

Elmwords

Pastor's Corner

**“Secret gardens of the heart,
Where the flowers bloom forever,
I see you shining through the night
In the ice and snow of winter...”**

So sang Judy Collins, that great American singer.

The Bible often uses flowers as a symbol and reminder that time moves on; situations and even life itself soon fade and pass on. After all, how long do cut flowers last? Maybe a week? So from that sense flowers are the perfect image for that which is temporary. Even flowers in nature have their very short season.

Consider the last month or so. First came snowdrops, very early this year. Then there came the crocuses, mostly purple. Forsythia bushes are lackluster for most of the year, but for a week or so they are a flash of yellow. A little later tulips bloomed, along with daffodils. Lily of the Valley bloomed bringing their delicate bells and fragrance. Looking out the window I can see white and red roses. Summer is not yet here, so there are still many, many flowers to come. Each year brings blooms and flowers in a regular schedule. Spring can be early, spring can be late, but always the order of blooms remains the same.

The world of nature is a wonderful gift from a loving God. Thanks be to God, there is more to our lives than the cycles of nature, however lovely those cycles are. God has given humans the ability to remember and imagine. Someone can close their eyes and remember the daffodils that grew along the fence of their childhood home. Someone can close their eyes and imagine what the flowers they just planted will look like.

Past, present, and future. Of course this is about much more than flowers. Our God-given ability can empower us to see God's power and love everywhere we look. In darkness we know God's light is there. In winter we can picture the flowers of spring. In difficulty, we can picture the peace of God which passes all understanding. We can see hope at all times; we can see solutions, we can see goodness. Thanks be to God!

Peace,



Dave

Church Council Meeting –May 21, 2012 Agenda/Moderator’s Notes

Meeting was called to order at 6:37pm with ten members present: Bill Alberti, Rev. Dave Congdon, Al Croxall, Diane Ludwick, Robin Lindemann, Barb Hesse, Jerry Gray, Wendy Leonard, Susan Wiley and Mickey Allgaier

Opening Prayer and Scripture (Pastor Dave): Psalm 27

Minutes of the previous meeting: Approved unanimously

Old Business:

- Mickey will sell raffle tickets and scrip cards.
- Strawberry Festival – need date – June 15th or 16th?
- Photo directory team needs to meet soon.

New Business:

- Baby photo contest to run thru summer. Pictures need to be given to Mickey.

Deacons – Jerry Gray

- Easter flowers: \$213.65 profit goes to flower fund.
- Facilitators schedule: June 24th – September 2nd coffee hour is without food.
- June 10th – Choir Appreciation – Coffee Hour by Deacons
- Choir will resume Thursday rehearsals on September 6th.
- Still considering advertising in bulletin.
- “Chowder Fest” – Saturday, October 6th, 4:30pm-7:00pm.
- Blessing of Animals – October 7th at Noon.
- November 4th – Sunday of Remembrance of deceased members.
- November 11th – Veteran’s Day to honor Veterans.
- Saturday renter left a mess and moved things in the choir loft.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Dave

- Norm doing very well throat-wise, but knee not much better.
- Dot Guertin in Hebrew Home.
- Tuesday, May 29th, in-service for ministers – Rev. Congdon will attend.
- People moving chains at driveway. Trustees will deal with this.
- Thanks to Peterson Family for all the help in parsonage yard/garden.

Missions – Robin Lindemann

- South Park Inn: June 17th – menu discussed.
- Five scholarships to be awarded.
- Tatiana and Sarah asking for assistance on Tennessee trip.
- Will Smith has job and may be limited on time – wise for helping.
- Want to re-institute bringing of food wagon on 2nd Sunday.

Trustees – Bill Alberti

- Tree partly taken down 4/21.
- Quiet Room Door – estimate given and will be fixed.
- Parking lot curb discussed and will be done.
- Doorbell fixed, downstairs bathroom door lock fixed and toilet upstairs replaced.
- Balcony ceiling will be done soon.
- Conte kitchen renovation - hoping to have stove refurbished.

Christian Ed – Patrick Nobou excused - Pastor will report

- Sunday School curriculum a problem; will use “Seasons of the Spirit” next year.
- Gabriella and Hailey will be receiving Bibles.
- Children’s Sunday June 17th.
- Rally Sunday is September 9th.
- Advent Workshop is November 25th.
- July trip to Tennessee will be in the *Elmwords*.

Controller’s Report – Susan Wiley

- Financial Summary given
- Still in deficit.
- Need to focus on community visibility.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Senior Member-At-Large – Al Croxall

- Coffee Hour: suggest set-up for coffee at end of room where elders sit.
- Condition of Fellowship Room rug discussed.

Junior Member-At-Large – Barb Hesse

- Memorial Garden pump needs to be put in.
- Need to look into electronic pledging.

Newest Member-At-Large Diane Ludwick

- People parking on grass.
- Circle 6 wants to give funds to refurbishing of the Memorial Garden.

Upcoming Events (Just so we’re all on the same page)

- June 2nd – Tag Sale from 9am – 2pm.
- June 10th – Choir Appreciation Sunday
- June 16th – Strawberry Festival from 12:00pm – 2:30pm.
- June 17th – Children’s Sunday
- June 23rd – Youth Car Wash from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:59pm

Next Meeting: June 18, 2012

UPDATE REQUEST

The Member Directory will be updated in August. I would like to include email addresses. If you would like your email address listed in the directory, please fill out the form below and return it to the Church Office. I also would appreciate being updated on any address or phone number changes too. (Note: The email addresses would only be used for church business).

Thank you,

Geri Noonan, Office Manager

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 04 Dan Swift
- 06 Pat Johnson
- 07 Tatiana Smith
- 08 Lisa Johnston
- 15 Mary Gledhill
- 21 David Smith
- 22 Marissa Lamb
- 24 Kortez Rodriguez
- 26 Chad McLarney
- 29 Elaine Carlson

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 27 Mary & Arthur Gledhill

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Diane Ludwick
- 05 David Lamb
- 08 Anson Brown
- 08 Addison Brown
- 08 Mark O'Connor
- 11 Colleen Peterson
- 14 Charles Shorter Jr.
- 17 Sarah Smith
- 20 Craig Croxall
- 31 Abby Hunsinger

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 07 Carol & Bill Alberti
- 25 Judi & Dan Swift
- 27 Carol & Vernon Coffin

ATTENTION RED SOX FANS!

Two tickets to Fenway Park will be raffled off for the game against the Baltimore Orioles on Tuesday, June 5, 2012. Tickets are \$1.00, available through the Church Office during normal office hours, or through Mickey Allgaier afterward. **The drawing will be held on Sunday, June 3, at 11:30am in the Fellowship Room.** The tickets are for bleacher seats, approximately behind the Sox bullpen, and are valued at \$52.00. Wanted: one avid Yankees Fan to be available June 3rd to draw the winning ticket! Mickey's telephone number is: (860)206-0125.

CHOIR APPRECIATION

On Sunday, June 10^h, following worship the Deacons will host a special coffee hour to express grateful appreciation of our **CHOIR** and Jerry Bilak, our Music Director. Please join us to say **thank you to a group who add a special dimension to worship!**

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MISSIONS

The Mission Board will be selling **Father's Day Cards** in the Fellowship Room immediately following church on **June 3rd and 10th**, for **\$5.00 each to raise money for Tools of Hope.**

Thank you.

The Mission Board **made \$140.00** to be given to **Tools of Hope.** Thank you to all who purchased cards.

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On Sunday, June 17th, members of our church will be serving dinner at **South Park Inn.** The **Missions Board is looking for people to make sandwiches or to send in makings for sandwiches; peanut butter and jelly, bread, lunch meat, etc...** We will be making sandwiches after church in the kitchen. Thank you for all your help, it is very much appreciated.

CHURCH SCHOOL SUNDAY

On **Children's Sunday, June 17th**, the Mission Board will be proudly presenting Scholarships to the following students:

Megan Grant – she will begin college in the Fall.
Grace Congdon – she will be attending UCONN in the Fall.

Amber Smith – she will be continuing at Western Connecticut State University.

Kirsten Peterson – she will be continuing at Clark University.

Hannah Wittchen – she will be continuing at the University of Mississippi.

WE'VE COME A L-O-N-G WAY, BABY!!

It's time for a project just for the FUN of it! I will be collecting baby (or toddler) pictures of members and friends throughout the summer – already have a few. In the Fall, I'll post a board with all the pictures, identified only by number, and names known only to me. At the end of the contest, people may purchase an "answer" sheet numbered from 1 to whatever. You may purchase a sheet for \$1.00, and buy as many as you like. If we get **LOTS** of entries (I hope,) or pictures of people not currently in our midst, I may post a list (alphabetically) of the names represented. The person who gets the most right, will take home half the pot. The secret is to submit pictures that are funny, not clearly obvious as to your current appearance, or unusual in any way. I will return all pictures after the contest, and, in the meantime, we can enjoy lots of laughs and snickers as we mock each other's mug shots. Folks of all ages are welcome to participate. Thanks, in hopes that we'll have a huge display! Mickey

FAITHFUL ADVOCATES SERVING TOGETHER

“Getting Dirty for Jesus”

July 7-15, 2012

Five members of our youth group, along with Dave Cunningham and Dave Smith, will be travelling to Deer Lodge, Tennessee in early July as participants in a mission trip experience to this Appalachian region. The youth will be serving the people of this impoverished area in a variety of ways through a partnership between the Office of Volunteer Ministries Disciples of Christ, the UCC Office of Volunteer Ministries and a local Appalachian agency, The Morgan-Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns. The youth will be Getting Dirty for Christ as they make a huge difference in the quality of life for the people they will meet and serve. Often homeowners are elderly or disabled and are unable to safely leave their homes. The youth will build a way out for people giving them back their freedom. Others live in unsafe conditions due to decay and neglect because the homeowner is unable to maintain or repair their homes. Work will focus on creating safe places for living by replacing floor joists, windows, porches and more.

During the coming weeks the youth group will be to preparing for this experience by engaging in a variety of activities. These activities include bible studies focusing on being missionaries in the world, peace and justice issues as well as learning about the area and the peoples of Appalachia. In agreeing to serve as a missionary for the week all participants signed the following covenant:

I covenant to participate in activities and studies before coming to F.A.S.T. to help prepare me and give me a better understanding of working in Appalachia. I will fully participate in the work during the week in Appalachia. I covenant to tell the story and reflect on how I can become an advocate for justice in my own community and in the world upon my return home.

This trip has been made possible by offerings made to the Capital Campaign, support from the Missions Committee, and various youth fundraisers. Thanks to all for your continued financial and prayerful support which allows the youth to experience a unique opportunity to grow spiritually as they Get Dirty for Jesus.

EXCLUSIVE STOCK OFFERING GUARANTEES BULLISH RETURNS!

While the market continues to experience volatility you can take advantage of a one-time special stock offering that will reap benefits in the future. The youth group is going public with a “Getting Dirty for Jesus” stock offering to raise funds for their summer, **Faithful Advocates Serving Together** mission trip, to the Appalachia region of Tennessee. At \$10.00 a share you can be an important investor in this spiritual venture. Shareholders receive the benefit of knowing they are supporting the youth of our church as they engage in a life-changing opportunity to serve others in Jesus’ name. Investors will be invited to attend a shareholders’ meeting in early Fall 2012 to receive personal reports regarding the growth of this fledgling company of believers.

Stock will be offered following Sunday worship or contact any of the members of the youth group. Church members that would like to serve as Stock Brokers to coworkers, friends and family are welcome. The commission is heavenly!

SUMMER MISSION TRIP YOUTH GROUP CAR WASH

Date: Saturday, 6/23/12

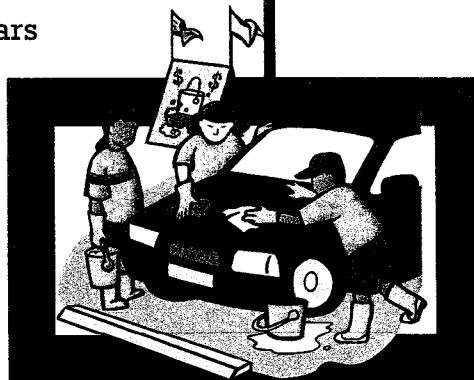
Time: 9:00- 3:00

The church youth group will be washing cars in the church parking lot. Proceeds will go for their summer mission trip, "Getting Dirty for Jesus", in the Appalachia region of Tennessee. Additionally, they will be selling baked goods, & cold drinks.

50% OFF SALE

Inspirational 2012 Calendars

Be inspired every day with these beautiful Calendars. Great for home or office!



Elmwood Community Church

26 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110

Phone: 860-233-8203

"Don't hide your dirty car under a bushel. Let your car shine in the light of day!"

Strawberry Festival
Saturday June 16, 2012
12-2:30 PM
at Elmwood Community
Church

26 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110

Hamburgers \$4 Italian Sausage, peppers & onions \$5

Hotdogs \$2.50 Homemade Strawberry Shortcake \$ 5



Chips, Water, Lemonade, and Coffee are included in the price.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

FROM THE HISTORIAN ROOM

From the "Elmwood Sunday School" report dated June 16, 1913. The first Strawberry Festival in Elmwood Chapel was held on July 8, 1876 – made \$82.67.

On June 16, 1907, the first Communion Service was held in the Chapel at Elmwood Community Church with Reverend T. M. Hodgson.

You are the greeter for this Sunday. You are behind the big white doors in the front of the Church. It is a cold day, or maybe its raining. You like being greeter but it can be frustrating. You can not see if anyone is coming. Do you keep the doors open and let the cold in, or keep them closed and hope that no one is on the other side waiting for you to let them in. Why aren't there windows in these doors was a question asked by almost everyone who was greeter.

In 1970 windows were installed in our Church front doors by the Board of Deacons. Thus making being a greeter easier and our Church looking a little more friendly.

Have you ever looked at the ceiling in the Church Sanctuary and wondered how long the ceiling fans with their large blades have been there? We have. As church historians, we are very curious about such things. We have done our research and are happy to share our findings with you. The ceiling fans were donated by Norma and Joe Moskey on July 22nd, 1987 in memory of Phil Conte.

The Church Historians are getting organized, But we need your help. The first annual report That we have on file is from 1947. We would Like a copy of every annual report that was Distributed to the congregation at the annual Church meetings. Unfortunately, we are missing the years 1969, 1998, 2005 and 2007. If you have a copy and are willing to donate it, Please see Pat or Ellen.

INSTANT SCRIP CARDS

As reported last month, Trustees have bought Scrip cards from popular local stores to buy each Sunday. It's not necessary to order in advance – you just see what's available with cash or check. The cards that are currently available are: Bed Bath & Beyond, On the Border Mexican, CVS, Home Depot, Barnes & Noble, Olive Garden, Red Robin, Outback Steakhouse, Walgreens, Michael's Crafts, and Panera. They make great Father's Day or graduation gifts. Thank you.

~ Did You Know? ~

Welcome to a features column by the Deacons! We hope you find it informative and helpful.

Did you know that we have a **SUMMER** facilitator's schedule? Each month we schedule members of the congregation who have volunteered to help out at Sunday services. We have people who are Greeters, Ushers, Lay Readers, Coffee Hour hosts and hostesses, Crib Nursery Care Givers and Deacons assisting with Communion. During the summer we cut back on the number of people involved because our attendance is less. We also have several Choir members who volunteer to help during their off season. So starting June 24th this year and continuing through Sept 2nd we will have one Greeter, two Ushers, one Lay Reader, two Crib Nursery Care Givers (required by Safe Church rules), two Deacons assisting with Communion (by intinction) and one Coffee Hour Host or Hostess.

The Coffee Hour after service will have just coffee, tea and juice or some other beverage – no snacks or baked goodies. We made this change to give the 10 people who host the Coffee Hours a break during the summer months. We hope everyone will still continue to come to Coffee Hour for fellowship and conversation with your fellow members and friends here at the Elmwood Community Church. Who knows, there may be a surprise bake sale or some other fun stuff you won't want to miss. Love and peace, Your Deacons

HOW OUR GARDEN GROWS

The Memorial Garden is much in need of attention. Colleen Peterson has offered to take over the care and feeding: she has put countless hours into weeding and cleaning out the debris that has collected over time. Now, it is in great need of refurbishing. Circle 6 has voted to make a sizeable donation to this end, in honor of Ethel Croxall, whose family made a large donation to them. It must be done in strict accordance with the original plan from which it was created. This will take a lot of work: more than Colleen should be expected to do, so we are hoping that a few gardeners will step up and offer help. Anyone who loves gardening – can bend over! – and is willing to assist should get in touch with Colleen. Please let us re-beautify this lovely space!

The Elmwood Community Church
 -----United Church of Christ-----
 26 Newington Road
 West Hartford, CT 06110
 860-233-8203 fax: 860-233-4202
 Secretary's e-mail: eccsecretary@snet.net
 Pastor's e-mail: elmwoodchurch@snet.net

**PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
 DATED MATERIAL**

DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 27thJUNE NEWSLETTER
- May 28thOFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY
- May 28thMEMORIAL DAY PARADE
- June 2ndTAG SALE 9am – 2pm
- June 3rdTools of Hope/ Father's Day Cards
- June 3rd6:30pm Youth Group Meeting
- June 4thSummer Hours for Office Begin 8:30am – 12pm
- June 6th, 13th, 20th, & 27th10:00am Bible Study
- June 6th6:30pm Deacons
- June 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28thNO CHOIR
- June 10thCHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY
- June 10thTools of Hope/Father's Day Cards
- June 10thCE Meeting
- June 11th6:00pm Circle 6 Potluck Supper
- June 13th6:30pm Trustees
- June 16th12:00pm-2:30pm STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
- June 17thCHILDREN'S SUNDAY
- June 17thMissions Meeting
- June 17thECC SERVING SOUTH PARK INN
- June 17th6:30pm Youth Group Meeting
- June 18th6:30pm Council
- June 23rd9:00am-3:00pm YOUTH CAR WASH
- June 24thSUMMER NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE