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FEBRUARY 2010

COVENANT AND COMMISSIONING

On the last Sunday in January, this community of Faith participated in a service of worship that included covenant renewal for all worshippers and a commissioning of leaders who have answered the call to serve in various capacities in the community for the year 2010.

Some have asked, 'Why a Covenant Service and why commissioning of leaders?' The origins of the covenant service are found in the biblical covenant found in Exodus Chapter 20, and reprinted in Deuteronomy, chapter 31, which was one of the scripture readings heard during the service, and

Covenant renewal is important for us because in it, we are reminded of who we are (the people of God) and whose we are (God's).

the Covenant prayer written for a Service of Renewal by John Wesley. The modern form of the Covenant Service is found in our Book of Worship.

The Order for the Installation of church leaders, also found in the Book of Worship under the section "Occasional Services".

The God of Israel, who has heard and responded to the cries of a people he now calls his own, makes covenant with his people to protect, provide for, and take care of them.

God releases the people by leading them out of bondage and into a land full of

promise, despite the many challenges they encounter. So, God first makes covenant with them after their release and before they fully undertake their journey into the promised land.

In this same way, God makes covenant with us when we take our baptismal vows, and we renew that covenant periodically as did the people of Israel, because, like them, we break our part of the covenant.

Covenant renewal is important for us because in it we are reminded of who we are (the people of God) and whose we are (God's). Because God never breaks his part of the covenant, and because we often do, we must periodically remind ourselves of these

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Letter from the Pastor's Desk

Dear North UMC
There are quite a few things on my mind as I write this letter on a bright winter afternoon, with the freshly fallen snow gracing the tree limbs and carpeting the ground outside my window. As the seasons change, so do the scenes of our lives – so many of which we have no control over. The earthquake in Haiti re-

minded me that, among other things, life is fragile. At one moment we could be standing on solid ground without a care in the world, looking forward to the next exciting event that we have planned in our lives, and in the next moment, the ground is shifting, shaking, rumbling... and all our plans are forced to



change, because we have little control over the rhythm of nature. As my beloved grandmother now of blessed memory would say when plans had to be changed: "Man proposes and God disposes." We do not know how our lives will unfold.

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

A total of \$5872 - money given to Marlene Camper in church to buy food . Doris Timbrell had a total of \$1960 in receipts for the food delivered to MACC.

That gives North United Methodist a total of \$7832 spent on food for the food pantry from North Church. Isn't that just the greatest thing!

This church is just so generous when things are tough. Right now the pantry is in very good shape and we are still receiving food donations from holiday parties and food drives. Thank you SO MUCH to everyone for their continued support and abundant generosity!

MACC FOOD PANTRY

North Church welcomes food donations which may be placed in the grocery cart in the church Narthex. These on-going donations are delivered to the Food Pantry weekly. The pantry is always in need of the following: **soup, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, mayonnaise, pasta sauce, mac & cheese, canned fruit, cereal.**

Thank you for your continued support!



MARDI GRAS FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Saturday, February 13 ~ 6:30 pm



A family fellowship evening with snacks, games, prizes, Wii Games, Karaoke American Idol, and plenty of laughter and fun. Please invite family and friends to join us. There is a sign-up in the Memorial Room. Questions may be directed to Karen Arendt (860-282-0719) and Anita Haynes. (860-646-3926).

Looking for some extra Cash???

Bring your unwanted gold to North United Methodist Gold Party, **Monday, February 22th at 6pm**

It's a lot of fun, *no hidden surprises*, just a good time with friends and...

EXTRA MONEY for your gold!!!

We are here to buy your old unwanted jewelry. Broken, unworn, missing the pair, or just don't want it around. We will take it!!! We only buy gold, no filled or plated items. If you're unsure Bring it. No silver or coins. If it has a stone or gem in the piece we remove it and return it you.

The Golddiggerz will donate back to the church a check for 10% of whatever they buy. We are suggesting that church members donate another 10% of their earnings back to the church but it is up to the individual. Barbara Judd will be on hand to record those donations for our members. It's a win-win situation for everyone!

Questions may be directed to Barbara Judd, Karen Arendt, Vickie Hadge, or Kayle Gagnon.



Knitting Ministry

TIDINGS

The Knitting Ministry meets on the first Monday of each month at 1:00 pm.

***Please Note:** On occasion the Knitting Ministry meets mid-month.

Please call Diana Custer (875-9805) to inquire.

We will continue to make Prayer Shawls, Chemo Caps for local Cancer Centers, Lap Blankets for Hospice patients, and ICU Blankets for Manchester Hospital.

For those unable to attend our Knitting Group, please continue to knit or crochet, at home. We appreciate all that you can contribute to our Ministry. If you would like to donate yarn, or funds to purchase yarn, for our projects, please let Irene know.

COVENANT AND COMMISSIONING

realities and of the standard of living (spiritual, not material) to which we are called.

As followers of Jesus, we respond to his instructions to his disciples to go into the whole world to preach, baptize and teach the things that they had seen him do. And he commissioned seventy two leaders, sending them out two by two into the towns and villages ahead of him, to alert those living there that the kingdom (or reign) of God was near. He commissioned them into ministries of healing, visitation, justice, support and peace-making.

As we take up Jesus' commission we are following in his footsteps, even as we know that the road will not always be smooth nor the task easy. We are no longer our own as the Covenant prayer goes, and we pray that God will put us into the places and positions where we can best serve. This is exciting work, this *kin-dom* work. We are sent to our *kins* folk to proclaim and demonstrate the wonderful news of God's love for all of us. May God continue to bless us in our ministries.

“Jesus sent them out with the following instructions: Go ... to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near’. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, rive out demons. Freely you have received. Freely give.” Matthew 10: 6-9

From The Pastor's Desk

Two of our United Methodist executives who were in Haiti to meet with others to discuss enhancement of medical services to the people of Haiti died as a result of their injuries after being pulled from the collapsed Hotel Montana, where they had gone to meet friends for dinner when the earthquake struck. For fifty-five hours they sang hymns, said prayers and told stories to keep each other holding on until the rescue. I wondered whether I would be able to demonstrate such faith and hope in such a dire situation. Would you? As my beloved Professor of Homiletics, Canon The Reverend Doctor Anthony Campbell, now also of blessed memory often told his students: “Death is inconvenient and life is messy.” We need to be prepared for the inevitable, for we do not know when we will be called from this life to the next. We should clean up our lives as best we can, “working out our own salvation with fear and trembling”. There really is no time for hate or fear. We need to get busy ushering in God's reign *now*.

Life is serious. Life is a celebration. Life is a game. So many descriptions are given of life; but one thing life is not -- It is not a dress rehearsal. Life is real. And while we make mistakes and serve a loving God who gives us opportunity after opportunity to make it right, we should practice Excellence in every aspect of living, especially in our relationships with God and with our neighbor, so that our lives become a testament to God's excellence, as did our brothers Sam Dixon and Clint Rabb.

And who is my neighbor? The lawyer asked Jesus in the story told in Luke Chapter 10. Right now, our neighbors are the people of Haiti – all of the people of Haiti, for they are in need. And our neighbors are those in our community here in the Greater Hartford area, and the people on our block, and right next door. The parable of the Good Samaritan calls us to give to those in need and the parable of the sheep and the goats in Matthew calls us to meet the needs of the sick, the homeless, the hungry, the prisoner, the immigrant, for as we do it to these our sisters and brothers, we do it to Christ.

Sometimes we are called on to give money – and don't forget, even one dollar can go a long way if that is all you can afford, but give *something*. You dollar with those of millions of others will make the millions needed to relieve suffering and rebuild the nation of Haiti. At other times a smile or a kind word can make the difference to one who is despairing or despondent. Let's not miss our opportunity to serve God and our neighbors.

Thanks to the children and youth of North United Methodist Church who are supervising the collection of Health Kits for Haiti. Thanks to all those who gave generously to the people of Haiti through UMCOR and to the people of Manchester through MACC. Continue to give and give and give until all hurts are healed and all needs are met – that's a lot of giving we have to do!

Blessings, *Pastor Laurel*

CT/WESTERN MASS DISTRICT

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Saturday, April 10, 2010 * 8:15 am – 3:30 pm
Rockville United Methodist, 142 Grove Street,
Rockville, CT

Morning Sessions

SEEDLINGS: How to grow Spiritual Children

Sharing Your Faith

**Staff Parish Relations
Committee Training**

Doing What is Needed

Afternoon Sessions

**Prayers that lead to a God
Encounter**

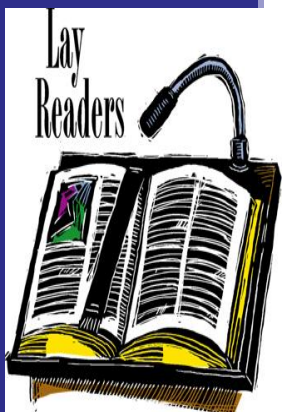
**Worship, Learn, and
Grow . . . the new focus for
church meetings**

John and Charles Wesley – A Faith Journey

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

Detailed information on each session is available
in the Memorial Room at church. Check it out on
Sunday Morning!





LITURGISTS

9:00 am

7th Karen Arendt

14th Vickie Hadge

21st Kow
De-Graft-Eshun

28th Judy Morton

10:30 am

7th Irene Fitzgerald

14th Becky Harris

21st Tony Adamczyk

28th Sue 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.

9:00am Service
Liturgist will meet with pastor at 8:35am for preparatory prayer time.

10:30am Service
Liturgist will meet with pastor at 10:20am for preparatory prayer time.



USHERS/GREETERS

9:00 am

7th John
Chadwick
Paula Smith

14th Paula Smith
Kow De-Graft-Eshun

21st Paula Smith
Becky Harris

28th Linda Gates
Quent Mangun

10:30 am

7th Jack Bertrand
Curt Whatley

14th Jack Bertrand
Roger Edinger

21st Tim and Dianne
LePore

28th Roger Edinger
Judy Starkweather

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 TIME

7th
Linda Gates

14th
Irene Fitzgerald

17th
Jan Miller

24th TBD

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 between services and after the 10:30 service. Clean-up after fellowship time (approx. 12 noon) 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 742-9511.



Fellowship

COUNTERS



OFFERING COUNTERS

7th
Jan Miller
Judy Starkweather

14th
Bob Bowsza
Harry Arendt

21th
Kris Pelletier
Liz Twarkins

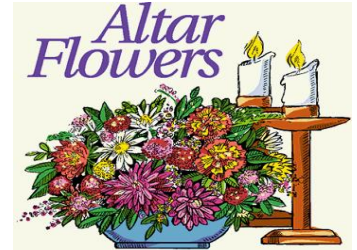
28th
Les VanDine
Collins Judd

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

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, please contact our Flower Steward, Doris Timbrell at 649-6494.



***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



Senior Fellowship

Over 50's Fellowship

Over 50's will NOT meet in Jan. and Feb.
Call Linda Gates at 647-9756 with any questions about the Over 50's group.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER for MACC

The MYF is making soups, breads and other items Saturday, Feb. 6. Items will be available for sale on Sunday, February 7th between and after services. Thank you in advance for supporting this mission for MACC.



SouperBowl MACC

Year End Financial Statements have been mailed. Due to a computer crash a few months ago it has taken some time to re-enter data. Your patience and understanding is appreciated. Please review your statement and contact Jim Glass as soon as possible with any questions. Anyone who made a donation on Sunday, September 6, please notify either Jim Glass or the church office immediately so the correction can be made to your 2009 statement. Thank you!



Annual Giving Statements

MEDITATION GROUP

TUESDAYS * 7:30 PM—9 PM
Join in practicing engaged Buddhist meditation. All are welcome regardless of your background or affiliation. Additional information is available in the Memorial Room. Questions may be directed to Tom Duva, 729-2342.

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES **EARLY!**

RE M I N D E R :

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS

MONDAY, FEB. 15



**"GIVE
without
GIVING?"
YES YOU CAN!!!**

Raise Money For
North United Methodist
Church With
No Selling

On-Going SCRIP Gift Card Fundraising Update

Thank you for continuing to make your routine purchases on Sunday mornings through North Church. Great Work!!

OVER \$1800 RAISED TO DATE!

Keep those orders coming, and tell your friends and family about it too!!

On-line Ordering Available Soon!

Cards may be ordered each Sunday between and after services or by contacting Anita Haynes at 860-646-3926 or 860-712-9991.

Cards are available for pick-up on the following Sunday morning.

Anita is also **in need of Sunday morning volunteers** to take orders and distribute previously ordered gift cards. Please speak to Anita with any questions.

Help For the Victims of Haiti

On January 13, 2010...A major earthquake hit Port-au-Prince, Haiti yesterday, causing widespread destruction. Millions of people are affected and thousands are feared dead. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has close ties with the Methodist Church in Haiti and is responding to the devastating earthquake with funding, material resources and prayers. Gifts to support UMCOR's Haiti Relief efforts can be made to Haiti Emergency, UMCOR Advance #418325. Checks can be made to **NUMC**, with **Advance #418325 Haiti Emergency** in the memo line. Checks can be put in the church's offering plate.

OR . . .

Checks can be made to **UMCOR Advance**, with **Advance #418325 Haiti Emergency** in the memo line, then mailed directly to UMCOR, PO Box 9068, New York, NY 10087. 100% of gifts made to this advance will go to help the people of Haiti.

Dear North United Methodist Church,

I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart. Every child that opened their Christmas gift was all smiles. Rare opportunities do I get to see the children smile on my case loads. The children with extreme disabilities can only really smile with their eyes. The great toys that light up were awesome, they were very interested in the sounds and lights. I want to say that having your congregation caring as much for the children I service has made a huge difference. Thank you SO MUCH!

Ms. Sanchez, DCF Social Worker



TIDINGS

Health Kit Items:

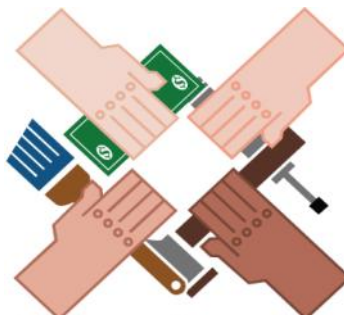
Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag.

- ✦ 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- ✦ 1 washcloth
- ✦ 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- ✦ 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- ✦ 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- ✦ 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- ✦ 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- ✦ \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (**NOTE:** UMCOR Sager Brown is purchasing toothpaste in bulk to add to health kits before shipping to ensure the product does not expire before being sent.)

Important Kit Assembly Information

- ✦ All items included in kits must be NEW items.
- ✦ All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.




Do NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.



Aid for Victims of the Earthquake in Haiti

HEALTH KITS for HAITI

The Children and Youth of NUMC are leading the collection of items for Health Kits to be sent to Haiti. Items may be dropped off at the church on Sunday mornings. Thank you for supporting this important mission.

	1 1pm Knitting Ministry	2 7pm WSG 7:30 pm Meditation	3 CHOIR Rehearsal 6 pm PrISM 7 pm Chancel	4 6 pm ALPHA COURSE 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting	5	6 MYF Cooking and Baking Day in preparation for Souper Bowl Sunday Sales
	7	8	9	10	11	12
5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship	7 pm Worship Meeting	7:30 pm Meditation	CHOIR Rehearsal 6 pm PrISM 7 pm Chancel	6 pm ALPHA COURSE		6:30 pm Mardi Gras Game Night
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Last Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship	Church Office Closed  7 pm Ad Council Mtg	7pm WSG 7:30 pm Meditation	7 pm ASH Wednesday Service <u>CHOIR Rehearsal</u> <u>Directly follow- ing Ash Wed- Service</u>	6 pm ALPHA COURSE 7:30 pm Outreach Meeting		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship		7:30 pm Meditation	CHOIR Rehearsal 6 pm PrISM 7 pm Chancel	6 pm ALPHA COURSE		
28						
2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:30 Contemporary Worship						

North United Methodist Church
300 Parker Street
Manchester, CT 06042

Address Service Requested

Newsletter Staff

Laurel E. Scott

Executive Editor

Irene Fitzgerald

Managing Editor, Circulation

SUNDAY SERVICES ~ 9:00 and 10:30 am

Experiencing God's Grace Everyday

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 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!

Phone: 860-649-3696

E-mail: northchurch@net.net

Web-Site: <http://>

numc.axelhouse.com

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



North United Methodist
300 Parker Street
Manchester, CT 06042

The Rev. Laurel E. Scott, Pastor

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

I Corinthians 16:29

February 17 ~ 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service

