



We are called to be a welcoming community of loving servants of Jesus Christ.

The Evangel June 2021

Prayer Concerns

Please lift in prayer...

the families of Gene Verrell and Shari Hanson on the passing of their loved ones.

Laura Hewitt's son in law, Stephen, recovering from surgery; as well as Tom DePalo as he continues to recover from his transplant.

Peggy Ann's daughters, Christine and Judy Beth; Vince's mother, Rose; Dawn's mom, Charlene; Mike's mom; Pam Lewis; Jerry; & Gary's sister Cynthia;

our confirmands; our high school & college graduates; and please remember all those who work for healing and peace.



FROM YOUR PASTOR



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - June 13

Since the first of this year, a group of six youths has been working weekly with myself and a group of caring adults to learn more about God and their faith. They have also engaged in community service, read the Gospel of Mark and worked on a Creed that expresses their beliefs.

On Sunday, June 13 at 10 AM worship, they will have the opportunity to confirm their faith in Jesus and be received as members of His church.

This is a BIG DEAL for these youth, and for us! In a world where faith and participation in church is far from a given thing, confirmands make that commitment. We rejoice with them - and should make the commitment ourselves to be present with them June 13.

I want to give a shoutout to this year's class - still constrained by the pandemic and yet wonderfully willing to participate fully: **Gracie Ballard, Kenny Ballard, Oliver Clancy, Brian Sibley, Stephen Sibley and Jakob Wenis**. And many thanks to their wonderful parents for their support!

And another shoutout to the adults who participated in the program. I had three "helpers" both online and in person: **Kim Pearlman, Sandy Venitelli and Dan Poole**. And a huge Thank you to those who served as mentors: **Susan Kalbaugh, Justin Birtwell, Jim Maurer, Yunkee Chung and Judy Hammel**.

THE POST QUARANTINE CHURCH

Your Church Council is working with a book by pastor and church planter, Thom Rainer, The Post Quarantine Church. He takes us through 6 challenges that are also opportunities for growth, spiritually and institutionally. Last month we looked at Opportunity #1: "Gather Differently and Better."

In June, we are still reflecting and generating ideas about how and when we gather for worship - or other activities - while also looking at Opportunity #2: "Seize the Opportunity to Reach the Digital World."

Rainer points out that pre-pandemic, more than 100,000 churches in the US had no internet presence beyond their website. Another 150,000 churches had no digital presence at all.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 6/1 Sam Steare (*Sweet 16!*)
6/2 Yun Kee & Susan Chung 🍷
(*Cheers to 20 yrs!*)
Katherine Stawiasz
6/3 Neal & Robin Kilson 🍷
Christopher Perry
6/4 Alyssa Wade
Kelela Wade
6/5 Azelia Sigmund
6/6 Karen Bambino
Kayla McClay (21! 🎂 & 🍷)
6/8 Marc Giannavola
Laura Hewitt (*So many candles!*)
6/9 Marvin Paige
Marvin & Carole Paige 🍷
Chris & Mary Wynings 🍷
Jerry Yochum
6/11 Marty Maciag
6/12 Marcia Maurer
6/13 Jill Beaudry (*A milestone!*)
Rich & Kathy Blewett 🍷
(*Way to go! 40 yrs!*)
Hannah Kilson
Fred Stakel
6/16 Elizabeth Wolf
6/19 Mike & Susan James 🍷
(*50 yrs of love and friendship!*)
Rob & Susan Kalbaugh 🍷
Scarlet Lewis
6/20 Phillip Keane
Neal Kilson
Ron & Debbie Nemec 🍷
6/21 Amy Thomas (*Another milestone!*)
6/22 Kevin Hoyt
6/23 Rae Steare (*Bless her ❤️ it's a big one!*)
6/27 Victoria Bambino
Tami Corsi
Martha Millett
6/28 Lindsey Pearlman
Rob & Barb Sibley

6/29 Duane & Linda Jones 🍷
Stephen & Lisa Marlin 🍷
(*Here's to 25 more!*)
6/30 Anna Burns

continued...

Many of us were thrown last March into the waters of social media, online worship, Zoom, etc and were forced to learn how to navigate them. But having grasped how we reach different and sometimes more people online, we want to maintain our best practices around internet ministry.

Rainer points out one essential thing: **"the digital world is only secondarily a tool. It is primarily a mission field. As we move into the post-quarantine church era, the challenge is how best to reach people and serve them on the digital mission field."** 1

He also points out that churches deal with 3 groups of people: those who will remain online, either because of distance, physical disability or disinclination to enter a physical church; those who will return to in-person church when they feel safe; and the "dual citizens" who from now on will attend some in-person events and services and remain online for others. 2

Having experienced this already, I can attest to the challenge here! But it is also a wonderful opportunity to grow in the moment and expand our outreach.

Rainer leaves us with these 3 questions, which the Council is reflecting on for its June 21 meeting, and which I invite you to reflect on:

1. *Think of the differences in your community (and life) since the pandemic and the implications for how you will do ministry in this new era.*
2. *Think of which social media channels might be most effective for your church now.*
3. *Think of how your church could connect best with a non Christian who has only a digital connection to your church.*

I'll keep these questions before us these next few weeks. Please share any ideas and thoughts with me or any member of the Council. In Christ,

Lori

1. Rainer, Thom, The Post Quarantine Church, Tyndale Publishers, 2020, p. 29
2. p. 31

An Update from Your Board of Trustees

To date, \$4400.00 has been donated toward our goal of \$11,250.00, leaving a deficit \$6850 to raise before we can begin work on this long overdue project. We have faith that we will reach our goal soon so that work can be completed this summer. Please give prayerful consideration to making a donation - all amounts, small and large, are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support!



Annual Conference - Online This Year

Because of the need to plan while pandemic restrictions were still in place, Annual Conference 2021 will be online this year, June 10-12. However, unlike last year it will include more features of a normal year, including legislative sections, an Episcopal address and full reporting of conference business.

NUMC will be represented by Lay Members Susan Kalbaugh and Fern Blair Hart as well as Pastor Lori. They will report back to the congregation following the session.

Fellowship Hour

JOIN US!

Every Thursday at 7:30pm

A wonderful opportunity to be together on zoom to stay in touch with one another. Justin Birtwell is our host. Look for the link on Pastor Lori's "Checking In" eblasts.

Pastor Lori's Schedule in June

Although some details have yet to be worked out, Pastor Lori will be out of town from June 22 to July 6. Sunday coverage for June 27 and July 4 has been set, **though there might be some changes to the morning schedule June 27.** Pastoral coverage will also be arranged for emergencies.

A* (or 2) *FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Deacon's Orders in the United Methodist Church!



The Order of Deacons came into being in 1996 and I was ordained in the first class of Deacons in the New York Conference in 1997.



Deacons are serving in local churches as I do, but also in a wide range of ministries beyond the local church where their special gifts are put to use. These include education, chaplaincy, camping, social justice, health, advocacy, counseling, therapy, reconciliation, compassion, prison ministry, and others.

I engaged in a ministry with inmates at Garner in Newtown for more than ten years. All Deacons are connected closely with a local parish even though that may not be their main employment. We always serve as associates of the ordained Elder in pastoral ministry and we seek to connect the worship life of the church with the many needs of the world and its people, in our local communities and around the world. Since music is my specialty, my ministry here is rooted in that and it's a great joy for me.

COMING THIS SUMMER!

We are planning to have a 'pick-up' choir this summer, meaning anyone willing to sing a familiar hymn with us is invited to come at 9:30am for a quick rehearsal, then we will sing at the 10am service, and hopefully, have it videoed for the next week's 8am service! Little by little, the choir is on board for this, but all are invited to join them!

We will be blessed!

Sue Klein



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BULLETIN BOARD POSTS! Too many to contain!

BBQ Chicken Dinner

**Saturday, June 19th
4 - 7pm**

**A Tasty Summer
Treat Is Coming
Your Way!**



MENU

- Roasted and Grilled 1/2 Chicken
- Potato Salad **with** or **without** onions
- Coleslaw
- Cornbread
- Dessert

PRICING

Adults ... \$14
Seniors 62 and older... \$13

**Contact
Candice Rothe
at 203.217.9732
by June 14th!**

**Don't wait!
Place your order
today!**

Join us for the 8th Annual Autism Awareness Benefit Concert and Dinner

- When** Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 4 pm
Where Dickinson Park, 50 Elm Drive, Newtown, CT
Cost Dinner & entertainment tickets are \$25 for Adults and \$15 for Students (under 18).
How Purchase online... at bit.ly/3eUQafk; or at *Families United in Newtown* on Facebook; or the on the website: www.familiesunitedinnewtown.org
(click on June 6th in the calendar under EVENTS).

Tickets available the day of the event based on availability.

The Green Grunion, a San Diego-style burrito business on wheels, will cook up burritos for concert attendees (beef, chicken, vegetarian and gluten free options available) & macaroni and cheese will be offered for kids. The concert theme "Music for F.U.N." will showcase music of all types to celebrate Families United in Newtown (F.U.N.)! The Benefit Concert will feature community performers and other special guests including gifted performers who are on the autism spectrum. The annual concert is a key fundraiser for F.U.N. with proceeds helping to fund meetings and events throughout the year, ensuring special needs children benefit from positive peer-to-peer social opportunities.



Donations are graciously accepted online at www.familiesunitedinnewtown.org or by mail at the following:

F.U.N.
16 Walnut Tree Hill Road
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Bathrooms available on site and student volunteers will be available to "deliver" food to your lawn location. Remember to bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. **Everyone is sure to have a FUN time!**

Bulletin Board Posts cont'd

**Summer Evangel
(July & Aug)
Deadline 6/25**



New Tellers Needed!

If you can balance your checkbook, and have a little time on Sundays to volunteer, we need your help. Please contact Fred Stakel at fcstakel@earthlink.net for more information.

FROM YOUR PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



Wesley had a very successful year this year despite the pandemic. We ended the year with 69 students and were able to add in Lunch Bunch and Art Enrichment earlier this spring. We are off to



good numbers for the fall, but our hardworking staff is now looking forward to a few months of sun and relaxation!

The students and staff at Wesley have enjoyed the beautiful spring weather as they have spent more time outside playing on the playground, taking nature walks through the trails behind the school and having "Mystery Readers" read to them in the Memorial Garden. Our fours classes are getting ready for their Moving Up ceremonies on June 3 with 35 kids moving on to kindergarten. All three weeks of our summer camp for both preschoolers and toddlers filled very quickly this year; but if you know anyone looking for a quality preschool program for the fall, please have them contact me at wesleyfuchs@gmail.com.

Diane Fuchs

Director, Wesley Learning Center,
a **NAEYC** accredited program for children ages 2 through 6.
wesleyfuchs@gmail.com
203.426.6149

Church Staff

Rev. Lori R. Miller, Pastor
Rev. E. Sue Klein, Deacon & Minister of Music
Diane Fuchs, Director, Wesley Learning Center

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CELEBRATING
DADS
EVERYWHERE