

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



TIDINGS

Volume 21 issue 12

December 2021

Special points of interest:

MACC Needs

Page 3

Christmas Blessings Bags and Food Drive

Page 3

WAMS

Page 5

Knitting Ministry

Page 5

North Church Readers

Page 5

Bible Study

Page 5

Calendar of Events

Pages 7



Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

Normally you expect some uplifting Advent/Christmas message in the newsletter. But there are times when it is god to take a moment and remember that though the kingdom of God has been proclaimed, it is here and not yet. It is always but coming. And until it reaches its fullness, we must work for a fairer and more just world. By the time you read this, the church will have held a special charge conference and will have voted on authorizing church leadership to discern whether we accept the settlement plan for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) lawsuit. The lawsuit arose out of the sexual abuse within the BSA cases that have come to light. A class action lawsuit is (on behalf of those who have been abused) underway to extract monetary damages for the victims. Our church, as well as several other denominations that have had long standing associations with the BSA have been named as co-defendants by virtue of their having chartered troops or offering space for troops to meet. We voted to allow our insurance company (and by proxy their lawyers) to handle our defense, and shield individual churches from being sued. It's a tawdry and ugly process.

I, like other clergy I have spoken to, am very uncomfortable with the notion of letting lawyers decide what is just compensation, just damages if you will for the victims. Many lives have been destroyed by the predatory behaviors of men who were supposed to be trusted mentors and leaders of societies greatest treasure, our children. Money will not mend the shattered lives of these former scouts. So, in my moments of frustration with the process of administrating my two church charges through this litigation, I have stolen moments to stop and reflect on the emotional toil that has been unfairly inflicted on the innocent. I try and keep in mind that the facts and figures are just that. They do not accurately represent, nor tell the story of the very human tragedy that has occurred. In the weeks, months and years to come, try and remember the victims and the damage done to them. Pray for their healing. Pray too for their abusers. This one is harder, but Jesus commands us to "love our enemies and pray for them." In a very real way, these abusers are broken, and likely beyond the human ability to repair. Only God can mend what has happened. Our hearts should be filled with compassion for everyone involved, and not resentment or anger. Let this Advent/Christmas season fill your heart with compassion and mercy.

Pastor David J. Martin

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm here at North UMC

6:30 pm at UMC of Bolton

Join us for a joyous time for the whole family!



Office Hours

Pastor Dave

Monday & Tuesday

8:00-5:00ish

Office Manger Makayla

Monday & Thursday

9:00-12:00



Christmas Card Mailbox

The North Church Christmas Card mailbox will be available starting December 1st for the exchange of cards with your church family and

friends. The box is located in the back of the sanctuary and has slots organized alphabetically by last initial. Please remember to check for cards you may have received each week. The mailbox will be available until January 9th.

You are welcome to deliver cards to friends and neighbors who have not been present to pick up their cards.



Advent Candle Lighting

The Advent Season begins on Sunday, November 28

Each Sunday of Advent, and on Christmas Eve, the Advent candle will be lit during service.

Please consider participating in this part of worship by volunteering, with your family, or friend(s), to light the candle and read a brief passage.

Sign-up in the Memorial Room.

Books and Family Games for the Village



We will again be providing new books and games as holiday gifts for the children who attend the Village program. The Village staff have provided us with a list of children, their gender, age and interests in order that we may shop for a particular child. We would also like to provide a family board game or card game (such as Uno, etc) for each child plus a few extra gifts in the event of children joining the program. Choices should be non-violent of course. Non-fiction or picture books are a good choice for some as many of the children are reluctant readers and not as interested in chapter books.

Books and games are due by Sunday, December 12 and can be dropped off any Sunday morning and left in the grocery basket. They can also be dropped off on Wednesday, Dec 1, 1-3; Sat Dec 4, 11-1; and Wed, Dec 8, 4-6 when the church will be open for Seasonal Sharing collection. Cash donations are also welcome if you would like help with the shopping.

There are 7 male and 2 female children ages 6-12. If you would like to shop for one of the children to provide a book or game please contact

Linda VanDine to be matched with a child and their interests. Call, email or text to lindavandine@gmail.com h:860-646-0366 or c:860-830-6841. As always, thank you for your generosity.

Service Opportunity



We have a wonderful opportunity for you to serve NUMC! We have an opening for a Zoom host for our Sunday services. NUMC will be continuing to offer Zoom access to Sunday services to those who are not comfortable with or not able to attend in person. This ministry has been very important to many members of our congregation and guests. It is a link to our church family and is in keeping with our traditions of outreach and caring for our neighbors.

Being a host is easy and fun! It is only a once a month commitment and it comes with free training! We have a very detailed guide and there is typically someone at the Zoom worship service that is there to help as well.

If you are interested please reach out via email to Vickie at vlhadge@yahoo.com

MACC Services

The **Community Kitchen** is open, giving out hot lunches on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays.

Bag lunches are available on Mondays, Fridays & Saturdays

Lunch is served between **11:30am &**

12:45pm each day (no appointment necessary)

You can reach the kitchen @ **860-647-8003 x 21**



The **Community Emergency Food Pantry** provides groceries by appointment only. Please call **860-647-8003 x 28**

The **Community Threads Thrift Shoppe** hours are Mon through Fri 10am – 2pm and Sat 10am – 1pm

860-647-8003 x 29

For **Community Outreach and Emergency Services**

Please call **860-647-8003 x 31**

Food donations can be dropped off at the Community Emergency Food Pantry, located at 460 Main St. in Manchester, CT Monday through Thursday 9am-4pm and Friday 9am-2pm (or call to schedule a time).

For all other donations, please call 860-647-0440.

MACC EMERGENCY NEEDS ITEMS

- Beans (Canned, All Beans: Black Brown, Red)
- Beef Stew (Canned)
- Chili (Canned)
- Cleaning Supplies
- Condiments: ketchup, mustard, mayo, salad dressing, etc.
- Cooking Oil
- Flour
- Fruit (Canned)
- Ground Coffee (Regular, Decaf, Instant)
- Hygiene Products for adults and children: Soap, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, wipes etc.
- Instant Potatoes (Not Mashed)
- Jelly
- Mac & Cheese
- Pasta
- Produce (Fresh Produce Mondays – Thursdays ONLY)
- Soups (Canned, All)
- Stuffing (Boxed)
- Sugar
- Vegetables (Canned)

Christmas Blessing Bags and Food Drive

It is that time again! Time to think about food drives and blessing bags!

1. **Christmas Blessing Bags** - We will be putting together 75-100 Blessing Bags this year. We will need the following items:

Winter hats, winter gloves, scarves, lotion, shampoo, body wash, deodorant, candy, snacks, gum, pens, note pads, \$5 to \$10 gift cards and anything else that you may come across. Right now Marlene is collecting things at my house as there is no storage at the church. You can leave the items in the grocery basket and she will pick them up. We can

meet as a group to put the bags together if we continue to wear our masks and social distance as required by the church. We will meet on Wednesday, December 1st 1:00 to 3:00.

2. **Christmas Food Drive** - Food items may be dropped off at the church any Sunday morning as the building will be open from 10:00 until 12:00. Marlene will open the building on Saturday, December 4th from 11:00 - 1:00 and Wednesday, Dec 8th from 4:00 - 6:00 for drop-offs. The small freezer will be placed in the narthex for any frozen items. The following items are needed for Christmas Baskets:

hams (not canned), small roasting chickens, frozen vegetables, instant potatoes, all canned vegetables (especially corn and green beans), gravy - or a \$25 gift card for Stop & Shop or ShopRite.

If you would like to take part in either of these events but have difficulty getting out, call Marlene (860 568-1331) and we will make arrangements for someone to shop for you!



As always, thank you for your generosity!

December Birthdays

2nd Liz Twarkins

4th Barbie Turley

6th Ron Starkweather

12th Pam Putinas

John Wilks

15th Trudi Tinklepaugh

16th Sylvia Lapenta

19th Heidi Lenhardt

24th Ray Gagnon

25th JESUS

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, 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

December 2nd, 16th and 30th

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.

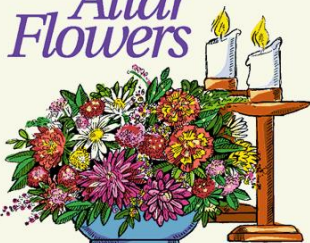
Anyone in need of a name tag, please note it on the back of your attendance slip on Sunday morning and one will be made for you.

Ad Council Meeting



TBD

Altar Flowers



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

WAMS (Wellness And Multiple Sclerosis)!

WAMS is a positive and affirming group that focuses on living well with MS using the Overcoming MS program and is co-led by North Members Heidi Lenhardt and Vickie Hadge.

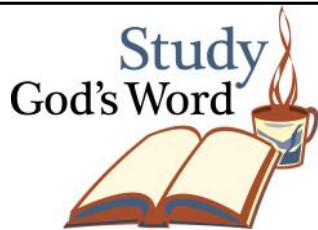
If you are newly diagnosed, have been living with MS for years, or are an MS care partner WAMS welcomes you! WAMS is a friendly, non-judgmental and safe place where privacy is protected. No matter where you are on your MS wellness journey we encourage our members to “do whatever it takes” to live well to be the healthiest they can. WAMS typically meets on the third Sunday of the month 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM ET (we will meet in person or on Zoom - details will be sent prior to each meeting).

Please reach out via email to Vickie at vlhadge@yahoo.com or Heidi wellnessandms@yahoo.com for more details!



Bible Study

Bible Study are every Tuesday at 6:30pm in person at Bolton or via zoom.



Advent Bible Study will begin Nov. 30 at 6:00 PM. No reading or prep involved just a desire to reflect on the meaning of Advent in the post modern world.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89268730478>

Passcode: 1234

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

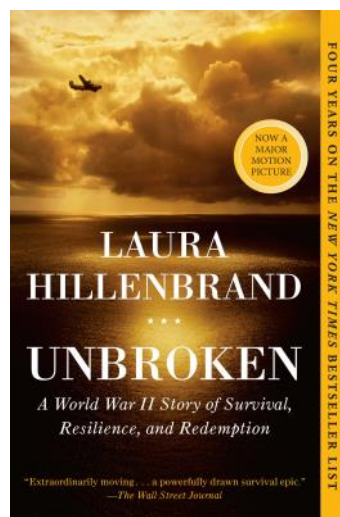
Meeting ID: 892 6873 0478

The North Church Readers

Our fourth reading this season of North Church readers is *Unbroken* by Laura Hildenbrand. A failing aircraft finds surviving airmen in the Pacific Ocean with only a rubber boat for survival. Louis Zamperini

describes the days and weeks he manages to

survive in the rubber boat. The remainder of the book describes life as a Japanese prisoner of war.



Discussion will be on January 2, 2022

See Jackie if you have any questions

Knitting Ministry



Our NUMC Knitting group's fall schedule has meetings held on 12/06, 12/20 from

1:00pm-2:30pm. The tables will be set up so that everyone is spaced apart and masks will be required the entire time.

The ministry will meet every other Monday. All are welcome! :)

Our group is open to all with or without yarn skills. Contact: Paula Adamczyk anthony.adamczyk@snet.net or Susan Derby susanderby@cox.net with questions.

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!



IMPORTANT information regarding in person worship!!!

1. Everyone must wear a mask in the building.
2. There will be no congregational singing until it's safe to do so (except during outdoor worship). Singing causes, us to express our breath in a way that significantly increases the chance of transmission. We would have to social distance some 30 ft making corporate worship impossible. We truly regret this. The Music Director, Chris Collins, will be working hard at finding alternatives for this activity, she already has lots of great ideas! When we worship outdoors, we will have congregational singing.
3. All who enter the worship space must sanitize their hands. If they leave the worship space to use the bathroom, they must re-sanitize at the door. We also strongly encourage you to wash your hands in the bathroom as well.
4. Entrances and exits are one way. Entry will be via the office door (on the portico), exits will be via the double glass doors onto the portico. Exiting for the bathroom will be through the memorial room door. No exceptions.
5. Offering plates will be available near the ushers on tables by the entrance and exits. The offering will not be taken during worship. Please make your offering as you come in or as you leave.
6. The chairs will be set up 6 ft apart in any direction. Only family members living in the same household may move their chairs to be next to one another. However, if those chairs are closer than 6 ft to someone NOT in their household, the family will have to make another arraignment to get their chairs together.
7. Starting May 16th, we will have a few tables set up (café style) for families to sit together. Please call in advance and let us know if your family would like a table.
8. We strongly urge everyone to maintain social distancing while in the building. This means there will be no fellowship/coffee hour. Please refrain from hugging, shaking hands and other behaviors that could potentially transmit the virus. We are not out of the woods just yet!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83102141139>

Passcode: 1234

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York) Meeting ID: 831 0214 1139



If you would like to order Poinsettias for the sanctuary this Christmas Season, **please fill out the form below and leave it in Makayla's mailbox in the Narthex, email northchurch@snet.net or mail directly to North Church at**

North United Methodist Church - Poinsettia Order
300 Parker St
Manchester, CT 06040

Please do not put orders in the collection plate-Thank you

This year the poinsettia cost is \$21.00... Please include payment with your order... **Make checks payable to NUMC with memo note:**

Christmas Poinsettia.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERING ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5th

We hope you will leave your plants to decorate the chancel until Christmas Sunday, December 26... If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 860.649.3696

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)



I would like to order _____ red and/or
_____ white plants.

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

Given by: _____

On 12/26/21 I will pick up my plants Please donate my plants

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			1-3 Blessings Bags assembly			11-1 Open for food drive collection
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<p>Poinsettia Order Deadline 10:30 am In Person and ZOOM Online Worship</p>	<p>1 pm Knitting Ministry</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	6:30 pm Bible Study at BUMC and on ZOOM	4-6 Open for food drive collection			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10:30 am In Person and ZOOM Online Worship		6:30 pm Bible Study at BUMC and on ZOOM	<p>Tidings Submission Deadline</p>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10:30 am In Person and ZOOM Online Worship	<p>1 pm Knitting Ministry</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	6:30 pm Bible Study at BUMC and on ZOOM			5:00 Christmas Eve Service, 6:30 at Bolton	Merry Christmas!
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:30 am In Person and ZOOM Online Worship		6:30 pm Bible Study at BUMC and on ZOOM				

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
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.

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!*

**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.**

