


**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OF SHELTON**



MESSENGER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2018

PASTOR BARBARA'S MESSAGE

*God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God,
and God abides in him. 5 John 8:50b*

It is with great love that we have cared for our community of faith, inside and outside of our walls this past year. I am always grateful and inspired by how much you all accomplish in faith.

This past year, many hands volunteered to keep the grounds clean and updated. We power washed and painted the handicapped ramp and lined the parking lot, including new handicapped signage.

We continued several fundraisers geared toward young families such as our Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Halloween Bash and Breakfast with Santa that have the dual purpose of raising funds and greeting new families.

There are several new babies and toddlers in our Sunday School Rooms. Sunday School classes will be rejuvenated in this coming year, to accommodate older youngsters and confirmation classes are scheduled to begin soon.

We continue to welcome both Boy Scout and Girls Scout troops to our facility, adding younger tiger cubs to the group. Boy Scouts collect empty bottles and cans the first to each month and a Girl Scout Troop used our facility to collect food for Spooner House this year.

(Continued on Page 2)

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of SHELTON

188 Rocky Rest Road
Shelton, CT 06484
Phone 203.929.3537
office@umcshelton.org umcshelton.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Time 11:15 a.m.
Sunday School 11:30 a.m.
Christian Education 11:30 a.m.
Childcare Available

STAFF

Rev. Barbara Schaffer, Pastor
Leland Wade, Music Director
Cindy Iorfino, Admin Assistant
Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs, 8 am-12 pm
Co-Lay Leaders
Rose Ann Misencik & Mike Rehling

PASTOR BARBARA'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

Vacation Bible School was held in July with 20 youngsters and adults participating. We sent 4 young people and 2 adults to UMARMY (United Methodist Action Reach Out by Youth) this summer in Elliot, Maine and are planning to return again this summer. Soup Sundays are held the third Sunday of each month and the funds raised are used to offset the cost of attendance. Our Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) continues to meet under the guidance of Alyssa Wood.

We welcomed Lee Wade as our new Music Director. Our Music program leads us in worship each week, offering choral music, instrumentals, and solos.

Twice a month a group gathers to read and discuss Spiritual. The Upper Room discussion group meets every Thursday morning and Regenerate meets Thursday Evenings for fellowship, music and discussions. Several Sunday morning Bible classes for adults were held as well.

A group of talented seamstresses work on Day for Girls projects. Twenty five kits have already been sent off and another twenty five will travel to Haiti in early 2018.

I am forever grateful to the work of the Men's Ministry who maintain the church building and grounds and to the many volunteers, especially Debbie Welch, who keep the church clean and functioning.

Our Church continued participation in Shelton Clergy Association with the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, a Christmas Carol sing, Lenten Wednesday night services and Easter sunrise service. I look forward to many more ecumenical services with area churches in the coming year.

Our fund raising committee is endlessly busy. We have had Dining Under the Stars, Tag Sale, and of course, Lenten Fish Fry. While these and other events, add to a much needed cash flow, there is still a need to take from our savings fund ministry.

A new day care has opened, Mulberry Day Care and we hope for their success. As in any new business, it takes time to establish, so if you know of anyone in need of day care, let them know about Mulberry.

The handicapped bathroom was completed this year, thanks to volunteer workers and those who funded the project. Some of the funds came for a DimChex grant.

I am so grateful for the work of committee members, and all of you who work tirelessly for our church. May God Bless our church family.

In His Love,

Pastor Barbara

Editor's Note: This is Pastor's report from the Charge Conference.

2017 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2017 year opened with a projected budget deficit of over \$33,000. The budget was approved at the 2016 Charge Conference. Throughout the majority of 2017 we struggled with cash flow which required careful management of expenses. This struggle was lessened when the new the daycare tenant began paying rent. However, by the Fall, due to slow enrollment, the Trustees allowed the tenant to temporarily decrease the monthly payment by \$2600. This has negatively affected the cash flow situation.

At the end of November, we had an operating balance of \$607 with outstanding bills of \$18,184 including eight months of Apportionments. The Finance Committee agreed to request a loan from the Trustees to be able to pay our outstanding bills before the end of the year. The Trustees have been notified and will work with the Finance Committee to provide the needed funds at the end of the year.

The 2018 proposed operating budget is presented to the Charge Conference for discussion and approval. Please see attached. Expected income for 2018 is \$168,237 which is \$21,772 more than that of the 2017 budget, and almost exactly accounts for the anticipated income from the day care rental. Projected expenses for 2018 are \$189,638, approximately \$9,300 more than the previous year projection. This has left a projected deficit of \$21,401 for 2018 which is lower than last year's projected deficit. The rental income listed in the budget is not equal to our lease with the tenant, therefore, if our tenant gets on solid ground during the year, the rental income should be brought up to the lease requirements and would lessen the deficit.

As with 2017, the 2018 budget presents us with a great financial challenge. The income generated from our facility is an important part of meeting our financial needs, as are the fundraising events that take place throughout the year. The Finance Committee will again rely heavily on the Fundraising Committee to meet our financial commitments. While the 2016 budget had an aggressive number of \$15,000 for fundraising net income, we have decreased that slightly to just under \$14,000 for 2018 which is equal to what we achieved in 2017. To meet this goal, it will again be imperative for all members of our congregation to be actively involved in all fundraising efforts with their time, their talent and their financial support.

In 2017, all work areas were diligent in managing their expenditures and the Finance Committee is very grateful for their cooperation. Work area expenses comprise a very small portion of our overall expenses. The chart on the next page is a percentage breakdown of the expense categories for the 2017 budget.

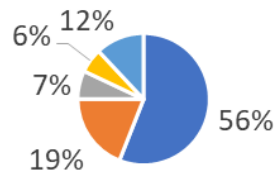
(Continued on Page 4)

2017 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Continued

Expense Category	Expense Category Anticipated Cost	Percentage of Total Expenses
Salary, Payroll, Pension, Healthcare	\$105,552	56%
Utilities, Taxes (non-payroll) & Insurance	\$36,929	19%
Safety Related Items (snow removal, alarm, repairs)	\$12,760	7%
All other expenses	\$11,901	6%
Apportionments	\$22,496	12%

Percentage of Total Expenses



- Salary, Payroll, Pension, Healthcare
- Utilities, Taxes (non-payroll) & Insurance
- Safety Related Items (snow removal, alarm, repairs)
- All other expenses
- Apportionments

An alarming trend that needs to be addressed is our continued reduction of Trustees funds (savings) in order to meet annual operating expenses. This is an issue that needs to be actively addressed and we ask for your prayers and participation as we formulate a plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Clapp

Susan Clapp

Finance Committee Chair

*Editor's Note: This report appears in our 2017 Church Charge Conference Booklet. The Charge Conference Book also contains the 2018 budget that was passed. If you would like a copy of the book, please take one from the Narthex or contact the church office and one will be waiting for your pick-up (mailing of the Charge Conference book is not within budget).

FISH FRY DINNERS



We have just gotten through the Christmas and New Year holidays. Now it's on to Lent and with that brings our **16th Annual Lenten Fish Fry Dinners**. Can you believe that this tradition began that many years ago with a couple of table-top fryers and a handful of volunteers?! Now we have our renovated kitchen, complete with commercial fryers and it takes an "army" of volunteers to make this event run as smoothly as it does!

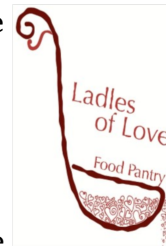
The first dinner of 2018 will take place on Friday, February 16.

Once again, we will be asking for donations of soda, Barilla penne pasta and additional items via our "Sponsor Board", which will be set up in the Narthex. If you wish to make a cash donation, please note "Fish Fry" on your check or envelope.

As always, these events do not happen without your support. Whether you make donations, physically help out with the event, hang flyers/pass the word and/or come and dine with us, we are blessed by you!

LADLES OF LOVE

Donations to our Ladles of Love pantry are welcome at any time. Requested donations to replenish our shelves include peanut butter, juice, canned protein (chicken, tuna or beans), ketchup, mayonnaise, hot & cold cereal, mustard and salad dressing. We have designated the third Sunday of each month to collect food gifts and cash contributions to purchase gift cards during our worship service, but donations are welcome at any time. Our monthly collections will take on January 21 and February 18



Weather Cancellations

Since our pastor lives right next door to the church, we don't *plan* to have worship service cancellations during the winter months. However, should any church event be cancelled, it will be listed on the church answering machine, WTNH (television) and WICC (radio). Please use a "safety first" motto. Don't drive if conditions are unsafe for you!!! We'll see you the following week!

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 7 pm Spiritual Classics 7 pm Boy Scouts	3 5:30 pm Choir 7 pm Finance	4 10 am Upper Room 6:30 Den Meeting 7 pm Regenerate	5 7 pm BS Pack Meeting	6 9 am Lay Servant Class* 10 am-1 pm BS Can & Bottle Drive 10:30 am ACA
7 2 pm MYF	8 6:30 pm Den Meeting 7 pm Trustees	9 10 am History Team 7 pm Boy Scouts	10 4:30 pm Worship Planning 5:30 pm Choir 6:15 pm GS 60829 7 pm BS Committee	11 10 am Upper Room 6:30 Den Meeting 7 pm Regenerate	12 6:30 pm Den Meeting	13 10:30 am ACA
14 2 pm GS Troop 64164	15 6:30 pm Den Meeting	16 7 pm Spiritual Classics 7 pm Boy Scouts	17 5:30 pm Choir	18 10 am Upper Room 6:30 Den Meeting 7 pm Regenerate	19 6:30 pm Den Meeting	20 10:30 am ACA
21 Ladies of Love Soup Sunday Church Council meeting after Fellowship 2 pm MYF	22 6:30 pm Den Meeting 7 pm BS Advancement Meeting	23 10 am History Team 7 pm Boy Scouts	24 5:30 pm Choir 6:15 pm GS 60829	25 10 am Upper Room 6:30 Den Meeting 7 pm Regenerate	26 6:30 pm Den Meeting	27 10:30 am ACA 6 pm Boy Scouts 50th Anniversary Celebration in Wilkinson Hall
28	29 6:30 pm Den Meeting	30 7 pm Boy Scouts	31 5:30 pm Choir	Friday is Pastor Barbara's Personal Day. In case of pastoral need, please call her at (203) 929-5147	<u>EACH SUNDAY</u> 10 am Worship followed by Fellowship and then Christian Education for all ages <u>Office Hours</u> Mon-Thurs 8 am - noon	

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5 7 pm Trustees	6 10 am History Team 7 pm Spiritual Classics w/the Meads 7 pm BS	7 5:30 pm Choir 7 pm Finance	8 10 am Upper Room 6:30 pm BS Den Meeting 7 pm Regenerate	9 6:30 pm Den Meeting	10 10:30 am ACA
2 pm MYF	12	13 7 pm Boy Scouts	14 Ash Wednesday 4:30 pm Worship Planning Team 5:30 pm Choir 6:15 pm GS 60829	15 10 am Upper Room 6:30 pm BS Den Meeting 7 pm Regenerate	16 March-April Messenger Deadline 6:30 pm Den Meeting FISH FRY	17 10:30 am ACA
18 First Sunday in Lent Ladies of Love Soup Sunday	19 6:30 pm Mission Team	20 10 am History Team 7 pm Spiritual Classics w/the Meads 7 pm BS	21 5:30 pm Choir	22 10 am Upper Room 6:30 pm BS Den Meeting 7 pm Regenerate	23 6:30 pm Den Meeting FISH FRY	24 10:30 am ACA
25 9:30 am Summer Worship begins 2 pm GS Troop 64164	26 7 pm BS Advancement Meeting	27 7 pm BS	28 5:30 pm Choir 6:15 pm GS 60829	Information about the Ash Wednesday and the Ecumenical Lenten Services will be published in the weekly Worship Guide and Wednesday Update as the details are released		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JANUARY

1/2 Rich Rollinson
1/4 John Torok
1/6 Judy Laing
1/11 Tina Lahham
1/13 Jack Waterbury
1/14 Amy Trabka
1/16 Bob Yamnicky
1/16 Jan Geist
1/18 Sarah Lynne Folsom
1/18 James Schilkowski, Sr.
1/19 Raymond Quigley
1/22 Leona Keller
1/27 Christine Fitzsimmons
1/30 Charlotte Flaherty
1/30 Art Newberg, Jr.
1/30 Ken Miller
1/31 Nicole Misencik



FEBRUARY

2/1 John Shail
2/3 Chris Cookson
2/4 Grace Jensen
2/5 Michael Shae Conklin
2/6 Alex Jensen
2/6 Zachary Vargas
2/6 Erika Sabovik
2/10 Christian Wood
2/10 Zoe Wood
2/11 Braedon Sagehorn
2/14 Haley Tranner
2/14 Art Newberg III
2/26 Joseph Vargas
2/28 Caroline Klepacky
2/28 Sasha Oja



If your birthday or anniversary falls during these months and it is not listed, please let the office know so that this oversight may be corrected.



*Our Sympathy and Prayers
are extended to
The Family & Friends of
Jimmy Wilson
Rev. Al Miller
Charles Klepacky
Val Righetti*

**The deadline for the
March-April 2018 Messenger
is February 16.**

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Those In Need of Healing	Ruth & John Ovesny	Bob Deshon
The Family & Friends of Val Righetti	Cindy Schilkowski	Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
Family & Friends of Rev. Al Miller	Bob & Roseann Haakerud	Rev. Alpher Sylvester
Marian Taylor	Charles Ovesny, Jr.	Our Homebound Members
Marion Miller	Robyn Bicknell	Shirley Mikita
Angie Pandelos	Jeannette Bouvier	Janet Yamnicky
Vicki Weed	Susan Mendez	Our Members at Wicke
Carolyn Johnson	Debbie Welch	Dot Brown
Trudy Bicknell	David Mikita	Our Member at Shelton Lakes
Harold Keller	The Lubik Family	Barbara Moore
Art Newberg	Carol & Rudy Shook	Our Member at Hewitt
James Weed	Debi Lutinski	Dorothy Russell
Ara Martindale	Mark Lutinski	Our Member at Paradigm Health Center, Prospect
Charlotte Flaherty	John Torok	Lillian Schlump
John & Mary Anne Shail	Rudy Ovesny, Jr.	Our Member at Lord Chamberlain
Rudy Ovesny, Sr.	Bob Waterbury	Joe Kerpchar
Pat Wilson	Mark Evans	
Jackie Cable	Ann & Ernest Spey	
Stuart Oja	Brian Sedgewick	
Alice Clapp	Ross Grant	
Darlene & Don Perillo	Kathryn Duszak	
	Everett Williston	
	Carol Giannettino	
	Barbara Saveski	

If you know of someone who would like a visit from Pastor Barbara, please let the office or Pastor know.

Also, in case of pastoral need after office hours, please call the parsonage at (203) 929-5147 or you can email Pastor at barb_drew@hotmail.com

Save the Date!

Connecticut District Resource Days

Saturday, February 3, 2018 - 9:00 am - noon

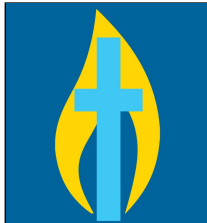
Sunday, February 11, 2018 - 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Please plan to join us for a time of information, inspiration, and opportunities to connect with United Methodists from around our district. More details will be coming soon.



Soup Sundays
January 21
&
February 18

Plans for the Ecumenical Ash Wednesday and weekly Lenten Services have not yet been confirmed. As details are released, they will be posted in the weekly Worship Guides, Wednesday Updates and on our Facebook page.



REGENERATE

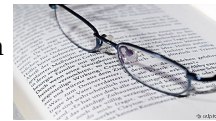
Join us Thursday nights
at 7 pm for coffee and
conversation

regenerate
CONTEMPORARY MUSIC & FELLOWSHIP
COFFEE & CONVERSATION

This intergenerational, informal service of contemporary music and the space to talk about social issues and faith questions welcomes all.

SPIRITUAL CLASSICS BOOK GROUP

The Spiritual Classics Book Group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at John & Leeann Mead's home at 7 pm. If you are interested in joining the group or have other questions, please see John or Leeann.



UPPER ROOM

The "Upper Room" is a non - denominational daily devotional guide that contains meditations that show real people struggling to live faithfully in real life situations with the Bible as a guide. The devotionals are written by people all around the world who share their faith with one another and help believers to move to a deeper faith and level of service.

A welcoming supportive group of individuals seeking devotion, prayer, and fellowship meet throughout the year every Thursday morning from 10-11:30 am in the Giffin Room downstairs by the Sunday School rooms. This group uses the Upper Room magazine and various Bibles. Bring your own Bible or use one from our library. A Bible passage is read along with an accompanying story for the day followed by discussion and sharing. ***Men and women*** are encouraged to bring a friend to share the opportunity to learn, pray, support and be supported and feel the presence of God. Copies of the Upper Room magazine are available in the Narthex. A small donation is greatly appreciated, but not required.



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
OF SHELTON
INVITES YOU TO OUR**

**16th Annual Lenten
Fish Fry Dinners**

**Fridays,
March 3,10,17,24,31,
April 7
Take-out available
5:30-7:00 PM**

Delivery to Wesley Village, Crosby Commons, Asbury Ridge & Gardner Heights available. Please place your order by calling (203) 929-3537 before 3 pm and leave your order on the machine, along with a phone number where you may be reached for order confirmation.

**For more information,
contact the church office
(203) 929-3537 or visit
www.umcshelton.org**

**Proceeds will support the
missions and ministries of
the First UMC Shelton**

Donations are gratefully accepted! There will be a "Sponsor" board in the Narthex, and we can always use name-brand soda, regular & diet and Barilla Penne Pasta. If you see these go on sale, please notify Cindy and she can add it to the Wednesday Update.

**\$16 Adults
\$14 Seniors
\$6 Children 12
& under**



**Fried Cod
Baked Cod
Choice of Potatoes
Ziti in Marinara Sauce
Homemade Coleslaw
Dessert & Coffee
Beverages**





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SHELTON
188 Rocky Rest Road • Shelton • CT • 06484
Phone 203-929-3537
office@umcshelton.org • www.umcshelton.org

calendarlabs.com

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT # 19
Shelton, CT 06484**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Jan-Feb
2018**

Please help us! This newsletter is posted on our web-site. If you do not wish to receive it by mail, contact the church office.