



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
Stamford

Page 1 – The Pastor’s Message – A Definitive Time
Page 2 – A Week’s Schedule at First UMC
Page 3 – Winter Seasonal Worship Calendar
Page 4 – Winter Seasonal Program Calendar
Page 5 – Anniversaries
Page 6 – Birthdays
Page 7 – Small Group Survey – *Please participate!*

A Definitive Time

From the time that we were children most of us have spent some time reading or watching movies about definitive times in history. Have you had the sensation of leaving a movie theater feeling completely inspired by the sensory journey that you have taken over those past 90 minutes, and resolving in your heart and mind that your life would be forever altered? The best books, and movies, capture our imaginations, and inspire us to think bigger thoughts, to dream bigger dreams, and ultimately to BE better people.

We are living in a definitive period of history. For the foreseeable future, decades of people will hearken back to these days as a formative time of human character. The stark challenges that we face as individuals, as communities, as a society, and as a global neighborhood, force us to rise to the moment with the full capacity of who we are and what we stand for. We cannot escape the moral challenges of our time relating to public health, racism, global hunger, showing hospitality to “aliens,” and lifting up the least, the last, and the lost.

It is a tremendous privilege to be alive and participating in this great day. Oh, we might desire to shrink from the moment and collect ourselves in quiet solitude. But there is a Spirit in the air that calls us to shape each day, and each moment, in a way that will define the future. Youth, and young adults, are manifesting attitudes and behaviors that somehow instinctively demonstrate potent pathways to future Truth. Glimpses of their passion and energy bring us hope beyond hope for brighter days ahead!

Will you step up and receive the call of God’s summons for our day? Will you define the time by doing all that you can to steer the course of our path forward in a God-ward direction? Will you allow the challenges of this new moment to capture your imagination, and inspire you to think bigger thoughts, dream bigger dreams, and BE a better YOU?

The Voice of God is calling its summons in our day;

Isaiah heard in Zion, and we now hear God say:

“Whom shall I send to succor my people in their need?

Whom shall I send to loosen the bonds of shame and greed?”

We heed, O Lord, your summons, and answer: Here are we!

Send US upon your errand, let US your servants be.

Our strength is dust and ashes, our years a passing hour;

but you can use OUR weakness to magnify YOUR power.

Based on Isaiah 6.8, by John Haynes Holmes, The Voice of God is Calling UMH #436

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

10:25-11:35am – Weekly Sunday School for ages 3-11.

10:30-11:30am – Gathered Worship in Main Sanctuary (outdoors on patio as weather permits)

Worship will continue to Live Stream on the church website, and Facebook, every week.

NOON – Church Council Meetings December 5th, January 9th , February 13th.

5:00-6:00pm – Live Stream of Spanish Worship on November 21st, December 19th, January 16th.

Mondays

7:00-8:00pm – UMW ZOOM Fellowship Meetings on the Last Monday of Each Month

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

6:30-7:30pm – Weekly Bell Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

7:45-9:00pm – Weekly Chancel Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room

Wednesdays

10:00-11:00am – Mid Week Upper Room Study and Prayer Meeting with Pastor Hewitt.

7:30-8:30pm – Bible/Book Study with Pastor Hewitt on ZOOM – coordinates 203 914 7886

Topic: A Celebration of Discipline, by Richard J. Foster

The Classic Introduction to Christian Spirituality

Thursdays

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

Saturdays

5:00-6:00pm – Celebration Sanctuary - Informal & Contemporary Service of Word & Table

Worship will continue to Live Stream on the church website, and Facebook, every week.

Celebrations of Holy Communion

Communion is still celebrated on the first Sunday of each month

Virtual Holy Communion is Live Streamed on Saturdays & Sundays the first weekend each month.

As we re-gather for worship, Holy Communion is served hygienically on first Sundays.

Spanish Language Worship Service

November 21, December 19, January 16

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.

TWO SPECIAL INTERFAITH WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES COMING SOON

**Annual Observance of World's AIDS Day
Stamford AIDS Interfaith**

Live Streaming Wednesday, December 1st
From First UMC of Stamford
go to FUMCStamford.org

Annual Homeless Persons' Memorial

Stamford Interfaith Clergy

Hybrid Worship

Tuesday, December 21st

More details forthcoming

Winter Seasonal Worship Calendar

Worships themes for Services November 1st, 2021 – January 31st, 2021

THE CULMINATION OF KINGDOMTIDE / SUNDAYS AFTER PENECCOST

November

7th – ALL SAINTS DAY Service of Communion, Remembrance & Celebration

Isaiah 25.6-9, I Thessalonians 4.13-18, John 11.32-44 – About Those Who Have Died

14th – The 25th Sunday After Pentecost – Organ & Tissue Donor Sunday

Mark 3.1-8, 32-37 – DON'T BE DECEIVED

21st – Christ the King Sunday – Thanksgiving Sunday – Guest Speaker: Ms. Stacie Robinson

Psalm 8, Revelation 1.4b-8, John 18.33-38 – Find Me Between the Majesty of God

ADVENT – Theme: Every Day Advent – Always

November 28 – The 1st Sunday of Advent – Light the First Candle HOPE – Always Hopeful

Romans 8.18-25 – Who Hopes for What They Already See?

December

5- The 2nd Sunday of Advent – Light the Second Candle WAY – Love Always

I Corinthians 13.1-8 – If I Don't Have Love, I Am Nothing

12 – The 3rd Sunday of Advent – Light the Third Candle JOY – Always Joyful

Philippians 4.4-9 – Rejoice in the Lord Always

19 – The 4th Sunday of Advent – Light the Fourth Candle PEACE – Peace Always

John 14.27-29 – Not as the World Giveth, Give I Unto You

CHRISTMAS

24 – Christmas Eve

5:00pm – Family Service of Christmas – Gathered Worship in Sanctuary & Live Stream

10:00pm – Live Stream of Service of Darkness and Light w/ virtual Holy Communion

26 – The Sunday after Christmas – A Kwanzaa Observance

January

2- Epiphany Sunday – An Adaptation of Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service

EPIPHANY – Theme: The Struggle for The New Day

9- Baptism of the Lord Sunday – Luke 3.15-17, 21-22, Filled with Expectation

16 – 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany – The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance

23 – 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany – Luke 4.4-21, Redeemers Among Us

30 – 4th Sunday after the Epiphany – Luke 4.21-30, We Have What We Need 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, Rather than Groping for More – Seize the Day

Winter Seasonal Church Program Calendar

Non-recurring events November 1st, 2021 – January 31st 2022

For weekly recurring events please see weekly schedule on page #2

November – Native American Heritage Month

- 6 – Saturday, 10:00am – Turn the Soil in the Garden Beds | Coffee, Cider & Doughnuts on site
- 7 – Sunday, 10:30am – A Celebration of All Saints Sunday – Remembrance & Communion
- 7 – Sunday, Noon – Finance Committee Meeting
- 7 – Sunday, 1:00pm – SPRC Meeting
- 11 – Thursday, Veterans Day
- 13 – Saturday, 10-10:30am – SPRC meet with District Superintendent
- 13 – Saturday, 10:30am – Charge Conference Annual Meeting
- 15 – Monday – Thanksgiving Baskets Assembled and ready for delivery partners in service.
- 19 – Friday, 5:00pm – Meet at church to Travel to Pound Ridge UMC for “Messy Church” at 5:30pm
- 21 – Christ the King Sunday – Thanksgiving Worship Celebration & Commitment Sunday
Purchase Christmas Wreaths from the Boy Scouts after Worship
- 24 – Wednesday, 7:00pm – Hybrid Worship with First Congregational Church for Thanksgiving Eve
- 25 – Thanksgiving
- 28 – Sunday, Noon – Mission Team Meeting to discuss Christmas and End of Year Giving

December

- 1 – Wednesday, 7:00pm – Annual **World Aids Day** Interfaith Observance Live Stream
- 3 – Friday, 6-9:00pm – Tentative Date for UMW led – **FAMILY FIRST FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP**
- 5 – Sunday, Noon – Church Council Meeting
- 11 – Saturday, 2-4pm – **Nativity Family Fun**
- 12 – Sunday, Final Delivery of Christmas Gifts for Covenant to Care
- 18 – Saturday, 2-4pm – **Rehearsal of children’s Nativity** for Christmas Family Service
- 21 – Tuesday – 5:00pm – Annual Homeless Person’s Memorial Service – Hybrid format
- 24 – Friday – 5:00pm – Family Christmas Eve Hybrid Service Featuring **Children’s Nativity** and Candlelight
10:30pm – Late Christmas Eve Live Stream of **Lessons & Carols with musicians** and Candlelight.

January

- 2 – Sunday – NOON – Planning Meeting for Annual MLK Remembrance/Celebration
- 9 – Sunday – NOON – Church Council Meeting
- 16 – Sunday – **Remembrance & Celebration of the Birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**
- 22 – Saturday, 9:00am – **Youth Group Meet for Breakfast** at Orem’s Diner – Route 7 in Wilton
- 23 – Sunday – Annual **Consecration of Prayers Shawls** during Worship.

February

- 13 – Scouting Ministries Sunday – **Celebration of Boy Scout Troop 9**

**WINTER INTO SPRING QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
DISTRIBUTED SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2022**



November 5, Debra & Edwin Cho

December 22, Carole & Ira Hall

December 27, Claudia & Vernal Lyle

January 31, AbaLaryea & George Adjei

February 7, Sandy & Tony Abreu

February 15, Sharon & Larry McAdoo

February 15, Pat & Paul Bisset

February 26, Judy & John Stoddard



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

DECEMBER

- 1 Franklyna Fawundu
- 2 Elaine Dothard
- 3 Gregory Coffey
- 6 Benjamin Collen
- 7 Kaitlyn Smith
- 7 Savannah Barge Joffrion
- 8 Lindsay Anom
- 9 Tommi Kern
- 12 Randy Kinder
- 15 Debbie Chann
- 17 Jacqui Anom
- 17 Megan Hanny
- 19 Beckie Anderson
- 20 Cameron Kinder
- 21 Angela Mayfield
- 23 Lauren Harris
- 24 Blanche Berry
- 25 Judy Walters
- 27 Mark Nowotarski
- 29 Alex Flaig
- 29 Lisa Richter Flaig
- 30 Daria Sullivan
- 30 Don Davis

JANUARY

- 1 Bernardo Phipps
- 2 Pat Bisset
- 2 Sebastien Pierre
- 3 Steven Rankin
- 4 Steven Johnston
- 5 Spencer Rankin
- 6 Gabrielle Grimmett
- 8 Jeb Bisset
- 8 Ellis Miranda
- 10 Danielle Polizzi
- 10 Michael McAdoo
- 10 Linda Romano
- 14 Angelina Smith
- 15 Damon McArthur
- 20 Kristina Morse
- 20 Stephan Mose
- 21 Maud Smith
- 26 Julie Hetfield
- 27 Trudy Paight
- 27 Nancy Bianco
- 28 Lisa Rankin
- 30 Debra Cho

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

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 by calling 203.324.1323

SMALL GROUP INTEREST SURVEY to be completed by ALL individual members & friends

Small groups are a vital part of a healthy congregation that is growing relationally and spiritually. Small groups are also critical to individual Christians for accountability and encouragement as we pursue our own personal and spiritual development. In an effort to renew our small group ministry we are asking you to fill out this brief survey. **This is not a commitment form**, just an interest form. Thank you so much for your time.

1. Are you currently in a small group? *Please circle ONE*
Yes | No

2. Are you interested/looking to connect with others through a small group right now? *Please circle ONE*
Yes | No

If you answered no above, It's because. . . *Please circle ALL that apply*

I don't have time | I'm in a group outside our church

I serve in a ministry and cannot commit to both | Small groups do not interest me

Other (*Please explain*) _____

3. If YES, which day(s) of the week would you be able to meet? *Please circle ALL that apply*
Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday

4. If YES, what meeting times are best for you? *Please circle ALL that apply*
Morning | Afternoon | Evening

5. How often would you be able to attend a group? *Please circle ALL that apply*
Weekly | Twice a Month | Monthly

6. What season of life are you in? *Please circle ONE*
Teens | 20's | 30's | 40's | 50's | 60's | 70's or above

7. If you have children at home, what age range are they in? *Please circle ALL that apply*
0-5 | 6-11 | 12-18

8. Would childcare be needed to attend a group? *Please check ONE*
 No, I do not need childcare
 Yes, I would prefer to make my own arrangements
 Yes, I would prefer a group that provided childcare on site

9. There are innumerable possibilities for Small Group Focus - what type of group interests you?
Please circle all that interest YOU, and add others that come to mind.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Hobby Groups | Reading Groups | Bible Study Groups | Discussion Groups |
| Interest Groups | Musical Groups | Activity Groups | Advocacy Groups |
| Social Groups | Performance Groups | Ministry Groups | Age Level/Family Groups |
| Gender Groups | Service Groups | Dining Groups | |

Other (*Please explain*) _____

10. What type of Discussion Group would interest you? *Please circle ALL that apply*
Sermon Series | Bible Study | Christian Book/Audio-Visual Based Series | Home Group

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Please return to the church office
admin@fumcstamford.org