



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Stamford

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What Do YOU Make of It

There is an old adage that "Life is what you make of it." What do YOU make of it?

Certainly, there are limits to the extent to which we "make" our lives what they are, but in general, we have quite a bit of opportunity and volition to choose the course of our daily living. Do YOU make the most of this opportunity? Will you?

During the coming weeks and months of Winter into Spring, and then Spring into Summer, we will all have a number of opportunities to work at making something different, and better, out of our lives. In February, as we celebrate Black History Month together, we are all encouraged to participate in an intentional reading of the book Black and White, seeking to transform the world into a more just, equitable, and loving place - one relationship at a time. In March, as we enter into the introspective season of Lent, we are invited to focus our minds and hearts on "giving up our worries for Lent," as together we consider the 5 verses at Philippians 4.4-8, along with a reading of Pastor and author Max Lucado's book, and study, Anxious for Nothing.

We will seek to receive newly committed Christians into Church membership throughout March, April, May, and June. Up to 10 youth are going to begin a course in confirmation beginning Sunday, March 6th, so that they can decide for themselves about how they choose to respond to God's invitation to live their lives in covenantal relationship with Christ and the church. On April 3rd, and then again at Pentecost on June 5th, we will facilitate the opportunity for new friends to make a covenant to support the church by their witness, their prayers, their presence, their gifts, and their service, as we celebrate church membership.

A great part of our mission at the First United Methodist Church of Stamford is extending ourselves in service to the least, the last, and the lost. This mission will be fulfilled through gifts of food to be distributed to the needy at Eastertime through Covenant to Care, in relationship with the Social Services of Fairfield County. In May, we will plant our Community Harvest Garden to raise vegetables to distribute through the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County. In June, we hope to be able to send a team of Youth to Hartford, CT to work on the homes of the working poor for 1 week from June 26th-July 2nd, 2022.

In the gospel according to Luke, chapter 24, the scriptures say that very early on the first day of the week, women went to the tomb. They found that the stone had been rolled away and they did not find the body of Jesus as they had expected. The first part of Chapter 24, verse 4, can be translated "They didn't know what to make of this." What do YOU make of it? **What WILL YOU make of it?**

Proposed WEEKLY SCHEDULE

For non-recurring events, please see "seasonal church program calendar" on page #4

Sundays

- 8:30am – Bible Study on ZOOM – coordinates 847 3474 1487
- 10:25am – Sunday School gathers upstairs in Sunday School area
- 10:30-11:30am – Gathered Worship in the Sanctuary and Live Stream
- 5:00-6:00pm – Spanish Worship in the Chapel on February 20, March 20, April 24, & May 15

Mondays

- 6:00-7:00pm – Regular Weekly Youth Fellowship meetings starting 1st Week of April

Tuesdays

- 7:00-8:00am – Men's Fellowship Bible Study on ZOOM
- 1:00-2:00pm – Worship Team Meeting on ZOOM – coordinates 203 914 7886
- 7:30-8:30pm – Bible Study with Pastor Hewitt on ZOOM – coordinates 203 914 7886
TOPIC: Celebration of Discipline – by Richard Foster

Wednesdays

- 6:30-7:15 – Bell Choir Rehearsal – Tentatively Starting March 9th
- 7:30-9:00 – Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Tentatively Starting March 9th

Thursdays

- 7:30-9:00pm – Boy Scout Troop 9 meetings in McArthur Hall {contact Roger Williams}

Saturdays

- 5:00-6:00pm – Celebration Sanctuary in the Chapel and Live Stream - Informal Worship

Celebrations of Holy Communion

Communion is still celebrated on the first Sunday of each month

Hygienic Holy Communion is Served & Live Streamed on the 1st Saturday & Sunday each month.

Spanish Language Worship Service

February 20, March 20, April 24, May 15

Live Stream at 5:00pm

fumcstamford.org – "streaming"

Having worked for Campus Crusade for Christ in his native country of Ecuador, our own Mr. Milton Vargas responds to a call on his life to be a vessel for God's Word. Join us Sundays as listed, at fumcstamford.org

FOUR SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES DURING LENT

**Two Times for Worship in the Chapel
Gatherings on Ash Wednesday
7:00am and 7:00pm**

Services will also be live streamed
and available for re-viewing
on Facebook & YouTube

**Maundy Thursday & Good Friday
Gatherings for Worship & Music
7:00pm each evening**

Services will also be live streamed
And available for re-viewing
On Facebook & YouTube

ALSO – JOIN US FOR EASTER SON RISE SERVICE AT THE COVE – 6:15am

Lenten/Easter Seasonal Worship Calendar
Worship themes for Services February 1st - May 31st, 2022

EPIPHANY - Theme: The Struggle for The New Day

February

February 6 - 5th Sunday after the Epiphany - Luke 5.1-11, Again - Another Time

February 13 - 6th Sunday after the Epiphany - Luke 6.17-27, Contrapuntal Beatitudes

February 20 - 7th Sunday after the Epiphany - Luke 6.27-38, Counterintuitive Christianity

February 27 - Transfiguration Sunday - Luke 9.28-43, Don't Grope for More - Carpe Diem

Ash Wednesday - March 2nd - worship theme: "The Right Kind of Fast" - Isaiah 58

Recognition of our brokenness and an individual & personal commitment to change our hearts and lives
A brief service of invitation to Lenten discipline will be held in the Chapel at 7:00am.

An hour-long devotional service will be held in the Chapel at 7:00pm.

Both Ash Wednesday Services will also be Live Streamed on the church website and Facebook as available.

LENT - Theme: Philippians 4.4-8 - The Most Highlighted Passage

Anxious for Nothing, based on the Book & Study by Max Lucado

Goal: "Giving Up Our Worries for Lent - Giving Them Up to God" & Memorize the Verse

March 6 - Rejoice in the Lord Always - Philippians 4 verse 4 - Gospel: Luke 4.1-13

March 13 - Let Your Gentleness Be Evident to All - Philippians 4 verse 5 - Gospel: Luke 13.31-35

March 20 - Present Your Requests to God - Philippians 4 verse 6 - Gospel: Luke 13.1-9

March 27 - The Peace of God Will Guard Your Heart - Philippians 4 verse 7 - Gospel: Luke 15.1-32

April 3 - Meditate on These Things - Philippians 4 verse 8 - Gospel: John 12.1-8

April 10th - Palm Sunday - "A Service of Proclamation of the Passion Narrative"

April 14th - Maundy Thursday - "The Institution of the Last Supper & The New Commandment"

April 15th - Good Friday - "A Service of Music and Meditation for Good Friday"

April 17th - Easter Sunday - Gospel: Luke 24.1-12 - "What do YOU Make of It?"

The Sundays of EASTER - Theme: *A Study of the Book of Revelation*

April 24th - Revelation 1.1-8 - Introduction to Revelation - Gospel: John 20.19-31

May 1st - Revelation 5.1-14 - The Scroll and the Lamb - Gospel: John 21.1-19

May 8th - Revelation 7.9-17 - The Multitude from Every Nation - Gospel: John 10.22-30

May 15th - Revelation 21.1-6 - The New Heaven and the New Earth - Gospel: John 13.31-35

May 22nd - Revelation 21.9-22.7 - Vision of the New Jerusalem - Gospel: John 14.23-29

May 29th - Revelation 22.8-21 - The Epilogue and Benediction - Gospel: John 17.20-26

PENTECOST

June 5th - Pentecost Sunday - "When We Cry Out "GOD?!" Acts 2.1-21, Romans 8.14-17, John 14.8-27

Spring into Summer Seasonal Church Program Calendar – February - June 2022

For weekly re-occurring events please see weekly calendar on page #2

February (Black History Month) – Spring Quarterly Newsletter distributed Sunday, February 6

- 7 - Mail Valentine's Day Care Packages to College Students
- 10 - Thursday, 7:30pm - Board of Trustees Meeting
- 13 - Sunday, Scouting Ministries Sunday – Celebration of Boy Scout Troop 9
 - Noon - **Church Council Meeting on ZOOM**
 - 5:00pm - Spanish Language Worship Service – Gathered in Room 20 & Live Streamed
- 26 - Saturday, 9:00am - Youth Group Meet for Breakfast at Orem's Diner - Route 7 in Wilton
- 27 - Sunday, Noon - **REACHING TEAM MEETING** - to Plan Resurrection Weekend Outreach

March (Women's History Month)

- 2 - Wednesday, 7:30am & 7:30pm - Ash Wednesday Worship Observance
- 6 - Sunday, Noon - **MISSION TEAM MEETING** - Easter Basket Distribution & Spring/Summer Planning
 - 1:00pm - First Gathering of Confirmation Class to be Confirmed on Pentecost - June 5th, 2022
- 10 - Thursday, 7:30pm - Board of Trustees Meeting
- 13 - Sunday, Noon - **Church Council Meeting on ZOOM**
- 26 - Saturday, 9:00am - Youth Group Meet for Breakfast at Orem's Diner - Route 7 in Wilton
- 27 - Sunday, Noon - **1st Quarterly Finance Committee Meeting**
 - Special Offering for UMCOR Sunday

April

- 3 - Sunday, Noon - **Church Council Meeting on ZOOM** / **A Celebration of Church Membership**
- 10 - Sunday, 7:00am - Palm Sunday Communion Worship Service followed by Breakfast
 - 10:30am - Traditional Observance of Palm Sunday in Worship

Holy Week – April 11th-April 16

- April 14 - Maundy Thursday - 7:30pm - Celebration of the Last Supper
- April 15 - Good Friday - 7:30pm - A Jazz and Blues Consideration of Good Friday
- 17 - Sunday, 6:12am - Easter Son Rise Worship Service at the Cove Beach Park
 - 10:30am - Traditional Celebration of Worship for Easter with Holy Communion
- 24 - Sunday, NOON - **Leadership/Nominating Team Meeting** to discuss “succession planning” for leadership, and to collaborate on recognitions on the June 12th Annual Celebration of Ministry.

May - Summer Quarterly Newsletter Distributed Friday, April 29th

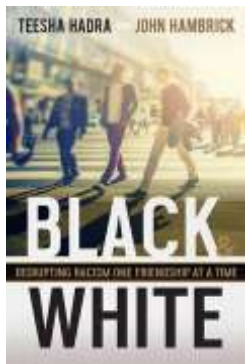
- 1- Sunday - 4:00pm - Young Artists' Showcase in the church sanctuary
- 7- Saturday, 9am-6pm - **Annual MYRTLE & DOGWOOD FESTIVAL**
 - 9am-11am UMW/MYF Fund Raiser - Planting of the Dogwood Tree & Remembrance of the Legend of the Dogwood
 - Live Music on the Lawn with Food Truck & Mission Fund Raiser
- 8 - Sunday, 10:30am - Mother's Day
- 13-14 - Friday Night & Saturday - **A leadership retreat for church leaders**
- 15 - Sunday, Noon - **Church Council Meeting on ZOOM**

June

- 2-5 - New York Annual Conference Sessions
- 5 - Sunday, 10:30am - **A Celebration of Confirmation**
- 12 - Sunday, 10:30am - **Annual Celebration of Ministry** including “Church Yearbook”
- 18 - Saturday, 5:00pm - **Juneteenth** Recognition of the Emancipation of Slaves
- 19 - Sunday, 10:30am - Father's Day
- 26 - Sunday, 10:30am - **A Recognition of all Graduates** - Presentation of Weir Scholarships
 - NOON - **2nd Quarterly Finance Committee Meeting**
- 26-July 2 - **Sunday-Saturday - MISSION WEEK FOR YOUTH** with Centerport UMC and other UM Youth
 - Youth will travel to Wethersfield, CT to work on homes of the working poor around Hartford, CT

Upcoming Faith Studies

Join us for the following studies. The books for each of the studies (around \$10 each), are available in the church office. **All studies are open and available to anyone and everyone.** Come be transformed by God's Word, safe small group fellowship, and mutual accountability.

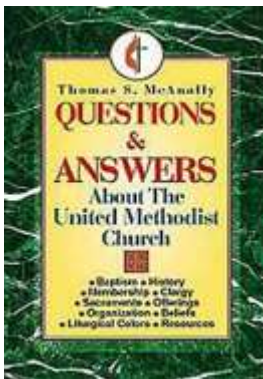


Black and White

Disrupting Racism One Friendship at a Time

Most of us don't need to make speeches. We need to make friends. This is the core message of *Black and White* by authors Teesha Hadra, a young African American woman, and John Hambrick, a 60-year-old white man.

RECOMMENDED READING FOR ALL



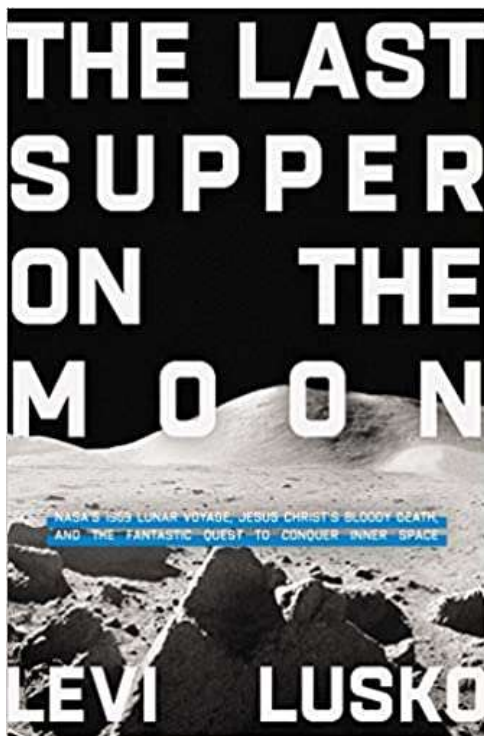
Question & Answers

-by Bishop Thomas S. McNally

A useful guide that answers questions about the beliefs, practices, and history of the UMC. This revised edition includes updated information on the demographics and changing landscape of the United Methodist Ch. **TO ASSIST NEW MEMBERS & OLD**

LENTEN BOOK / FAITH Study meeting each Sunday – 8:30am on ZOOM - **847 3474 1487**

Call Mr. Anthony Parenti for additional information 203-451-3457 – join the ongoing study whenever you wish.



The Last Supper on the Moon

NASA's 1969 Lunar Voyage, Jesus Christ's Bloody Death, & the Fantastic Quest to Conquer Inner Space

If there are places in your heart and corners of your mind that feel just as deep and dark and inaccessible as outer space, this book is for you. Fight as you may, unearthing the happiness and fulfillment you long for can feel nearly impossible.

In Psalm 8 David urges us to consider the heavens, to look up at the night sky. Doing so will help you discover fundamental truths about God. Namely, that—even though his love for you is as beyond comprehension as the farthest corners of the universe—through his Son, you can grab hold of it, and it has the power to transform your inner space.

Bestselling author Levi Lusko shares how you can:

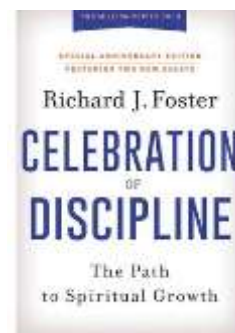
- + learn that life is not about “finding yourself” but discovering who Jesus is
- + believe that God's love and forgiveness is grander than even your greatest failure
- + buck the mundane of everyday life and start dreaming again

Embark on an adventure tracing the words and wonders of Jesus on his trek to the cross. Let *The Last Supper on the Moon* compel you to live with a more profound sense of purpose and a grander view of Jesus, and set you on a trajectory to life, and life more abundantly.

Celebration of Discipline – The Path to Spiritual Growth by Richard J. Foster

Dividing the Disciplines into three movements of the spirit, Foster shows how each movement contributes to a balanced spiritual life. The inward Disciplines of meditation, prayer, fasting and study offer avenues for personal examination and change. The outward Disciplines of simplicity, solitude, submission, and service prepare us to help make the world a better place. The corporate Disciplines of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration bring us nearer to one another & to God.

A SMALL GROUP GATHERS EACH TUESDAY EVENING ON ZOOM 203 914 7886 – February-June





FEBRUARY

1 David Doo
1 Monica Wells
3 Ruth Taranto
7 Nicole Harris
8 Matthew Rankin
8 Bonnie Stunkel Adams
8 Janea Mac Dougall
8 Daniel McArthur
9 Elizabeth Outlaw
9 Thomas Richardson
10 Philip Case
12 B. Lum Lee
13 Avery Prentiss
14 Stephen Polizzi
15 Susan Garvey
16 Walt Cheruk
17 George Adjei
17 Sharon McAdoo
19 Caroline Elliott
19 Rowan Elliott
19 Samantha Free
21 George Collen
22 Jim Parenti
22 Elizabeth Brown
25 Bryan Phelps
26 Iseabaila Hewitt
28 Morgan Pierre

MARCH

1 Ryan Case
1 Kimberly Seitter
2 Joan Shepherd
4 Brenda Pantalone
5 Woody Poulard
5 Kevin Flaig
7 Likeu Chu Lee
8 Steven Menking
10 Samantha Cheruk
12 Mary Hart
13 Vanessa Richardson
14 Colleen Adams
15 Christine Phelps
15 Cheryl Williams
16 Michael Abreu
17 Antonia Thompson
17 Charles Owens
18 Fernanda Silva Ashberg
19 Rosa Colon
21 Tony Parenti
21 Vicki Fischer
21 Amanda Welch
24 James Paight Jr
25 Narie Phipps
27 Brandon Johnston
28 Timothy McArthur
29 Rich Phelps
30 Emma Polizzi
31 Edwin Cho
31 Ramzey Prentiss

APRIL

2 Kimberly Belton
3 Donna Tyson
3 Meaghan Lavelle
3 Carly Sheck
4 Randy Kinder III
5 Mary Ann Bernstein
5 Suzanne Cheruk
8 Sheilah Noya
8 Kadeja Austin
9 Lisa Kennedy
10 Emma Thompson
13 Jenna Miranda
15 Shirley Grimmett
21 Franklyn Fawundu
22 Andrew Abreu
25 Christine Drago
25 Stephen Drago
29 Lauren Wilson
29 Njambi Wachira

MAY

1 Daniel Johnston
5 Kathy Harrison
5 Randall Outlaw
6 Paul Bisset
7 Marilyn Johnston
7 Jeanne Courter
7 Carla Wells
9 Cynthia Richardson
9 Gaylen Nowotarski
10 James Lavelle
10 Dylan Koby Ofori
13 Yvonne Carmen Powell
14 Samuel Palmer
14 Elaine Pope-Joffrion
14 Donna Taber
14 Gabriela Brito
15 William Abreu
16 Annmarie Austin
16 Susan Johnson Kinder
17 Bob Pantalone
17 Meredith Outlaw Kircher
17 Stewart Menking
17 Mark Shattuck
19 Johnathan Palmer
19 Pastor Robb Hewitt
20 Elfreda Fawundu
22 Jackqueline McLean Markes
23 Joe Drago
25 Allison Wilson
26 Deborah Harris
30 Maureen Nevers
31 Debra Jagodzinski

Your celebrations are important to your church. For corrections to be made to the birthday and/or anniversary lists, please contact Eileen Kelly in the church office at admin@fumcstamford.org or call 203.324.1323



- February 7 Sandy & Tony Abreu*
- February 15 Sharon & Larry McAdoo*
- February 15 Pat & Paul Bisset*
- February 26 Judy & John Stoddard*
- March 1 Carmen & Ramzey Prentiss*
- March 31 Viola & Russell Wright*
- April 7 Donna & Patrick Tyson*
- April 16 Susan & Michael Garvey*
- April 16 Julie & Richard Free*
- April 19 Sharon & Steward Menking*
- April 19 Marilyn & Steve Johnston*
- April 27 Meredith & Justin Kircher*
- May 1 Fiona & William Lavelle*
- May 5 Gina & William Rudolph*
- May 16 Elyce & Steve Brown*
- May 18 Susan Johnson & Randy Kinder*
- May 20 Cheryl & Mark Nowotarski*
- May 22 Patricia & Michael Reed*
- May 25 Evelyn & Oswaldo Brito*
- May 26 Debbie & Greg Chann*
- May 30 Shelley & Philip Case*

Proposed Calendar for July - December 2022

July

- 10 - Sunday, Noon - **Church Council Meeting on ZOOM**
- 17 - Sunday, Noon - **TRANSFORMATION TEAM MEEING** - VBS and Fall Christian Ed. Program Planning
- 22-24 - **Mission U** - An event of the Conference United Methodist Women - Stamford Hilton
- 31 - Sunday, Noon - **REACHING TEAM MEETING** - to plan Welcome Back Weekend Outreach

August - Autumn Quarterly Newsletter distributed Sunday, July 31st

- 7 - Sunday, Noon - Final Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting
- 14 - Sunday, Noon - **Church Council Meeting on ZOOM**
Final Delivery of Back-to-School Supplies for Covenant to Care
- 15-19 - Summer **Vacation Bible School**
- 21 - **STEWARDSHIP PLANNING MEETING** - to plan Fall Stewardship Campaign
- 29 - First Day of School in Stamford Public Schools

September

- 10 - Saturday - **Live Music on the Lawn** with Food Truck & Mission Fund Raiser
- 11 - **Welcome Back Sunday!** / **A Celebration of Church Membership**
A New Start to Christian Education and Church Program Ministries
- 18 - Sunday, Noon - **Church Council Meeting on ZOOM**
- 25 - Sunday, Noon - **3rd Quarterly Finance Committee Meeting**

October *September 15th-October 15th*, Hispanic-American Heritage Month

- 2 - Sunday, **World Communion Sunday**
Noon - **MISSION TEAM** - planning for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and e/o/y contributions.
- 9 - Sunday, Noon - **Leadership/Nominating Team Meeting** to discuss leadership nominations for 2023
- 16 - Sunday, Laity Sunday, Noon - **Church Council Meeting on ZOOM**
- 29 - Saturday, 2-4pm - Trunk or Treat

November - Winter Quarterly Newsletter distributed Sunday, November 7th

- 6 - **All Saints Sunday** - Reading of the Names of the beloved departed. Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 13 - Sunday, Noon - **CHARGE CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING**
- 13-19 - **Deliveries of Thanksgiving Food Baskets**
- 20 - Sunday - Christ the King / Thanksgiving Sunday / **A Celebration of Church Membership**
- 27 - First Sunday of Advent

December

- 1 - Thursday - Annual World Aids Day
- 4 - Sunday, Noon - **Church Council Meeting on ZOOM**
- 10 - Saturday, 2-4pm - Nativity Family Fun
- 11 - Sunday - **Annual Christmas Musical Celebration**
Final Delivery Date of Christmas Gifts for Covenant to Care
- 17 - Saturday - 2-4pm - Rehearsal for the children's Nativity for Christmas Eve Family Service
- 24 - Saturday - 5:00pm - Family Christmas Eve Service Featuring Children's Nativity and Candlelight
10:30pm - Late Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols with solo musicians.