Summer at HUMC

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Worship at HUMC
Sundays at 10 AM in June
and
9 AM in July & August
Sunday School off for the summer.

WORSHIP AN HOUR EARLIER
IN JULY AND AUGUST

Summer is hot and there are so many things to do. We’ve heard these kinds of comments for years, so this year the Church Council has decided to do something a little different when it comes to our Sunday morning worship schedule. During the months of July and August we will gather at 9 AM on Sundays instead of at 10. We hope to take advantage of a cooler sanctuary and provide our members with more time later in the day to enjoy all of the benefits of summer. So mark your calendars and set your clocks, and come enjoy worshipping our Lord an hour earlier.
Oh, they’re talking about money again. Can’t they talk about something else?” “All they seem to care about is how much money I give. What’s up with that?” “Why don’t they talk about spiritual stuff and get off this money kick?” Sound familiar? You’ve probably heard one or more of these comments in your day. Perhaps you even voiced one of them.

They do raise an interesting point though; just why is the church so interested in money? It is to pay the bills? Is it to buy more stuff? Is it so we can give bigger raises to the pastor and the staff? Well, believe it or not, the whole issue of money in the church has nothing to do with any of that stuff. So why do we talk about money so much, and why does it matter?

To put it simply, our giving is an outward sign of an inward spiritual condition. What we give matters because it says a great deal about our faith, our relationship with God, and our understanding of our place in God’s Kingdom.

To begin with, the Bible makes it very clear that everything that we are and everything that we have belongs to God. That is important because it lets me know right up front that what we’re really talking about is God’s money, not mine. Oh, God blesses us with that money, but ultimately God owns the money. So to talk about giving is to talk about how God would have us use His money. God blesses us and I believe takes great pleasure in our enjoyment of this blessing, but God expects us to be faithful in our management of it.

And just how does God expect us to use His money? Well, it is clear that he provides some of it to provide for our basic needs. The money that we have pays the mortgage or rent, buys food, provides clothing and transportation, and ensures the education of our children. Some of that money God wants us to use for pleasure; vacations, hobbies, and various forms of enjoyment. Some of that money God wants us to set aside to provide a cushion for times of want or need. And some of that money God wants us to return to Him as an act of faith. That is the whole point of the concept of a tithe.

You see, a tithe isn’t just ten percent; it is the first ten percent. That is the faith part of the conversation. To give to God after we’ve paid the bills, after we’ve eaten out, after we’ve gone on vacation, after we’ve upgraded our phone or internet or cable package, or after we’ve set aside that cushion is not an act of faith, it is an act of responsibility. It is merely paying one more bill. It reduces God to a cosmic bill collector. But to give God our gift off the top, before we pay those other bills, before we enjoy the fruits of His blessings, is an act of faith. It says that we trust that God will bless what’s left and make it be enough. In fact, it is a statement of faith that God will take the remainder and make it be more than enough.

Believe it or not, Jesus talked more about money, the use of money, and the importance of how we handle our money more than he talked about any other subject. He talked about it because he understood that how we handle our possessions—how we handle our blessings—reflects the health of our relationship with God. And that is why we talk about it. You see, it really has nothing to do with church budgets, or church bills, or how much money we take in. It has to do with the spiritual condition of the congregation.

See Thoughts, Page 3.
Youth Sunday
Mark your calendars now for Youth Sunday which will be held on June 10. This is always an exciting service as our Sunday School program “takes over” the service to share with us what they have learned during the year. Enjoy the music, the chimes, the message, the laughter and the passion that only our children can bring to such a service.

This is one Sunday you don’t want to miss!

Thoughts — continued from Page 2.

So let me ask the question that John Wesley used to ask, “How is it with your soul?” How is it with your spiritual relationship with God? How are you managing the blessings he has poured out on you? If your giving record were suddenly to be made public what would it reveal? Would it show faith in the continued blessings of God, or would it show a hesitation to trust Him fully. Don’t worry, the question is rhetorical. No one is going to see your giving record. I promise. But it is an interesting question to ponder, isn’t it?

Dave

Sermon Series
Jesus used parables to teach people about the Kingdom of God. So what do they tell us? Join Rev. Dave, starting July 8, as we explore The Kingdom and the Parables.

We’ll look at the invitation we receive to enter the Kingdom, our role in the Kingdom, and the level of commitment that is required for those who reside in the Kingdom. Join us for a fun-filled, thought provoking series.

Join us for a fun filled Music and Arts Camp this July. See the article on page 11 for more information and take a minute to fill out and send in your registration form which is included at the end of this issue of Steeple Tidings.

Hope to see you all there.
**United Methodist Women**— Linda Borio

On May 15, the UMW had its annual spring potluck supper with more than 50 folks attending. The food was delicious and abundant, as usual. What wasn't usual was the presentation by Holly and John Fisher on the "Galapagos Islands". Their slide show and commentary was better than usual. Much better, in fact. We all thoroughly enjoyed the narrative, complete with maps showing the routes they took on their tour; all the wonderful photos of the living creatures on the Islands (some of those creatures looked like their skin was an overcoat two sizes too big). Kudos to Holly and John for an excellent presentation!

As is our custom, UMW will not have any programs for June, July or August. However, be sure to mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 11. We begin the Fall with our annual September potluck dinner, and will be inviting men, women and families with school-age kids who would enjoy hearing Elaine Folkers’ presentation on "Ghana". Elaine taught science and math in the Western Region from 1963-1965 and will bring us up to date on her visits decades later in which she found that many of her former students are now leaders in government, education and the judicial system in Ghana. This is a "must-see" slide show program for all!

Also a reminder for the School of Christian Mission which will be held at Southern New Hampshire University, July 27-29 this year. We have $125 in scholarship moneys set aside for first time attendees, or children/youth. The amount of money available per person depends on the number of applicants. The Studies offered are: Spiritual Growth Study is "Immigration In The Bible; Geographic Study is "Haiti", and the General Issue Study is "Poverty". Please notify Linda Borio for applications and also for scholarship information.

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**Here Wee Grow! Singers**

Did you know that HUMC is host to a nationally accredited preschool program? Well, we are, and the children of our school would like to say thank you to us by singing during our worship service. Join us on Sunday, June 3, as the children from Here Wee Grow! share some of the songs that they’ve learned this year.

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**LOST**: The pictorial account of the 1984 renovation of our church sanctuary. This piece of our history has been in our church library and/or the Yates room since 1984. It is (or was) in a red three ring binder and contained the daily accounts – through photos – of the progress of the renovation. Also included in the notebook were all the records of the meetings and votes of the Administrative Board and the invoices and signed contracts that were necessary to the completion of this project. If anyone knows of the whereabouts of this book please contact me ASAP.

*Thanks. Alice Godard Allen, church historian.*

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**Calling all Cleaners/Gleaners!!**

Please bring your “treasures” or trash and leave in the blue Recycle bin the Library. We will be happy to receive it for Gramma's Attic for the Harvest Fair!

*Doris Mack & Elda Bertrand*
In the beginning of the school year, children were shy, withdrawn, nervous, and wondering “when will school end”. Today, our children are happy, boisterous, independent, eager to learn, caring about friends and classmates, writing, creating, using their imaginations and wanting to stay at school! What a difference a year makes!

June is approaching and with this comes the end of yet another school year. During this time we have made new friends, enjoyed the company of extended family members, and been able to celebrate the joys and the sad times with our school families. On the 15th of June we will come together for one last celebration as we “Celebrate Our Success”. Family and friends of all our classes will come to school this day and enjoy the festivities with the staff of Here Wee Grow! Preschool. Our 3-year-old celebration is at 11 AM on Friday, June 15, followed by a reception. Our 4-year-old classes will come together that evening at 6:15 PM to celebrate the year and their achievements. This, too, will follow with a reception. It is a very special time for all of us and a time that we will cherish always.

During the school year, Here Wee Grow! has helped with various projects here in town and beyond. We have collected food items several times for the Enfield Food Shelf; we rode our bikes and collected $4000 for the children who suffer from cancer at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital; and we made tray cards to give to residents at local nursing homes in hopes that the children’s art work would bring a smile to their faces.

Over the summer Here Wee Grow! will meet for a week of summer camp. We have special activities planned for each day. “The Ant Farm”, “The Tropical Excursion”, “The Mini-Chef Party”, “Circus Mania” and the “Mad Science Party”! It promises to be a fun time!

As the end of the year approaches, work continues with the Here Wee Grow! Board planning for the 2012-2013 school year. Teachers await their assignments and they, too, will begin to plan for the new school year. As you can see, there isn’t much ‘down-time’ for a Board member or a staff person at HWG. However, working together, diligently planning, and keeping the faith, we strive for another successful school year. Many thanks to the Here Wee Grow! Board of Directors, Rev. Dave, Cindy McSheffrey, Linda Borio, Sue Fracasso, Tracy McDonagh and Amy Troiano. Our dedicated and resourceful staff, Jennifer Baker, Robin Barrett, Valerie Boucher, Mary Jo Gilbert, Patti Glaspie, Trudy Heck, Mandi Herzig, Corrina Raymond and Natalie Ryan who make the days exciting and fun! To all of you, I thank you for your time, efforts and support. I look forward to the future and our seventeen-year. Can you believe this!

A special thank you goes out to Mandi Herzig, teaching assistant at HWG who has chaired our Parent Group for the second year. Mandi is wonderful at organizing and getting things done. As a single mom of three children, working two jobs and going to school nights, she is truly an amazing person.

Next spring, our 4.0 teacher/student will complete her degree following her student teaching at HWG. We will truly celebrate her achievements then! Thank you Mandi!

As always, to you, the congregation, thank you for your kind words, thoughtful gestures, friendship and support. HWG is lucky to have you and so am I.

Until next time......
**Communion Offering**—Holly Fisher

The work of Here Wee Grow! is an important part of the Hazardville United Methodist family. To support deserving children so they can enjoy this wonderful experience, the Communion offerings in June will go for scholarships.

Thank you for supporting this Outreach project.

**JOIN US FOR A SPUD LUNCHEON—JUNE 3**

Outreach is sponsoring a Potato Luncheon following worship services on Sunday, June 3.

Join us for a super-grand-deluxe-fixins-bar for the nominal cost of $5.

Proceeds will benefit the team going on the Salem Mission trip in August.

Tickets available at the door or through the Weisels.

Remember when movies were fun? When you could take the whole family and not worry about what you were going to see or hear? Well, those days are back. On Saturday, June 2, at 7:30 PM, join us in Fellowship Hall to relive those good old days with popcorn and a movie. Join us as Myrna Loy, Rudy Vallee, Ray Collins, and a teenaged Shirley Temple all team up to turn Cary Grant’s life upside down in “The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer.” We will have seats available, but feel free to bring something comfy to sit on if you’d like. You are also welcome to bring goodies to share. We’ll provide the popcorn, the beverage, and the movie.

**Annual Conference**

From June 6 through June 9, Rev. Dave, Roberta Bragan, Linda Borio and Colleen Williams will be attending Annual Conference at Gordon College. This is the yearly gathering of the New England Annual Conference where legislation in voted upon, new Elders are ordained and awards presented. It is a time of deeply moving worship, thought provoking discussions, and wonderful fellowship. 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. Should you need pastoral care during this time, please contact Rita in the church office. She will be able to get ahold of Rev. Dave.
Nursing Home Outreach Opportunities

Due to summer scheduling conflicts, we will be taking June and July off from our normal worship opportunities at Evergreen Nursing Home. Our next service at Evergreen will be Tuesday, August 28, at 11 AM.

Evening All-Ages Vacation Bible School
July 10 through 12
5:00 PM Potluck/Social Time
6-8 PM Program
Deadline for sign-up is July 1.
This year’s program is Music and Mission.
Child, Youth and Adult Classes.
A great time for all to register.
Please email buffy11884@aol.com or call Becky Michaud at 860-463-6173.

One of the three First Aid Kits for the Mission Team is missing from our storage room on the basement level of the educational building. It was discovered that a box of gloves, rags, paint brushes, etc. is also missing. If anyone has borrowed either our box of supplies or our first aid kit, would you kindly call Sandy Butcher. We need these items as we prepare for the August trip to the Salem Economic Ministry. Thank you.

Dear Friends,
Many thanks for the get well cards, prayers and expressions of concern I received during my recent hospital stay.
Your caring is truly appreciated.
Janice Holmes

Congratulations to Linda and Ted Riley who will celebrate 50 years of wedded bliss on July 14, 2012.
Way to Go!!

To that wonderful volunteer production staff…
Heartfelt thanks to the gracious, considerate production staff whose nimble fingers made short work of our May issue of Steeple Tidings . . .
Pat Owens, Nancy Dyer and Doris Mack, with special thanks to Don Niemann for all his support and help.
Where would we be without volunteers???
As I sit here and ponder the many activities Troop 108 has scheduled for the upcoming summer, I look back at where the troop has been over the last 12 months and realize that the scouts have accomplished so much personal growth and experiences.

Many of the Troop’s Scouts have advanced at least one rank on their trail to attaining Scouting’s highest honor of Eagle Scout, many scouts have earned 2-3 merit badges on such subjects as Crime Prevention, Fingerprinting, Disabilities Awareness, Camping, Citizenship in the Community, Nation or World, Personal Management, Communications, or one of 132 other Merit Badges offered, many have attended our monthly campouts, participated in Scout Sunday Services and the Four Chaplains Mass, performed countless hours of Community Service for a number of our neighbors and community organizations, recruited new scouts from Cub Scout packs or “off the street,” and lived to the ideals of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

Overall, we are a very active Troop and that level of activity does not stop during the summer. You will also see our scouts around town this summer participating in the Memorial Day Parade, laying of a wreath on the Connecticut River for the annual Navy Ritual, helping with the Enfield 4th of July Celebration and assisting with various Eagle Service Projects to benefit a variety of organizations in our community. If you see us out and about please stop by and say hello.

Troop 108 is in full throttle and gearing up to attend summer camp at Yawgoog Scout Reservation in July and August. We now have 32 Scouts and 9 registered leaders attending Week # 5 of the season. That will make us one of the largest troops in camp that week.

Our theme for the week of summer camp is “OLYMPICS” as the 2012 Summer Olympics will be taking place. The Scouts will work with their Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) and Assistant SPL in planning the campsite decorations, theme related activities and choosing the color and design of our Class B T-Shirts that proudly show that we are “Troop 108 from Hazardville, CT”!! This will be Troop 108’s 27th year of attending Yawgoog at Camp Sandy Beach and the Davy Crockett Campsite. Stay tuned for September’s Steeple Tidings to read more about our adventures at Summer Camp!

The Troop’s annual Candy Bar Sale ended on May 2nd. We thank everyone for your support as our scouts sold over $9,500 worth of candy bars. That translates into $4,750 going into the individual scout’s spending account to further help pay for the various activities they participate in.

Our other fundraiser was the Troop’s annual Mother’s Day Flower Sale. We very much appreciate all of the support from the parishioners in purchasing a flower or plant during our sale. This is our biggest fundraiser that will be used to defray the costs of our 75th Anniversary trip to Washington, DC, next year. The final totals are being tabulated as I write this, but we see an increase in sales so we are expecting that it will be another successful year!

Troop 108 will end their weekly meetings on June 20th, and start up on September 12th for the new scout year. As we get ready to enjoy the summer months, we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer season.

Troop 108 thanks the HUMC for its continued support of our troop!
You are invited to an OPEN HOUSE

When:  Sunday, July 22, right after church

Where:  The Church Parsonage
       14 Christopher Drive, Enfield

Why:  HUMC provides us with such a beautiful home in which to live, and the trustees do such a wonderful job of maintaining it for us, that we want to say thank you. It is also a chance for us to share with you the work we have done on the house and with the landscaping since we’ve arrived.

What:  Come after church—stay as long as you like. Refreshments will be provided. You need bring nothing but a smile.

Rev. Dave and Colleen

June

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<tr>
<th>2</th>
<th>Jean Tarr</th>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Vivian Stewart</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Rita</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Elliot Mclsaac</td>
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<td>Jane Clark</td>
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<td>Linda LeClair</td>
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<td>Marge Avery</td>
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<td>Louise Barnes</td>
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July

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<tr>
<th>8</th>
<th>Janette Burkhardt</th>
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<td>Leslee Young</td>
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<td>Ernie Avery</td>
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<td>Elaine Folkers</td>
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<td>Patti Glaspie</td>
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<td>Vernell Sandford</td>
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<td>Catie Gorman</td>
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We would be happy to include your name on our birthday list. Simply call the church office at 860-749-7098 to be included.
Please keep the following in your prayers

John Allen, Jane Clark, Berta Clawson, Raymond Grandon, Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Carrie Ingalls, Mary Nickerson, Peg Smith, Peg Steintert, David Weatherby, Art and Millie Witkoske, Bill Wyatt

Pray also for these Members

Babs Baker, Redstone Rehab Facility, 135 Benton Dr, E.Longmeadow, MA
Asa and Hildegarde Waller, Suffield House, 1 Canal Road, Suffield, CT
Bertha Somero, Parkway Healthcare, 1157 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT

In Christian Sympathy
To the Family of Janet Wyatt who went home to God!

If you have a name to add or notice a name that is missing, please contact Isobel Skukowski or the church office.
SONRISE NATIONAL PARK
MUSIC AND ARTS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2012

When: July 2\textsuperscript{nd} thru 6\textsuperscript{th} or July 16\textsuperscript{th} thru 20\textsuperscript{th}
Where: Hazardville United Methodist Church
330 Hazard Ave, Enfield, CT 06082
Time: 8 AM—Registration; 8:30 AM-12 PM—Program
Ages: 4-12

Come join us for a Nature Filled Music and Arts Vacation Bible School!

This year trek with us through a land filled with invigorating power and beauty where there is nothing between you and God’s big sky!!

Through music, crafts, storytelling and games kids can explore the wonders of True Peace, True Riches, True Power, True Love and True Hope all given to us by the love of Jesus! Children will love the daily treks where they can learn to depend on the promises of Jesus!

This program is free, however, a free- will offering will be collected.

Every year the Wednesday of each week we do a TIE-DYE day!!! We ask that each child bring with them their own t-shirt or pillowcase to dye.

At the end of the week there will be a small presentation put on by the children followed by a pizza party that all are invited to!

We organize the groups by ages so please let us know in advance if that is an issues.

We Hope to see you all there!

To register please call Becky Michaud (860-463-6173), e-mail (musicartshumc@live.com) or mail (330 Hazard Avenue, Enfield, CT 06082) registration form (on page 12)
VBS Registration Form—Becky Michaud

Week(s) Attending________________________________________________________
Name___________________________________________________________________
Age__________________________________ Grade_____________________________
Parent/Guardian_________________________________________________________
Phone Number__________________________ Cell _____________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________
Allergies________________________________________________________________
Church_________________________________________________________________
Emergency Contact Name_________________________________________________
Number_______________________________________________________________

If I am unable to pick up my child I give permission
to_________________________________Relation______________________________

I give permission for my child’s picture to be taken YES or NO

Signature_______________________________________________________________

I am able to help on _____________________________________________________
I am able to donate snacks on_____________________________________________
I am able to donate drinks on_____________________________________________

I have multiple children in the program
and I would prefer if they were in the same group:
Names_________________________________________________________________