

**CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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REV. DAVID F. HURST
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IN GOING THROUGH CHURCH FILES - I FOUND A COPY OF CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES DATED 2004 WHICH WAS USED FOR THE ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR THAT YEAR. INCLUDED IN THESE MINUTES WAS THE VOTED AND APPROVED ACTUAL MISSION STATEMENT FOR OUR CHURCH: IT READS "*Our purpose is to become disciples of Christ and to fulfill God's will through spiritual growth, education, worship and fellowship. We express our faith through service to others. We welcome all to join us in this journey*".

THIS IS OUR CHURCH STATEMENT, THIS IS OUR PURPOSE. WE ARE CONTINUING TO GROW SPIRITUALLY, IN EDUCATION (we now have a children's sermon during our church service), WE HAVE CHANGED OUR WORSHIP TO BE MORE MEANINGFUL AND WE HAVE MUCH MORE FELLOWSHIP. WHAT WE NEED TO DO NOW IS INCLUDE MORE SERVICE TO OTHERS, NOT JUST MEMBERSHIP BUT THROUGH LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSIONS. MY THOUGHT IS THAT WE NEED TO EXPAND OUR HORIZON WITH LOCAL MISSIONS - (help that is needed within our local communities).

WE DO COT SHELTER, GROVE STREET, EASTHAMPTON COMMUNITY CENTER (school backpacks), COLLEGE STUDENT EXAM NOURISHMENT BOXES, AND I KNOW I AM MISSING A FEW BUT WE DO THESE SAME LOCAL MISSIONS EVERY YEAR. WHAT OTHER NEEDS ARE OUT THERE THAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT? LET'S COME UP WITH ONE OR TWO OTHER SERVICES WE CAN INCLUDE FOR 2018. written by Pam Kukucka

WELCOME LUNCHEON

The smells of Italian cooking began to waft up the stairs to the sanctuary around 11:00 on Sunday morning, Sept. 24th. Not just another "day that the Lord had made" but a day that included a luncheon to formally welcome Pastor David Hurst as the new leader of the people here at Christ United Methodist Church.

Joe DeGrande and his amazing crew cooked, served and cleaned up after several tables full of hungry folks. There were two kinds of stuffed shells, either meat or cheese-filled with red gravy, salad and warm garlic bread followed by assorted cookies. Everyone had their fill (**delicious**) and to-go containers were offered for anyone who wanted even more for another meal. **Thank You Joe and crew!!**

It was great to take the time to sit among church family and friends and have extended conversations at leisure. The more we learn about each other and our varied lives, the better we can care for each other. We were blessed in several ways at the luncheon. Kind of "loaves and fishes" story.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Every Sunday 12:15 - 2:30pm - Grace United Youth Group meets in Fellowship Hall

October 1st, Sunday - Covenant Study - 11:15am - with Virginia Ahart - main level Sunday school classroom

October 4th, Wednesday - Choir Rehearsal - 6:30pm

October 5th, Thursday - Card making with Kathy Mantler - 9am - Noon - Fellowship Hall
(note change of day and time)

October 8th, Sunday - Bible Study - 11:15am with Rev. Hurst - Pastor's office

October 11th, Wednesday - 10:30am - Worship Committee Meeting

October 14th, Saturday - Day 1 of Fair Roll Baking - ready to roll at 8:30am - church kitchen
(sign up Sunday 10/1 and 10/8)

October 15th, Sunday - Covenant Study - 11:15am - main level classroom

October 15th, Sunday - 11:15am - Fair Meeting for all table chairs and those interested in helping.
(Fellowship Hall)

October 17th, Tuesday - Bridge Club annual meeting and dinner - Fellowship Hall / kitchen

October 18th, Wednesday - choir rehearsal - 6:30pm

October 21st, Saturday - Day 2 of Fair Roll Baking - ready to roll at 8:30am - church kitchen

October 22nd, Sunday - No Bible Study - Rev. David is away. - Guest Speaker

October 23rd, Monday - Church Council Meeting - 6:30 - 8pm

October 31st, Tuesday - "**HAPPY HALLOWEEN**"

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

November 3rd, Friday - Annual Church Charge Conference - 7pm - Sanctuary with District Superintendent David Calhoun. All church congregation should plan to attend.

November 17th - Friday - 4 - 8pm - Opening of 38th Annual Holiday Fair.

November 18th, Saturday - 9am - 2pm - Holiday Fair

November 20th, Monday - Cot Shelter meal

November 23rd, Thursday - "**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**"

"Save this Date"

NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE CENTRAL/WESTERN MASS BISHOP'S DAY

Monday, October 16th, 2017

Venue - Trinity UMC

361 Sumner Ave., Springfield, MA

4 - 5pm - DCOS meeting with Bishop

5 - 6pm - Potluck dinner

6 - 8pm - Bishop Devadhar will spend time with clergy and laity.

He will answer questions and discuss items of interest.

The Bishop is very open to your joys and concerns.

All appointed pastors are expected to attend, and we encourage you to bring at least five laity from your church.

This is your chance to have your voice heard.

FIND FURTHER INFORMATION ALONG WITH A REGISTRATION APPLICATION
ON WEBSITE: www.neumc.org/ctwma

HOLIDAY CHURCH FAIR

Our Annual "Holiday Church Fair" will be Friday, November 17th from 4 - 8pm and Saturday, November 18th from 9am - 2pm. We are always in need of your generous donations of Food, Cookies, Handicraft and Christmas table items.

The Food table can use homemade breads of any flavor, brownies, specialty cookies, cupcakes, muffins, peanut brittle, fudge.

The Handicraft table can use any hand-crafted item such as children's mittens/hats, "tab" towels, potholders, aprons.

The Cookie Trot table is asking everyone in church who bakes to bake 6 dozen of their favorite home cookie or holiday cookie. We never have enough cookies so please bake!

The Christmas table can use homemade Christmas decorations for decorating the house and front door, tree ornaments.

DRY GOODS/SPICE/SOUP table - samples of soups will be available along with the sale of spices and dip mixes.

Use your imagination for new and interesting items for any of these tables. Everyone needs take part in some way to make this fair a success!

COT SHELTER NEEDS - Through Sunday, October 29th the church is collecting personal items needed by those in need at the Cot Shelter. You may donate the following, hats, mittens, socks, underwear, hair brushes, combs, washcloths, hand towels or travel size shampoos, conditioners, bars of soap, deodorant or shaving products. Donation box is by front entrance.

Notes from the Worship Committee from August 21st meeting.

At the last meeting of the Worship Committee meeting many ideas for the remainder of 2017 were discussed. They include: Children's Sermon during the worship service beginning September 3rd, Child care will also now be offered beginning September 3rd with Megan McIntyre as Nursery Attendant, Communion will continue to be celebrated the first Sunday of each month.

In the future Rev. Hurst and Joe DeGrande will visit local nursing homes where they will offer to begin a worship service. Church choir will continue to sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month with choir practice the previous Wednesday at 6:30pm.

Plans are in the works for a Chicken BBQ on Sat., Sept. 16th at 5:30pm. Reservations should be made by September 13th. Sue will bring cake mixes and pans to church on Sept. 10 for volunteers to bake and frost a cake which will be served as dessert. A luncheon for Rev. Hurst and family will be held after morning service on Sept. 24th. The menu includes baked stuffed shells, salad and bread.

For our Thanksgiving Sunday service on Sunday, Nov. 19th the congregation will be asked to bring canned items to be placed on the alter and later donated to a local survival center.

The first Sunday of Advent will be Dec. 3rd - details of Advent / Christmas Eve services will follow in newsletter.

NEWSLETTER NEWS - IMPORTANT DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR please!

In the interest of better communication it would be helpful to have each committee contribute information regarding their most recent meeting. Please note the input deadline for the November / December Newsletter is Monday, October 23rd.

Annual Church Conference Report

It is imperative that all church chairpersons submit their committee's activities for 2017 no later than Friday, October 20th.

TRUSTEES NEWS

Parsonage update: We are working with all required entities involved in our renting the parsonage ie: realtors, city assessor, contractors to make the house more presentable. etc. We have also contacted the Church Conference concerning the rental process and are working on the requirements. This a very time consuming process. We will keep posted.

