



THE CIRCUIT WRITER

News from the United Methodist Church of Naugatuck

August 2011

*A community of God seeking, serving, and growing in Christ
with open hearts, open minds, and open doors.*

203•729•4236 ❖ www.numcct.org

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

I tend to feel uncomfortable when a police car comes after me on the road. It doesn't matter whether I drive decently or not. I just get nervous simply by the presence of the police car. Probably, you are not much different from me. A while ago, I was driving on a local road as a police car happened to follow me. I expected it to disappear from my back mirror in a minute or two as my experience told me. Unusually enough, however, it kept following me for more than ten minutes basically with no other cars around! It was the record-breaking day in my driving history.

Can you imagine being haunted by a police car for more than ten minutes? For the first few minutes, I tried to think it was nothing but a coincidence. Then, while feeling uncomfortable, I checked out all the factors in my driving to make sure everything was right. Nonetheless, I found myself becoming nervous more and more as I continued to see it in the rear-view mirror. Thankfully, the record-breaking police car did disappear without stopping me in the end.

Why did I get so nervous by the police car even though I was driving decently? Perhaps, it had something to do with the fact that I did not always perfectly abide by the law in driving. In fact, I was driving a few miles faster

than the speed limit even when the police car was following me. I know that one driving a few miles faster than the speed limit is tolerable. Yet, the presence of the police car behind me was powerful enough to deprive me of the peace of mind.



Now, let's think of our faith journey as the Christians. Why do we often experience the forfeit of the genuine peace that Jesus promised to us? I think the main reason is that oftentimes our hearts are haunted by the presence of guilt - either consciously or unconsciously. No matter how hard we try to abide by the law of God, we would never satisfy His standard perfectly. As a result, our hearts are constantly in nervous condition.

Friends, here is the good news. The Gospel of Jesus Christ means that God has given us a permanent solution to this dilemma. Imagine that you know somehow the police car would never stop you even when you fail to abide by the law perfectly. You would manage to keep the peace of mind all the time. Figuratively speaking, that is what God has done for us through His Son Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, the warning signal of the siren would never go off, the bothering beams would never be flickering, and the haunt of guilt would never touch us. This is our salvation. Praise the Lord!

In Peace,

Pastor Steven Kim

Do You Have What It Takes?

Romans 7: 14-25



I can anticipate the response that is coming: "I know that all God's commands are spiritual, but I'm not. Isn't this also your experience?" Yes. I'm full of myself - after all, I've spent a long time in sin's prison. What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. So if I can't be trusted to

figure out what's best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary.

But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.

- From The Message
The Bible in Contemporary Language
by Eugene H. Peterson

Good Fridays Coffee House

-Rob Petro,
Coordinator of the Good Fridays Coffee House

Good Fridays Coffee House has taken off on a well-deserved summer road trip to parts unknown.

GF will be back in town for September 30, and The Soul Lifters (<http://www.myspace.com/thesoullifters>) will be performing – see you then – and remember, Good Fridays is always inspirational, and bring a friend...from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.



The United Methodist Church
of Naugatuck, Connecticut
208 Meadow Street 203•729•4236
Naugatuck, CT 06770 www.numcct.org

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open minds, and open doors.

The Reverend Steven Kim, Pastor

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-Elma Solomon
New Beginnings Coordinator
Contact: 203-720-2149

We begin the 17th year of "New Beginnings" and the 8th year in Naugatuck! Through New Beginnings, we have helped more than 2,000 children over the past 16 years! "New Beginnings" is an ecumenical program designed to provide children in need with new school clothes. The Missions and Outreach Committee is sponsoring New Beginnings for the 2011-12 school year.

This year the church is again being asked to sponsor two under-privileged children to go back to school in the fall.

Boy - Age: 10; Grade 4 in September

Shirt size: 7

Color preferred: stripes or plain grey, brown, blue, black

Style preferred: polo

Pants size:..... 10

Color preferred: dark blue

Style preferred: Jeans

Jacket size: 8 - 10

Color preferred: dark blue, black

Style preferred: hooded

Shoe/Sock size: 4 ½ wide shoe

Color preferred: white

Underwear size: 10

Style preferred: briefs

Additional information on your child's preferences/
special needs, etc.

- backpack; comb; gift certificates for hair cuts, food, etc.

Girl - Age: 12; Grade 6 in September

Shirt size: 10 - 12

Color preferred: white, navy, brown

Style preferred: polo shirt or button up

Pants size: 12

Color preferred: dark

Style preferred: crop

Jacket size: 14 - 16

Color preferred: navy

Style preferred: hooded

Shoe/Sock size: size 7 shoe

Color/style preferred: colors

Underwear size: 12

Color/style preferred: briefs

Additional information on your child's preferences/
special needs, etc.

- backpack - pencils, pens, notebooks, pencil case; hair bands, brush, comb, mirror, toiletries; gift certificates for hair cuts, food, etc.

Please prayerfully consider how you may assist in our support of New Beginnings.

Sign-up and information will be in the Narthex.
Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted.

We appreciate your help and assistance. Together we can help out two students who will benefit from our tender-hearted compassion.

"And it is He who will supply all your needs from His riches in glory, because of what Jesus Christ has done for us. Now unto God our Father be glory forever and ever, Amen."

-Philippians 4: 18-20

More Mission Opportunities Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry



No, it is not too early to start thinking and planning for Christmas! This shoebox ministry is one of our more successful missions. Through this mission we touch millions of children all over

the world. Although we are not there, along with the many other religious denominations who take part in this mission, for the Christmas distribution of the shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, personal items, hard candies, coloring books, etc.; we know in our hearts how happy children are when they receive a gift and realizes that someone cares about them. The children who receive these filled shoeboxes are from areas of extreme poverty and third world countries.

Last year, members took Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and filled them on their own. This worked very well. We also accepted items and filled shoeboxes with the help of the high school class. Thanks to your generous donations we packed a total of 76 boxes. As a shoebox drop off site for the Naugatuck Valley, our Church collected another 154 shoeboxes and sent a total of 230 shoeboxes off to the receiving/shipping center in Oakville.

The deadline for handing in filled shoeboxes and items is not until November 13, but now may be the time to add an extra item to your school-shopping list. In the near future, more information will appear in the Bulletin. Volunteer opportunities also exist for packing, delivering crates to Oakville and staffing the drop off site, which is the Memorial Room. The actual campaign runs from the 30th of October through the 13th of November.

Questions?

Please contact Linnea Behlman, 203-729-8667 or Ethel Grant, 203-723-2428.

Just a Gentle Reminder...



When you are shopping, please keep the food pantry in mind. Also, consider taking advantage of a 'buy one, get one free sale,' and donating the "free" item to the food pantry. All donations are always gratefully accepted.

Please remember, the

FIRST Sunday of the month is

Food Bank Collection Sunday

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From the Pastor's Desk

- August 7 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, Holy Communion, VBS Volunteers Gathering; New Members' Class
- August 8 - 12 ... Vacation Bible School
- August 14 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost. New Members' Class
- August 17 Wednesday, Glendale Nursing Home Service
- August 21 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost. Shared Ministry, Baptism Ceremony
- August 28 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. Healing Service, Youth Staff Meeting
- September 4 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Communion
- September 11 ... Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Rally Day and Church Picnic Service

Faith

-By Kathy Tyler
Cofounder of Innerlinks.com

The unshakable knowing of the heart when nothing makes sense to the mind. Optimism is an expression of faith in action.

Faith is the breath of God that animates our soul. We cannot see it, we can only feel it — when we pay attention. Doubt is the uncertainty that our source of spiritual power will be available to us in times of misfortune, pain, and illness. It is normal to experience spiritual doubt. In fact, times of doubt can lead to our greatest transformative moments and is the 'can' opener to faith.

The future is unknowable and therefore brings with it a feeling of uncertainty. It is faith that teaches us to contemplate the invisible which is beyond our grasp; not through the power of knowledge.

Our faith connects the past to the future and gives us a kind of spiritual gravity. It reassures us that God is in the future just as in the present and past. All that is unknowable is held within God and that includes us, our families, friends, and all our collective well being; yesterday, today, and tomorrow in all ways.

Worry is a flag waving where faith is waiting to enter. Fall out of your mindsets and have confidence your heart will catch you. There are no accidental experiences or chance inner states. The spiritual dimensions of life are real, more real in fact than what we call life on this earth. Faith is the unifying principle that weaves together all experiences.

Wheelchair Lift News!!



The Board of Trustees is very happy to announce that we are going to have a wheelchair lift installed in our church very soon.

On the 28th of June, we met in the Memorial Room to accept the proposal from Hudson Accessibility. Mr. Jack Hogan, our Hudson Accessibility representative, attended along with many members of our congregation. The meeting went very well and all of the questions and concerns of those attending were satisfactorily answered. The contract with Hudson Accessibility was signed, authorizing them to install our new wheelchair lift.

Hudson Accessibility will now obtain the necessary permits for the installation. The time-frame for the project is approximately eight to ten weeks. We will keep you updated as to the progress as soon as we are informed.

The United Methodist Church of Naugatuck will soon be a **Handicapped Accessible Facility**, and we are delighted that this endeavor will soon be realized.

Thank you all for your unwavering support.

From The Board of Trustees

Sunrise In Your Heart



May the Great Mystery make sunrise in your heart.

-Sioux Indian Saying

Island Odyssey Get-Away

- Contact: Ruth Lilback
203-271-1569 OR via email at mnr51642@gmail.com



The Education Work Area cordially invites you on a five-day Island Odyssey. Come join us for a fun and spiritually rewarding trip "to the ends of the Earth with Jesus." Island Odyssey is an all-church event for all ages - children and adults. Lessons will run in the evenings from the 8th through the 12th of August. This Bible and Arts program provides opportunity for persons of all ages to know Jesus and desire the spread of the Gospel all over the world.

- ◆ Experience how hearing, seeing, and believing are connected
- ◆ Understand that knowing Jesus influences decision-making
- ◆ Realize that a welcoming spirit brings glory to God
- ◆ Be encouraged to spread the good news of Jesus Christ all over the world!

**2011 Vacation Bible School
!Ready to Sail - Register Now!**

**Monday, August 8 to Friday, August 12
6:15 to 8:15 p.m.**

Please Note: Please contact Ruth as soon as possible. If you would like to attend and/or volunteer to assist on Island Odyssey.

Ruth Lilback at 203-271-1569 OR via email at: mnr51642@gmail.com

We look forward to traveling with you ...



**We will have an all Volunteers Gathering at church on
Sunday, the 7th of August
following our Sunday morning 9:15 a.m. Worship Service.
If you are volunteering in anyway at VBS,
please try to make arrangements to make this activity.
Please contact Ruth Lilback to confirm attendance.**

August Servers

Liturgists – Check on Line at www.numcct.org

7 August..... Ethel Grant
14 August..... Wayne Zirilli
21 August..... Susan Agamy
28 August..... Jeff Hunt

Ushers

Henry and Jeong Hee Lee



Together
We Make A
Difference Through
Shared Ministry
Apportionments!

Matthew 15:21-28

Like the disciples in the boat, many in our community have their boats buffeted by the winds of fear, despair, and loneliness. We ask that as we present these gifts they may be used so the presence of God may be felt and comfort given to all of those who need his loving hand. Amen.

-By Brian Sheetz, Executive Director
East Ohio United Methodist Foundation.
You may contact him at brian@eoumf.org.

**Our Shared Ministry Sunday is the
21st of August.**

Summer Stewardship Thank You



Thank you for maintaining your pledge commitments over the summer. The Stewardship and Finance Committees appreciate your support.

You can mail your check to the church if you can't make Sunday Worship. We'll put your envelope into the collection plate for you. Apportionment donations usually collected on the third Sunday are welcome too:

Pledge
Naugatuck United Methodist Church
208 Meadow Street
Naugatuck, CT 06770

Please prayerfully consider your summer stewardship giving. If you got a 'little behind' over previous summers, commit this year to maintaining your weekly pledge offerings. This is an opportunity for all of us to grow as faithful stewards and to help the church ministries.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer.

Peace,

The Stewardship Work Area

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Life is Love and Love is Living

Feeling strong and strongly feeling.
Being glad and glad of being.
Care for need and needing caring.
Sharing self and selfless sharing.
Full of spirit spirit filling.
Will is warm and warmly willing.
Giving joy enjoy the giving.
Life is love and love is living.

-Joseph Byron

Island Odyssey Get-Away



2011 Vacation Bible School
!Ready to Sail!

Monday, August 8 through Friday, August 12
6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

To Register or Volunteer Call Ruth at 203-271-1569

We look forward to traveling with you ...



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208 MEADOW STREET

NAUGATUCK CT 06770

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The Deadline for
the September
Issue of
The Circuit Writer
is 18 August.
Thank You.

