

# The Messenger

## February 2011



The United Methodist Church, Clinton, CT



### Index

Adult class .....	16
Birthdays .....	12
Bridge players wanted .....	7
Charge Conference .....	4
Christmas greetings .....	15
Church family notes .....	18
Deborah Circle .....	7
Editor's corner .....	19
Endowment Committee .....	8
Epiphany poetry .....	17
Fellowship Hall decor .....	6
Food pantry .....	15
Haiti sponsors .....	3
Methodist Historical Society	16
Month of Sundays .....	4,5,6
Office e-mails .....	14
Pastor's words .....	2
Souper Bowl Sunday .....	4
Sympathy .....	8, 9
True learning .....	9
Trustee update .....	7
United Methodist Women ....	7



*The following has come across my desk a number of times in various forms, but it is still worth reading:*

Imagine there is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do?

Draw out every cent, of course!

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today.

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, ask a student who failed a grade.  
To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed the train.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who just avoided an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a medal in the Olympics.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time. And remember that time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history...  
Tomorrow is mystery...  
Today is a gift...  
That's why it's called the *present!*

There are lots of things this month that we can spend our time on. The sporting event the greatest number of people in the United States watch is the Super Bowl. I am glad our youth remind us that we can take that day and give it more meaning by collecting food and donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Valentine's Day is a day set aside for the celebration of love. And, as if with all the snow days we've had, school vacation takes place this month. There are meetings and classes, celebrations and work. Some will spend an evening feeding the homeless in New Haven. But hopefully, everyone will take time each and every day to spend some time with God. Sunday mornings are important for us to gather with the community to worship. Daily time in prayer helps us to keep focused as to how we are to spend some of that gift of time in response to the call of Jesus.

I hope you use wisely and happily all 86,400 seconds of each day.  
Shalom,

*Craig*



## You can help the VIM trip to Haiti

Pastor Craig will be leading a Volunteer In Mission (VIM) trip to Haiti in April. A number of members in our congregation have expressed an interest in joining the team.

The cost is \$1100 for transportation, housing and meals. We do not want finances to hold anyone back from making the trip. If you cannot go but are willing to financially

assist others, please make out a check of whatever amount you can afford, to the church with a notation "Haiti VIM" and put it in the offering plate or send it to the church office at 12 Commerce Street. Thank you for your generosity.

## Month of Sundays

**February 6**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany  
Souper Bowl Sunday**

Greeters  
Ushers

The Dollahite Family  
Evelyn Scaglione, Sharon Minick,  
Gay McPhee, Lynda Larson,  
Ellen Hoyt

Acolytes  
Infant/toddler care  
Sound coordinator  
Camera operator  
Worship leader  
Lectionary scriptures

Eliot Yang, Gabby Dollahite  
Linda Symmes  
Lisa Sutherland  
Lisa Sutherland  
Mickey Brown  
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 112;  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon  
Communion steward  
Fellowship time

Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons  
Gay McPhee  
Soup and Sandwich Luncheon



### **The annual Charge Conference and Church meeting**

On Sunday, February 6, you are invited to remain after the church service for a soup and sandwich lunch prepared and served by the Youth Group. The Rev. Ken Kieffer will be in attendance that morning and will chair the Charge Conference after lunch. This will also be a Church Conference – meaning that all members are welcome and may vote.

Attendees will receive the 2010 Annual Report, elect leadership for the coming year, and hear our District Superintendent's plans for us and the connectional church.

**February 13****Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Greeters  
 Ushers  
 Acolytes  
 Infant/toddler care  
 Sound coordinator  
 Camera operator  
 Worship leader  
 Lectionary scriptures

The Wells Family  
 Scout Troop 55  
 Rebecca Dollahite, Raegen Riley  
 Linda Symmes  
 Ally Gates  
 Mickey Brown

Deuteronomy 30:15-20;  
 Psalm 119:1-8;  
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon  
 Fellowship time

Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons  
 Heidi and Aleia Hayes



*February 14 is Valentine's Day.  
 Remember someone who is special to you.*

**February 20****Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

Greeters  
 Ushers  
 Acolytes  
 Infant/toddler care  
 Sound coordinator  
 Camera operator  
 Worship leader  
 Lectionary scriptures

Ginny Burr  
 Sally Cotter, Ginny Burr,  
 David Moore, Lyle Cubberly,  
 Drew Dupre  
 Nicholas Dollahite, Jessie Ryan  
 Linda Symmes  
 Jonas Thelin  
 Lisa Sutherland  
 Tammy Drena  
 Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18;  
 Psalm 119:33-40;  
 1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23;  
 Matthew 5:38-48

Sermon  
 Fellowship time

Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons  
 Jeane Howard

## February 27

## Eighth Sunday after Epiphany

Greeters

Judy LeVesque

Ushers

Dennis Scaglione, Bob McLeod,  
John Pope, Gerald Cotter, David Wahl

Acolytes

Skylar Riley, Alaina Attanasio

Infant/toddler care

Linda Symmes

Sound coordinator

Lisa Sutherland

Camera operator

Mickey Brown

Worship leader

Lectionary scriptures

Isaiah 49:8-16a; Psalm 131;  
1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34

Sermon

Pastor Craig Fitzsimmons

Fellowship time

Leslie Parent



### Dressing up Fellowship Hall

Carol Bell has plans to make Fellowship Hall more welcoming when not filled with nice people. A gift of the plates acquired by Irene Fitzsimmons (mother of M. Craig) and the shelves which hold them made by his father, Michael, have made a pleasant corner where the beverages are served.

The collection of W. L. George plates in the *Blessed Are the Children* and the Nativity series made in Bavaria are bright and meaningful. Two of the plates formerly hung on our office wall. They are a commemorative Methodist Church plate and one from Clinton's Tercentenary.

In the "Blessed" series are *The Lord's My Shepherd* by Cicely Mary Barker and *I am the good Shepherd; Whoever welcomes this little child; Jesus had compassion on them; Hosanna in the highest; Blessed are the Peacemakers; I am the vine, you are the branches; and Seek and you will find* by the artist Walter Rane.

## Is this for you?

Wanted: Bridge players for afternoon and/or evening groups. Please contact Jeane Howard, 860-669-7730.

Many of the current players are United Methodists, but all are welcome, so invite your bridge-playing friends and neighbors.



## Deborah Circle

The Deborah Circle will meet at 7:30 p.m., February 15 at the church. All women are welcome at this bible study.

## Connecticut District UM Women to meet February 12

Susan Delaney is the guest speaker at the winter gathering and luncheon of the District United Methodist Women in Westport, CT. The theme is Building Up a Beloved Community - Say No to Hate Crimes and Bullying” The cost is \$8.50 and registration deadline is February 5. Registration forms are in the Church Office.

## Trustee work you may never see

Mark Russell has been working on the Tower Room - the one in back of the balcony. The walls and structural steel have been painted the same creamy color as the narthex entry. One day he installed plexiglass over the stained glass windows in the balcony, which were susceptible to breakage since they are very close to where people walk and sit. Unless you have occasion to climb up to the balcony, you wouldn't get to see these improvements.

## Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee met with Kevin Guth of Merrill Lynch on January 11. We have had three stock holdings and some cash held with them. We were pleased with their investment strategy and decided to open a managed account to also include the funds that were invested with PAX, which had a poor performance rate.

We will also deposit several accounts which are restricted with Merrill Lynch with any interest above inflation each year to be given to the Trustee's General Account for maintenance of our buildings.

Accounts which are regularly tapped such as the McKinster-Ward Scholarship, Organ and Memorial Funds will be deposited in Liberty Bank.

We learn a bit more about our investments each time we meet and limiting the institutions we deal with will make it easier to track them. Our previous meeting was with the Frontier Foundation Director. Eventually all our funds will be with the Frontier Foundation, Merrill Lynch or Liberty Bank.

### Eleanor Wahle

Eleanor became a member of the church family along with her husband, Phil Stevens in 1962. They had two boys, Gary and Bob and two daughters, Martha and Tish. Phil died in December, 1973; Bob died last year. Eleanor was a golfer and played well into her "golden" years. She liked to decorate each of her homes in the area.

Eleanor served the church well in her 49 years with us. She was on the governing boards for 18 years, the Parsonage Committee (in the time when churches were responsible for furnishing the house) for 14 years and the Trustee Board for 13 years, some of which she served as President. She also gave her time to the Music Committee, the Planning Committee and the Nominating Committee.

She loved music and sang alto in the choir. In January, 1981 she married the Choir Director Ted Wahle. She was a photographer and flew in a small plane to take a picture of the church property.

Her most lasting and most controversial contribution to the United Methodist Church of Clinton was when she used the leftover Bittersweet Orange paint from her door on High Street to paint the front doors of the church. The liturgical color for endings and new beginnings still stands as a tribute to Eleanor.

Her family and Sisters-in-Service hosted a gathering for Eleanor in Fellowship Hall on January 29, 2011.

## Honor Marsh

Honor America Marsh, a member of the church family for twenty-three years, entered Life Eternal on December 29, 1010. She leaves two daughters, Carolyn Switt and Stephanie Porter and their families.

Proud of being an American born on the Fourth of July, Honor was an active member of the Dickinson Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She filmed one of their anniversary celebrations, then used her talents and connections to establish our church's video ministry through local cable stations early in the 1990s.

Honor was born near Springfield, Illinois and graduated from the nursing program at Springfield Hospital. She worked in obstetrical and neo-natal units all over the country as she moved with her husband who managed car dealerships. After his death, she moved to Esterly Farms in Madison to be near her family. Honor liked to paint, golf, bowl and enjoyed the outdoors. She wrote a delightful autobiography with chapters on life in each of her many homes.

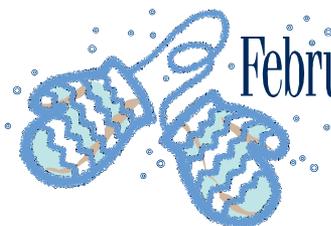
Within a month of joining the United Methodist Church of Clinton in October, 1987, Honor was serving on the Membership and Evangelism Committee. Subsequently she served on the Pastor/Parish Committee and the Worship Committee. She was President of United Methodist Women in 1991 and 1992. Honor chaired the Administrative Board (now the Church Council) in 1993 and 1994.

Because of her failing eyesight, Honor moved to The Hearth in Madison a few years ago and a reception for friends to celebrate her life was held there on January 15.

## True learning

Help us, O Lord of Learners,  
to know your way when we study our world.  
When we study geology, to learn that it leads us  
not only to the ages of rocks, but to the Rock of Ages.  
When we study botany, it helps us find your imprint  
on the lily of the valley and the rose of Sharon.  
When we study geography, it helps us find your spirit  
on the very current of life and  
when we study astronomy,  
it helps us to find you as the Morning Star of life itself.

*Rabbi Martin M. Weitz*



## February Birthdays

Betty Frink	6	Corinne Brown	12
Priscilla Valvano	7	Dana Whitney	13
George Hoyt	8	Brian Strukus	15
Melissa Gates	9	Virginia Hauser	16
Stephanie Reinwald	9	Jason Robinson	20
Roy Alexander	10	Tyler Byington	21
		Claire Shogren	21
		Donald Hauser	25
		Elizabeth Clare	27

### The sound and video team

The sound team and the video team are both looking for new members. Due to new beginnings such as leaving for college, the number of our operators will be dwindling and we really need new volunteers.

The sound coordinator oversees the sound board during the service. This is an interesting and user friendly activity. Depending on how many sound coordinators we have, you will be in charge of the sound board once or twice a month when you must arrive ten minutes before the service and may leave immediately afterwards. Anyone over the age of 14 is welcome to join.

A camera operator records the service and then creates copies of the service immediately afterwards. It is truly fun and exciting to operate the camera! The DVDs created are then sent to both the Madison and Clinton Comcast public access stations. We also create DVDs for those unable to attend the Sunday service. This is a wonderful ministry. This is a once or twice per month duty which requires you to arrive 15 minutes before and stay approximately 15-20 minutes after the service. Anyone over the age of 16 is welcome to join.

No experience necessary and ample training will be provided for both teams. If you are interested, please see or contact Lisa (Minick) Sutherland

Thanks!

*Lisa*

## Darling Nelly Gray

Did you ever sing that old song by B. R. Hanby? In 1866 he also wrote one of the carols in our hymnal that we rarely sing, "Who Is He in Yonder Stall?"

Though I have sung the chorus of Darling Nelly Gray, I assumed she had died and people were sad. I never realized what a tragic story the song tells.

There's a low, green valley on the old Kentucky shore,  
Where I whiled many happy hours away.  
A-sitting and a-singing by the little cottage door,  
Where lived my darling Nelly Gray.

Chorus:

O my poor Nelly Gray, they have taken you away,  
And I'll never see my darling anymore;  
I'm sitting by the river and I'm weeping all the day,  
For you've gone from the old Kentucky shore.

When the moon had climbed the mountain  
and the stars were shining too,  
Then I'd take my darling Nelly Gray,  
And we'd float down the river in my little red canoe,  
While my banjo sweetly I would play.

One night I went to see her,  
but she's gone the neighbors say,  
The white man bound her with his chain;  
They have taken her to Georgia for to wear her life away.  
As she toils in the cotton and the cane.

My canoe is under water and my banjo is unstrung,  
I'm tired of living any more;  
My eyes shall look downward and my song shall be unsung  
While I stay on the old Kentucky shore.

My eyes are getting blinded and I cannot see my way;  
Hark! there's somebody knocking at the door.  
Oh, I hear the angels calling and I see my Nelly Gray,  
Farewell to the old Kentucky shore.

Final chorus:

O my darling Nelly Gray, up in heaven there, they say,  
That they'll never take you from me anymore,  
I'm a-coming, coming, coming, as the angels clear the way,  
Farewell to the old Kentucky shore.

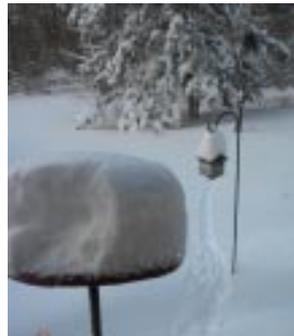
## 2006 Office emails re: uninvited tenant

- Roy to Gerald: We had a varmint in the Sexton's closet.  
Gerald to Roy: It was my understanding that the exterior opening was sealed two weeks ago. Is the varmint inside the building?
- Roy to Gerald: It looks sealed to me too. There is a pile of chewed up something that looks like foam insulation on the outside, but the opening looks sealed. However Carol Bell saw it sleeping in the carton of toilet paper inside in the sexton closet. I guess she didn't hang around long enough to see what it was. I'm still trying to see it to get a positive ID. Sue says if it is gray, it can't be a skunk. Most likely so far - a possum. But I'll keep checking to see what it is.
- Gerald to Roy: So it appears we have a new member of the church...any family members sighted?
- Roy to Gerald: Not yet, but I will leave a pledge card for it in the toilet paper box.
- Gerald to Roy: The Clinton Animal Control Division does not do evictions... I do not know who has a trap that we could use. The Animal Control office suggests we seek professional help. We need to call someone in Yellow Pages? I believe they charge approximately \$125 for this kind of service. OR We could invite the intruder for "dinner"? Know any recipes? Who knows, it may even replace the traditional ham or turkey!

*Postscript: Someone did lend us a trap, but the animal never returned and after the new construction for the steeple, George Sprague, a retired mason, covered the old coal chute opening with matching foundation stones.*

### Snow

The squirrel trail to the bird/squirrel feeder in Alexander's yard.



## **Christmas greetings**

During the Christmas season we encourage the church family to share their greetings on the Fellowship Hall bulletin boards, saving time, stamps, etc. This year we posted cards from:

Beverly Jones  
Raegen and Skylar Riley  
Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione  
Barbara Campbell  
Doris Purchase  
Gene and Carol Gardell  
Corinne and Mickey Brown  
Don and Ginny Hauser  
Charlie and Carol Martens  
Arline Johnson  
George Hoyt  
Roy and Sue Alexander  
Nancy Cassiey  
Bill and Kathy Schuyler  
Barbie and Ken Archer  
The Killian Family  
Duane, Melissa and Allison Gates  
Corey, Heidi, Aleia and Timmy Hayes

## **Food pantry needs**

Any nonperishable foods are very welcome, especially baked beans and canned carrots.

## **Somebody loves you**

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.  
If God had a wallet, your photo would be in it.  
He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.  
When you want to talk, he'll listen.  
He could live anywhere in the universe  
and yet he choose our hearts.  
And that Christmas gift he sent you in Bethlehem?  
Face it, friend, He's crazy about you!

*Submitted by Bob Hale*

## Adult Class begins new study

The Adult Class with teacher Lyle Cubberly is just beginning a new bible study. Each week of the dated lessons has a theme and throughout the week there are daily biblical passages which focus on Sunday's lesson.

Please join us in Room 101 of the Kathy Fell Building at 9:00 a.m. any Sunday.

## Interested in Wesleyan history?

This year's meeting of the *Historical Society of the United Methodist Church* will be in Oklahoma City in conjunction with the quadrennial Historical Convocation July 21 to 24. The Convocation will focus on "United Methodism in a Land of Many Cultures: Native American and Latino History."

Members of the HSUMC also receive the *Historian's Digest* (a newsletter) and *Methodist History* (a magazine with articles and book reviews concerning Methodist History). The Society is a young institution compared to the church. It began in an anniversary year with many members and has since declined to a membership of 255.

The annual dues are \$30 for individuals; \$27 for joint membership; Benefactors dues are \$100 (\$80 receipt for tax purposes).

The Baltimore-Washington Conference Historical Society/Commission on Archives and History invites you to New Windsor, Maryland and the 2011 annual meeting of the Northeast Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History (NEJCAH). Sue Alexander is a member of the NEJCAH, but anyone can attend the annual meeting and hear the presentations on John Franklin Goucher, Preserving the Declaration of Independence, Corbett's Charge and the Battle of Westminster- that might have changed the outcome of the Civil War.

The meeting is held at the New Windsor Conference Center, which is also the location of many outreach ministries and the SERRV gift shop, on May 3, 4, and 5. On the fourth, a bus tour will take everyone to Strawbridge Shrine, the site of the 1800 Baltimore Conference, McDaniel College and other historic sites.

Registration costs depend on housing and meal options. Forms and prices are in the Church Office.

## Happy Birthday to all!

For almost a year we have been celebrating our birthdays by adding to the Stewardship Committee's jar on the table at the rear of the sanctuary. You will be happy to know that \$302.70 has been collected and given to our Food Pantry.

Some churches suggest a dime per year for the birthday jar. What do you think?

*Stewardship Committee*

### Snow

Snow covered icicles  
on the Alexander's  
house.  
Route 81 is out there  
somewhere.



### Epiphany poetry

The January Messenger requested many forms of poetry about Epiphany. These are the responses:

Two-word poems

Love astounding  
Grace abounding.

Cinquain

Wise men  
Trusting, Believing,  
Traveling, Searching,  
Seeking, Hopeful, Peaceful,  
Learned, Wondering  
Followers

Long ride  
Bumpy, thirsty  
Lost, looking  
perplexed, puzzled, prepared  
Light-filled, worth it  
Christ

## Church family notes

Thank you so much for the wonderful gift card donation from the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service! Your gift of \$380. was much appreciated by the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries.

*Lin Smith*

Partnership Coordinator

Dear Friends,

We have received your donation of sewing and layette kits to UMCOR Sager Brown. Thank you for your loving support. Gifts such as this help us perform the mission that we have been called to fulfill.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is the humanitarian relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church, a worldwide denomination. UMCOR's mission is to alleviate human suffering. Compelled by Christ, UMCOR has responded to natural or human made disasters for seventy years. Grace and peace,

*Kathy Kraiza*

Executive Director

Dear Church Friends,

A friend is one who reaches for your hand and touches your heart. Thank you for a year full of prayers and thoughts and cards during my illness. Also thanks for the check donated for our needs. Hope to see you soon. Blessings of Love and Light,

*The Houperis, Jude and Jim*

United Methodist Church,

Thank you dearly for your monetary donation to Clinton Social Services. We appreciate your donation to help the residents in Clinton. Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.

Thank you very much,

*Cheryl Church*

Coordinator, Clinton Social Services

I wish to thank all those who have continued to make hats for the homeless. We have distributed them to several shelters here in Connecticut as well as a ministry in the Seattle, Washington area.

Anyone who would like a pattern to make these hats or who would like to donate yarn, please give me a call.

Again, thank you all and please, please keep up the GOOD WORK. God Bless,

*Debbie Anderson*

## Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow

*Editor's Corner*

These words from a popular song were meant to be sung by two people safely snuggled indoors, not those who have to drive or clear away the white stuff in January. In Connecticut this normally is a month for a few flurries with heavier snow appearing in February and March. Have you seen the Snow Cat in front of 10 Commerce Street?

When I was young our house was only five hundred feet from frozen Lake Erie, so the oncoming wind took the snow from the fields and front lawn and dumped its load in the back yard. We had no hills but pulled each other with ropes tied to our sleds. The county trucks always plowed our road first, since my uncle, who lived on the next street was the County Road Superintendent.

Later when I was working in Cleveland, Ohio, where snow is no stranger, I remember being one of the few who went to the office every day during a very snowy week because I lived in an apartment and used public transportation, but I do have pictures my front yard with its buried cars and piles of snow.

Roy says winter is his favorite time, so one of us is always happy with the weather throughout the year. He rises early and shovels our long driveway with the wide turn around at the top, the front deck, the path to the basement door and another to the workshop where we store the bird seed. Some days he does all this again in the afternoon or evening.

Those who aren't as fortunate as I, know that snow shoveling and plowing can be a big expense in times like these. Our church parking lot, walks and driveway are much easier to plow since repaving, but very costly to clear, so keep coming to church and remember to add whatever you can spare for snow plowing to your Sunday offering!

*SAA*

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