

**CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**271 ROCKY HILL RD**  
**P.O.BOX 271**  
**NORTHAMPTON, MA 01061**  
**PASTOR - REV. DAVID F. HURST**

"And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that God will give you whatever you ask him in my name." John 15:16

Happy Mother's Day to All who nurture!

It is wonderful to see Spring finally come! The new season brings on new joys and challenges. I hope all is well with you. My first ten months have gone well. There is a healthy enthusiasm in the church and attendance reflects a love of worship and togetherness. Easter was celebrated along with a Maundy Thursday service. There is a Spirit and a happiness here that is reflected in all of us.

Please invite friends and relatives to come to church and check us out. All are welcome as you know, so that we can grow one person at a time.

May God Bless  
Pastor David

**MONTH OF MAY MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Sundays, May 6th and 13th - Cereal Drive  
Wednesday, May 9th - Worship Mtg. 1:30pm  
Sunday, May 13th - Celebrate Birthdays (Adrienne)  
Sunday, May 20th & 27th - Grove St. Donations  
(check clothesline)

**MONTH OF JUNE MEETINGS & EVENTS**

Sunday, June 3rd - Grove St. Donations End  
Sunday, June 10th - Celebrate Birthdays  
Wednesday, June 27th - Church Council - 6:30pm

**PLEASE BE SURE TO TAKE TIME TO READ THIS 'WHOLE' NEWSLETTER SO YOU DON'T MISS THE HAPPENINGS HERE AT CUMC!!**

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**Choir**

You may have noticed that the UMC choir is now down to five people and we try to sing twice a month. Due to the amount of time and effort put into preparing service music and to have the choir sing (along with rehearsals) twice or sometimes only once a month is not providing the spirit I or the choir should have for Sunday Services. Unless there is more participation from other church members/friends to join the choir and help provide music for the Sunday Service, CUMC will become choir less this coming fall. Thank you, Pam

## **Mission Projects**

### **CEREAL DRIVE - Now through Sunday, May 13th for Northampton Survival Center**

The 2018 Spring Cereal Drive to benefit the Northampton Survival Center has begun. The boxes are being displayed in the Sanctuary from the ceiling "overhang". They are asking members and friends of CUMC to donate as many boxes as they wish to this very needy cause. If you shop and pick up a box for yourself, get one for the Mission Cereal Project also and bring to the church through Sunday, May 13th. Let's make the cereal boxes go all the way around the sanctuary this year. So, REMEMBER!!! - Please donate a box or two of cereal or baby cereal!!! We also provide other food products ongoing throughout the year with our collection box located by the coat rack. (see attached list of items that we can donate). Items, such as Bread, Eggs, Milk CUMC does not accept, however we do supplement these items with a monetary contribution.

### **GROVE ST INN DONATIONS - May 20th - June 3rd**

Our next Mission Drive will be items needed for Grove St. Inn. We have received a list of items needed for guests of Grove St. Inn which includes, flashlights with batteries, sunscreen, umbrellas, razors/shaving cream for men and women and hand sanitizer. We are hoping members and friends of this congregation can help provide some of these items. A donation box will be by the Table of Opportunity beginning Sunday, May 20th thru Sunday, June 10th.

Continuing is a list and description of these two and other non-profit organizations that we hope to assist with our donations throughout 2018.

### **COT SHELTER**

CUMC provides a meal a meal every third Monday of the month from November through April. Some meals we ask for donations and other times the Mission committee plans the whole meal. We donate, prepare, deliver and serve the meals for 20-26 to overnight guests. Missions is looking for two crock pots for the Fall meals - See Rochelle.

### **EASTHAMPTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

We continue to provide food items with our collection box, school supplies at the end of summer, and other items that may be requested throughout the year.

### **BETHLEHEM HOUSE**

Bethlehem House is located in Easthampton which provides much needed baby items for their clients. They are always looking for baby items big and small; such as diapers, strollers, pack n plays and car seats.

### **EASTHAMPTON COUNCIL ON AGING AND ENHANCEMENT CENTER**

We have this year provided funds to assist the center as needed.

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

The OCC (Operation Christmas Child) is ongoing by collecting and purchasing items to fill shoe boxes which will be used as Christmas Gifts for children ages 2-14. These boxes will be filled and delivered to a collection sight in Northampton, which later get distributed to children all around the world and throughout the United States, who have never had a gift, in hopes to spread the work of Christ within each box. Some of the items that are often packed are soap, wash cloth, toothbrushes, water bottles, school supplies, socks/underwear and, a special toy that is age appropriate. Items not acceptable are breakable items, liquids (including toothpaste), candy, inappropriate images or dangerous items.

As a committee, we have already started collecting items. Some items that we are looking for are: SOAP, CRAYONS, MARKERS, SOCKS (age appropriate), WATER BOTTLES and small toys/play items (ie: matchbox cars, jump ropes, small cans of play doh, small stuffed animals). Donations will be requested at a later date during this summer and early fall. Please watch the clothesline for needed items.

**THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE IS COMMITTED TO SERVE THOSE IN NEED AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON THOSE NEEDS. WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT FROM THIS CONGREGATION OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS AS WE MAKE THESE NEEDS KNOWN TO YOU.**

Rochelle Oelrich, Chairperson  
Sherry Seklecki, Adrienne Cooper and Leslie Morrey - members  
Missions Committee  
CUMC

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**MISSION U**

Mission U is coming - July 27th - 29th

Mission U is a nationwide United Methodist weekend of mission study, worship, networking and sharing and there is one happening right here in New England Conference. Mission u is by the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Women. There are studies for adults, men and women, teens and children. Adults have a choice of a spiritual growth study entitles "Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living" or an issue study, "What About Our Money: A Faith Response". Children and you studies will be "Money".

Mission u takes place at Sothern New Hampshire University from July 27 beginning in the afternoon, to July 29th ending at noon. Dorm rooms may be single or double occupancy. The meals have been quite good and special dietary needs are met.

This is an opportunity to come together with other United Methodists from New England to discuss, learn and enjoy. Our Korean United Methodists join us for worship and meals while having their own Korean language class.

There are scholarships available and first timers get a \$50 reduction.

Want to know more? Check with Virginia Ahart or Carolyn Burrows

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**What are "Mission Shares?"**

THE United Methodist Church is a "connectional church," which means that Christ United Methodist Church is connected to not only the United Methodist Churches in our district (Connecticut Western Massachusetts) but to all the UMC churches in our New England Conference and actually to all the United Methodist Churches throughout the world.

"Mission Shares" - World Missions, New England Missions, and Ministerial Support are supported by all the United Methodist churches in the world. Every year, our district (Connecticut Western Massachusetts) is given an monetary amount ( from the New England Conference) that we must try to pay in full. This Year (2018) the total amount for our church (CUMC) is \$16,468 which is divided between the three missions listed above.

We are obligated to include this amount within our yearly church budget expenses:

The World Missions Fund is 22.7% or \$3,741

The New England Mission Fund is 20.6% or \$3,386

The Ministry Support Fund is 56.7% or \$9,341

Thru April of 2018, our church has paid into World Missions : \$1,506.40 leaving a balance of \$2,234.60.

our church has paid into NE Mission: \$1,650.40 leaving a balance of \$1,729.60.

our church has paid into Ministry Support: \$4,236.40 leaving a balance of \$5,104.60.

Our 2018 payment thru April for these three Mission Share items totals \$9,068.80. With the help of a few donations to help us along the way with this large part of our church budget we are at 50.5% paid on the total of \$16,468 due for 2018. Any one of you can make a donation towards these Mission Shares and help make this year be a 100% year, (which hasn't happened in a long, long time). Please contact Pam if you are interested in making a separate donation which is tax deductible.

#### CHURCH Finance:

At this time Our 2018 expense budget is in the red. During our Annual Giving Drive in January/February outside or church events we may have during the year. adding in the endowment and events for this year our total income is estimated at only \$78,868. The church's total 2018 expense budget is \$117,166 leaving us in debt of minus (\$- 38,198) So, what does this mean?!!! Yes, bills and payroll are getting paid, but where we slack is in funds for maintenance and yard care, a Sunday School, an Office secretary!! We NEED to make this a much more active church, Yes, we know that everyone is busy and the small core of us seems to always to pull us through. We have a large building with a small attendance. What can we do about this! We need to pull together and find some ways to make ourselves a stronger part of the surrounding communities. Be more involved! Just because the church is set back in the "woods" doesn't mean we can't make ourselves visible. So, let's all come together, participate, join in, if you have an idea, then go with it; if someone else has a idea, then join in and help. Let's get moving!!! Pam K.

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#### Parsonage Update

The Parsonage is now moving along at a good pace with inside painting about 80% done. There will be a cleaning day within the next month or so for some simple cleaning that needs to be done. Having the rugs shampooed will be the last thing to be done.. There will also be an open house for all parishioners of CUMC to be held after a church service in the near future. So, stay tuned for these two dates for cleaning and open house, yet to be determined, that will be listed in Sunday Morning bulletins.

Pam for the Trustees

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#### Camp Aldersgate

Please be sure to read the interesting news letter we received from the Interim Director, John M. Spelman. In the news letter you will read narratives from past campers and what Camp Aldersgate meant and means to them, also, the expansion efforts made to interact with their church community and, the acquisition of an additional one acre of land to give campers additional space to explore. CUMC has not yet decided on a contribution to help purchase this one acre of additional land and it will be discuss at our next Church Council Meeting on June 27th. The camp is close to reaching their goal of \$400,000 for the purchase, however additional \$\$ will be needed to secure the purchase and for maintenance improvement of the land for all future campers. Camp Aldersgate is the Camp our former pastor "Father John Smith" loved and believed in. If anyone would like to make a donation to the camp for help with purchasing this land, secure your donation in an envelope directed to Camp Aldersgate and mail it here to the church or drop in the offering plate. Make check payable to "CUMC" memo - Camp.

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**Congratulations to our own Joe DeGrande!!!!**

We send Congratulations to Joe DeGrande who on April 3rd graduated from the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Baystate Medical Center. The program was 23 weeks long and consisted of over 100 hours of classroom instruction and over 400 hours of on-call and clinical hours. This was a major undertaking for Joe while at the same time being with us here at CUMC. His wife, Beth, is so very proud of him as is his CUMC Family! CONGRATULATIONS JOE!!

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**Web Site Update:**

How many of you take time to look at the CUMC website? Do you know the website address? (it is listed in the weekly Sunday bulletin). Our member Joe Degrande does an awesome job maintaining the website for us here at CUMC!! The weekly Sunday Bulletin, the Newsletter, pictures of children's time, choir members and the altar area and outside areas are all in the website! A monthly calendar of meetings is even there with all our monthly meetings and events listed and much more! It's There on the church website!!! CHECK IT OUT!!! ([www.christumcnorthampton.org](http://www.christumcnorthampton.org))

**Monthly Birthday Celebrations:**

If you would like to stay on the Celebration of Monthly Birthdays during Fellowship Time following the worship service on the 2nd Sunday of each month or join with us, please fill out this very short form below and drop it in the labeled box on the "Table of Opportunity". Oh, and we have fun celebrating the monthly birthdays so please try to attend church on the 2nd Sunday of the month of your birthday!

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FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL DATE OF BIRTH (D/M/Y): \_\_\_\_\_

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**FELLOWSHIP TIME:**

This past week's Fellowship Time had no snacks, only a box of Dunkin donut holes! If we are going to continue Fellowship Time, here is a need where you can probably help!! There will be a sign up sheet (May 20th - May 27th) on the refreshment table asking for three people each week be responsible for bringing in a food item. It can be crackers and cheese, fruit, cookies, bread, cupcakes, whatever you wish. You pick your date(s), you decide what you would like to make!