



THE CIRCUIT WRITER

News from the United Methodist Church of Naugatuck

June 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

Dwelling in the Presence of God

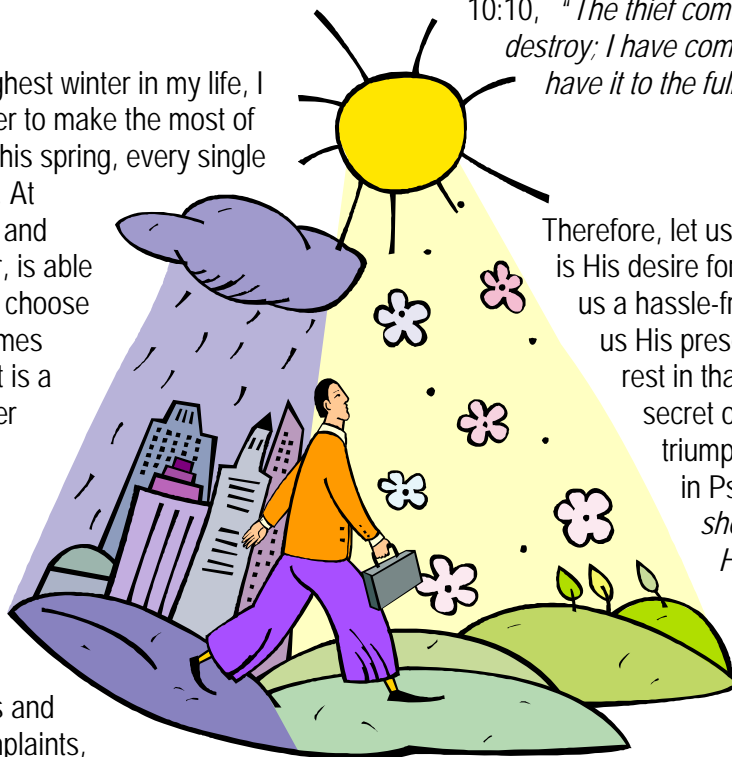
What does it mean for you to live in faith? As for me, it means choosing the kind of life that Jesus promises us in the presence of God. By dwelling in the presence of God, we participate in the life of peace, love, joy, and thanksgiving.

Having gone through the toughest winter in my life, I am determined more than ever to make the most of my life throughout the year. This spring, every single day is just a great day for me. At times it still gets rainy, windy, and chilly. None of them, however, is able to keep me from my desire to choose the good things of life that comes from above - from God. That is a precious lesson that last winter taught me, in particular.

Life is a battle in many senses. First of all, it is a battle going on every single day in our hearts to choose between joy and sorrow, laughter and tears, happiness and misery, thanksgiving and complaints, forgiveness and holding grudges. An important thing we need to remember is that God wants us always to dwell in His presence. Apparently, God urges us to see the bright sides, choose them, and move on.

There are always two different voices in our hearts; the voice of a thief and the voice of Jesus Christ. The former entangles our life into misery while the latter directs us to the life of happiness. That is what Jesus meant in John 10:10, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

Therefore, let us choose to be happy in God. It is His desire for his children. He didn't promise us a hassle-free life. Instead, He promises us His presence in our life journey. Let us rest in that awareness. That was the secret of King David for his eventual triumph in life. So, he could proclaim in Psalms 23:1-2, *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul."*



I wish you would have the best summer ever as you walk with God as the sheep follow their shepherd. May God make your countenance shine like a flower!

In Peace,

Pastor Steven Kim

Book Talk

Check Out the New June Arrivals at our Lending Library



You Want Me to Work with Who? By Julie Jansen – Eleven Keys to a Stress-Free, Satisfying, and Successful Work Life...No matter who you work with. A phenomenally helpful guide to surviving – and even getting along with – the most problematic personalities in the workplace.

Breaking the Code - Understanding the Book of Revelation by Bruce M. Metzger – The book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. How are readers today to discern God's message in his peculiar part of the Bible? *Breaking the Code* provides a trustworthy guide to the rich symbolism of this important biblical book.

The Invisible Partners – How the Male and Female in Each of Us Affects our Relationships by John A. Sanford – This book concerns the masculine and feminine dimensions of the soul – termed by C. G. Jung the anima/animus. It also demonstrates how the feminine part of a man and the masculine part of a woman are the invisible partners in any male-female relationship.

Sacred Breath Forty Days of Centering Prayer by J. David Muyskens – In *Sacred Breath* you will find a guide for 40 days of prayer. Each day's meditation leads into a time of contemplating scripture and silent communion with God.

The Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle – To make the journey into *The Power of Now* we will need to leave our analytical mind and its false created self, the ego, behind. From the very first page of this extraordinary book, we move rapidly into a significantly higher altitude

where we breathe a lighter air. We become connected to the indestructible essence of our being.

Practicing the Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle – This book is a carefully arranged series of excerpts from *The Power of Now* that directly give us those exercises and keys.

Fleeing God: Fear, Call, and the Book of Jonah by Tara Soughers – What does a fish story like the Book of Jonah have to tell us about our relationship with God? Surprisingly, a great deal. In the story of the reluctant prophet we are invited to explore the times when we, like Jonah, have been less than enthusiastic about God's call.

The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith by Marcus J. Borg – World-renowned Jesus scholar Marcus J. Borg shows how we can live passionately as Christians in today's world by practicing the vital elements of Christian faith.

- If you would like to donate books, please see Gretchen Usawicz so she can label the books with our church identification.
- Just a reminder...we use the honor system for returning books.

Be Inspired!

Read a book and share with a friend...



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

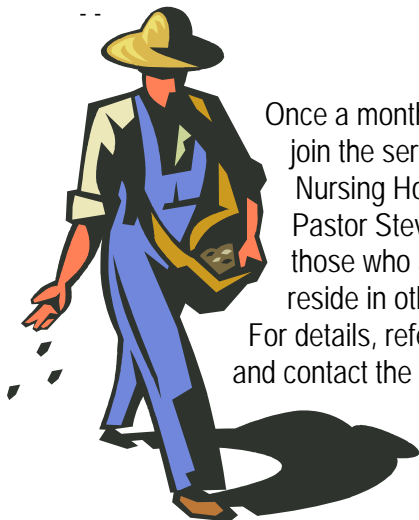
A community of God seeking, serving,
and growing in Christ with open hearts,
open minds, and open doors.

The Reverend Steven Kim, Pastor

Gretchen I. Usawicz, Editor, *The Circuit Writer*
gusawicz@region15.org 203•729•0572

Nursing Home and Visitation Ministry

From Pastor Steven



Once a month, we will team up to join the service in Glendale Nursing Home, which is led by Pastor Steven. Then, we will visit those who are home-bound or reside in other nursing homes.

For details, refer to Sunday bulletins and contact the pastor.

Summer Stewardship

Fun summer activities like vacations, weekend trips, and other adventures take us away from Sunday Worship. As a result, we get a little behind on our pledging, the Finance Committee panics, and we try to catch up in the fall.

Our Stewardship Campaign this year asked us to consider where we are on our own faith journey and to challenge ourselves to grow our faith and our stewardship one step at a time. Please prayerfully consider your summer stewardship giving. If you got a little behind over previous summers, commit yourself this year to maintaining your weekly pledge offerings. This is an opportunity for all of us to grow as faithful stewards and to help our church ministries.

You can mail your check to the church if you can't make Sunday Worship. Apportionment donations, usually collected on the third Sunday, are welcome too:

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

Enjoy the summer.

Peace,

The Stewardship
Work Area



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

A Prayer for June - As we receive the blessing of your fullness as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we receive also the commission to go into all the world to bring love, salvation, peace, and hope through you. May these gifts that we bring become a means to fulfill that commission, and may the lives that we choose to live this day and beyond be the way in which your commission is made manifest. We trust you, O God, to work through us that your love might touch, inspire, and transform all with whom we come in contact. We are grateful, O God, that you have chosen us to further your kingdom. This we pray now gratefully through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (Matthew 28:16-2.) – By Sanford Coon, Executive Director of the New Mexico Conference Methodist Foundation, Inc. You may contact him at sanford@nmcsmfi.org.



Island Odyssey Get-Away

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



2011 Vacation Bible School Ready to Sail

Monday, August 8 to Friday, August 12

Ports of Call: Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, Robben Island, and Fiji

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 be 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!



Please Note: If you did not fill out a survey, but are interested in attending Island Odyssey, please contact Ruth as soon as possible. If you would like to volunteer to assist on Island Odyssey, let Ruth know your availability.

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

We look forward to traveling with you ...

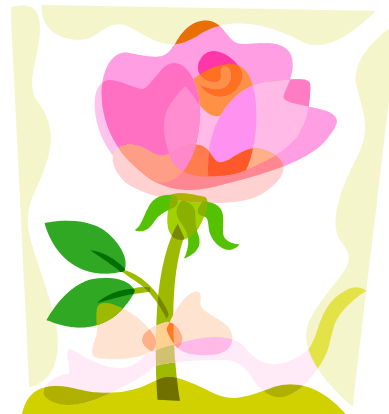
A Meditation for June

-By KIMBERLEE CONWAY IRETON

An elder, worship leader, and lay preacher
at Bethany Presbyterian Church; Seattle Washington

Read 1 Peter 4: 12-14

The past few days, my own small demons—self-pity, anxiety, fear—have loomed large in my heart and mind. Their fierceness has taken me by surprise. I confess I'd let myself think I'd finally gotten the better of them as days and even weeks had gone by without their fretting me too hard. But we are fragile creatures and slip so easily from okay to not okay; and when the voices of our demons whisper and shout in the ears of our hearts, the darkness can be very dark indeed.



These past few days, I have had to fight hard to keep my eyes on the Light. Having enjoyed a period of relative calm and contentment not so many days ago, this sudden return to a place of battle, of weary fighting against the fear, the self-pity, the anxiety, has taken me aback.

The author of this epistle tells us that we need not be taken by surprise. "Beloved," he says. (I love that word, beloved, because it takes us straight back to our fundamental identity: I am one who is loved; you are one who is loved.) "Beloved, do not be surprised at the ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings."

I have not yet learned to rejoice on those days when the battle against my personal demons rages fiercely, but I have learned to count the graces God pours out and to be grateful that I do not fight alone. Always, Christ shares the battle—and he will always win.

Jesus, on those days when the darkness encroaches too close and we must fight to see the Light, you are with us, fighting beside us, fighting for us, giving us grace sufficient unto the day. Help us to be faithful, not to surrender to the darkness, and to seek your Light, however dim it appears in our dark-struck eyes. Amen.

For the Love So Freely Given

Have you noticed the lovely flower arrangements on the altar? Maybe you haven't, because people tend to notice things that are wrong. Week after week, the sanctuary is arranged and decorated by Bev Carrington, with a lot of help from Bill. And it is done in such a way that is so tasteful that you may not have noticed.

The arrangements provide a sense of calm and beauty that adds to our



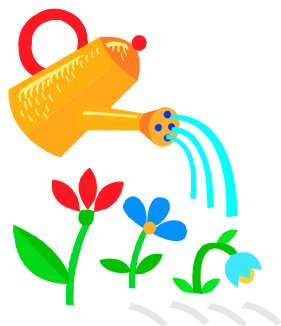
worship experience. Often the altar flowers are freshly cut, and come from Bev and Bill's yard. In addition, the banners and liturgical cloths are cared for and hung as appropriate for the season. Thank you, Bev and Bill.

Also, Bev and Bill often fill in when no one has signed up for Fellowship Hour. To show your appreciation, you may wish to sign up for one of the Sundays. If you don't know what is involved, ask, or team up with a "veteran."

June Servers

Liturgists – Check on Line at www.numcct.org

- 5 June.....Deb Torrice
- 12 June.....Jack Lewis
- 19 June.....Ethel Grant
- 26 June.....Wayne Zirolli



Together We Make A Difference Through Shared Ministry Apportionments!

As we receive the blessing of your fullness as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we receive also the commission to go into all the world to bring love, salvation, peace, and hope through you. May these gifts that we bring become a means to fulfill that commission, and may the lives that we choose to live this day and beyond be the way in which your commission is made manifest. We trust you, O God, to work through us that your love might touch, inspire, and transform all with whom we come in contact. We are grateful, O God, that you have chosen us to further your kingdom. This we pray now gratefully through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Matthew 28:16-2.)

- By Sanford Coon
Executive Director
- of the New Mexico Conference Methodist
Foundation, Inc.
- sanford@nmcmfi.org.

**Our Shared Ministry Sunday
is the 19th of June.**

Church Calendar

- June 5.....Ascension Sunday, 7th Sunday of
Easter
- June 8-11.....Annual Conference
- June 11.....Mission Celebration Day of the
Conference
- June 12.....Children's Sunday
- June 18.....Strawberry Festival & Tag Sale
(Saturday)
- June 19.....Pentecost
Trinity Sunday, Peace with Justice,
Father's Day
- June 26.....Second Sunday after Pentecost

♦♦♦

Back by Popular Demand

Tuesday Mornings with Pastor Summer Book-Reading Club



Starting in the second week of July, a Tuesday Mornings with Pastor, a Book Reading Club, will open in the Memorial Room every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. over seven weeks.

We will be using the book Turn My Mourning into Dancing: Finding Hope in Hard Times, by Henry Nouwen.

For questions, feel free to contact Pastor Steven at 203-721-5423 or 203-729-4236.

2011 Capital Campaign Update

- Mary Hope-Ross
Board of Trustees

While working on the wheelchair lift project, I have learned many things about our church. One of the most important things I learned is that there have been many devoted and hard working people that have come before us. Our church has gone through many transformations. In the process of talking to contractors and carpenters I have had to look deeper into the structure of our church through architectural drawings. This has shown to me that our church has grown and changed many times to meet the current needs of its congregation.

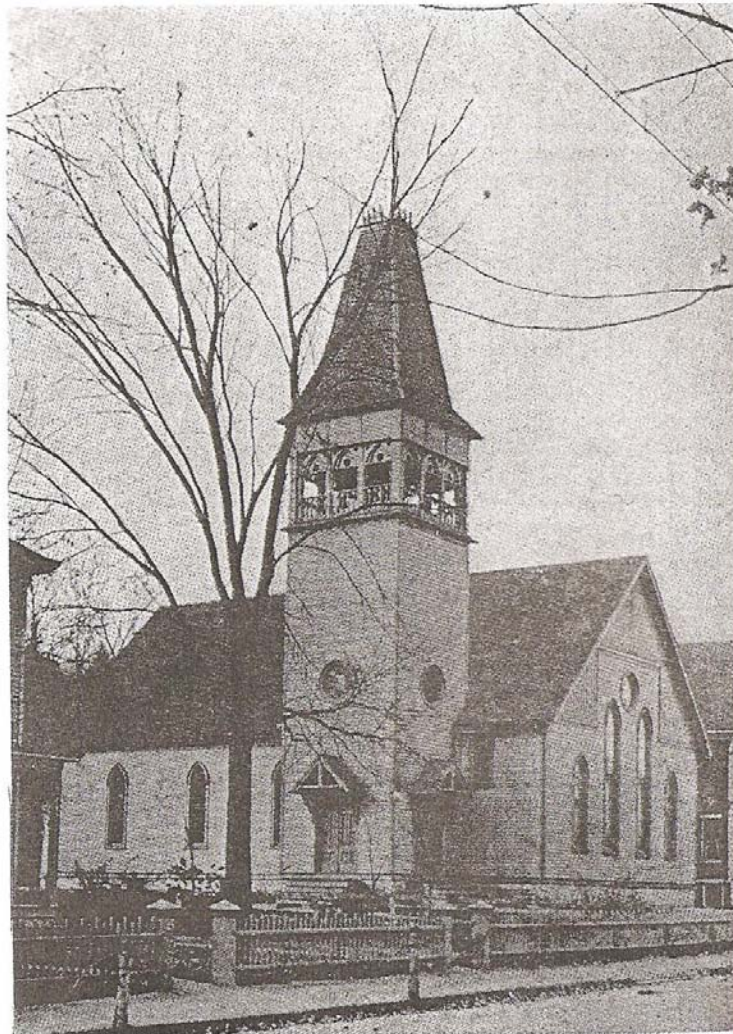
One of these major changes was brought to my attention by Dottie, our faithful church secretary. Around 1930, our church undertook a major renovation that significantly changed the appearance of our church and added much-needed new facilities. The kitchen was moved and expanded from what is now the front of the church to where we now see it to provide the facility that we have used to prepare dinners that have

become a fixture in our community. The sanctuary was remodeled to include the curved ceilings and cove lighting that make it a special place for worship. These are only two of the many important changes that were accomplished with this renovation. This major renovation was a gift from the church membership of that time to us and generations to come. Realizing their sacrifice to make this happen has made me truly appreciate their dedication and hard work.

Over the past two decades or so, we have added vinyl siding to the church and parsonage and replaced the windows with new, energy-efficient ones. We have also replaced the furnaces in the church and parsonage. This is part of our legacy, our gift to future generations of our church membership and we should be very proud of our accomplishments. However we need to continue to evolve and

meet the needs of our congregation.

(Continued on Page 8 **Capital Campaign**)



Original Meadow Street Church before any remodeling was done. Note house behind the fence where the bank is now located. In 1892 this church was gray with green trim quite in the two-color style of the period.

(Continued, **Capital Campaign**)


Now, we are in the process of installing a wheelchair lift and renovating one of the rest rooms to be handicapped accessible. We are very close to seeing the dream come to fruition. We have had approximately a dozen responses to our 2011 Capital Campaign, and those who have donated have been very, very generous. I would like to thank all of you very sincerely and applaud your commitment to this much needed improvement. We haven't quite achieved our goal but I am confident that this will happen in the very near future. It will be an important improvement and asset to our facility and will not only help to make our church more accommodating to our current congregants but it will allow us to be more welcoming when we are inviting the public to our church. If you have not responded yet please prayerfully consider your dedication to this project. To donate to the 2011 Capital Campaign

please fill out the form below and mail it to Naugatuck United Methodist Church, 208 Meadow Street, Naugatuck, CT 06770. Your support is very important and greatly appreciated.

Thank You from the Board of Trustees

Wheelchair Lift Funding as of May 15, 2011

Kurtz Bequest	\$40,000.00
Grants from Conf. of Churches	\$10,746.00
2011 Capital Campaign donations to date	<u>\$12,165.00</u>
Total Raised	\$62,911.00
Amount still needed to meet goal	\$12,089.00

 <p>A Community of God, Seeking, Serving and Growing in Christ with Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors</p>	<h2>Naugatuck United Methodist Church 2011 Capital Campaign Donation Card</h2>
	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Yes, I want to support the funding of the Wheelchair lift with my donation:</p> <p>Amount: _____ Per: _____ One time, Qtr, Mo, Wk</p> <p>Signed: _____</p> <p align="center">Thank you for your generous donation. Please specify on check 2011 Capital Campaign</p>

A Meditation for Grateful Hearts - O God of all power and might: We come this day as your children gathered through your love. We seek to be your faithful disciples; and in so doing, we bring forth gifts as expressions of our love for you. May these gifts become the blessings by which others may receive the fullness of your love as well. We also bring the gift of our hearts and pray that through the power of your Holy Spirit that our hearts and acts might always be extensions of your love for all the world. May we be your disciples not simply with those with whom we are comfortable, but also with those whose language, or culture, or lifestyle might be different from our own. We know that they are your children too. Find us faithful, O God, in their midst as well. This we humbly pray with grateful hearts through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Matthew 10:40-42.) -By Sanford Coon, Executive Director of the New Mexico Conference Methodist Foundation, Inc. You may contact him at sanford@nmcsmfi.org



From Chris Herb

MAJOR EVENTS CHAIRPERSON

Need More Information?

Contact Chris at: 203-729-3293

herbchristian@sbcglobal.net

Strawberry Celebration AND Ham Dinner



We will hold our annual Strawberry Celebration and Ham Dinner on Saturday, June 18. "Chef" Bernie Grant will prepare a traditional ham dinner that will be served family style with potatoes au gratin, green beans, bread, and fresh strawberry shortcake.

Homemade baked goods will also be available.

To RSVP for the 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., or 7:00 p.m. seating, call Shirley at 203-729-8582. Takeouts are also available. We are in need of volunteers to help take ticket reservations, donate baked goods, setup, wait tables, do dishes, and cleanup.

Let us know how you can help. Thank you.

Spring Tag Sale

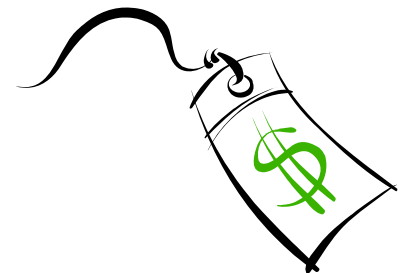
Time to Spring Clean and Help Out

We will hold a tag sale on Saturday June 18 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the church parking lot.

It's time to clean out the house and help out the church.

When items are donated please place them as far to the right of the garage as possible. We are in need of someone to coordinate the tag sale and help sell items.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you can help out. Thank you.



Children's Sunday – June 12

The Sunday School will celebrate Children's Sunday on June 12 during the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service. Experience the children's enthusiasm as the youth of our church demonstrate the knowledge that they acquired this past year. The service will include special music, skits, awards, and a special sermon by Erika Solomon who will be graduating this year. Please join us in encouraging our youth in their Christian education as we wrap up another successful school year.

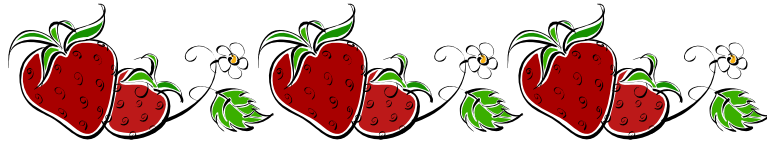
Good Fridays Coffee House

- Rob Petro, Coordinator of the Good Fridays Coffee House

Always Fun! Bring a Friend! From 8 to 10 PM! Our Good Fridays Coffee House is back in town from a well-deserved winter recess and what a wonderful line-up of music and inspiration we have for you to enjoy. There is no cover charge, and we offer free refreshments and snacks.

DATE	BAND/PERFORMER	WEBSITE	MUSIC DESCRIPTION
June 10	Spirit Song	http://www.cityfest.us/spiritsongministries/index.htm	Worship/Contemporary
September 30	The Soul Lifters	http://www.myspace.com/thesoullifters	Soul and Gospel
October 21	Further Still	http://www.furtherstillmusic.com/	Alternative/Blues
November 11	Allergic to Bees	http://www.seymourebc.com/bees/thebees.html	Folk/Contemporary
December 2	Patrick Destoop	http://www.myspace.com/patrickdestoop	Country/Folk
9	Redeemed	http://www.redeemedct.com/index.html	Rock/Jazz/Christmas/Blues

Questions: • Call Rob at 203-419-0890



The United Methodist Church of Naugatuck
presents the

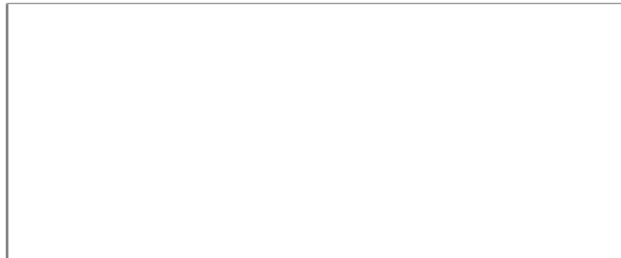
Strawberry Celebration

Saturday, the 18th of June

Bake Sale -Tag Sale – Dinner Reservations for 5, 6, 7 PM
To RSVP, Shirley at 203-729-8582

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NAUGATUCK
208 MEADOW STREET
NAUGATUCK CT 06770
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The People of the United Methodist Church of Naugatuck
A community of God seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.

The Deadline for
the JULY Issue of
The Circuit Writer
is 16 June.
Thank You.