

October

2019

Steeple Tidings

Sharing God's love with each other and the world

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**Worship with us Sundays at 10 AM,
Sunday School
October 6 & 20 at 10am
All are Welcome!!**

Prayer Challenge

Where are we going as a church? Where should we be going? Where is God leading us? And what will it all look like? Those are questions that the leadership of this church is wrestling with. Our mission is to "Share the love of Jesus Christ with each other and the world" but just what does it look like and how do we go about it? One thing seems certain; we may need to change some things about how we operate and how we worship. And we all know that change, on any level, is difficult and sometimes painful. That is why we are inviting every member of the church to enter into a 30 day period of prayer over this. For the month of October (okay, that's 31 days instead of 30) **we are asking every member of the church to engage in daily prayer; asking God to reveal what we need to be doing to be the church God is calling us to be. By bathing this issue in prayer we hope to see more clearly who and what we are to be and how we should go about achieving that goal.** The Church Council began this challenge at their last meeting in September, and we have already seen some results as God, who is faithful, begins to answer our prayers. One month. 31 days. Just think of the possibilities.

"Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who seeks finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

(Matthew 7:7-8)

Some Thoughts from Me —Rev. David Williams



In many ways this is the most difficult column I have ever had to write. It is difficult because my heart is breaking as I write it. The United Methodist Church that I was born into, raised in, and joyfully serve as an ordained elder is coming apart at the seams. Despite our name we have become a people divided over a single issue; the issue of human sexuality. And what tears at my heart and my soul is the knowledge that despite our best efforts we here in Hazardville will probably be swept up in the fight. Let me explain.

It was at the quadrennial General Conference of 1972 that language was inserted into our Book of Discipline that called homosexuality “incompatible with Christian teaching,” forbade the ordination of gay persons, and implemented penalties for any pastor performing a same-sex union. Our world has changed since then as same-sex marriage has now become legal in every state and our understanding of human sexuality in all of its variations has changed. But our denomination’s stance has not changed. Every four years battles would rage at General Conference over language, over tolerance, over who we are willing to allow God to use in our midst. And every four years the battle lines (an accurate term and one that breaks my heart to use) became more deeply entrenched. And at the recent specially called General Conference held this past February our

discrimination of people who are “different” was amplified. This became the breaking point for many United Methodists.

Recognizing that we have reached a breaking point, the special session of General Conference passed legislation that would allow a congregation to disassociate from The United Methodist Church for reasons of conscience. For many churches, including nearly a dozen here, in New England, that time has come. They have been meeting to develop a process for discerning where God is leading them and how God would have them respond to this issue. This plan is in keeping with the requirement that a congregation wishing to disassociate must spend eight months in a discernment process prior to leaving. As I write this they are presenting our bishop with a letter of intent to enter such a process, in effect starting the clock ticking on that eight month timeframe.

I continue to pray for our denomination, and I continue to hope that we can find a way for both the progressives and the traditionalists to coexist. I continue to look at our church and ask the question, “If we can span the spectrum of political, social, and economic opinions, if we can differ in our understanding of this and many other questions and still live, love, laugh, pray,

Thoughts—*continued*

work, and worship together, why can't The United Methodist Church?" Can't the love of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ transcend our theological differences? I keep praying for these things.

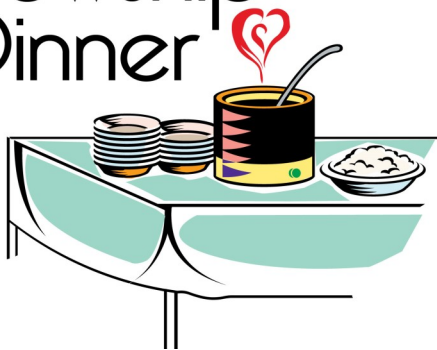
And yet, even as I pray I realize that the Hazardville United Methodist Church must begin to address this question. First, because should the last ditch effort to change our Discipline fail this coming February a General Conference our denomination will most assuredly split, and second, because the questions about who to welcome impacts some of our members directly. We need to talk about this issue and we need to do it in a way that allows for all to be heard and—just as importantly—all to be affirmed. That is why I am proposing that sometime in January we will begin a series of discussions using the discernment process that the churches exploring disassociation have developed. Please understand, **I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE DISASSOCIATE. I AM NOT PUSHING US IN ONE DIRECTION OR ANOTHER.** I am merely encouraging us to have these difficult conversations in love so that we might be that light of love and fellowship that Jesus calls us to be. I am planning to use the discernment process that has been developed because I have seen it, have seen the work that went into developing it, and recognize it to be a great tool for informing and for allowing space for listening. We do not have to “start the clock ticking” to do this, and I do not intend to. But by having these conversations we expose the “elephant in the room,” learn to listen to and hear each other, and perhaps grow in love with one another.

One final thing. There is no way to answer every question in a newsletter column, and I am sure that the very word “disassociate” has caused a million questions to swarm around your head. Please know my intention here is not to confuse or frighten. And please know that one of the purposes of the sessions we will be having is to answer your questions as best we can. This is merely an attempt on my part to acknowledge what is happening, to alert you to the possibility that we might be affected, and to start us on the path of a series of conversations that I hope will bless this church.

I will publish the schedule for these sessions (there will be 4-8 over a several month period) in the January Steeple Tidings. In the meantime please keep our denomination in prayer that we might find a way to truly be United as Methodists. Please keep me in prayer as I try to be a voice of reason and hope with my colleagues. And please keep our church in prayer as we continue to open our doors to ALL people, regardless of orientation or theological understanding.

Dave

Fellowship Dinner



We have planned the Fall Calendar and Marc is willing to lead the charge on Dinners! We will be having Fellowship/Community Dinners at least once a month with special themes.

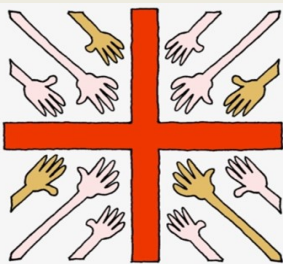
If you would like to help in any manner please sign up on the sign up board or send us an email: hazardvilleumc@sbcglobal.net or call: 860-749-7098

Free Will Offerings will be accepted: Come and eat!

October 4: 5-7pm, Pasta Dinner

November 8: 5-7pm, warm up to Thanksgiving!

December TBA: if we have time amongst everything else!



Many hands make Light work lighter

We are blessed at HUMC to have a group that has fun putting on dinners! The Barbeque was attended by 80 people and was great fun!

The Pasta dinner will be equal if not better! We will be serving pasta, salad, bread and a gluten free pasta on request!

We have to set up clean up and cook! Join the fun sign up to be apart of the fellowship.

Upcoming Publicity Shoot



On Sunday, October 6, a very important event in the life of our church will take place. Not only is it World Communion Sunday, when we join Christians all over the world in remembering the sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and our choir will be returning, but it is the day that the videographer from CGI will be here filming for our upcoming video. We will be filming worship, Sunday School, and other events taking place before and after worship. We invite you to mark your calendars and spread the word. We want to pack the pews on this Sunday so that people might see what a great church this is.

Pancake Breakfast



October 20 will be our next breakfast. We are going to start serving Eggs with our breakfast! This year all donations will go toward a couple of different projects! I will update you as they move along. After September:

November 17

December 15 Are the other dates.

We will start serving at 8:30am and keep flipping until 9:49am.



Wednesday Evening Healing Services

For some time, now, we have been opening the doors of our sanctuary on Wednesday evening for a time of quiet prayer and reflection. We are about to expand that offering in a very profound way. Beginning in October (Oct. 2, to be exact) the first

Wednesday of each month will be a Service of Divine Healing. This short (30-45 minutes) service will be patterned after the Taizé service of quiet reflection, with some simple chants, scripture, prayer, and anointing with oil. The remaining Wednesday evenings will continue to be open prayer times with little structure—just sharing and praying. All services are at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary and are open to members and persons of the surrounding community. Feeling run down, scared, lonely, depressed, hurting, struggling, or simply lost? Come to the monthly Service of Divine Healing. You will be glad you did.



Troop 108 – October 2019

Steeple Tidings – by Scott Vujs, a.k.a. “the Old Goat”

Greetings from Troop 108 – the oldest continuously operating troop in Enfield for 81 years!

With the days getting shorter and nights becoming cooler it surely an indication of fall weather that is approaching and many outdoor scout activities on the calendar.

Troop meetings have started and the 24 scouts are involved in many activities. In October the scouts will hold Troop Elections to elect new boy leaders. These boy leaders will continue with the planning and execution of the activities thru to the next Troop Elections in March 2020. This election process will give the scouts a good lesson in civic responsibility as we prepare to vote in our local elections in November. Stay tuned for next month's edition of Steeple Tidings to learn of the election results.

September's camp out was held at Hurd State Park in East Hampton, CT. The campout theme was Backpacking and Trail Meals. Camping, Cooking, & First Aid activities were also featured at the campout. The scouts also completed outdoor skills towards their next rank advancement.

October's campout will be to the Troiano Property in Rhode Island. The program is still being developed but we are looking at a few merit badges that we could complete.

October will also see our 1st Court of Honor and a Halloween Party. The Court of Honor will recognize scouts who have earned awards since the June Court of Honor – a majority of those awards were earned at Yawgoog Summer Camp 2019. The Halloween Party will feature our scouts and their families dressed up in their “scariest” costumes and participate in several “creepy” and “ghoulish” games.

November's Campout will be held at Yawgoog Scout Reservation in Rockville Rhode Island. This campout will feature visits from a Webelos den from a local pack as they visit various troops in Enfield prior to crossing over. Cooking skills will be the theme of the weekend and will culminate with our Troop's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner in the field complete with homemade Pumpkin Pies. The scouts will be able to get several 2nd and 1st Class Rank Requirements for Cooking signed off after this weekend. In addition, scouts working on the Cooking Merit Badge will be able to get requirements signed off as well.

In late October the troop will be placing flags on the graves of veterans at St. Patrick's Cemetery for Veteran's Day. This is part of our Community Service honoring some of the deceased veterans who are buried in Enfield. It shows respect not only for those veterans but for the flag and country they served. Over 1400+ flags will be placed this fall on Saturday 26 October 2019.

The troop is also preparing for the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony to be held at St. Patrick's cemetery on Saturday December 14, 2019. This ceremony will also tie in to our December Campout famously called “Video Campout” as the scouts relax and enjoy playing video games. The scouts work hard over the course of the year and they asked many years ago to have one campout to do “what they want” so the December Video Game Campout was established. It's a fun campout that is supporting a worthwhile cause with the Wreath Ceremony.

Troop 108 wants to thank all who recently purchased a Mum's Plant during our sale. The proceeds that the scouts earn directly go into their scout account to help pay for fees, campouts, uniforms, camping equipment, etc. The 9th point of the Scout Law is “Thrifty” – a scouts earns money to pay his own way.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Troop 108's Pasta Dinner on Saturday September 21, 2019. The event is being held at the Mt. Carmel Hall from 5-7:30 PM. And tickets for this event are just \$5 for HUMC parishioners!! For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Kerry Fracasso.

And speaking of Kerry, please extend congratulations when you see him as he became Troop 108's 91st Eagle Scout on August 26, 2019! Kerry worked hard and successfully completed all requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. His Eagle Service Project was to refurbish a room in the HUMC that now is useable space for storage and other activities.

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 (or scouts looking to transfer from another troop or have relocated to the area) at any time of the year. If you know of a young man who is at least 11 years old or completed the 5th grade or has earned his Arrow of Light in Webelos and would like to join Boy Scouts please let us know. Any young man and his parent/guardian are welcomed to visit the troop on Wednesday evenings. For more information please contact Scott Vujs, Scoutmaster, at Lobster63@cox.net for more information.

Additionally, if you know of a young man or young woman ages 5-10 (Kindergarten thru 5th Grade) who would like to become a Cub Scout please contact me and I can provide you with more information and a contact person with our local Packs.

Until the next Steeple Tidings Troop 108 is signaling "All Clear" and signing off.

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

Living Nativity: This year it is again a spectacular, not to be missed, incredible feat! If you would like to be an actor in the Nativity please sign up! If you own an animal (sheep, goat, camel, yak, alpaca, bunny) They are needed as well! Just call the church office to arrange!

October 4th at 5pm, Pasta Dinner, traveling troubadours, and fun! We are excited to offer a home cooked dinner for as many that show up. We will set up for 100 and hope for more than that! If you missed our barbeque you missed the fun of 80 people joining us for dinner! Can't wait to see who shows for Pasta, meatballs, bread, salad....just like mom makes!



We will have a gluten free option and a meat free sauce!

Nursing Home Outreach Opportunities

Because of Rev. Dave's vacation we will not be going to Evergreen this month. Our next opportunity to take worship to the residents at Evergreen Nursing Home is Tuesday, November 26, at 11 a.m. The service lasts about ½ 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.



Oct. 4—David Williams

Oct. 7— Bill Kiner

Oct. 14—Jack & Jacob Duga

Oct. 19— John Fisher, Isobel Skukowski,
Colleen Williams

Oct. 20—Polly Brown

Oct. 21—Ed Butcher

Oct. 24— Bobbi Bragan,

Frank & Thomas Troiano

Oct. 29—Dick Borio

Oct. 31—Joan Hammond



HUMC USED CLOTHING SALE SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, October 19
9 am to 1 pm

SAVE YOUR CLOTHES!

we will need donations of good used clothing

SAVE YOUR TIME! we will need help setting up Fri 18 from 9 to ? For information see Holly Fisher



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.

Martin Luther



**Christmas Tea and
Cookie Walk**
December 14, 2019
11:00 to 1:00



Remember to invite your friends and neighbors to join us at the 18th annual Christmas Tea and Cookie Walk. You'll be overwhelmed by the variety and amount of Holiday cookies available for purchase at the Cookie Walk. The elegant Tea Luncheon is an opportunity to relax and enjoy delicious finger sandwiches and sweets in community with friends and family. It's a busy time of year, so please come and take a moment for yourself and make it part of your Christmas season tradition.

We will need volunteers to help decorate fellowship hall,(time and day to be determined) and to prepare the kitchen. Also, volunteers are needed on Saturday to help serve our guests and clean up. A signup sheet will be available, any help is greatly appreciated!!!

For the Tea, sandwiches need to be made at the church. Be sure to label with the ingredients especially those that contain any nuts or gluten. Finger sandwiches and sweet treats need to be small as we want to **avoid the need for utensils.**

Cookies for the Cookie Walk can be brought to the Church on Friday the 7th or early Saturday morning. Please mark your cookie containers if they contain nuts or are gluten free.

Questions on the Cookie Walk can be directed to Tracy McDonagh (tracymcdon@cox.net) and questions on the Tea can be directed to Denise Pape (dpape411@cox.net).

Please lend a hand to make our last big fundraiser of the year a success!



Illness

Mike Braun,
Diane Chantre,
Mark Chevalier,
Neil Kelley

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
The Bragans

Family Illness

The Braun Family
The Kelley Family
The Phelan Family

Shut-Ins

Elsie Andrews
Chick Comparetto
Diane Hctor
Pat Owens
Ann Stanzione

Recovery

Jeannette Burkhardt
Colleen Williams

Beryl Notman,
Mary Lou Sarno,
Peg Steinert,
Ron Uricchio,
Janette Young

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



The month of October is approaching and with this comes a change in the weather, seeing colorful leaves and pumpkins on the way to school and the talk of mom baking apple pie or apple crisp!

Our group of children this year has an abundance of boys with only seventeen girls. We are busy and quite energetic but I am happy to say we are happy! We have learned that school is fun and making friends is a special treat. Our parents seem to be amazed but also

thrilled that the transition from home to school has been made with relative ease.

I was recently asked by one of our four year olds if I would eat lunch with her. I told her I would be delighted. We talked about her brother and how he liked school and got to ride a bus. She told me she liked school and enjoyed having books read to her. She also told me she had made a new friend and that was important. I asked her why this was important. She said because having friends was fun and it was nice to have a new friend in her school family!

Since I don't have a regular class where I can get to really know children, I have found that lunchtime is the best time for me to chat with small groups. It is during this time that I have learned what things are important to them. We talk about our families and how we are making friends at school. We talk about activities that are enjoyed after school. We talk about likes and dislikes at school and at home. It's a positive time for me so I can truly learn more about each of the children who stay with us all day. It is also fun and I believe we all enjoy this time together! The lives of our families are quite hectic. Both parents work, children are often left with grandparents or a day care provider. I wonder just how much time can be given to a child who only wants to have a conversation about a topic they choose. Do we as the adults in their lives take the time to truly listen to what they are saying? Do we take the time to let children talk and work through problems on their own? I believe that listening to children, truly listening, will not only help build a bond between you and the child, it also develops trust and builds confidence. I have also learned that if you listen to children they are more likely to listen to you!

The month of October will bring a change to our school. For the past twenty years we have had Denise Smith as our school photographer. For twenty years we have enjoyed seeing, through her talent as a photographer, the personalities of our students pop from the page. I received a call over the summer from Ms. Smith saying she was retiring and would no longer be available to take our school pictures. While we understand her decision, it is also sad that we will not see her this month at HWG. We now have Life Touch, which is the same photographer that the public schools use, coming to visit us at the end of the month.

As always we ask for your prayers and your continued support. Enjoy the beauty of a New England autumn.

Until next time....

Phyllis

IN SERVICE IN OCTOBER

DATE	LITURGIST	NURSERY	GREETERS	COFFEE	USHERS	COUNTERS
Oct. 6	Roberta Bragan Communion Steward: Diane Babcock	Ashley Collins Dee Chlebowski	Colleen Williams	Several People!	Walt Skukowski Kathie Kelley Christian Chlebowski Kerry Fracasso	Holly Fisher Kathie Kelley
Oct. 13	Linda Borio	Doris Mack Vernell Sandford	Isobel Skukowski		Walt Skukowski Judy Locke Kathie Kelley Mike Dynia	Elaine Folkers Isobel Skukowski
Oct. 20	Leslee Young	Robin Barrett Linda Versteeg	Diane Babcock	Pancakes	Walt Skukowski Kathie Kelley Kerry Fracasso Judy Locke	Holly Fisher Kathie Kelley
Oct. 27	Emily Carson	Amy Troiano Tracy McDonagh	The Weeks		Walt Skukowski Judy Locke Kathie Kelley Christian Chlebowski	Elaine Folkers Isobel Skukowski
Nov. 3	Esta Clarke	Daye Guertin Nicole Galbraith				Diane Joseph Ernie Jensen