.

Both sessions will be held virtually. Information for joining the meetings will be sent out as it is received.

See "Pastor's Ponderings" on page 1 for more info.
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#.

Learn & Play still has openings!

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!
**Community Dinner**

**Friday, November 27, 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

Along with our 5000 can goal, we are still collecting food to deliver to the local Food Pantry. Non-perishable items like tuna fish, cereal, rice, peanut butter, jelly, soup, macaroni, and sauce are very much needed, as are personal care items like diaper wipes, soap, and toothpaste.

Donations can be left in the green bin located at the entrance to the church.

If you have benefited from our ministry, please consider helping support us and the work we do through a tax-deductible contribution.

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

**THANK YOU**

A giant THANK YOU to everyone who has sent cards, called, or said prayers expressing get well wishes for me. Also, thanks to Louise Lind who has delivered the communion packets. Bob and I appreciate the kindness of our church family as I gradually get stronger and heal from the stroke I experienced in August.

Bea Shepard

**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**

We celebrate our Veterans on November 8th. We thank each and every one for their service to our country, and would like to honor them with a special quilt designed for them.

I would like to thank Gayle for coming over to layer four that were ready.

As we go into the winter season, we are going to concentrate all our efforts into making tops and quilts for our friends at Artis. I’m sure that there is a huge backlog of residents who have not received a quilt from us in a while. Our goal is to have 25 by Christmas for them. It’s an ambitious goal, but we can do it with a little help from our friends at UMCB.

**Rosemary**

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**Hi, Secret Pal!**

I give thanks to all my friends for the friendship that I share with each and everyone of you.

Keep the faith that one day soon we will get together as a group and share hugs and love again.

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**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.

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**WELCOME!**

Branford UMC is excited to welcome Phil and Mikaela Antinone (ann-тиh-no-n) to the congregation. The couple comes to us from Fort Worth, Texas. After meeting in their final year at Texas Christian University, the couple graduated with respective degrees in Music Education and Nursing in December of 2016. They were married in June 2018.

Mikaela is a Labor and Delivery Nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital, and she is planning on beginning her Master's education to become a Midwife in the Fall of 2022. Phil currently attends Yale Divinity School in the Master of Divinity program, and he is in the candidate process for both the United Methodist Church and the U.S. Air Force Chaplain Corps.

Before moving to Connecticut, Phil worked at his home church as a Worship Leader after entering as a member of the choir and working his way from section leader to soloist. Although he is a trained singer, Phil's true passion comes from creative, social leadership, and community engagement—people who know Phil know that he loves to get involved!

Currently, Phil is in his second year of the three-year program and is planning on completing his year-long Hospital Chaplain residency in Connecticut after graduation, meaning that he and Mikaela will be worshipping with us for, at the very least, the next couple of years.

Outside of church, they stay active by doing yoga, barre, hiking, distance running, and watching college and professional sports. Phil and Mikaela want "y'all" to know that they've been praying to find a church home since they arrived in New Haven, and they are overjoyed to say that they believe their prayers have been answered!
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-warmer
· 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!