

See, I am bringing you good *tidings* of great joy for all the people...Luke 2:10



# TIDINGS

Volume 20 issue 5

May 2020

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I've been thinking about grace a lot this week. John Wesley preached often about grace and the many "means" of grace the church encounters. As he understood it grace was expressed as prevenient (coming before), justifying (salvific), and sanctifying (sustaining). In these days I have been relying on sustaining grace. Without the comfort of church and fellowship, I find myself sometimes adrift. I am an extrovert and gain strength from the presence of others, especially the body of Christ the church; this is an important means of grace for me. Zoom worship and Bible Studies are a wonder of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, but like you, I would rather greet you in person with hugs and handshakes. What's an extrovert to do?

Sustaining grace is not immediate relief or resolution to our problems, it is a source of strength that allows us to envision a future that is different than the present. Sustaining grace fills us with hope, and provides spiritual manna that gives us life and light in a season of death and darkness. I am reminded of the words of Jesus in John 16: 33

*"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." On the eve of his betrayal, and crucifixion, Jesus reminds us that we have peace in him, for he has overcome the world. Things might not be in perfect order right now, but Christ has already won the only victory that truly matters! The peace of Christ is sustaining grace, it is sanctifying grace, transformational grace! Behold he makes all things new! In the days and weeks ahead, I hope you will see the truth in this, and find strength in the sustaining grace God has given you.*

Peace.  
David Martin, Pastor

Pastor Dave has scheduled zoom meetings for the next few months for online worship. Worship will still happen in the sanctuary of Bolton at 9 am. Andy and Pastor Dave set up "cameras" to best capture what is happening. You can join the scheduled meeting as early as 8:30 and your mics will be live if you choose so you can talk among everyone who is tuned in. At 9 am, the mics will be muted. During worship, collective prayers (call to worship etc.) will be shown on your screen.

The link for worship is: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/268830607>

This link should be good for every Sunday.

Alternatively you can call in, and enter the meeting number so you can join only by phone. Those who do not have a smart phone or computer with internet can still participate!

Dial by your location  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 268 830 607



## Office Hours

Pastor Dave

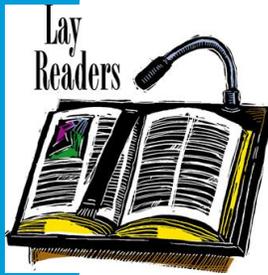
Monday & Tuesday

8:00-5:00ish

Office Manger Makayla

Monday & Thursday

9:00-12:00



## April

Consider Volunteering When We Can Meet Again

We welcome anyone interested in serving as a liturgist to contact Barbie Turley.

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 Needed!

Responsibilities include: Welcoming Members and Visitors at the door, Handing out bulletins, Record a count of attendance, Collect the offering, and guide people to the altar on Communion Sundays.

*Please prayerfully consider this important ministry!*

If you have any questions please speak with **Roger Edinger**



Sign up in the Memorial Room

## Responsibilities of Ushers:

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 should arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of service. Please be in touch with Roger Edinger 860-646-8984 if you would like to serve.

## April

Regular Schedule Will Resume When Possible



## Responsibilities of

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

Any member interested in volunteering for this task should contact the church office or talk to any of the counters.



CHURCH

SUNDAY

CLOSING:

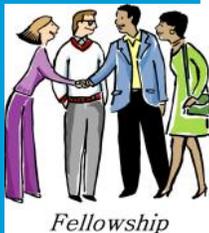
TRUSTEE

Members

# FELLOWSHIP TIME

Individuals and groups are invited to please volunteer and sign-up in the Memorial Room to provide fellowship refreshments after service 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-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. 11:50 am) includes washing out pots and containers and returning them to their place in the kitchen, and wiping down tables in the Memorial Room.



## COVID 19 ANNOUNCEMENT

### Until further notice, MACC Charities' Emergency Policy is:

The Community Kitchen will remain open to give out bagged lunches.  
1 bag per person will be handed out during regular lunch hours of **11:30-12:45pm**  
Dining inside or outside of the MACC Campus is not permitted.

The Emergency Food Pantry will hand off prepacked groceries  
(by appointment only, please call **\*860-647-8003 x 31**)  
No one is allowed to enter the pantry to shop on their own.

The Community Threads Thrift Shoppe will remain closed until further notice.

Note: All emergency assistance can be accessed through the same **number\***

**Food and other donations will be gratefully received at the Community Pantry, 460 Main St, Manchester during these times:  
Monday through Thursday 9am-4pm and Friday 9am-2pm**

MACC's essential food services will continue, following all social health & safety guidelines to protect our guests, volunteers, staff and community.

*"Being kind to the poor is like lending to the Lord"*  
– Proverbs 19:17

### News from our Food Pantry

MACC Charities would like to thank the community for all the wonderful donations MACC has received during this difficult time. **When thinking about donations**, please remember that we have many families with children that eat the typical children's favorites, such as:



- Macaroni and cheese
- Spaghettios
- Cereal
- Fresh fruits
- Individually wrapped snacks like granola bars
- Fruit cups
- And fruit snacks etc.

### News from Bistro On Main

BISTRO ON MAIN has made the difficult decision not to offer take out at this time. Please stay in touch with us by leaving a message on Facebook or call us 860-432-5267 and leave a message. We want to thank all our valued customers for your continued support. Please stay safe and healthy during these challenging times we are facing.

[www.Bistro-on-Main.com](http://www.Bistro-on-Main.com)





**May Birthdays**

5th Sarah Flaherty  
 14th Jane Hopkins  
 18th Sue Derby  
 Mike Geres  
 Cindi Gilligan  
 22nd Paige LeBlanc  
 29th Anita Baten  
 30th Jim Williamson

**Birthday Blessings to Everyone!**




**FELLOWSHIP OF CONCERN**

Crystal Price, Dottie Allen, Jean Derby, Jenna & Patty, Nellie, Ruth Mancell, Mary, Marian, Mike & Dorothy Thompson, Liz, Sarah & Friends, Ray Johnson, Austin,

Decency Wins, Sue L. Alisa Smith, Betty Boop, Nichols Family, Joan & Charles Nichols, Mark Fitzgerald, Carol Haviland, Judy Parlee, Jack Stroup, Stephanie Oppon-Kunty, Sara Miller, Florence, Gary Chappell, Ron Starkweather, Wayne Zorger Sr. Melissa Lepack, JanMarie, Robert, Kevin Saint Hilaire, Susan Fenn, Jack Benton, Diana Custer, Walter Johnson, Lisa Roman, Olivia Roman, Matt Turkington

**Prayers for Cancer:** Sheila, Ann, Beth, Elliot, Betty, Nick, Rachael, Charlotte, Ted, Janet, Muriel, Miriam, Anita, Garry, Lena, Jane, Jennifer, Judy, Joan, Myia, Tracy, Jean, Deb, Jenn, Rose, Jeffrey, Jackie, Diane, Ray, Cindy, Terry, Robin, Sheena, Geoff, Tricia, Marilyn, Dave, Henriet, Tom, Brenda, Ella, Sue, Deb C.



**NORTH UMC will host BLOOD DRIVES**

**May 7th and 14th**

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 Rev. Martin.

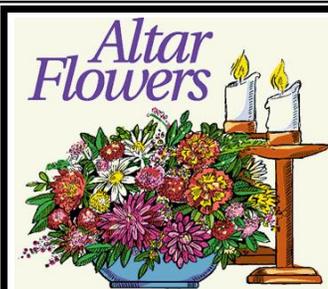


**\*REMINDER**  
 Please wear name tags every Sunday.

*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.*



Ad Council Meeting  
**TBD**



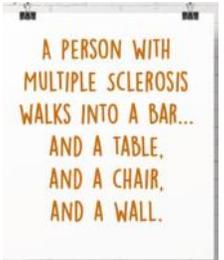
Flowers are a wonderful way to acknowledge the Memory of a Loved One or to Celebrate a special person or occasion. Consider what you may have to offer, fresh and seasonal are especially nice. *Forms are available in the Memorial Room to make such requests.*

If you have any questions or prefer to order by phone, please contact Susan Fenn 860-729-6446



## Introducing WAMS (Wellness And Multiple Sclerosis)!

WAMS is a positive and affirming group that focuses on living well with MS. This group is co-led by North Members Heidi Lenhardt, National MS Society Support Leader and Vickie Hadge, Overcoming MS (OMS) Ambassador. If you are newly diagnosed, have been living with MS for years, or are an MS care partner WAMS welcomes you! WAMS is a friendly, non-judgmental and safe place where privacy is protected. No matter where you are on your MS wellness journey we encourage members to “do whatever it takes” to live well to be the healthiest they can be while living with MS.



Wellness and MS (WAMS) will be meeting online every Sunday at 4:30 PM ET for as long as needed in Zoom. If you are an MS patient, a care partner, or family member of someone with MS please feel free to share. Have people reach out to me via Facebook or at my email [vlhadge@yahoo.com](mailto:vlhadge@yahoo.com) for details. <https://overcomingms.org/community/find-support/>.

If you have questions please speak with or email Vickie [vlhadge@yahoo.com](mailto:vlhadge@yahoo.com) or Heidi [wellnessandms@yahoo.com](mailto:wellnessandms@yahoo.com).



## Music Ministry Message



*"We are creators, improvisers, innovators. We can't control the nature of the coronavirus, but we can respond to it with imagination and determination."*

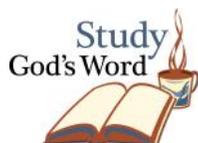
While researching recently I read this quote from Roger Brown; the president of Berklee College of Music. I think that it addresses, in a nutshell, the challenges facing all musicians and humans in general going forward in a new and fundamentally changed world. Over the past several weeks the choirs have been meeting Wednesday evenings for a 'virtual rehearsal' in Zoom online (its odd though- that I don't ever recall having wine at our regular rehearsals!!). We share humor, concerns and news about our families and friends. We compliment each others' experimental haircuts, and grouse a bit about how much we miss our music and the face to face contact that we are conditioned from infancy to need to thrive as human beings. We celebrate life's little sparkles of normalcy: people getting married, babies (and lambs) being born, flooded basements, you name it. It is a reminder to us all that 'this too shall pass' and that our humility and patience in our fight to conquer this pandemic will eventually be rewarded.

We read the old Testament accounts in the Bible, from the Ark to the Exodus and never really take the time to wonder 'what was it like' for Zion as her people suffered patiently through various trials and tribulations. Forty

*(Continued on page 6)*

### Bible Study

Online Bible studies continue while we are distanced following the lectionary readings for the week. Tuesdays at 6:30 (meeting code 440 071 613) the New Testament readings are discussed and Fridays at 3:30 (meeting code 177 986 590) is for the Old Testament and the Psalm. Watch email or



Facebook for the particular readings or check the lectionary for the week.

### Online Giving



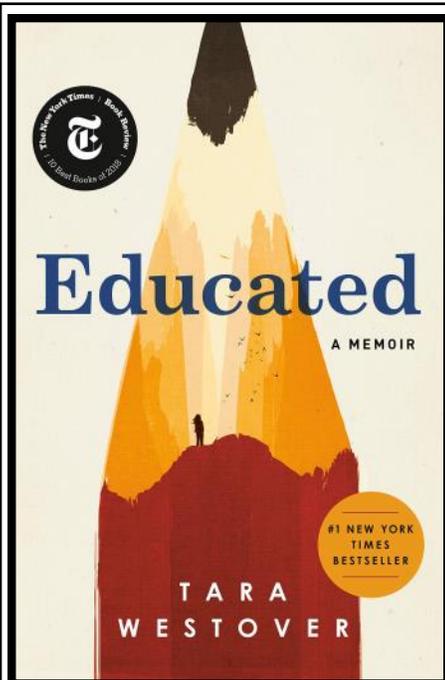
Online giving is available at:

<http://www.simplechurchgiving.net/northumc>

or scan the QR code shown below to go to the site. Set up an account and conveniently schedule your routine giving. Never miss another month or have to remember your checkbook. One time donations can be made as well. Selecting 'Bank Account' rather than 'Credit Card' costs NUMC the least in fees, but of course all donations are welcome.

*Please contact us if you have any questions about online giving. Thank You!*





## The North Church Readers

Our sixth selection of our season is called *Educated* by Tara Westover. From mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children receives an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brother became violent. When an other brother got himself into college,

Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she's traveled too far, if there was still a way home.

### Discussion postponed, TBD.

We meet in the library directly after church. Grab your coffee or tea and join us for a good discussion and good friendship. Hope to see you there!

Ask Jackie if you have any questions.

(Continued from page 5)

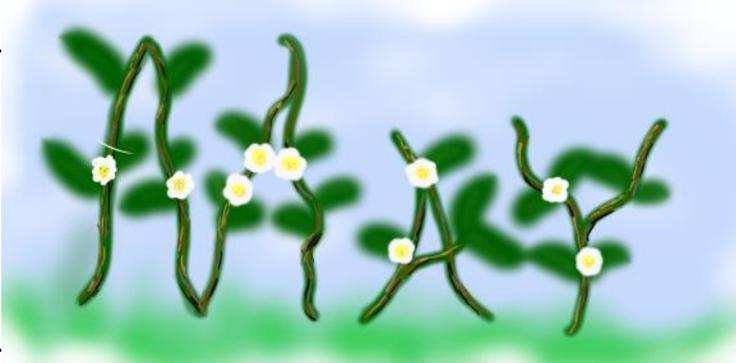
years? Not a long time when its happening to someone else, but 4 weeks in quarantine does seem pretty interminable. Those who accounted the Bible stories we read though- now they knew about scarcity. They understood hardship and suffering. They looked to a god to deliver them and, sometimes I think that, were they dropped into what was until recently our present day life, they would probably believe that they had reached the promised land.

We have had it pretty good. We still have it pretty good. Things have changed, yes, we have had hearts broken, lost loved ones and seen fear and uncertainty that most of us have never experienced in our lifetimes. Some of you might remember last summer when I began a theme of 'perspectives' and we had congregants come before you and share meaningful messages from their point of view. This pandemic has really brought that point home to me. As I read stories from all over the world of people stepping up and making a difference, doing acts of kindness, fighting this disease on the front lines, feeding the hungry and caring for the helpless, I am moved by how many have looked beyond their differences to see through the communal lens of compassion. The earth Herself is healing as humanity takes a breather from scurrying through our lives at breakneck pace and stops long enough to hug our kids, hear a bluebird warble or watch a bumblebee defy physics by simply staying airborne.

We are creators, improvisers, innovators.... We are created in God's image; it doesn't get better than that!! We have God to thank for the talent, intelligence, and ingenuity we possess to beat this pandemic and those trials that lay ahead. One of them will be to bring our live worship back, music and all-which we will. The format may be a bit changed, but we will create, improvise and innovate something meaningful that connects us face to face, as a family and a community again.

I shall do everything in my power to ensure that my music ministers (you) are safe, as is the congregation. You are my family and we keep our families safe! I look forward to the day when we are all making music together again!!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					3:30 pm ZOOM Bible Study—Old Testament	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 am ZOOM Online Worship		6:30 pm ZOOM Bible Study—New Testament	7:00pm ZOOM Gatherings		3:30 pm ZOOM Bible Study—Old Testament	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 am ZOOM Online Worship		6:30 pm ZOOM Bible Study—New Testament	7:00pm ZOOM Gatherings		3:30 pm ZOOM Bible Study—Old Testament	Tidings Submission Deadline
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am ZOOM Online Worship		6:30 pm ZOOM Bible Study—New Testament	7:00pm ZOOM Gatherings		3:30 pm ZOOM Bible Study—Old Testament	
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 am ZOOM Online Worship		6:30 pm ZOOM Bible Study—New Testament	7:00pm ZOOM Gatherings		3:30 pm ZOOM Bible Study—Old Testament	

North United Methodist Church  
300 Parker Street  
Manchester, CT 06042

Address Service Requested



North United Methodist  
300 Parker Street  
Manchester, CT 06042

Pastor: David J. Martin

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

1 Corinthians 16:29

Phone: 860-649-3696  
E-mail: [northchurch@snet.net](mailto:northchurch@snet.net)  
Web-Site: <http://numc.axelhouse.com>

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

CHOIR WARM UP

9:30 am

NURSERY—upon request

10:15 am—11:45 am

WORSHIP

10:30 am Worship,  
Youth and Children's Sunday  
School, One-Room for Summer

FELLOWSHIP

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 dis-  
miss at 11:45 am.

**10:30 am**

**Worship**

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.

**As followers of the teachings of Jesus Christ,  
North United Methodist Church strives to be  
an inclusive community. We welcome, respect  
and celebrate persons of every race,  
ethnicity, gender identity,  
sexual orientation, national  
origin, ability, family  
status, age and economic  
circumstance. We want  
you to feel at home and  
know that you belong  
here.**



For over 200 years,  
North UMC has pro-  
claimed 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!*