



TIDINGS

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2011

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Living in the Circle of Life

February 17, 2011

Dear friends,

In this time and age, with anger, hopelessness and frustration seeming to dominate our news and culture, I am so privileged to be part of a story of hope and renewal. I share this story with you because you have played a part in this miracle through your loving support and prayers.

My sister in law, Marilou, suffered catastrophic kidney failure in late 2004 as a result of Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD), the same disease that attacked my mother in law, Mabel, years before. It's an ugly disease, typically striking its victims in their 50's, but sometimes earlier.

I started talking with Marilou almost immediately after the death of my brother-in-law Rusty at the age of 49 about the prospect of being a donor for her. I knew my blood type and hers were not

compatible but had heard about the idea of kidney swap programs.

Marilou at first resisted the idea and told me that she'd rather I hang on to my kidney so Thomas (her son) could have it if he needed it.

In late 2007, Marilou's PKD had advanced to the point where removal of her damaged kidneys became necessary to ensure the health of surrounding organs. Surgery was successful but the doctors found a cancerous tumor in one of the kidneys. The cancer was completely contained within the kidney and no other treatment was needed. While removal of the kidney was the "cure" for this cancer, the simple fact of the cancer's existence meant her removal from the transplant waiting list for a minimum of two years. In addition to this stunning delay, home dialysis had ceased to work, and she now needed hemo. Don't get me wrong,

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Dear NUMC,

Easter comes late this year, and we begin observance of the season of Lent in the month of March. This is a rare occurrence, but occasionally happens, as when several observances occur on the same day as it did last year – Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday and Bible Sunday. It doesn't happen that way every year, but it does happen and I encourage us all to be flexible enough to live in the here and now and attend to the things of God, as is our promise as the people of God.

Attending to the things of God involves a daily re-commitment to God and I would like to invite you to join me in a solemn observance of Lent this year, an observance that is meaningful and that sparks a recommitment to Christian values and lifestyle. Let us look together at what God is calling us to do in this day and age. Now, some of us when we hear a call to recommitment think that our lives are somehow going to be dull and uninteresting. That could not be further from the truth. God is always revealing himself in new and exciting ways to a vari-

Letter from the Pastor's Desk



ety of people, and so we can listen in and look in on what God is doing in the universe and become a part of that revelation.

For example, in early February, NASA scientists received photographs of far reaches of the universe that they had not imagined existed. Scientists did not set out to look for these planets, but discovered them because they had sent out a probe to see what was "out there". Included among this discovery were 54 new planets that might be habitable to humans, and a possible 1235 new planets outside earth's solar system! I find that amazing and proof positive that there is so much more that we have to learn, that God has so much more of himself to reveal to us.

And so we must make ourselves available

Continued on top of p. 2

to God so that God can reveal himself to us. We must not make the mistake that God is somehow silent, or has stopped revealing himself. We must be open to all the wonderful knowledge that is waiting for us to discover. Part of that discovery is self-discovery – finding out what we are capable of doing with God's help. And we can only receive God's help when we seek it for it.

We must not make the mistake that God is somehow silent, or has stopped revealing himself. We must be open to all the wonderful knowledge that is waiting for us to discover.

regular and

and ask

Through prayer meditation,

through fasting from the world's negative influences and feasting on spiritual influences we can draw closer to God. We can observe the solemn and penitential season of Lent by setting aside time from our busy schedules to give some time to the God who has created and continues to sustain a universe that is far too complex for us to understand fully with our human minds.

We begin our Lenten observance with a service of worship on Wednesday evening March 9. As a community we will observe the season together as we pray with each other and grow together with each other through the season until we reach the observance of Resurrection Sunday and celebrate our identity as Easter people. I look forward to this time ahead. Please join me.

Blessings,

Pastor Laurel

The **MACC Food Pantry**
We especially need: meat soups, beef stew, canned meat, pasta sauce, cereal, corn, peas, tomatoes, baked beans, baking mixes and coffee, diapers sizes 4 & 5, corned beef hash, chili with beans, canned white potatoes, juice, rice/pasta mixes, jelly, mixed vegetables, spinach, clam chowder, peanut butter, canned pasta (ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, etc.), condiments, tuna, dry boxed potatoes, dry red kidney beans, mayonnaise, gelatin/pudding mixes, ramen noodles, sugar, green beans, beets, beans (black, white, pinto, etc.), chicken soup, yams, snacks, hot chocolate, pasta, carrots.

Thanks to all who have been faithfully donating!



Stewardship corner

Planning a Vacation?

Vacation planning is exciting! Before leaving, we remember to stop the newspaper, turn the hot water heater down, set up security lighting, pack the right clothes and so on.

One more important thing needs to be reviewed. Is your will or living trust up to date? If you can check off the items on this estate planning checklist, you really are ready for a time away.

1. I have a will or living trust.
2. My immediate survivors know where my will or trust is located.
3. My executor is still capable and qualified to serve.
4. I have appointed qualified guardians for my minor children.
5. My executor can find the information necessary to settle my estate.
6. My attorney has recently reviewed my will or trust to ensure compliance with tax changes.
7. My survivors' financial needs have been reviewed.

8. My minor children's financial benefits are provided for in a trust.
9. My survivors know who to consult in decision-making situations.

I have made my specific charitable wishes and bequests known. Giving your will or trust a check up is an excellent annual practice – even if your vacation doesn't involve travel this year. With changes in legislation, health and personal situations, you want to make sure that your planning adequately reflects your desires. Appropriate attention to these issues today can help avoid stress, heartache, and unnecessary expense, and you can experience an enjoyable and relaxing vacation.

Adapted from Crescendo Interactive, Inc. © Copyright 2010

When I chased after money, I never had enough. When I got my life on purpose and focused on giving of myself and everything that arrived into my life, then I was prosperous. Wayne Dyer

We are always in a season of celebration. This month we celebrate women. March is Women's History Month a time set aside to honor the contributions of women to our experience.

Women's History Month is a secular celebration, but I would take this opportunity to highlight women in the history of Christianity and their contributions to the spread of the gospel around the world. There are so many women to celebrate and limited space in which to do so, so I will choose three women who represent different eras in the church's history and highlight their contributions.

Perpetua and Felicity were both martyred in the year 203 for their Christian faith. Perpetua was a noblewoman and Felicity her slave. Both were believers. Perpetua wrote her own account of her stay in prison: While in prison awaiting her trial, a vision assured her of her approaching martyrdom: Perpetua saw herself treading on a dragon's head and ascending a perilous bronze ladder leading to green meadows, where a flock of sheep was grazing. Perpetua's father, hearing that the trial of the imprisoned Christians would soon take place, visited their dungeon and besought her not to bring this disgrace on their name; but Perpetua remained steadfast. The next day the trial of the six took place, before the Procurator Hillinarius. The six (there were four other Christians in the group) resolutely confessed their Christian faith. Perpetua's father, carrying her child in his arms, approached her again and attempted, for the last time, to induce her to apostatize. The procurator also remonstrated with her, but in vain. She refused to sacrifice to the gods. The procurator thereupon had the father removed by force; in the process he was struck with a whip. The Christians were then condemned to be torn to pieces by wild beasts, for which they gave thanks to God.



Celebrating Women

Mary Jane McLeod Bethune (July 10, 1875 – May 18, 1955) was an American educator and civil rights leader best known for starting a school for African-American students in Daytona Beach, Florida, that eventually became Bethune-Cookman University and for being an advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



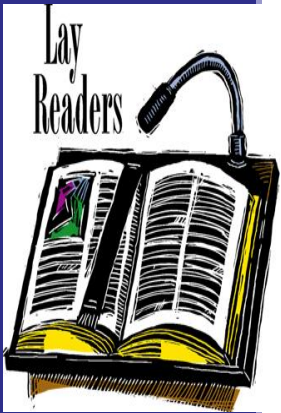
Born in South Carolina to parents who had been slaves and having to work in fields at age five, she took an early interest in her own education. With the help of benefactors, Bethune attended college hoping to become a missionary in Africa. When that did not materialize, she started a school for black girls in Daytona Beach. From six students it grew and merged with an institute for black boys and eventually became the Bethune-Cookman School. Its quality far surpassed the standards of education for black students, and rivaled those of white schools. Bethune worked tirelessly to ensure funding for the school, and used it as a showcase for tourists and donors, to exhibit what educated black people could do. She was president of the college from 1923 to 1942 and 1946 to 1947, one of the few women in the world who served as a college president at that time. Bethune was also active in women's clubs, and her leadership in them allowed her to become nationally prominent. She worked for the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932, and became a member of Roosevelt's Black Cabinet, sharing the concerns of black people with the Roosevelt administration while spreading Roosevelt's message to blacks, who had been traditionally Republican voters. Upon her death, columnist Louis E. Martin said, "She gave out faith and hope as if they were pills and she some sort of doctor." She was a member of the Methodist Church South. Bethune-Cookman College is a United Methodist related institution of higher learning.

Bishop Leontine Kelly, pioneer religious leader, comes from a family of Methodist ministers. Her life as high school social studies teacher, mother of four and wife of a Methodist minister was like that of many other women until her husband's death in 1969. Kelly then received her own "call" to ordained ministry. After studying at Wesley Theological Seminary and Union Theological Seminary, she received her degree in divinity and became an ordained minister. She was pastor of two churches, held several important positions in the United Methodist Church, and gained a reputation as an excellent administrator and dynamic preacher.



In 1983, Kelly became Assistant General Secretary in the area of Evangelism for the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1984, the Western Jurisdictional Conference of the United Methodist Church elected her to the episcopacy, the first African-American woman to be elected bishop in her denomination. She served as bishop of the California-Nevada Annual Conference and as president of the Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops. She was the chief administrative officer and spiritual leader of more than 100,000 United Methodists in California and Nevada.

After retiring in 1988, Kelly served as visiting and adjunct professor of religion at several universities and she continues to speak and teach throughout the United States and the world. Bishop Kelly was born in 1920.



LITURGISTS

9:00 am

6th Lorrie Rowe
 13th **NO Service**
 20th Judy Morton
 27th Vickie Hadge

10:30 am

6th Tony Adamczyk
 13th Wayne Canipe
 20th Elaine Law
 27th Steve Hadge

We welcome anyone interested in serving as a liturgist to contact Diana Custer at 875-9805.

Responsibilities of the liturgist: lead responsive readings, read the scripture lesson, and assist with communion if assigned on the first Sunday of the month.



USHERS/GREETERS

9:00 am

6th Jack Bertrand
 John Chadwick
 13th **NO 9:00 am Service**
 20th Paula Smith
 Pam Craparotta
 27th Linda Gates
 Glenn Law

10:30 am

6th Bob Pelletier
 Roger Edinger
 13th Paula Smith
 John Chadwick
 20th Wayne Canipe
 MaryAnna Stephens
 27th Paula & Tony
 Adamczyk

We welcome anyone interested in serving as an usher to contact Paula Smith at 643-6597.

Responsibilities of Ushers/Greeters: Welcome members and visitors at the door, hand out bulletins, count attendees, collect the offering, and direct people to the altar table on Communion Sunday.

Be available to answer questions of visitors, show them to classrooms for Church School.

Ushers/Greeters should arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of service.



Fellowship

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Individuals and groups are invited to please volunteer and sign-up in the Memorial Room to provide fellowship refreshments between and after services on Sunday mornings.

Thank you!



Responsibilities of providing Fellowship: Bring a quart of whole milk for use with coffee and tea, and a healthy snack to share.

North Church is a NUT FREE zone.

Set aside a plate of snack for the pastor on the kitchen island. Set-up coffee to brew, hot water for Tea and Hot Chocolate, a pitcher of juice, 2 containers of milk, and sugar/sugar substitute, napkins, and plates if needed. Fellowship is served after the service. Clean-up after fellowship time (approx. 11 am) includes washing out pots and containers and returning them to their place in the kitchen, and wiping down tables in the Memorial Room. **If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please speak with Angela McCartney at 860-533-0413.**

COUNTERS



OFFERING COUNTERS

6th Jane Hopkins
Barbara Judd

20th Les VanDine
Collins Judd

13th Tim LePore
Harry Arendt

27th Jan Miller
Judy Starkweather

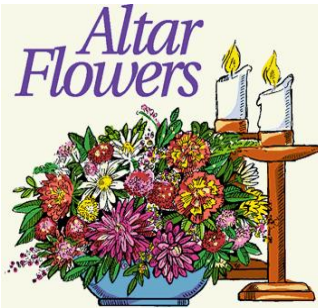
Responsibilities of Counters: Counters work in teams of two and are responsible for counting the offering on Sunday morning directly following the 10:30 worship service.

Any interested in volunteering should contact Jim Glass, Finance Chair, at 643-9201.

Over 50's Fellowship

The Over 50's will not meet during the winter months. Our next meeting will be in April, 2011.

Questions may be directed to
Linda Gates
860-647-9756



Flowers are a wonderful way to acknowledge the Memory of a Loved One or to Celebrate a special person or occasion. Forms are available in the Memorial Room to make such requests. If you have any questions or prefer to order by phone, please contact our Flower Steward, Doris Timbrell at 860-649-6494.

Cleaning for a Reason

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides **FREE** housecleaning - once per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

<http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

Great information. You may not know someone going through chemo, but someone on your email list might.



Food Drive for MACC

Can we collect 100 bags of groceries for MACC between now and April 10th? The Outreach/Mission Committee believes we can! Starting next Sunday, we will be placing the donated bags of groceries on the altar and then storing them until the BIG DAY on Sunday April 10th.

Everyone is invited to join the committee on Sunday afternoon, April 10th to deliver the bags to the MACC Food Pantry. We will then sort the food, check the expiration dates, and stock the pantry shelves. Jacki Campion, Director of Volunteer Services, will be on hand to explain a little about how the pantry works.

Several people have expressed an interest in seeing where their donated food goes and how the food pantry operates. This is also a wonderful opportunity to involve the children in giving to those in need.

We expect this will run from about 1:30 to 2:30 or 3:00.

We hope you will be inspired during this Lenten season to think of your neighbors who may be struggling during the economic downturn. James 2:8 reminds us: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself".

More information will be forthcoming as to times and logistics.



Birthdays of the Month

5th Dot Chadwick
Ryan Harris

6th Paula Smith
Rob Arendt

7th Alec Haynes

12th Joan Byron

15th Caleb Cadman

17th Alanna Haynes

21st Katelyn Gagnon
Ashley Lepack

25th Judy Galligan

30th Jan Miller

31st Melissa Lepack

Birthday Blessings to everyone!



NORTH UMC will host BLOOD DRIVES

MARCH 10 AND 24

DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED. CALL 1-800- GIVE LIFE
(1-800-448-3543) to schedule an appointment.
Volunteers are needed to monitor the building during the drives.
Please sign-up in the Memorial Room to help out.

Questions may be directed to Pastor Laurel.



***REMINDER**

**Please wear name tags
every Sunday.**

*Anyone in need of a name tag,
please note it on the back of your
attendance slip on Sunday morning
and one will be made for you.*

Next Issue of **TIDINGS** is
APRIL

All articles for the
December Issue are due on

TUESDAY
MARCH 15

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
RE M I N D E R :
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS
TUESDAY, MARCH 15**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Ministry meetings are the first and third Monday of each month.

MARCH 7 AND 21

We thank all our members for their work. We have a nice supply of prayer shawls, and a good head start on lap rugs for the VNA Hospice Christmas baskets. We have made baby blankets, hats and booties for MMH birthing center, and red bed blankets for the MMH ICU. This fall we will be considering some additional charities to which we may donate. New members are always welcome as are items from those who prefer to work at home.

For more information contact: Paula Adamczyk 860-646-6609;

Sue Derby 860-643-4589; Diana Custer 860-875-9805.





CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, March 13th
One Service at 10:30 am

Directly following the worship service, there will be a congregational meeting led by Pastor Laurel. Please note the date and plan to attend. Extended care for Sunday School children will be provided.



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



Thank you to everyone for observing the following requests at all worship times.

Please set cell phones to **off/silent** during worship services.

Food and beverages are to remain in the Memorial Room.

Please, water only allowed in the sanctuary.



Food and Beverages
in Memorial Room only



MACC has a Prayer Cycle in which there is a specific church designated for each Sunday throughout the year. Please include the appropriate church and congregation in your prayers. Thank you.

March 6 Church of the Assumption

March 13 First Hispanic Baptist Church (of Manchester)

March 20 South United Methodist Church

March 27 Church of the Living God

April 3 Catholic Community of St. Bridget

April 10 Church of the Nazarene

April 17 Trinity Covenant Church

April 24 Emanuel Lutheran Church

May 1 St. Paul's Collegiate Church

FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN

- Judy, Bob (friends of Jim Glass)
- Jim (Sue Derby's father)
- Barbara Witham
- Judy Starkweather Doris Ernst
- James Lapenta Mikayla Gaboury
- Vicky Ladabouche
- Marian (friend of Grace Didan)
- Pam Craparotta, Joan Hopkins

Prayers for those suffering with-Cancer:

- Sheila, Ann, Beth, Elliot, Betty,
- Nick, Rachael, Charlotte, Janet,
- Muriel, Miriam, Anita, Garry,
- Lena, Karin, Jane, Kathryn

FELLOWSHIP AND FUNDRAISING



FUNDRAISING EVENT

An evening of Dinner Theater is in the planning.

Mark your calendars for
FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011

An interactive theater experience awaits you while you dine at the
Manchester Country Club.

Ticket prices and time is yet to be determined. Updates in future issues of Tidings.
Save the date and invite family and friends to join you!

MARCH / APRIL SCHEDULE



Sunday, March 6th

Youth Group dinner for parents.

April—"Rebuilding Together" date to be determined

Questions may be directed to Tim and Charlene—860-291-8909

WORSHIP Focus Group Meetings

Members and friends of North Church are invited and encouraged to attend upcoming sessions of Worship Focus groups which will be offered throughout the month of March. These groups will consist of 8 to 10 people and run for 90 minutes. There will be weeknight sessions, and Sunday afternoon sessions offered.



We are recruiting volunteers to help with sessions. There is a sign-up sheet in the Memorial Room.

Volunteers will be required to attend a special instructional meeting (date to be determined) prior to the beginning of the start date for meetings, which is March 14.

Hosts will make calls to invite individuals (using a provided script) to sessions. They will also provide light refreshments for their assigned meeting date and be responsible for the set-up and clean-up.

A **Facilitator** will explain the Statement of Purpose of the sessions and will lead the discussion helping with: guiding people to remain on topic, clarifying comments, and running the session in a timely manner.

A **Note Taker** will record the comments of discussion and type them up after the meeting.

Hosts may attend their scheduled meeting as a participant.

Facilitators and note takers are asked to attend an additional session as participants.

Sunday Meetings will have childcare available as needed.

Questions may be directed to: Pastor Laurel, Deb Tedford, or Karen Arendt.
Thank you.





**Choir Members
Welcome!**

**CHANCEL CHOIR
PrISM -Praise In Song Ministry
PRAISE BAND**

North Church is very fortunate to have two choirs witness each Sunday morning.

We invite, encourage, and welcome new members to join these music ministries at any time. We are an eclectic group with a wide range of abilities—no prior music training necessary. Come—sing to the Lord!

Please speak with any member of the choirs or with our Music Director, Chris Collins, for more information. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings.



Scrip is Fundraising
While You Shop!™



SCRIPS

Gift Card sales were up significantly in November and December. Thank you to everyone who purchased. Please pass along to others

how easy it is to participate, and that you are donating to the church at the same time! We're not asking anyone to spend money that they are not already spending.

Please do NOT focus on the individual store percentages and base decisions on that. Simply check the SCRIP list for participating stores, and please plan to purchase a gift card before your next visit to that store.

Some FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) with answers:

Are these the only companies to choose from:

No. There are approximately 550 different companies that participate in this program. **The list is available at the Scrip table after services.** You can also go online to www.shopwithscrip.com to take a look at the different companies. While online you can enroll in the program, keep reading for details.

What's the catch? There is no catch. These companies offer gift cards and pay a percentage of the purchase price as a donation to non-profit organizations. The only thing you must remember is that the gift cards are available in certain denominations. We have a print-out at the Scrips table so that it can be looked up.

Does it cost me any more? Absolutely not. I keep telling people this is "giving without giving" because you get the full price of what you are paying on the gift card. If you purchase a ShopRite card for \$25.00 then the card is worth \$25.00 at that establishment. We take your check for \$25 and deposit it and they debit our account for each gift card less each percentage that each company offers. So, we are not only getting the percentage, but we don't have to wait for the money to be sent back to us!

Do we have any gift cards available for immediate purchase? Yes! We are now carrying some inventory for instant gratification.

How do I pay for the gift cards? You write a check for your entire purchase to North United Methodist Church. You may want to write "scrips or gift cards" in the memo for your own record keeping.

Can I pay with a credit card? No. I'm sorry, but we aren't able to accept credit or debit cards for the Scrip program.

Can I order on-line: Yes!!!! Please visit www.shopwithscrip.com and enroll your family and use the following code: 34ECFECDD22752 when enrolling. You can order your gift cards in your home and Anita Haynes will add them to the weekly order. You will owe the money when you pick up your cards. Anita orders the gift cards Monday mornings so that we will receive the shipment for the next Sunday.

If anyone has any additional questions, please do not hesitate to talk to Anita Haynes in the Memorial Room after each service or call 860-712-9991.

I would like to thank all the "regulars" for using the Scrip gift card program.

Your planning and involvement has made this a real success for our church!

dialysis is a miracle – it maintains life, but it isn't really living.

The most devastating news was still to come, however, when in the first week of 2008, we were shattered by the loss of our beautiful Thomas, Marilou's only child and the center of her universe. Thomas was 20 years old – his whole life ahead of him, and we lost him to a senseless accident of circumstance. No one could have seen it coming and it happened in the blink of an eye. Following that loss, my sense of cosmic balance was absolutely destroyed. How could we ever recover? While I can never fully know Marilou's pain, my own is still bright and sharp and very real.

Upon his death, Marilou validated Thomas' wishes to be a transplant donor, and the hospital acted on those wishes. Thomas' tissue and bones have helped a number of recipients. Marilou has received letters from several families receiving those gifts. Although the letters were hard to read, they have also brought some comfort.

Fast forward to 2010. Marilou has survived and even managed to work, but her vascular system is increasingly damaged by the assault of the dialysis needles. Finally (desperately), she is willing to actively entertain my offer of paired donation. I register with Yale as a donor in the summer, and the testing begins. Marilou, likewise, gets busy with all the medical testing and procedures necessary to be cleared for surgery. I'm cleared as a donor in December and we are registered during Christmas week in something called the New England Paired Kidney Exchange program. The idea is that we will find another pair with opposite blood types to be our "double date" for a live transplant. We are run through the database but find no match. The transplant unit at Yale registers us with the national paired exchange program too, but still there is no miracle match.

So, after 45 days we are allowed to move to another program called a "list exchange" where I agree to give my kidney to a recipient waiting on my blood type list and Marilou is elevated to the #1 position on her list. Marilou is terrified by this option and the thought of my donation happening without a guarantee, and we are both somewhat saddened by the fact that this new route will mean that Marilou's donor will come to us out of tragedy rather than through the gift of a willing, live donor as we had hoped. Despite these worries, we push ahead.

And so, on January 31st, I am officially told of my move to the list exchange program and they find my match. My recipient is to be a woman in her 40s who has been waiting on the transplant list for eight long years. She has four children so her body has built up a number of immune sensitivities from the pregnancies that make her a difficult match, but I am her dream date! A living donor transplant increases her chances of success, so she and her family are thrilled. Surgery is scheduled for February 10th. For those next two weeks, it's hard to describe how I feel. I am deliberate and careful, fully aware of the precious gift that I carry. I jokingly say to friends, "I am a vessel and I must be kept pure," but there's reality beneath that joke. My every breath is taken for more than just me now. I pray daily and hard. Finally, the 10th comes and I deliver myself to the capable hands of the transplant team. They ask how I feel and I tell them, "I've done my job, now it's time for you to do

yours."

Surgery for me was relatively uneventful, and within 48 hours, I am scheduled for release. Before I leave I am finally introduced to Ethel, my recipient. She is lovely, grateful and excited, and we spend a few minutes holding hands and sharing some well earned tears. Life feels pretty awesome at that moment. It is hard to describe but I felt very full despite the empty spot in my abdomen. It was clear to me that God was at work in my life on a whole new level. But still the best was yet to come.

On Tuesday morning February 15th, only five days after my surgery, Marilou gets her call. A healthy kidney has become available and she is to have surgery the next morning. In a sad, ironic, amazing twist of fate, the donor is 20 years old, the same age Thomas was when he so suddenly left us. How well we can identify with this family who, in the face of the most devastating of losses, would choose to show such incredible generosity. No one knows the pain of their loss better than Marilou!

Marilou's surgery was a success and she has begun the process of healing and recovery of her life and her freedom. Somehow, this all seems elegant on a cosmic level as if balance is somewhat restored, although we are stingingly aware of the cost.

Now, we pray for this family and give humble thanks for their awesome gift. Our fervent hope is that they, too, will one day have the opportunity to experience a restoration of balance and to experience, as we have, the sure and certain sense of God at work in their lives.

Words cannot express the miracle of these last few days. We also give thanks for the transplant team at Yale who provided such incredible care. These people are amazing, what they do nothing short of miraculous. During my pre-op visit, my surgeon asked if I had any questions. My response was, "No, but I have one comment. You have a REALLY cool job." He smiled and said, "Yes, I do."

We give thanks to all of you who have supported us with your prayers, your gifts and your energy throughout this experience. Finally, we give thanks to God who sets things right in His own way and His own time. All things truly are possible through God, and His blessings are available to all who reach out to accept them. Even in the darkness, He is there, and in the light, we are bathed in His warmth.

If you have never considered the gift of organ donation, I invite you to do so, whether through registering as a donor on your driver's license or by considering a live donation if you have a family member or friend in need. Our bodies are awesome machines and science alone cannot yet replace or restore artificially what God created in our biology. Trust me, the giver receives tenfold. I know I have.

Love and peace,

Karen

Karen Arendt is a member of North United Methodist Church and chair of our Worship Committee

		1	2	3	4	5
			CHOIR Rehearsal 6 pm PrISM 7 pm Chancel			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Last Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship MYF Parent Dinner 6:30 Bible Study	1 pm Knitting Ministry 7 pm Worship Team	7:30 pm Meditation	7:00 pm ASH WEDNESDAY Service CHOIR Rehearsal 7:30 pm Chancel	Blood Drive		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
First Sunday in Lent <u>ONE SERVICE</u> 10:30 Contemporary Worship <u>Congregational Meeting following service</u> 6:30 Bible Study	7 pm Worship Focus Group	TIDINGS DEADLINE 7:30 pm Meditation 7 pm Worship Focus Group	CHOIR REHEARSAL 6 pm PrISM 7 pm Chancel			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Second Sunday in Lent 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship 6:30 Bible Study	1 pm Knitting Ministry 7 pm Ad Council	7 pm Worship Focus Group 7:30 pm Meditation	CHOIR REHEARSAL 6 pm PrISM 7 pm Chancel 7 pm Worship Focus Group	12 pm Blood Drive 7 pm Worship Focus Group		
27	28	29	30	31		
Third Sunday in Lent 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship 12 pm Focus Groups 6:30 Bible Study	7 pm Worship Focus Group	7 pm Worship Focus Group 7:30 pm Meditation	7 pm Worship Focus Group			

North United Methodist Church
300 Parker Street
Manchester, CT 06042

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The Rev. Laurel E. Scott, Pastor

*Worship the Lord in the splendor
of his holiness!*

1 Corinthians 16:29

NURSERY

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

WORSHIP

9:00 am Traditional
10:30 am Contemporary

FELLOWSHIP

10:00 & 11:30 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children attend the beginning of the service at 10:30 am and then proceed to class following the Children's Time. Classes dismiss at 11:45 am.

COMMUNION
SUNDAYS

The first Sunday of each month is Communion Sunday, at which time the children will begin in Sunday School classes and then attend church with their families in corporate worship at the time for communion and will remain until the conclusion of service.

FIFTH SUNDAYS

When there are five Sundays in a month, that fifth Sunday will be one service at 10:30 am.

For over 200 years, North UMC has proclaimed the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Manchester CT. We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings.

*A warm welcome awaits
you!*

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Web-Site: <http://>

numc.axelhouse.com

New England Conference Web-Site: <http://www.neumc.org>

**Congregational Mtg.
Sunday, March 13th
One Service—10:30 am**