

June/July

2019



Steeple Tidings

Sharing God's love with each other and the world

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**Worship with us Sundays
at 10 AM,
All are Welcome!!**



Pray for happy healthy Summer! If you remember it was one summer ago when I (Sue Braun) thought everything was good. I know that God had plans that I did not see. I thank God for the wake up call. I thank God every day for the ONE MORE he has given us! I am asking you to look at what you have and Give Thanks for having it! Love you all!



“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn”

(Isaiah 61:1-2)

Save The Date:

June:

2—Children's Sunday, pg 7

9—Pentecost, pg 6

13-15—Annual Conference, pg 7

14—Last Day of School for Here Wee Grow

16—Father's Day, pg 4

23—Guest Rev. Dr. Wes Palmer, pg 6

July

15-19—VBS! Pg.7

Some Thoughts from Me —*Rev. David Williams*



From time to time I have people (both in the church and those with no church affiliation) ask me, “just what do you do as a pastor?” It is a good question, since much of what I do is unseen by members and outsiders alike. So I thought I would take this space to share with you just what I do and why I do it.

To begin with, I really do work more than one hour a week. Honest. I do. Some of my work takes place in the church—meeting with people who need advice, help, hope, etc. Some of my work takes place in someone’s home offering comfort, support, and hope. Some of my work takes place in nursing homes and hospitals as I seek to bring some measure of comfort to those suffering at the moment. Of course I spend a good deal of time in meetings (and yes, I dislike them as much as you do, but they are necessary). There is the time I spend putting together Sunday’s service, Sunday’s sermon, and planning and teaching Bible Studies. And, let’s not forget the weekly “oatmeal run” every Friday with the Men’s Group. All of these, plus other things (like Wednesday night prayer meetings) take a good deal of my time, but there are other places outside of the walls of HUMC where I invest my time.

I remember hearing Bishop Weaver once say that bishops don’t appoint pastors to a church; they appoint them to a community. I have come to discover the truth of that statement as well as its wisdom. No church exists in a vacuum. We are called to constantly engage those around us. Our own mission statement confirms this as we proclaim that we are called “to share the love of Jesus Christ with each other, and the world.” As a pastor I cannot simply challenge the church to be involved if I am not. I need to be involved too, and so I am.

I serve on several local groups and boards. I am part of the Johnson Memorial Medical Center (JMMC) Mission Committee. We are a group that meets quarterly to help guide the mission of JMMC and to help integrate a faith perspective in what they do. I also serve on the JMMC Ethics Committee. This group also meets quarterly as well as on an “as needed” basis to provide ethical guidance to difficult situations. We are called in by doctors, nurses, and family members when folks are struggling with what to do when beliefs, policies, or desires collide. It is sometimes very easy to sort out, but usually it is a very difficult process which challenges those of us on the committee as well as those involved.

This past February I also began serving as part of the Enfield Juvenile Review

Board. This is a group that meets twice a month to deal with youth who have been arrested for various reasons (fights, shoplifting, vandalism, etc.). Our goal is to keep them out of the court system by helping them find the resources that might help them turn their lives around. It has proven to be a fascinating experience and I am looking forward to becoming more involved as the months progress.

Of course I am still involved at the district and conference levels within our denomination, serving on the District Ministry Team and the Conference Committee on Equitable Compensation. The district team works on various ways to connect our churches in worship and education, while the conference committee works to be sure that pastors in struggling churches continue to get paid. Both of these groups meet on a periodic basis, often via teleconference.

As you can see, there is more to being a pastor than simply leading worship on a Sunday, but always at the heart of being a pastor is the people. I am blessed to serve HUMC and the people I have come to regard as my family, and I am blessed to be able to be involved with and serve the people of the greater Enfield area. Please hold me in your prayers that I might represent HUMC, The United Methodist Church, and—most importantly—our Lord, Jesus Christ in a manner that brings honor and glory.

Enjoy the summer and God bless.

Dave

Nightingale Awarded to one of Our Own!

One of our very own lakes has certainly made a name for herself!

Melissa (Babcock) Donor recently was honored in her nursing field with the Nightingale Award. This is only given to the very best and excellence in her ability to nurse the body, mind and soul of each patient that she crosses her path in her nursing career. Melissa is currently a RN Supervisor at Rockville General Hospital. This is an incredible honor and one that shows cases everything that Melissa holds dear!



Nursing Home Outreach Opportunities

This month we have two opportunities to witness to the love of Christ in our world. On Tuesday, June 11, at 10:30 a.m. we will take our worship service to the folks at Parkway Pavilion. Then on Tuesday, June 25, at 11 a.m. we will worship with the folks at Evergreen Nursing Home. Both services last about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, and includes old favorite hymns, prayers, scripture, a very brief message, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. We are always in need of folks to assist in the singing to just generally greet the residents who come to the service. It's fun. It's easy. And it really does make a difference.



Fathers' Day is June 16 this year, and we want to celebrate the influence our dads have had on our lives. As we have done in prior years, we invite you to bring a small memento or keepsake of some sort to church on that Sunday and place it on the altar, in effect covering our altar with love and memories. During the service we will pay homage to the great men who helped to mold and shape us. He may be your biological father or the man who raised you. Your father may be alive, or may have gone home to glory. It matters not. He has had a profound influence on you and we want to celebrate him. You will be able to retrieve your memento immediately after the service.



Life pushing in? Work a hassle? Fears abound around family, finances, health? Why not spend a few moments with God. Join us Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary for a short, very informal time of prayer. This half-hour time together allows us to reconnect with one another, and, more importantly, to reconnect with God. Come spend some time in the arms of our Savior. You will be glad you did.

To be a Christian without Prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.

Sermon Survey

It's that time again; time to let Rev. Dave know what you would like him to include as part of the coming year's sermon schedule. The sermon is an important time in our worship experience, because it hopefully relates the worship of God with our engagement of the world around us. To better prepare those messages, and to try and make them relevant to our daily lives, Rev. Dave spends one week each year in a Planning Retreat, where he prayerfully considers what our needs are as a people of faith, and tries to match those needs to particular sermon topics. This year, that retreat will take place during the week of August 5. In order to make the most efficient use of that time, and to ensure that the sermons offered are relevant to our needs, Rev. Dave is asking for your help. Please take a moment and fill in the survey below, then place the survey in the survey collection box at the back of the sanctuary, or hand it in to the church office by August 1. Rev. Dave will use the surveys to assist him in planning next year's sermons.



Life Issues

What personal issues, world events, or real life situations would you like to hear addressed from a faith perspective? What topics would help you to live out your faith on a daily basis?

Theological Issues

What tenets of our faith, what creeds, what beliefs do you struggle with or have questions about? For example, what questions do you have about the Apostles' Creed, or the Lord's Prayer, or the Resurrection, or some stand that the church takes?

Biblical Issues

What Bible stories or passages trouble you? What stories or passages would you like to hear addressed in a sermon? What book(s) of the Bible would you love to hear a sermon on?

How would you complete these sentences

"I have always wanted to hear a sermon about..."

"I would really love to hear a sermon about..."

Wes Palmer

On Sunday, June 23, the Rev. Dr. Wesley Palmer will join us as our guest preacher for the day. Dr. Palmer has pastored United Methodist churches throughout New England and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Preachers' Aid Society of New England. The Preachers' Aid Society has a mission to faithfully care for our pastors and their families. At the heart of this mission work are the relationships that are established and nurtured through the visitations of their staff, the phone calls they receive, the retiree newsletters prepared and sent, the special events they host and many more acts of love.

Dr. Palmer is in great demand as a speaker and we are blessed to have him here for this exciting service. We hope you will plan to attend.



Pentecost



On Sunday, June 9, we will celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the church. The traditional color for Pentecost is red, signifying the Holy Spirit which descended as tongues of fire upon the early disciples. To help celebrate this very special day, we are inviting the congregation to wear red that Sunday, and to enjoy a special coffee fellowship after church. This Sunday will also mark the last time our marvelous choir will be singing until September, so you won't want to miss it.

Annual Conference

From June 13 through June 15, Rev. Dave and Colleen, and our Deaconess, Roberta Bragan, will be attending Annual Conference in Manchester, NH. This is the yearly gathering of the New England Annual Conference where legislation is voted upon, delegates to General Conference are selected, new Elders are ordained, and awards presented. It is a time of deeply moving worship, thought provoking discussions, and wonderful fellowship. It will also be a time filled with uncertainty and controversy as we seek to deal with the aftermath of the recent special General Conference session. On Sunday, June 16, Rev. Dave will use his morning message time to reflect on what transpired and to help us find our footing in these turbulent times. Please be in prayer for our members who will be attending, as well as clergy and laity from all of the other New England churches that the time spent at Conference will serve to glorify God.



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School introductory Meeting Monday, April 29, 6:30PM

July 15 through July 19 = Camp EDGE at the UMCE

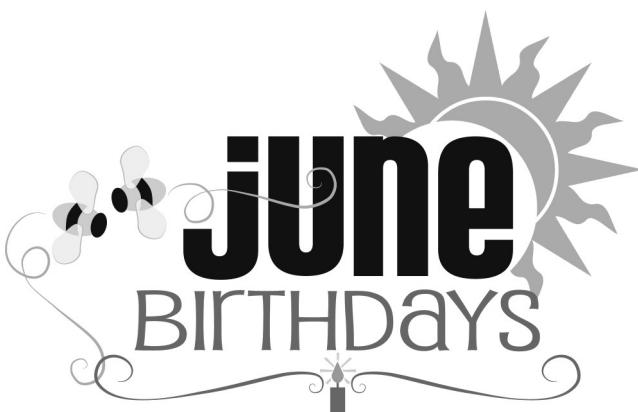
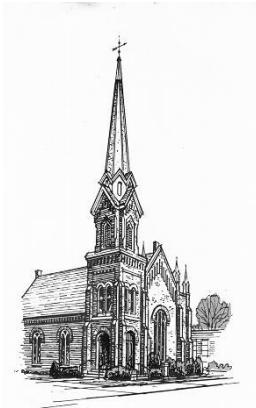
We do need volunteers with many different skills and abilities to help with the many tasks, both before, during and after the VBS. Consider how you might add to the wonder of VBS 2019. Contact Linda Thorn for more information: (860) 741-3157 or LindaMThorn@cox.net



Come and Enjoy what our kids have done all year! As usual we support our kids and love the update. Cookie Hour will follow with a special tribute to our Sunday School Teacher, Tracy Weisel. Tracy has decided after years of teaching that she would like to try other things within the church. Maybe we can convince her to sing again?

RENTING/ SIGNING OUT CHURCH ROOMS

WE HAVE SPACE, WE HAVE A WONDERFUL BUILDING. GRAD PARTIES, BIRTHDAY PARTIES, RECEPTIONS. WE HAVE ROOMS THAT CAN HOLD 175 PEOPLE AND ROOMS FOR 20 PEOPLE. CALL THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS (860-749-7098). FUN TIMES ARE MADE IN THIS CHURCH! OUR FEES ARE NOMINAL AND OUR RULES ARE LIVABLE (NO LIQUOR, NO SMOKING) THINK ABOUT USING THE BUILDING FOR



- 2—Jean Tarr
- 5—Vivian Stewart
- 6—Lee Braun
- 20—Jane Clark
- 22—McKenzie Andrews
- 24—Nate Wiesel
- 27—Kathie Kelley



7—Bonnie LaMondia

- 8—Janette Burkhardt
- 9—Mary Baum & Leslee Young
- 10—Elaine Folkers
- 11—Richard Prior
- 12—Tracy McDonagh
- 21—Vernell Sandford
- 29—Kaylee Andrews

Homebound Ministry

The shut-in visitation box will be kept in the Church Office. Simply take a shut-in's card, give them a call, and make a visit. Jot down a quick note on the card with the date of the visit and return the card the next time you are at the church. For folk in the hospital or nursing home, they will be listed in the bulletin each Sunday. Just stop by and say hello.

Caring for the body of Christ is the responsibility of all of us, not just the pastor. Our shut-ins, our hospital bound, and their families will be grateful. More importantly, you will be blessed for the effort.

Summer Sermon Series

It is often said that the Bible is a patriarchal document, written by men and about men. It is a fair critique, and yet, women play a very prominent role in the story of faith. In fact, many of the men in the Bible had their ministries shaped, influenced, or corrected by the words and actions of women—some of whom are unnamed. Join Rev. Dave this summer for a thought provoking series entitled “Blessed are the... Women?” as we explore various women who model the values Jesus put forth in the Beatitudes. The series begins July 7 and runs through Labor Day weekend, and helps us explore the lives and impact of such notable women as the Widow of Nain, the Woman of Zarapheth, and Abigail, as well as more well-known women like Esther, Ruth, and Mary. Come share in the celebration of the women who helped shape our faith through incredible courage, quiet compassion, and gentle encouragement.

Pancake Breakfast



September will be our next breakfast.

Thank you to everyone who joined us this year. We were able to make the Taize trip happen for Kerry. We will have a new goal in September.



STEEPLE TIDINGS – TROOP 108 – JUNE 2019

BY SCOTT VUJS (A.K.A. THE OLD GOAT PATROL)

TROOP 108



Greetings from the scouts, leaders and families of Troop 108.

The scouts and leaders have been busy supporting many local community events, camping, and getting ready for Yawgoog 2019!

May & June's campout will be held in Cape Cod. The scouts and leaders are planning on riding their bikes along the Cape Code Canal Bike Trails, hiking along the National Seashore, and possibly visiting the tower at Province town. It will be a more relaxing type of campout as the troop winds down the Scouting Year.

We also want to thank everyone who purchased Mother's Day Flowers and Plants from Troop 108, another large fundraiser that helps support our scouts and Troop Operations. It was great to see so many familiar faces and appreciate everyone's support on Mother's Day weekend.

The troop also participated in placing 1600+ American Flags on the graves of veterans at St. Patrick's Cemetery on May 15, 2019. This year Troop 108 was joined by Cub Scout Pack 391 to help us in placing the flags at the graves. Over 30 scouts, families, and adult leaders participated in this semi-annual event. The troop and the scouts perform this community service twice a year (Memorial Day & Veteran's Day). The old flags that are removed from the graves are given a proper disposal by burning in a dignified ceremony at the American Legion in June or at Yawgoog in July.

Troop 108 will be marching in the Town of Enfield's Memorial Day Parade on Sunday May 26, 2019 at 1:00 PM. Please come out and honor those military members who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that our families can enjoy the freedoms that this nation has been blessed with.

The troop will be participating at the annual Naval Ritual Wreath Ceremony at the Enfield Boat Launch at the Connecticut River on Sunday June 30, 2019 (around 8:00 AM). The ceremony honors all Navy Veterans who lost their lives in service to our country. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Planning continues for Summer Camp 2019 at Yawgoog Scout Reservation – Camp Sandy Beach in July 2018. I will once again be serving as the Scoutmaster this summer and am looking forward to a week of fun with 13 scouts and 8 adult leaders. Many new and exciting events await our scouts at camp as well as some old time tested favorites. Camp Sandy Beach Waterfront has had 20 new modern handicap assessable showers installed since last summer as well as new equipment purchased for the program areas. And the waterfront will feature the inflatables in the lake for the scouts to enjoy. The theme for Week #5 is "Castaways" – the scouts and leaders are busy preparing their costumes. The boy leaders are gearing up to plan a fun week of activities for the troop which will be our 34th year attending Yawgoog. We will be sure to update everyone with highlights from Summer Camp.

Troop 108 also wants to congratulate Evan Stanley on his appointment to the US Merchant Marine Academy by Senator Christopher Murphy, D-CT. Evan is an Eagle Scout from our Troop and is looking to serving his country in the US Merchant Marine.

Troop 108 wants to thank Andy Hall and Bruce Lincoln for signing on as our newest Adult leaders. Both of their sons crossed over in March from Webelos at Pack 391. We welcome and thank them both for volunteering their

time to assist with the Scouting program.

As the Marine Corp's recruiting slogan says "we are looking for a few good men", so as Troop 108 is always" looking for a few good young men" who would like to become a Boy Scout. Troop 108 does accept new scouts at any time of the year. If you know of a young man who is at least 11 years old or has completed the 5th grade, or has earned the Arrow of Light in Cub Scouts and is looking to "Cross Over" into a Boy Scout Troop please let us know. Any young man is welcomed to visit the troop on Wednesday evenings during the school year. For more information please contact myself, Scott Vujs at Lobster63@cox.net.

Troop 108 wants to wish everyone a happy and safe summer season. Enjoy the warm weather, backyard BBQs and spend some time relaxing with family and friends.

Until the next Steeple Tidings in September 2019 Troop 108 is clear and signing off.

Troop 108 THANKS the HUMC for its continued support of our troop for 81 years!!!!



Illness

Richard Borio, Mike Braun,

Diane Chantre,

Mark Chevalier,

Neil Kelley

Beryl Notman,

Mary Lou Sarno,

Peg Steinert,

Ron Uricchio,

Recovery

Maggie Phelan

Colleen Williams

Please keep the following in your prayers

If you have a name to add or notice a name that is missing please contact Isobel Skukowski or the church office.

Safe Travels

Tyler Craven

The Fishers

Elaine Folkers

Family Illness

The Braun Family

The Kelley Family

Shut-Ins

Elsie Andrews

Louise Barnes

Chick Comparento

Diane Hoctor

Pat Owens

Ann Stanzione

Prayer Chain:

Rev. Dave—860-749-9595

Isobel Skukowski—860-7497451

Church Office—860-749-7098 Sue Braun—860-749-2234

Linda Borio Nancy Dyer Jane Clark Doris Mack

Holly Fisher Mary Baum Sandy Butcher

Vernell Sanford Jessica Duga

Our Entire Church Family



Here Wee Grow!

Here Wee Grow! will end the school year on June 14th. We will celebrate our achievements for this year on June 13th and June 14th with our “Celebration of Our Success” programs. Parents, siblings and other family members are invited to attend. We’d love to have you join us as well! The

four year old program is Thursday evening, June 13th at 6:15 p.m. The three year old celebration is Friday, June 14th at 11 a.m.

Enrollment for September 2019 is going well. We have a few spots remaining so if you know of someone looking for a high quality preschool, please pass on our information!

Summer camp for children ages 3 to 6 is being held July 15th-19th. This year’s theme is “Let’s Steam Ahead” We will concentrate on science, technology, engineering, art and math activities. We have several special visitors lined up to join us during the week also. Applications are being taken until July 12th.

As always we thank you, the parishioners of HUMC, for your prayers and your support. Through the year we have received many gifts from you, some monetary, items we have requested or items you have just kindly purchased for us. All these gifts and the fact that you think of us is appreciated so very much. Please do not forget the **Don Niemann Scholarship Fund**. We are using a portion of the scholarship money for a child at present whose family has fallen on hard times. We also have a child whom we will help beginning in September.

Thank you for your kindnesses and your thoughtfulness. May the summer be a happy, relaxing time for you.

Until next time....

Phyllis



The LaRocca Family would like to thank you for the notes and prayers about the loss of Jane’s Father, Julianne’s Grandfather. Your Love was felt and appreciated!

IN SERVICE IN JUNE

DATE	LITURGIST	NURSERY	GREETERS	COFFEE	USHERS	COUNTERS
June 2	Roberta Bragan Communion Steward: Diane Babcock	Vernell Sandford Doris Mack	Dee Chlebowski	Cookie Hour	Walt Skukowski Judy Locke Tony Clarke	Ernie Jensen Diane Joseph
June 9	Esta Clarke	Linda Versteeg Nicole Galbraith	Judy Locke		Judy Locke Kerry Fracasso Tony Clarke	Holly Fisher Deb Cooke
June 16	Linda Borio	Amy Troiano Tracy McDonagh	Alice Allen		Tony Clarke Kerry Fracasso Don Niemann	John Fisher Tony Clarke
June 23	Roberta Bragan	Esta Clarke Rebecca Donor	Nancy Dyer		Tony Clarke Kerry Fracasso Don Niemann	Kathie Kelley Diane Babcock
June 30	Patrice Carson	Ashley Collins Daye Guertin	Dave and June Munson		Judy Locke Kerry Fracasso Tony Clarke	Holly Fisher Deb Cooke



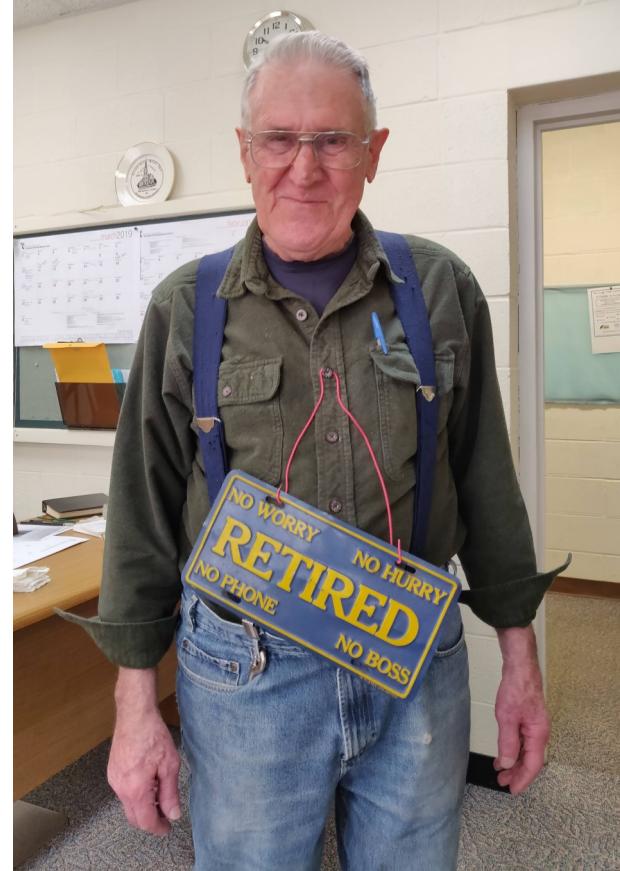
Riverside Reptiles visiting Here Wee Grow!

Plant Sale! Troop 108





Bell Tower in March!



Don Niemann



Sunday School

IN SERVICE IN JULY

DATE	LITURGIST	NURSERY	GREETERS	COFFEE	USHERS	COUNTERS
July 7	Leslee Young Communion Steward: Marie Prior	Vernell Sandford Doris Mack			Walt Skukowski Judy Locke Tony Clarke	Ernie Jensen Diane Joseph
July 14	Phyllis Phelan	Linda Versteeg Nicole Galbraith			Judy Locke Kerry Fracasso Tony Clarke	Holly Fisher Deb Cooke
July 21	Linda Borio	Amy Troiano Tracy McDonagh			Tony Clarke Kerry Fracasso Don Niemann	John Fisher Tony Clarke
July 28	Emily Carson	Esta Clarke Rebecca Donor			Tony Clarke Kerry Fracasso Don Niemann	Kathie Kelley Diane Babcock
Aug. 4	Esta Clarke	Ashley Collins Daye Guertin			Judy Locke Kerry Fracasso Tony Clarke	Holly Fisher Deb Cooke