

March Link

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. [Psalm 51:7- 10](#)

I have a friend who, at least prior to Covid restrictions, loved to travel. I was amazed by the extensive list of preparations she needed before each trip: work coverage, childcare, house preparations, laundry, passports, airplane reservations, ground transport, hotels, and packing among too many chores. I asked her is all that work was worth it.

Yes, she assured me- it was worth all that preparation and all that work because of the destination at the end.

Lent is a time of preparation, and the Joy of Easter is the destination. The purpose of the season of Lent is to purify our hearts and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy. We truly, I believe, will never understand the joy of the Resurrection without traveling through the time of self-reflective preparation.

I would like to encourage all of you to find a channel to keep a Holy Lent in a way that is meaning to you. Perhaps arise a little earlier each day to read the Bible or to pray or to just sit quietly in the presence of God. Take a walk with God each day or do a small kindness. Find a way that is meaningful for your personal journey with Jesus.

We need to travel deliberately and consciously through the season of repentance in order to understand the gift of salvation received by the cross of Christ.

I Pray that each of you keep a Holy Lent.

In Christ,

Pastor Barbara

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

Lent is a 40-day season that begins on Ash Wednesday and is marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent asks believers to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection.

"When we come forward to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday, we are saying that we are sorry for our sins, and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy"

This year we will have two opportunities to commemorate Ash Wednesday; A prayer service at Noon and a worship service at 7 PM. Hopefully this will accommodate everyone's schedule.

The Forty Days of Lent

Christians honor in the season of Lent, the 40 days and nights following Christ's baptism when He went into the wilderness without water and food and was tempted by Satan. There are other references to 40 days, as well: the Israelite wandered for 40 days searching for the promised land; It rained for 40 days and nights when Noah was on the ark; Elijah spent 40 days and nights walking to Mount Horeb.

So how many days are between Ash Wednesday and Easter? 46

Why? Because each Sunday in Christendom is considered a "Little Easter" and is not included in Lent.

Lenten Bible Study

Each Tuesday at 10:00 am you are all invited to attend a gathering in the Parish Hall as we study the Bible together. We will be focusing on a Lenten Study beginning on Tuesday March 8th.

Often called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing **the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer**, usually through personal and communal confession. This happens during a special Ash Wednesday service.

People generally wear the ashes — which symbolize **penance, mourning and mortality** — throughout the day to publicly express their faith and penance.

UMC Grants, Scholarships and Loans

Scholarships are available to members of United Methodist Church. Please go to NYAC.Com for more information.

Information on available grants, scholarships and loans from a range of UMC sources will be added to this page. Please check back often for updates.

This is a letter we received from the YMCA after Ticia so graciously donated the towels and washcloths (originally collected for Susan B. Anthony) to them.

For your convenience we will also have a donation bin in the Narthex.



Saturday, February 19, 2022

RE: GENERAL DONATION REQUEST LETTER:

Dear Donors;

My name is Daniel Lamont and I am the Housing & Shelter Coordinator for the Winchester Emergency Shelter program. We currently have the ability to shelter up to 16 guests: {4} Males, {8} Family members *4 to a room and {4} Females. The following items we are always in need of and utilize most often:

The Items Highlighted () indicate items we are in need of.

- Towels & Washcloths {New to gentle used}
- Pillows
- Twin Sheets sets (Fitted, Flat and Pillow)
- Blankets made for twin beds
- Unisex Socks
- Laundry Detergent
- Dryer Sheets
- Hygiene Items {Shampoo & Conditioner or Body-Wash, Soap, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Etc.}
- Bottled Water
- Scrubs *Utilize for our intake process (Tops & Bottoms All sizes Welcomed)
- Crocks *Utilize for our intake process (All Sizes welcomed)
- Totes *Used to keep items stored properly {Used}

We also have the following target / shelter improvement items {Please See attached Paper work}

These items can be dropped off to the front desk at the Winsted Y, Monday through Sunday between the hours of 9am and 5pm. Alternatively, if you prefer to make a monetary donation for the Y to purchase these standard items or towards target / shelter improvements items, please address to the Northwestern CT YMCA please write "Shelter and Item" in the memo section. Please be advised, should you like a letter detailing your donation please advise us and our business office will be more than happy to accommodate your request.

Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity. We try to make our guests stay as comfortable as possible; some stay for a week and others for up to 3 months. You have no idea how much it means to our guests to have your support and know that people care.

Respectfully, **Daniel S. Lamont Sr.**

NORTHWEST CT YMCA- WINSTED
480 Main Street, Winsted, CT 06098
T 860-379-0708 - ext. 205 F 860-379-1328



First United Methodist Church
21 Fern Drive, Torrington, CT 06790

Corned Beef Dinner

Drive Thru Only



Sat. March 12, 2022

Let the Shenanigans begin:

Come and grab a traditional St. Paddy's Day Dinner!
(Corned Beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rolls & desserts)

4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Adults: \$17

Kids 13 & under: \$8

Reserve your tickets by March 5th, Call 860-489-0698
Take out only

All proceeds from the Corned Beef Dinner
goes to the Mission and Ministry of The First United Methodist Church

Gospels for March

March 6: Luke 4:1-13
March 13: Luke 13:31-35
March 20: Luke 13:1-9
March 27: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32




March Schedule

****We are holding back on the schedules until we know more about when and how services will resume in person. However, if you'd like to do something please reach out to Pastor Barbara at barb_drew@hotmail.com**

March 6 March 13 March 20 March 27	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Ushers</u> Dawn Renfrew & Shelley Bailey Steven Shaw & Judy McKay Steve & Barb Bailey Sandy Slemmer& Janet LaGrange
March 6 March 13 March 20 March 27	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Lectors</u> Steve Bailey John Baum Cathy Baum Karen Dietz	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
March 6 March 13 March 20 March 27	<u>Acolytes</u>	<u>Children’s Message</u>	
March 6 March 13 March 20 March 27	<u>Lector Readings</u>		

****Because of the COVID-19 virus all meetings and Church Schedules are tentative. Please call or email me to confirm.**

March

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUS.	FRI.	SAT.
		1 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Trustees Meeting	2 Noon & 7:00PM: Ash Wednesday Services <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	3 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank	4	5 8:00AM - UMM
6 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion	7	8 10:00AM Prayer Group 7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting 8:00PM AA	9	10 6:45PM AA	11	12
13 10:00AM Worship Service 	14 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	15 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	16	17  2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	18	19
20 10:00AM Worship Service 	21	22 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	23	24 6:45PM AA	25	26
27 10:00AM Worship Service UMCOR Sunday	28 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	29	30	31 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank		

Lent is a period of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ, whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity. The 40-day period is called Lent after an old English word meaning 'lengthen'.



March Announcements

The March/April issue of Upper Room is available in the Narthex. |

NYAC News

You can read what is happening in the United Methodist Church by going to the New York Conference website - UMC.com

Storm Warnings

As we approach winter, please remember to watch WFSB, channel 3 for any cancellations of meetings or worship due to winter weather.

Children's Message

If you would like to volunteer to give a Children message during worship, or if you would like to volunteer to be a liturgist (Reader) let Pastor Barbara know.

Church office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon. If there is a Monday holiday, office hours for that week will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon.

Pastor Barbara will be in the office Monday and Tuesday from 9:00AM to Noon, or by appointment.

Church contact info:

Visit us online at: pleasantvalleyumc.com

Church Office: 860-379-2157

Church Kitchen and Food Bank: 860-379-0346

Church email address: pvumc181@gmail.com

Pastor Barbara's email: barb_drew@hotmail.com

Pastor Barbara's phone number: 203-623-3754