



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Stamford

2022 Autumn Issue

August-November 2022

Page 1 - Pastor Kristina's Message

Page 2 - Sermon Series: LUKEWARM ON FIRE! and Bible Study

Pages 3-4 - Ways to get involved, participate, engage

INSERT - Birthdays & Anniversaries (August - November)

Hey there! Grab a piece of paper and a pen! This is an interactive post! I want to begin by thanking you all for a fabulous first month together. July was a month filled with engagement with many of you - through worship, one-on-one conversations, in studies, and in meetings. A picture is beginning to form in my mind:



I am learning what you *love* about First UMC. Take a moment to write down what YOU love about First UMC. (Take your time; I'll wait.)

I am learning what you *desire* for First UMC - elements you'd like to see restored and/or new ways of being the church today. Take a moment to write down YOUR desire for First UMC. (Take your time; I am very patient!)

I am learning just how much COVID has been a wet blanket on your enthusiasm for ministry. We've lost our Sunday morning discipline of worship. We've stepped away from the ways we serve and love our neighbors. A pandemic is more like a firehose than a wet blanket, right?! It has affected all of us. How is it holding you back from experiencing the abundant life that Jesus said he came to offer you?

I want to help you get your enthusiasm back. Here's our Plan A:

- 1. Sermon Series: "LUKEWARM ON FIRE!":** This August we are continuing a sermon series - chosen because I can feel how much our "fire" needs to be heated up again and I know that Jesus, through the telling of the Gospel of Luke, can get us back on track. [For fun: each one is named after a popular song of former decades! See if you know them or can remember. ☺]
- 2. Cottage Meetings:** In August we're going to have 5 Cottage Meetings. These are 75 minute gathers where congregation and pastor get together to talk more about the things you just wrote down. Three will be at people's homes, one will be at the church, and one will be on ZOOM. Once we've firmed up the schedule, we'll publish it so that you can sign up. [In home meetings will be limited to 12 people.]
- 3. Fall Retreats:** To be scheduled in September/October, we'll look to schedule both a leadership retreat and a full church retreat - all held right here on our campus, so no travel involved. I am eager to share with you tangible approaches to all that we discern through our conversations in August - much of which will be well within your tool/gift set - but approached in a forward-thinking cutting edge way. That's what I bring to the table and I'm eager to give it to First UMC during the time I have with you!

That's an update for now! More to come for sure, so keep an eye out for it!

Blessings on the journey, Pastor Kristina

Sermon Series: LUKE ~~warm~~ ON FIRE!

July 31: Smoke of a Distant Fire

August 7: An Eternal Flame

August 14: Light My Fire!

August 21: We Didn't Start the Fire

Want to contact your pastor? She's here for YOU!

Rev. Kristina Hansen

"Pastor Kristina" or, "PK"

Office Hours: 10-1 (Tue/Wed/Thurs) or by appointment

Cell: (text or call) 516-901-2216

August 7 **SUNDAY 9th Sunday after Pentecost**

- Pastor Kristina will bring the message, "An Eternal Flame" based on Psalm 50 and Luke 12:32-40.

August 14 **SUNDAY 10th Sunday after Pentecost**

- Pastor Kristina will bring the message "Light my Fire!" based on Psalm 80 and Luke 12:49-56

August 21 **SUNDAY 11th Sunday after Pentecost**

- Pastor Kristina will bring the message, "We Didn't Start the Fire" based on Psalm 71:1-6 and Luke 13¹⁰⁻¹⁷

JOIN OUR BIBLE STUDY!

Tony Parenti invites you all to participate in a new Bible study entitled "How (not) to Save the World" by Hosanna Wong. Learn how to talk about Jesus (and the most important story in the world) with our family members, friends, classmates, and coworkers - without coming off as awkward, pushy, or weird.

Study guidebooks are available FREE in the church office. See inside the front cover to view the video to prepare for the Sunday 8:30am discussions.

Next session is **August 7** and will resume from page 13 to the end of chapter 1.

Sign on zoom link (no password required):

Please download & import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAqdO2vqjouEtPgSTHxoJX0ia507CRua35/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGsqTguHdCUtBGARpwIB4jCLO3wiH5bj7dtjSzRKzhcSCnOZutDZ-1oM-rF>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84734741487>

Meeting ID: 847 3474 1487

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84734741487# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,84734741487# US (New York)

TAKE A DAY TO GET INVOLVED: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD



Our Cooperative Parish is teaming up to participate in a Habitat for Humanity build! Our first time out, volunteers met on Saturday, July 23rd. There were three from the UMC of Westport and Weston and four from UMC of Trumbull. They are inviting First Church to join in!

George Hanze, the coordinator between Habitat for Humanity and the Cooperative Parish initiative, has provided the following Saturday dates for advance planning so please add to your calendar if you're interested and available to volunteer:

September 24, 2022

December 17, 2022

January 14, 2023

Here is the Link to register with Habitat directly: <http://umc.habitatcfc.volunteerhub.com/>

George Hanze of UMC of Westport and Weston is available to answer your questions about the upcoming volunteer opportunities. Just give him a call at 914-843-2021

Limit to ten (10) individuals. First ten people who sign-up

Meet at the Habitat CFC Warehouse, located at 1542 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport, CT, 06610

WHEN: Saturday September 24th; December 17th; January 14th, arrivals starting at 8:00AM (but no later than 8:30AM) to end at approximately by 3:15PM.

3 WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN OUR PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



1. **Need a prayer shawl?** Call and ask for one! We want you to have it!*
2. **Want to give a prayer shawl to someone?** Call and ask for one! What a wonderful thing you can do for someone you know or know about!*
3. **Interested in sharing your creativity by participating in a gentle and beautiful ministry?** Please join us! Our next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is scheduled for **Saturday, August 6th at 11:00am in the church lounge.**

(*Please reach out to Ruth Taranto at 203.273.5231 with your questions and requests. Yarn, needles, and patterns are available if you're interested in making a shawl.)

VISIT OUR VEGETABLE GARDEN TO CLAP FOR JOY, SAY A PRAYER, OR PULL A WEED!



Have you visited the **First UMC vegetable garden** yet? Well, better **check it out to see how you're helping to feed your neighbor!** Got a green thumb and a little time to lend a hand in the garden? Give Daniel Mac Dougall a call at 203-428-7694 for more information.

Reminder: Church office hours are Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 2:00pm

To reach Eileen Kelly in the church office, call 203-324-1323 or email at admin@fumcstamford.org

3 WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN **Back to School Backpacks (DEADLINE 8/14)**

Please consider helping children from the **Department of Children and Families** out of Norwalk, CT by donating a backpack filled with all the items they'll need to begin a brand new school year. You may also fill the backpacks with other items and anything else you think will help an abused or neglected child feel like they are ready for school. Often these children have been moved to a new school as part of the placement process and have an increased need to feel like they belong: please - no used items unless they are in very good condition.

1. Buy a Backpack - 15 more needed please! Daniel Mac Dougall has already purchased 25 backpacks. We need 15 more so we have a total of 40 backpacks! (Contact Daniel Mac Dougall at 203-428-7694 if you are intending to purchase one!)

2. Fill a backpack - shopping can be fun! See the list below of items that are needed. Choose Elementary or Middle/High School then head to the stores? Have children? Grandchildren? A wonderful way to include them in mission! (Contact Daniel Mac Dougall if you are intending to fill one!)

3. Fund a backpack - so appreciated! Not everyone has time or the ability to shop, but don't let that discourage you from participating. Your donation of money will allow a happy shopper to go shop! You can donate by designating your church offering with the word "Backpacks".

Elementary School -

Books (age appropriate)
Colored pencils, crayons, drawing pad, erasers, pencil sharpener
File folders (colorful)
Glue sticks, markers
Journal/notebooks
Ruler, scissors (blunt)
Tissues

Middle/High School -

Books (age appropriate)
Colored pencils, pens, erasers, scissors, pencil sharpener
Compass
Drawing pad, file folders, geometric stencils
Glue, glue sticks
Markers, notebooks, journal
Ruler, white out

Please drop off at the church office before Monday, August 14th. Delivery of backpacks is scheduled for August 15th.

Need Some Social Time???

Mah Jong Fridays!!!

Looking for something **fun to do on Fridays?** Please stop by the church for **Mah Jong!** Ladies meet in the lounge every Friday from 10:00am - 2:00pm, play Mah Jong, have some snacks, and enjoy each other's company.
Need more information? Contact Ruth Taranto at ruthfriend@sbcglobal.net

Happy Anniversary

August 1, Yvonne Powell & Osby McMillan
August 1, Dianna & Mark Shattuck
August 8, Vanessa & Cyril Carroll
August 10, Cynthia & Don Richardson
August 17, Leola & Robert Rosati
August 19, Pam & Joe Drago
August 19, Eileen & Doug McArthur
August 19, Elfreda & Franklyn Fawundu
August 30, Tazula & Bernardo Phipps
August 31, Jacqueline McLean & Walter Markes

September 1, Antonia & Carlton Thompson
September 3, Rev. Kristina Hansen & Leslie Reyman
September 6, Bonnie & Brien Adams
September 7, Eileen & Steven Swerdlick
September 9, Lisa & Spencer Rankin
September 19, Ann & Warren Hayes
September 22, Valeria & Clifford Wells

October 5, Tara & Michael Wilson
October 5, Viola & Russell Wright
October 6, Elizabeth & Randall Outlaw
October 10, Jennifer & John Sileo
October 11, Lillian & George Lewis
October 13, Elsie & James Ferraro
October 16, Diana & Chris Boynton
October 24, Vicki & Nolan Fischer
October 27, Lisa & Ray Flaig

November 5, Debra & Edwin Cho

Your celebrations are important to your church!
For corrections to be made to the anniversary or birthday list, please contact Eileen Kelly
in the church office by calling 203.324.1323 or at admin@fumcstamford.org

happy birthday

AUGUST

1 Michael Brito
2 Lily Carroll
2 Christina Chann
6 Shayna Colon
6 Zoe Kennedy
7 Kaiyra Greer
8 Daniel Mac Dougall
9 Carole Hall
9 Sylvia Stunkel
9 Mark Hanny
12 Viola Wright
13 Ryan Reed
14 Stephanie Wilson
14 Gail Hanny
17 Duane Hill
18 Gavin Steenbock
18 Terran Whittingham
18 Julian Miranda
19 Robert Slutz
21 Roland Rosati
23 Joshua Pantalone
24 Michelle Drago
24 Jennifer Sileo
24 Jonathan Swerdlick
24 Gina Rudolph
24 Eileen McArthur
24 Evelyn Brito
24 Vaneese Thomas
25 Lee Hill
26 Daniel Palmer
26 Lillian Lewis
28 Alicia Bingham
28 Chimelum Okonkwo
28 Sarah McLaughlin-Tapper
30 Sandy Abreu
31 Faith Donaldson
31 Colvin Rogers

SEPTEMBER

1 John DeSouza
1 Steve Brown
2 Pastor Kristina Hansen
5 Clifford Wells
5 Valeria Wells
7 Justin Kern
8 Adom Laryea Adjei
8 Julie Free
8 Julia Brown
8 Dana Hill
9 Sao Koroma
10 Hayden Miranda
12 Benjamin Liongson
12 Nolan Fischer
14 Matthew Mayfield
15 Vanessa Carroll
17 Rohini DeSilva
17 Colin Skidmore
17 Pam Drago
18 Kevin McAdoo
19 Charles Shepherd
19 Twanda Bowers
19 Frankida Fawundu
21 Mattia Anderson
22 Teresa Hatfield
23 John Wachira
25 Kimberly Nevers
25 Warren Hayes
26 John Carroll
26 Kendra Welch
26 Tammy Castelino
26 Eli Shattuck
28 Bill Rudolph
30 Douglas Penn

OCTOBER

6 Patricia Reed
6 Corinn Williams
7 Brad Hardisty
9 Brandon Hardisty
10 Laura Carroll
10 Lauren Hanny
11 Clarita Mac Dougall
11 Brianna Hardisty
12 Will Rudolph
14 Cameron Williams
14 John Sileo
15 Amy Steenbock
16 Marsha Jerritts
16 Maura Miranda
17 Paul Welch
21 Robert Sheck
24 Larry McAdoo
25 Eli McArthur
27 Claire Anderson
28 Drew Francique
28 Griffin Cho
30 Colin Joffrion
30 Judith Hurwich
30 Bridgette Jean-Jacques

NOVEMBER

2 Julio Marin
2 Lee Mayfield
3 Julia Steenbock
3 Jennifer Belton
3 Karen Eiler
4 Paul Whittingham
9 Leola Cheney-Rosati
11 Allison Garvey
14 Stephanie Romano
14 Barbara Jones
15 Marge Skidmore
16 Richard Coffey
18 Meade Love Thomas
18 Eileen Kelly
20 Jill Jacobs
21 Rachel Point DuJour
22 Martha Sage
25 Cheryl Lechok Nowotarski
29 Patricia Rattray
30 John Stoddard