

WEST SPRINGFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pews News

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March 2018

West Springfield United Methodist Church

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***Join us for Worship and Praise on
Sunday Mornings at 10:00AM.
Church School begins at 10:15AM.***

Inside This Issue:

Pastor's Message	1-2
March Birthdays & Lectionary	3
News & Upcoming Events	2-10

A Message from the Pastor

Lent, Holy Week, Easter and totally amazing things happening right here at our church.

I am soooooo excited. Truly, deep in my heart excited. First, we are having a great series of Sunday services this Lent. Between Rev. Sam and I, we are exploring what it means to turn our attention to God this season and to examine some of the hard places in our past. It is such a blessing to share this ministry with Rev. Sam.

I am soooooo excited.... Part 2. Easter is just around the corner and with it the celebration of the risen Christ. His church gets born on Easter, something new in the world. How can that not be exciting? I hope you are planning on coming for Holy week. Start with Palm Sunday, a joyous celebration. Come for our communion meal at 6:30 on Maunday Thursday to follow Christ into the Garden and down the path to the cross. Join the ecumenical walk on Good Friday and then come and celebrate on Easter Morning, for He has Risen.

I am soooooo excited... Part 3. The church is growing. “What Pastor Rick? We don’t have more members. I don’t see a lot of new faces on Sunday morning!” No, but the church is growing. Let me tell you, like a seed sprouting from the ground in early spring, most of that growth happens inside the seed itself. Our church is like that. Small and large changes happen, often unseen. So let me throw a little light on that growth:

- Our trustees have been working hard to restore the parsonage, including a new roof, fixing the electrical system, fixing the tiles in the basement, upgrading the stove, and more. Now they are setting their sights on the church starting with an energy assessment which will lead to replacing all the inefficient lighting throughout the building, making us greener, saving us electricity.
- We now have communion stewards. These committed Christians will bring communion to our members who cannot make it to services. They become our messengers of hope to all those who are unable to come to church.
- We have a Chair of Christian Education and two teachers! That’s so exciting for me that I can hardly breath. To begin building an education program for our children and for adults too is a really big deal. I know it will take a lot of work, but we will all benefit from their efforts.
- We have a choir – Music is such a part of worship and to have the leadership in song that comes from a choir is a true gift to the congregation.
- We have chairs for the Church Council and for Nominations. This is HUGE. It means the congregation is stepping forward in leadership. Watch for the formal minutes from the last Church Council meeting (March 4). This completes our roster for leadership of the critical committees for the church but don’t worry, there is always a need for you to come and help with your talents and gifts.
- We have a worship team that supports the design and planning of Sunday worship services. Have you gotten your beads during this Lenten season? Thank the worship team for coming up with this idea (and the Crafty Ladies for making it happen).
- We have a new membership system with all the names entered. If you haven’t given Claire your birth date yet, please do. It helps us get the system fully operational.

We have a new pledge and giving system. Thanks to Gail Barnes, our pledges and donations are now tracked inside our membership system making her job simpler, making the whole process more transparent.

This is just a small bit of everything that has been happening. It’s the kind of growth that really matters in a church. Like a seeding, we are establishing our roots, securing our footing, enriching the soil, getting ready for the warmer weather of Spring. Now, do you see why I am so excited? Come and join the excitement of new growth, of new life.

Pastor Rick



March Birthdays

3 Theresa Rogers
11 Ndayishimiye Rahabu Obedi
11 Jennifer Fillion
11 Elizabeth Herzig
12 Daniel Barkyoumb
14 Brian Hope
20 Kyle David Jurasz
22 Charles Rogers
24 Frank Zuidema
27 Sandy Glazier
28 Steven Hayes
30 Trisha Schempp
30 Emilie Alice Marie Gutowski

Anniversaries

3/12/53 Charles and Terri Rogers

Address Change for

Kathy Daniels:

48D Lee Lang Terr.

West Springfield, MA 01089

MARCH LECTIONARY



March 4, 2018 3rd Sunday in Lent
Purple Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19 (UMH 750);
2 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

March 11, 2018 4th Sunday in Lent
UMCOR Sunday Purple Num 21:4-9; Ps
107:1-3, 17-22 (UMH 830); March 17 St.
Patrick's Day Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-
21 (Begin Daylight Saving Time 2 a.m.)

March 18, 2018 5th Sunday in Lent
Purple Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-12
(UMH 785); Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 25, 2018 Passion/Palm Sunday 6th
Sun. in Lent Purple or Red Liturgy of the
Palms: Mark 11:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
(UMH 839) Liturgy of the Passion: Isaiah 50:4-
9a; Psalm 31:9-16 (UMH 764); Philippians 2:5
-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

March 29, 2018 Holy Thursday
Purple or Red Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14;
Ps 116:1-4, 12-19 (UMH 837); 1 Corinthians
11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

March 30, 2018 Good Friday
No Color Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22 (UMH
752); Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42 July

April 1, 2018 Easter Day
White or Gold Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,
14-24 (UMH 839); I Corinthians 15:1-11;
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

Sharing and Caring...Please send a note or give a call!

Pat Aseltine	Ginny Glaska	Diane Hall	Ward & Lorraine Harlow
330 Poplar Ave	189 Springfield Rd	183 Craiwell Ave	180 Wolcott Ave
W. Spfld., MA 01089	Westfield, MA 01085	W. Spfld., MA 01089	W. Spfld., MA 01089

Outreach & Mission



**Feeding the
Community**

Parish Cupboard Collection

This month, please bring in canned fruit and muffin mixes for the Cupboard.

Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen

Sunday, March 18th - Preparing on Friday, March 16th

Needed:

10-12 lbs. meatballs (not pork)

8 lbs. diced tomatoes and tomato sauce

We also need **5 people** to bring in 2 lbs of cooked pasta
and

2 people to prepare the meal.



UMW News...

"A Day Apart" - UMW Retreat and Breakfast

Saturday, March 10th

Breakfast at 8:30AM Retreat 9-11AM

Hear stories from the Bible to see the power of God's word to create sacred space for encountering God and deepen our faith.

Ecumenical Outreach Events In March

Where: First Congregational Church, 20 Lathrop St.

Breakfast Dates: Saturday, March 10th and 24th , 9-10AM

Sponsored by the W. Spfld. Lion's Club and W. Spfld. Rotary Club

Supper Date: Wednesday, March 14th, 5:30-6:30PM

Sponsored by the St. Thomas School Teachers

The Diane Crowell Palm Sunday Dinner: Sunday, March 25th, 12-2PM

Sponsored by the Big E Trust and Ecumenical Outreach

All events are free and all are welcome!

Free seasonal clothes and children's books will be available.

Scout Sunday at WSUMC!



We give thanks for Rev. Sam's ministry!



LAY SERVANT MINISTRY

Advance Course Opportunity

April/May 2018

Saturday, April 14th and Saturday, May 5th, 2018

Time: 9:30AM - 3:00PM

Leader: Rev. Joy Toll-Chandler

Location: Hope UMC, 31 Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007

LIFE TOGETHER IN THE U.M. TRADITION (United Methodist Polity) This course gives participants an overview of the structure and organization of the United Methodist Church.

For more information and the registration form [click here](#). **Registration dead line: April 1, 2018**

For further questions or information on the upcoming classes, contact Stephanie Cyr (District Director, Lay Servant Ministries) (860) 375-9760 or cyrbrass@gmail.com.

Aren't you excited about Lent and Easter? We are too!

Our Lent series with Pastor Rick and Rev. Sam is all about reflection on our faith journey, forgiveness, and prayer. The Crafty Ladies have prepared some wonderful reminders for us; the pocket bead string and the 'Prayer is your love note to God' refrigerator magnet. If you haven't received yours, pick one up any Sunday during Lent. Can't make it to church? Call and leave your name and address with the church and we will mail one to you!

Here's what's in store for the Easter Season:

Sunday, March 25th, Palm Sunday – come join Rev. Sam as we celebrate the arrival of Christ into the city.

Maunday Thursday, March 29th, 6pm – we will share a communion meal of soup and bread followed by a short service in the Sanctuary.

Good Friday Ecumenical Walk, March 30th - Starting at noon at St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish. The Way of the Cross is a walk through the downtown and Mer-rick sections of West Springfield. There will be stops at various churches, and at the town green. If you can't walk the route, you can follow by car.

Easter Sunday: April 1st at 10:00am - Come and Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!



The MA Council of Churches, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield, and the New England Conference hosted an ecumenical service to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018. The service was Jan. 19 at the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel in Springfield. Pastor Rick, his wife Julie and two members from our congregation were in attendance.



Easter Flower Order Form

Flowers to beautify our church on Easter Sunday, April 1st, 2018 may be ordered
now thru Sunday, **March 18th.**

Place your order by filling out the form below and placing it in the offering plate or
mailing it to the church office. Please enclose your check payable to: **West
Springfield United Methodist Church** with your order.

Lily	\$8.00	# _____	\$ _____
Tulip (asst.)	\$8.00	# _____	\$ _____
Hydrangea (asst.)	\$18.00	# _____	\$ _____

In lieu of flowers I would like to make a donation of \$ _____ for church operating costs.

*All flowers remaining after the Easter Service will be delivered to a member of our at home community or
placed in the Memorial Garden.*

Please check one:

☐ I will take the flowers ☐ Please take the flowers to an at home member ☐ Please plant in Garden

Your Name: _____ Tel : _____

Check One: ☐ In Memory Of: ☐ In Honor Of: ☐ In Celebration Of:

Specific Wording: _____

Hope United Methodist Church is hosting a
"Fling into Spring Tea Social and Fashion Show"
on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at 1PM.
Doors open at 12PM for pre-show shopping.
The show is at:: Hope United Fellowship Hall, 31 Main St.,
Belchertown, MA.
Call the Hope Church Office for tickets at (413) 323-7584 .
Ticker\$5.00 ea.
The tea includes a light lunch with dessert.
The show is brought to you by The Little Black Dress.
All are welcome!

Prayer Time continues
on Tuesdays from 1-2PM.
Read the bible, send love
notes to God, listen in qui-
et to prepare for the beau-
ty of Easter and the humor
of Jesus.



Preschool News

The preschool is back! Everyone is well rested from the February break and ready to jump into the fun learning planned for the month. March is sure to be a fun, busy one. I'm hoping we will see the "lamb" side of March and less of the "lion." Hopefully spring is around the corner!!

The preschool is celebrating school spirit week and the 100th day of school this month. During school spirit we will enjoy a fun theme each day. The children will enjoy a magic show by Ed Popielarczyk to add to the celebration, classrooms will have a special 100 day snack, and the family project involves using 100 of the same item. This is sure to be a fun week for the children! The preschool is also wondering if the Leprechaun will make an appearance on St. Patrick's Day. A visit from the leprechaun always stirs up excitement and mischief.

The children will enjoy visits from some special visitors to help us celebrate Read Across America. Each visitor will share their favorite books with the children. We are excited to hear their stories!

Last month the preschool had our Open House event for the committee to come tour the preschool, meet the staff and enroll their children. We enjoyed a nice turn out and our enrollment for the fall is full with only a few places left in our 3's program. The staff and I are more than pleased to see the program continue to grow!







If anyone is interested in purchasing a Yankee Candle to help support the preschool's early spring fundraiser, please call the preschool office at 736-2770 or email us at director@mmpskids.com

Have a great month!

Suzanne Schneider

Director MMPS

West Springfield UMC Calendar - March 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>"The air is like a butterfly With frail blue wings. The happy earth looks at the sky And sings." - Joyce Kilmer, <i>Spring</i></p>				1	2	3
				Tai Chi 5-9PM (FH,K)		Tai Chi 9-1 (FH,K)
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10AM Worship Scout Spaghetti Supper 3-8PM (F,K)		Prayer Time 1 - 2PM Tai Chi 5-9PM (FH,K)	Crafty Ladies 9:30-11:30AM (21)	Tai Chi 5-9PM (FH,K)		UMW Retreat & Breakfast 8:30AM-1PM (K,N)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10AM Worship Girl Scouts 6-7PM (FH)		Prayer Time 1 - 2PM Tai Chi 5-9PM (FH,K)	Crafty Ladies 9:30-11:30AM (21)	Tai Chi 5-9PM (FH,K)	Prepare food for Loaves & Fishes.	Tai Chi 9-1 (FH,K)
						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10AM Worship Cub Scouts 3-5PM (F,K) Deadline to submit newsletter articles		Prayer Time 1 - 2PM Tai Chi 5-9PM (FH,K) 	Crafty Ladies 9:30-11:30AM (21)	Tai Chi 5-9PM (FH,K)	Scouts Pinewood Derby 7-9:30PM (F,K)	Tai Chi 9-1 (FH,K)
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10AM Worship Girl Scouts 6-7PM (FH) 		Prayer Time 1 - 2PM Tai Chi 5-9PM (FH,K)	Crafty Ladies 9:30-11:30AM (21) Preschool Advisory Board 6-8PM	Tai Chi 5-9PM (FH,K)	 Good Friday	Tai Chi 9-1 (FH,K)

March Communion Offering is for UMCOR Sunday.

Your generous gift supports UMCOR's administrative costs so that all designated gifts will go to the program of the giver's choice. Your contribution ensures UMCOR's response in times of crisis.