



Yalesville United Methodist Church

Anne Bracket, Pastor

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November- December 2009

Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity

Stress. Anxiety. Fear. These words capture well the state of mind of many of us in America today. We have witnessed dramatic market losses, the collapse of the world's largest insurance company, and many bankruptcies and mergers. Every day seems to bring another piece of economic uncertainty.

A recent survey found that over three in four Americans are stressed about the economy and their personal finances. Half were worried about providing for their family's basic needs. Over half of respondents reported feeling angry and irritable, and reported laying awake at night worried about this. The report concludes that, "The declining state of the nation's economy is taking a physical and emotional toll on people nationwide."

Join us in worship during November for a sermon series entitled *Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the "American Nightmare". Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, lower income growth, and a volatile stock market are all a part of our economic insecurity. We have lived in a society that tells us "you deserve it now," whether or not we can afford it or really even need it.

All of us have struggled with these issues at one time or another. They are important issues that we cannot ignore. This is why, during November, we will be focusing our worship experience on *Enough: Discovering joy Through Simplicity and Generosity*. During this time we will explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management through corporate worship. We'll hear and read expert advice and stories about what others have learned by working through financial challenges.

At the conclusion of the emphasis, we will have the opportunity to make personal commitments of our offerings to God through our church in the coming year. We will consecrate these commitments in the worship service on November 22.

I hope you will join us in the coming weeks as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience simplicity, generosity, and joy.

Pastor Anne

Lay Leader's Message - A Double Header

There is a double header coming to Yalesville United Methodist Church on November 8th.

Let me explain. In addition to our worship services on Sunday morning at 8:30AM and 10AM - we have a special worship service at 3:00PM in the afternoon. A double header!

--or it could be stated that the special worship service is a double header in itself. How is that you ask. This special worship service will be led by our new District Superintendent, Kenneth Kieffer. Rev. Kieffer is making the visit to our sanctuary to provide a special installation service of our new pastor, Rev Anne Bracket. A double header !

Please mark the afternoon on your calendar and plan to be with us at 3PM. It will be a very special afternoon of worship and celebration. Following a special service of worship and installation, we will complete the celebration with light refreshments after the service. This will be an exciting opportunity to meet & greet our new "DS". Let's fill our sanctuary with joyous celebration as we bid welcome to our newly appointed District Superintendent, Kenneth Kieffer.

See you there!!
In His Service,
Gail Powell, Lay Leader

Attention All Youth in the 8th Grade

For all youth in 8th grade or above who are interested in exploring confirmation in the United Methodist Church, please contact Pastor Anne. Confirmation Classes will begin after the New Year and there are some things you need to do before then.

Doorbell

We have installed a doorbell at the new parking lot entrance and at the side entrance opening to New Place Street. Why, you ask? Often times Anne, Dolores, Gail, Carrie and Al are alone working in the building. Because of suspicious activity in the neighborhood it seemed prudent to keep the doors locked when someone was there alone. So if the door is locked, and you see evidence of a person working inside, ring the bell.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Week of November 1st

Kenneth and Muriel Creed

Candace Jones

Anthony, Lori, Becca and Nicholas Potvin

Michael, Jeanine, Madeline and Christopher

DeLucia

Week of November 8th

Raymond and Barbara Crew

Jeffrey and Maria Joy

Gary and Gail Powell

Eileen Dickinson

Week of November 15th:

Andrew and Gail DeBoer

Brian, Christina, Shane and Austin Kaplan

John Pregler

Bob, Dotty and David Rooney

Week of November 22nd

Linda Dechert

Nancy Kaplan

Vicki and Marc Rapanault

William Dickinson

Week of November 22nd

Linda Dechert

Nancy Kaplan

Vicki and Marc Rapanault

William Dickinson

Week of November 29th

Robert and Atticus DeLeon and Rachel Boccio

Todd, Casey, Caden and Brady Kennedy

Charles, Sharon, Jenna and Nicholas Kent

Margaret Bender

Week of December 6th

David King, Nicole Pennella and Quinlin

Margaret Reed

Priscilla Reynolds

Toby, Susan, Callahan and Tanner Rhodes

Week of December 13th

Scott, Tammy and Cameron Casson and Justine
and Jessee Mcinerney

Joe Gagnon

Deanna McElroy

Anne Bracket

**Safe Sanctuaries
Covenant Statement**

Yalesville United Methodist Church

The Yalesville United Methodist Church is mindful that our church is a holy place of sanctuary for ALL children of God. We are committed to establish an environment where people of all ages can gather for worship, fellowship, study, and service with the assurance of being safe and physically and emotionally secure in a community of faith.

The work of the Safe Sanctuary Committee continues. The committee is on target with its stated goal to prepare and to present a Safe Sanctuary Policy to the body of the church at the December Charge Conference.

Leading this article is the Covenant Statement for the policy, which illuminates the purpose of the new policy. At the October meeting, we moved forward with the creation of the Policy. After the policy is presented and accepted by the Charge Conference, we will proceed to “put meat on the bones” with the creation of the necessary procedures

It is important to understand we will see numerous changes in how activities are performed. These changes are brought about by the need to (not only) satisfy insurance requirements; but also to make the body of the church: our members, constituents and visitors, realize that the safety and protection of our youth and those who work with our youth is of primary importance.

The committee requests your continued prayers and support as they move forward with this challenging and very important work.

In Christ,
Gail Powell
Convener, Safe Sanctuaries

Calling all Acolytes

If you know someone who would like to serve as an acolyte during Sunday morning worship at the 10AM service, let us know. We hope to compile a list of all those interested in participating in this capacity. We will then announce a date for training and setting a schedule for volunteers. For more information, speak with Pastor Anne or Gail Powell.

We welcome your service.

HELP WANTED

We need volunteers to rake and bag leaves, winterize the gardens and do general clean up on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9am (or earlier) to noon. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathereing Area but you don't need to sign up to come and help out. Please bring rakes and tools you think would be helpful. Refreshments will be available to keep you going.

HELP WANTED

The Quasi Kitchen Committee could use a few more cooks, sandwich makers, servers and cleaner uppers. When do they work? Well, the first Wednesday Luncheons, special "coffee +" events at our church as well as receptions for funeral and memorial services. You wouldn't need to work every event unless you'd like to, but show your willingness to be called upon when needed. Upcoming events.... First Wednesday Luncheons, Special 3 p.m. service on Nov. 8, the reception following the Community Thanksgiving Service, as well as events that come up suddenly and we don't have much planning time. Please talk to Nancy Eddy if you would be willing to help out.

Apple Pies!

Debbie Sopchak is selling apple pies for Asbury United Methodist Church in Forestville. These are homemade by a group of church members. They are frozen, unbaked pies weighing a whopping 3 pounds. There are also a limited number of pies made with Splenda instead of sugar. They are 11.00 each. Great for Thanksgiving and Christmas, or just a special dessert night. Pick up at church the week after you order, but don't wait, they go fast! Baking directions are included.



ADVENT STUDY

Advent Study on Monday mornings at Masonic at 10 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at the parsonage beginning at 7:30 will be *Advent of a Savior*. These six sessions will introduce you to the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus, remind you of God's faithfulness and power to fulfill his promises, and draw you more deeply into the love that brought Christ to earth. The studies will begin the week following Thanksgiving and continue through Epiphany (Three Kings Day) The cost of the book is \$8.00. Sign-up sheets will be in the gathering area in November.



Ministries- Our Church at Work

Trustees

The Trustee sponsored "**Volunteer Fall Clean-Up**" will be held **Saturday morning, Nov. 7**. Other projects include replacing the outside door in the old Social Hall and repair of the roof above it, installing better lighting in the Parsonage basement, and getting estimates for repair of the old Parking Lot which is cracked and crumbling in some areas. If you know anyone who does repairs such as needed here, please let any Trustee know. The Trustees voted to underwrite the cost of starting a new Church website. For many families new to the area, the first place to seek out churches and church information is through an online search. A vibrant and welcoming site with pictures and information about staff and activities often brings visitors and possibly new members.

Building Fund

In these times of economic stress, please continue to support the Building Fund with your pledged or renewed gifts. The Trustees took over the obligation of the new building mortgage from the bank. It is in the monthly repayment, your gifts and pledges that provide funds for Trustee expenses such as maintenance contracts, repairs, plowing, insurance and many other basic expenses. Thank you.

Nancy Lindsay

Rummage Sale

A special thanks to those many people who helped in preparation for the Sale, baked and cooked for the Sale and came to clean up after the Sale. Without all your help it would not have been a successful endeavor.

Nancy Lindsay

Thank you to all who supported our Breakfast Run into Manhattan on Sunday, October 18. We made 1 stop and served about 60 people with hot breakfast sandwiches, fruit, bagels, coffee, and orange juice. Toiletry bags were given as well. Thank you to Rosie Garcia, Edie Claussen, Dottie Rooney, Jim Chace and Ray Heald for braving the weather! **Our next run is scheduled for the night of December 29 with the New Canaan and Wilton churches- details will be coming!**

Ray Heald

Outreach

The Outreach Team has a very exciting schedule of events planned for the next couple of months.

November 1, 2009 – Heifer Learning Center – Overlook Farm

All in the congregation are invited for a field trip to Heifer's Learning Center at Overlook Farm, located in Rutland, MA. The programs offer the extraordinary opportunity for people to **experience some of the challenges of global hunger and poverty** – and come away with a re-energized determination to be part of the solution.

Heifer Learning Center at Overlook Farm is one opportunity to experience Heifer's educational efforts. Education opportunities include Overlook Farm tours, Global Village immersion experiences, Service-Learning programs and more! Experiential, hands-on, interactive and fun, Overlook is also a working example of the sustainable agriculture Heifer supports around the world.

The trip is planned for Sunday, November 1st (weather permitting). We will leave from the Church at 11:30 am. Please plan on packing a brown bag lunch. We should arrive at the farm around 1:00 pm. Also plan on wearing the proper foot ware for walking around (it may be muddy). If it is too cold and rainy (or snowy) we will reschedule the trip for the spring.

If you are able to help out with driving, please see Maria Joy.

November 22, 2009 – Adopt a Family for the Holidays – Wallingford Youth and Social Services

We will be sponsoring 4 families in coordination with Wallingford Youth and Social Services. In the next couple of weeks we will be receiving the "wish lists" for the families. By Sunday, November 22nd, the Christmas tree will be up and decorated with handmade ornaments with gift suggestions. Please select an ornament from the tree and purchase the item indicated. Use the ornament as the gift tag when you return the gift. Gifts will be delivered December 15th – December 21st.

November 24, 2009 – Community Thanksgiving Service – hosted by YUMC @ 7:00 pm.

Light refreshments following the service.

December 6, 13, 20, 2009 – Heifer Gift Cards

Do you have a family member or friend that is impossible to buy a gift for? They have everything? We have the perfect gift...a donation to Heifer in their name. You can then send them a card (an E-card or printed card).

An Outreach Team member will be manning a table following the services on December 6th, 13th and 20th.

December 29, 2009 – Midnight Run

More information to follow. Please see Sue Heald if you have any questions.

There will be announcements and postings with details as we get closer to the events. If you have any questions or would like to help out with any of the events, please see Maria Joy.

Yalesville United Methodist Women

On October 12th we were rewarded with an excellent speaker, Cynthia Ann Kent, originally from the Ute tribe of Native American Indians. We thank Joyce Kowalczyk for arranging this visit, Jan Barillaro for reciting her own poem/prayer as Devotions and Margaret Brown and Priscilla Reynolds for serving refreshments. Also thank you for coming!

So many of our programs appeal to both sexes. Men are always welcome. They can skip the devotions and business meeting during the first half hour, 7-7:30 PM , but it's OK if they come early or late.

Mayor Bill Dickinson will speak to us on **November 9, 2009** on a variety of interesting issues in Wallingford and will answer questions. Sharon Tarca will open the meeting with devotions. Hostesses are Gail Walker and Vicki Thulin.

THE HOLIDAY FAIR , a fund raiser for the YUMW, will be held **Nov.14, 2009**, 9AM to 2PM. We welcome all handcrafts, jewelry, holiday decorations, baked goods, trinkets, and a list of foods needed for lunch will be available at church services in November. The YUMW is very generous in MISSION work, but that depends mainly on the success of this HOLIDAY FAIR.

The Christmas Program, arranged by Ginny Towle, will be held on December 14, 2009. A series of prose and music will enhance our spirituality at the time of year we need Christ's Love rather than an hour fighting for the best buy at the Mall. Our hostesses are Vicki Gerace and Charleen Poglitsch. PLEASE COME!

SPECIAL SERVICE

On Sunday, Nov. 8 at 3 there will be a special service in our Sanctuary to honor our new District Superintendent as well as a formal service to recognize Anne Bracket as the new pastor of the Yalesville United Methodist Church. To make this special, the Kitchen Committee and the United Methodist Women contributed funds for a new robe for Anne as she serves in Yalesville. At the service the choir will have special music and will also provide refreshments. Please plan to come and officially welcome Anne and the new DS.

Sunday School News

We will be beginning our second unit in Sunday school very soon. It is entitled "Isiah (fulfilling the prophecy)". The Isaiah unit uses the Bible story included in Isaiah 7:14; 9:2, 6; 11:1-9. Long before Jesus was born, the Hebrew people were living in a time of great strife and unrest, and they longed for peace and hope. Their prophets told them of a promised Messiah, a gift from God. The Messiah would be a savior who would care for them as a shepherd cares for sheep. The promise was like a light leading them out of the darkness. This unit teaches the concepts that:

- Jesus was the promised Messiah, God's representative in the earthly kingdom.
- Isaiah, a prophet whose name means "God has saved," told the people of God's promise to send a savior to help them.
- The promise of a Messiah filled the people with hope and peace.
- We can share the hope, peace, and love of Jesus with others.
- During Advent we tell the stories of Jesus' birth, God's promise fulfilled.

We also had 2 special programming sessions in October in which the children made Christmas tree ornaments. We are hoping to sell our ornaments at the November fair (calling all grandparents!). Keep an eye open for more information regarding dates and times.

We are in need of assistants for Sunday school. Assistants are not required to attend every Sunday and are not required to perform any preparation. If you have a couple of hours to share or have a teenager in need of community service, we could use your help.

As always, if you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please feel free to speak with myself, Janet Haller or any of the Sunday school staff.

Roxanne Cofiell

Witness

The Witness team met on October 5, with a full agenda.

Our annual church picnic was a great success! With a couple of changes, with the date and the location due to weather, we had a great turnout. A good time was had by all!!

We discussed new ideas for a welcoming gift for visitors to our church. While friendship breads have been wonderful, we are thinking of ways in which the welcoming gift can be made well ahead of time. Many great ideas were discussed and the committee, along with Pastor Anne, will continue to research ideas, with the plan being to change the style in January. We will keep you posted!

(continued)

Witness (continued):

Being such a tight knit community, our visitation of home bound and ill patients continues to grow. We discussed plans to begin more lay people visitation, both in an effort to assist Pastor Anne, and as a way to keep our members feeling connected. Anyone interested in visitation, either informal or training as an Interfaith Caregiver, please see a member of the Witness team. This is also a wonderful opportunity for families to connect with some of our home bound members.

The witness team, along with other members of our church, are looking for opportunities to help with anyone who may need a ride to church, either for Sunday services, or for special functions. Anyone who would like to have numbers they can call for rides, please see a committee member.

We will again be having an Informal Carol Sing on December 27, in the sanctuary. This will be a time to sing all your favorite Christmas hymns, along with any other Christmas songs you choose. Please plan on attending this fun fellowship event.

We are always looking for new ways to keep our church family connected and involved, so if you have any ideas, please be sure to let us know!

The Witness Committee