

April Link

"I am the Good Shepherd. I lay down my life for the sheep ... no one takes my life from me. I lay it down of my own accord ... and I take it again. This charge I have received from my Father." John 10:11

As we approach the end of Lent, and the joy of Easter, we must first solemnly approach Holy Week and with some difficulty and sorrow, Good Friday. Does it seem odd to you that we title the day of Jesus' excruciating ordeal of going through a crucifixion as 'Good'? The death of Jesus and this day, it seems, should be called evil, devastating, or just wrong, should it not?

But this day is called "good" not because of the crucifixion, not because of the death, not because of the seeming destruction of all Jesus taught and lived but because of the meaning of that dreadful act-redemption.

Jesus is never the victim of circumstances of injustice, or of misunderstanding or of the crucifixion. He is never a victim. He enters into this Good Friday fully aware and with nothing spared.

Before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Syria who held the power to free Jesus or send him to death, Jesus said, "You would have no power over me at all unless it had been given you from above." At every critical point, when it seems that all the wrong forces were prevailing, Jesus speaks as the one who is in control. Jesus is strong and steady and unyielding in his mission and his love for us.

What we proclaim on Good Friday, and every opportunity of proclamation on every day, is Christ crucified - and risen, for us. There is no other foundation on which we can establish our trust.

The growing darkness on this day, 2000 years ago and today, is the deadly power of sin and its destructiveness in us and the world.

We visualize without words, in darkness, our awareness of the reason why Jesus suffered death. But throughout the day, throughout our lives, the light of Christ remains. The light death conquered, and sin forgiven.

The light through the darkness of Good Friday is resurrection- the victory of Easter.

Jesus was in control that day and in control always.

In His Resurrection,

Pastor Barbara



Dear Connecticut District,

We are excited to announce two incredible events coming your way this May! Mark your calendars for these unmissable occasions, and get ready for a time of learning, inspiration, and community.

SAVE THE DATES!

Connecticut District Conference – Saturday, May 3rd

Join us for *The Connecticut District Conference* on **Saturday, May 3rd!**

It's the perfect chance to connect with fellow professionals, gain insights from thought leaders, and engage in meaningful discussions. You won't want to miss this day of inspiration and networking!

Date: Saturday, May 3rd

More details to come!

Bishop's Evening with the Connecticut District – Monday, May 5th

On **Monday, May 5th**, we have a very special evening with the Bishop and the District community. It will be a night of reflection, fellowship, and inspiration that you'll remember long after the event. Come be a part of this enriching experience!

Date: Monday, May 5th

Stay tuned for more info!

Mark Your Calendars Now!

We're thrilled about these upcoming events and can't wait to share more details with you soon! Keep an eye on your inbox for the official invitations, but for now, be sure to *save the date* for May 3rd and May 5th.

Looking forward to seeing you at both of these unforgettable events!

Blessing & Peace,

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Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester, D.S.
Connecticut District, NYAC, UMC

646-533-4377

In Connecticut, After God, We Put People First!



COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

WALK AGAINST HUNGER

Saturday April 26, 2025 9:00 AM



Barkhamsted Community & Senior Center

109 W River Rd Pleasant Valley, CT 06063



The Community Food Bank

93 River Rd Pleasant Valley, CT 06063

Register as an Individual or a Team at:

Donate directly to CFB:



The Community Food Bank Walk Against Hunger is a free event with no registration fee or minimum donation. Participants are encouraged to raise funds by getting sponsorship for the walk or by collecting donations which all go directly to helping feed the community.

#CFBWALK2025

Lasagna Dinner

Saturday, April 12, 2025

5:00-7:00 pm

First United Methodist Church, 21 Fern Dr, Torrington, CT

Includes: Garlic Bread, Salad,

Lasagna & Dessert

& Friendly Fellowship!!

Join Us!!

Advance Tickets needed

Adults \$16.00

Children (5-10) \$8.00

Under 5 Free!!

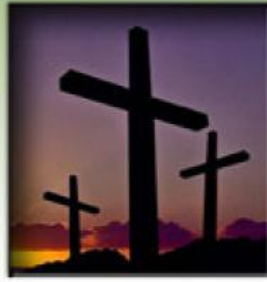
Take-out Available

Call Deb Stafford

860-489-0698



Holy Week Schedule



Service at 10:00 AM



Service with Holy Communion at 7:00 PM



Good Friday

Service at 7:00 PM



Service at 10:00 AM



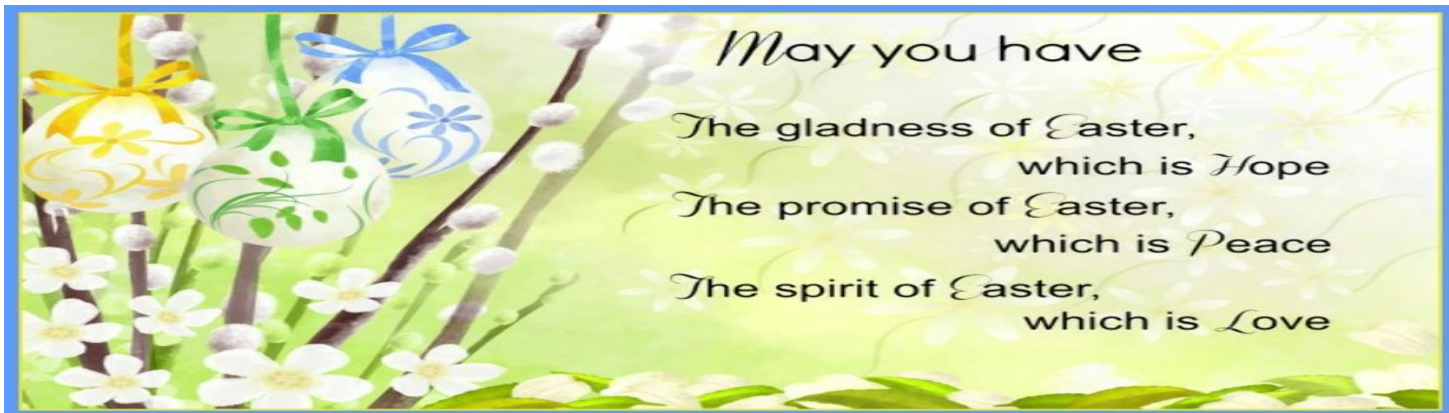
Gospels for April

April 6: John 12:1-8
April 13: Passion Story
April 20: John 20:1-18
April 27: John 20:19-31

April Schedule

	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
April 6 April 13 April 20 April 27	Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed	Janet LaGrange Tom Lucas Kathy Loomis John Lundy	Sandy Slemmer & Janet LaGrage Barbara Sherwin & Shirley Green Darlene Slater & Jennifer Lambour Dawn Renfrew & Shelley Bailey
April 6 April 13 April 20 April 27	<u>Greeters</u> John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange John Lundy & Jay LaGrange		<u>Coffee Hour</u> Volunteers Needed Shirley Green & Barb Bailey Cathy Baum & Church Friends Pat & Stephanie Stark
April 6 April 13 April 20 April 27		<u>Counters</u> Steve Bailey & John Lundy John Lundy & Wayne Roberts Wayne Roberts & Barbara Sherwin Barbara Sherwin & Barbara Bailey	

As you can see by the calendar, we are in need of volunteers for Coffee Hour and Cleaning. Sign up sheets are in the Narthex on the Besse table.



April

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
		1 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	2	3 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	4	5
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 4:00 – 7:00PM Food Bank	15 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	16 9:00AM – Noon Scrapbooking with Carolyn	17 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA 7:00 PM Holy Thursday Service	 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	19
20 10:00AM Worship Service 	21	22 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	23	24 6:45PM AA	25	26 Noon Women's Group Luncheon at the Log House
27 10:00AM Worship Service	28 4:00 – 7:00PM Food Bank	29 10:00AM Prayer Group 8:00PM AA	30 9:00AM – Noon Scrapbooking with Carolyn			

April Announcements

Kathy Loomis will be doing the Service on April 6th. Please come and support her.

The Upper Room , a monthly booklet of devotional readings is available on the Bessie Table
The large print version is available as well. There is no charge for these.

The annual Christmas fair is scheduled for early November, which seems very far away, but it takes time to create the many arts and crafts that we need to sell
Many hands and many talents are needed. if you craft, knit, or do woodcraft, please begin to create you wares

The Mary and Martha group has decided not to meet on a regular schedule in the near future, However the women of the church still desire to
Gather together occasionally. A lunch meeting will be held in April. Details to follow.

Food Bank Wishlist

Spaghetti Sauce, Oatmeal (not instant), Jelly, Canned Beets, Side Dishes

No time to shop for the food bank?? Donations can be made here:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/J36KTCUVNFYRY>



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If you know of someone who is not getting the Link but would like to, please contact Re with their information and email address so they can be added to the list. If they don't have access to emails, just give us their mailing address and we will mail it out to them. We will also leave a few copies on the Besse table.

If you, or someone you know, is in the hospital in need of a visit please call either Pastor Barbara or the Church office to schedule a visit. Because of privacy laws, hospitals can no longer give out this information.

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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 9:30AM to 1:00PM, or by appointment.

Church contact info:

Visit us online at: [pleasantvalley-umc.com](http://pleasantvalley-umc.com)

Church Office: 860-379-2157

Church Kitchen and Food Bank: 860-379-0346

Church email address: [pvumc181@gmail.com](mailto:pvumc181@gmail.com)

Pastor Barbara's email: [barb\\_drew@hotmail.com](mailto:barb_drew@hotmail.com)

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

