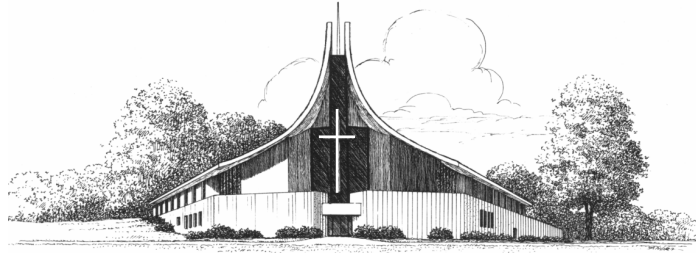




THE FLAME



The United Methodist Church of Danbury

Volume 10, Issue 6
September 2009

A closer look at

Message from Pastor Karen...



September

September 1

7PM

**Disciple Course
Meeting**

September 6

**Return to 10:30 AM
Service
Time Change!**

September 7



September 9

7PM

**Committee Meeting
8PM
Church Council**

I still remember the first time I was asked to pray in public without a written prayer in front of me. And it's not a happy memory. At the time, I was the pastor's assistant at the Rowayton United Methodist Church. (I had taken this job hoping to prove to myself (and God) that I was not called to ordained ministry. You know how that project turned out. But that's another story.) It was a small church, and the pastor and I were the only staff. I did a portion of what he did, as long as it didn't require being ordained: answering phones, writing and running off bulletins, teaching classes, going to meetings, preaching, leading worship, visiting the sick, mopping up the water that came in the back door when it rained.

One day we were hosting the Norwalk Clergy Association for lunch. The pastor was away, and I had set everything up. I greeted our guests, took coats, showed them the way to the coffee. When everyone had arrived, the president of the organization looked at me and said, "Karen, would you lead us in grace?"

I panicked. It had never even occurred to me that I might be asked to pray. They expected me to make lunch AND pray? No fair! Always before, if I had to pray out loud, I wrote the prayer out in advance. I guess I said something reasonable, because when I was done everyone began to eat as if nothing were amiss.

I'm telling you this story because you might think that some people are different—that some people (pastors, for instance) are just born knowing how to put our longings for the Divine into words that are acceptable for the ears of other humans, as well as God. Maybe that's true, but I don't know any. I learned how to do it by studying and practicing.

I want to offer that opportunity to all of you. This fall I will lead a 7-session course in Foundations of Healing Prayer, followed by a one-day workshop. We will discuss the Biblical roots of healing prayer, and answer questions about what, why, and how. There are several times during the week when I could offer this class, and I want as many people as possible to participate. If you are interested in learning more about how to pray, particularly how and why to pray for others, please come to a short organizational meeting after church on Homecoming Sunday, September 13, in Room 3. If you'd like to participate but can't make that meeting, please speak to me.

Mission

Our mission as The United Methodist Church of Danbury is to represent Christ throughout our communities with outreaching love, faith and service.

Worship Schedule for September

September 6 *Return to 10:30 worship*
 10:30 a.m. Worship and Communion, Pastor Karen preaching
 Baptism of Gabrielle Marie Woods



September 13 *Homecoming Sunday*
 9:30 a.m. Pancake breakfast, fun and games for all!
 10:30 a.m. Worship, Pastor Karen preaching

September 20 *Sunday School For All*
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School begins
 10:30 a.m. Worship, Pastor Karen preaching
 Noon New Members Class #1 after church



September 27
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 a.m. Worship, Pastor Karen preaching
 Noon New Members Class #2 after church

Many thanks to the congregation and the UMW for their generous support of Covenant to Care's back-to-school backpack program. 21 filled backpacks were delivered to the Department of Children & Families! And thank you, Gloria Thorn, for your leadership!



Office Hours

Beginning in September, when vacations are over and we get back to a normal schedule, the church office will be open with Sherry presiding on weekdays from 9 to 11. Pastor Karen will keep office hours Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 to noon. These are times when you will be able to call or drop by and find her there, barring emergencies or meetings over which she has no control. Changes to these hours will be announced in the bulletin.

UMW News



The next United Methodist Women's meeting will be Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in room 3 at the church. The program "Food Security" will highlight the 2009 goal of the Christian advocacy group Bread for the World, and focus on the challenges of providing food for the needy in our community. Annie Orr a well respected social activist, in Danbury, will be our program speaker.

Our unit is having a collection of the following for Dorothy Day: powdered drink mix, canned fruit, canned vegetables, ketchup, mustard, bar-beque sauce, and hot sauce. If possible large sizes would be appreciated. Paper goods, for the soup kitchen, will also be gladly accepted. Please bring donations to the meeting, or leave them in the church office.

Try to make every effort to attend. This meeting is *open to all women in the church*. If you have any questions or you need a ride please call Karlene Lombardo at 203-743-1260.

- Karlene Lombardo

Sunday School

Join us for Homecoming Sunday, September 13th! We will have a pancake breakfast at 9:15 a.m. and registration for Sunday School. Meet the Sunday School teachers and join us for another round of Bible Jeopardy to start off the new Sunday School year. Sunday School classes will begin the following Sunday, Sept. 20th. Sunday School is held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. before our Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School is available for all ages, including adults.

Sunday School Teachers and Substitute Teachers Needed! Please consider signing up to be a regular teacher or substitute teacher for Sunday School. We need two teachers for each classroom. Curriculum is always provided and training is available. Sunday School teaching is a wonderful opportunity to learn right along with the kids in your class. If interested, please contact Coralee DeMouth at 730-8103.

Vacation Bible School

Thanks to all who participated in Son Rock Kids Camp VBS this summer! We had a great camp experience learning about God's great love for us. We had a week of insightful Bible lessons, great singing around the campfire, wonderful skits with talented actors, good meals, fun games and crafts, all held in the cozy camp-decorated downstairs of the church. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who shared their time and talents and made it a great week of VBS. Thank you to Mark Pierce, Kim Cain, Shirley Fogle, Myra Tesbir, Bev Anderson, Sherry Tyrrell, Minnie Rouse, Lois Bornemeier, Pastor Karen, Jim Davis, Carla Pierce, Laura Zeigler, Lorena Tesbir, Madison Zeigler, Katie DeMouth, Travis Gebing, Sheldon Irving, Meghan DeMouth and Don DeMouth.

Join The Book Club!

Mondays at 7:30PM

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| <i>September 15</i> | <i>700 Hundred Sundays</i>
by Billy Chrystal at Lois Bornemeier's |
| <i>October 20</i> | <i>Cage of Stone</i>
by Jacqueline Mitchard at Shirley Fogle's |
| <i>November 17</i> | <i>The Friday Night Knitting Club</i>
by Kate Jacobs at Mary Lou Heyel's |
| <i>December 15</i> | <i>Three Cups of Tea</i>
by Gary Masterson at Coralee DeMouth's |



Finances: Income

Our budget for 2009 projects a balanced budget of \$204,221, \$21,083 of which is apportionments. To pay all of our projected expenses for 2009, we need to collect an average of \$17,018 per month, which includes \$1,757 monthly for apportionments.

Through the end of July, the following was received:

Various contributions:	\$79,075
Space use:	30,275
Total:	\$109,350
Needed:	\$119,126
Difference:	-\$9,776

Other contributions received for restricted or designated funds (not reflected in the above numbers) are:

Altar Guild:	\$2,525
Education:	\$263
Memorial Fund:	\$19,718
Property Improvement	\$720
Outreach	\$854
Other	\$1,162

Please note that all of the numbers above reflect INCOME only! They do not reflect any bills that were paid from these funds, and also do not reflect the actual balance that is in those accounts.

The pledge income so far this year is just about on target. The Free Methodists are currently two months behind on their space use fees. If they were current, we would be in very good shape. The summer months are typically difficult for the church, as many members are on vacations from time to time, and their pledges get a bit behind. Of the memorial fund listed above, \$10,000 will go into a CD, and the remainder will stay in the checking account for the present time as a "summer cash flow fund." At the end of the year, \$10,000 will be put into a short term CD to be used again in the same way for the summer when we typically have cash flow problems.

I thank all of you for your continued support, without which we could not continue to do all the good works that we do within the congregation and in the surrounding community.

-Norma Bucko, Financial Secretary

New Members' Classes!

We will receive new members into the church on the first Sunday of October. If you are interested in becoming a member, please plan to attend two classes, after church on the last two Sundays of September. We will discuss what it means to be a United Methodist, and in particular a member of the United Methodist Church of Danbury! If you have any questions, or if this schedule doesn't work for you, please speak to Pastor Karen.



Then Jesus said to them, "There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."
 - Mark 7. 14-15

Put on the full armor of God, so that....you may be able to stand your ground...
 -Ephesians 6:13

Trustees

The Trustees have not met for a while but have been somewhat active. The church insurance policy was renewed with some minor updates, the policy which includes the church and parsonage buildings as well as the church owned contents of both buildings.

Earlier in the year we began to investigate a conversion from electric heat to gas heat, after several more visits by heating contractors it appears that the up front cost would be prohibitive. Because of the design and location of our furnace room and the exhaust requirements with a combustible fuel a change would require various engineering and possibly architecture work in addition to the mechanical work.

We will begin a project, shortly, to replace, repair and paint part of the stucco wall outside Fellowship Hall and the kitchen. The stucco is cracked and bowing away from the block underneath and it's possible the stucco will fall away without these repairs.

We will be reversing the traffic direction around the upper level parking area beginning in the Fall, this is in an effort to allow those that use the handicap parking spaces the ability to exit and enter their vehicles on the driveway and church side rather than into the mud or snow in inclement weather.

- Don DeMouth

Volunteers Needed

At the August church council meeting, we decided to hire someone from outside the church to provide child care on Sunday mornings. Even once we hire someone, we will still need volunteers to serve as substitutes on an occasional basis. If you are interested in being a substitute, or if you know anyone who might be interested in the job, please speak to Judy Abdalla, Val Stagen, or Minnie Rouse.

Disciple Courses

The Disciple courses are long-term, committed group Bible studies. The courses are all structured the same way. Participants are expected to read and prepare every day for at least 30 minutes, reading scripture and taking notes for five days, and spending one day of preparation on the Disciple materials on the sixth day. On the seventh day the class meets for approximately two hours. The class offers lively discussion, engagement with the scriptures, and most importantly, the opportunity to discern together what God is calling us to do and be.

This year we hope to offer two Disciple courses: Disciple 1 for people new to the program, and one of the advanced courses for Disciple graduates. Serge Karpow will lead an organizational meeting on Tuesday evening, September 1, at 7 p.m. for anyone who is interested in either course. He will lead one of the classes, and we are still waiting for God to reveal who the other leader (s) will be!

Disciple is a large commitment in already busy and full lives. However, there is no better and more effective way to learn about faith and spirituality than through deliberate, Disciplined, ambitious, covenant, group style Bible study. I am praying that the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of leaders and participants for both of these classes this fall.



Connecticut A Garden

I love this place called Connecticut.
I love rolling hills, with shades of green.

Here I find all the resources God gives us.
It strengthens my soul to be here.

I find God everywhere.
His amazing gifts surround me.

The bubbling brook that rushes over
rocks, seem to tell...He is near.

The grasses blowing in the wind, of
the fields, softly show us....He is near.

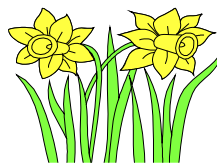
The trees so stately, that give us shade,
make a statement...He is near.

The flowers He gives, delightful with
color, let us know...He is near.

While we live in this wonderful state,
we are living in part of God's garden.

As we make our own personal journey.
in this place we call home...He is near.

By Lois Darrah



The United Methodist Church of Danbury

5 Clapboard Ridge Road • Danbury, CT 06811

Phone: 203-743-1503 • Fax: 203-743-1533



Pastor: Karen Karpow

Music Director: Rebecca Blomgren

Church Administrator: Sherry Tyrrell

A Safe Sanctuary for Children

9:30 Sunday School • 10:30 Sunday Worship

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**OPEN HEARTS
OPEN MINDS
OPEN DOORS**

The people of The United Methodist Church