



THE CIRCUIT WRITER

News from the United Methodist Church of Naugatuck

March 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

Condition for God's Mercy

Once, I happened to occupy a seat in a plane next to a man in his late thirties. He introduced himself as the father of four young children. Then he added, "I make business trips quite often. Whenever I get on board, I pray to God saying, "Please take care of my children if something goes wrong with this plane." I must confess that it has been my prayer, too, each time I get on board. I have never shared this feeling with others in fear of revealing my weakness before others. Interestingly, the man helped me to see my anxiety on board not as a personal vulnerability but as an issue for human beings in general.

Recently, I have been to South Korea to visit my ailing mother. It is always a tough trip to fly over the Pacific Ocean. I had two transfers on each of the round trips, first in Chicago and then in Tokyo. And each time the plane took off, I found myself again putting my hands together in prayer most humbly and earnestly. "O, God, please keep me safe during this flight. Not only me but the pilot, the crew, and all the passengers on board."

Sometimes, I also pray to God at the wheel of my car but not as sincerely as I do when flying. I know what makes

the difference in my prayer in the two different settings. I am in need of God's mercy all the time in life. My experience says, however, I would be probably okay on the road as long as I drive defensively. But I never feel the same way in flight with the awareness that there is nothing I can do for the sake of my safety. I presume that the tendency of seeking God's mercy on board would go nowhere as long as I am merely a human being who has the so-called existential anxiety.

The term 'existential anxiety' is closely linked with one's destiny of death at the end of life. Now, let's think about this; if we tend to pray sincerely on board, wouldn't it be natural for us to become humble and earnest before God in the awareness of our ultimate vulnerability of life itself? If getting on an airplane works as a powerful reminder for us of God's mercy, how much more do we need to seek God's mercy as the human beings having existential anxiety?

So, next time you get board an airplane, I recommend to you to hum the refrain of the hymn 'My Hope is Built.':
"On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand."

“

On Christ,
the solid rock
I stand, all other
ground is
sinking sand.

”

In peace,

Pastor Steven Kim

Travel to New Places Books Guaranteed to Restore One's Soul

Check out the 'new' additions to our Lending Library...

Kitchen Table Wisdom by Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D.
– Stories that heal and a New York Times Bestseller.

When Christians Were Jews (That Is, Now) by Wayne-Daniel Berard – tells the story of identity rediscovered ...shows how early Christians dissociated from their Jewish origins.

Writing Begins With the Breath: Embodying Your Authentic Voice by Laraine Herring – shows us how to tune into our bodies and connect with our emotions so that our writing becomes an expression of our full beings, rather than just an intellectual exercise.

Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith by Barbara Brown Taylor- One of America's most renowned and beloved preachers tells the moving story of how she searched for her own authentic way of keeping faith – even when it meant giving up her pulpit.

Evil: The Shadow Side of Reality by John A Sanford – The problem of evil is one of the most complicated and difficult issues facing human beings.

Einstein's God: Conversations about Science and the Human Spirit by Krista Tippett – Drawn from American Public Media's Peabody Award winning program, *Speaking of Faith*, the conversations in this profoundly illuminating book reach for a place too rarely explored in our ongoing exchange of ideas.

The Orphaned Adult: Understanding and Coping with Grief and Change After the Death of Our Parents by Alexander Levy – Helps us understand what a healthy part of life grief can be.

Meditation as Contemplative Inquiry by Arthur Zajonc – When we turn to meditation, we turn toward renewal,

peace, and insight. Dr. Zajonc offers an overview of the meditative life, weaving practical instruction together with the guidance and inspiration of the world's great teachers.

Awake at Work by Michael Carroll – When we think of work, we often think of drudgery, frustration, and stress. Carroll show us how life on the job – no matter what kind of work we do – can become one of the most engaging and fulfilling areas of our lives.

Hooked Edited by Stephanie Kaza – Finally! A book about consumerism that goes to the very heart of the matter – that it corrodes our precious human capacities to know truth, see beauty, and feel love.

One Soul, One Love, One Heart: The Sacred Oath to Healing All Relationships by John E. Welshons – How do we heal our difficult relationships and nurture our healthy ones? What is their significance in our spiritual life? In this deeply moving, groundbreaking book, John E. Welshons answers these questions and many more.

- 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.



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

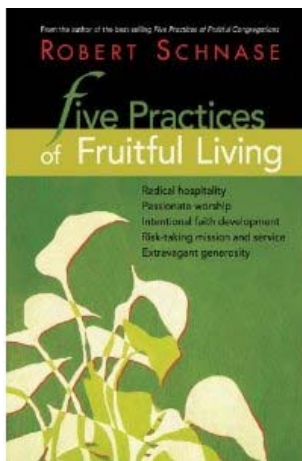
A community of God seeking, serving,
and growing in Christ with open hearts,
open minds, and open doors.

The Reverend Steven Kim, Pastor

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

SOUP'S ON!

*"I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much
fruit...My father is glorified by this,
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples" -
-John 15:5, 8*



As we prepare for Easter, we invite you to join us at our five Soup Suppers and Lenten Study. The homemade soup promises to warm your body on these cold evenings, and the fellowship will warm your heart. Soup and Study begins on Thursday, March 17 - and for the next four Thursdays - at 5:45 p.m. with closing prayers at

7:15 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Childcare for ages ten years and under will be provided.

Pastor Steven Kim will lead our Lenten Study. We will learn Robert Schnase's "Five Practices of Fruitful Living," which are: radical hospitality; passionate worship; intentional faith development; risk-taking mission and service and extravagant generosity. We invite you to 'grow' your relation with God.

There is a \$12 materials fee, which can be waived on a needs basis. Also, please sign up for the study and if you would like to be a soup provider.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Kim at 203-729-4236 or Jeff Hunt at 203-598-0031.

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

March 9, 2011

Merciful, loving God, we bring to you the ashes of our burned-out hopes and illusions of self-sufficiency. We are eager to lean deeply into your presence and relax into your compassionate arms. In this moment we offer all that we are and have failed to be, for your forgiving, transforming work within and among us. As the mark of the cross is made on our foreheads, we freely give our whole selves back to you in gratitude and love. We pray this empowered by your grace. Amen. (*Matthew 6: 16, 16-21.*)

-By Betsy Schwarzentraub,
Director of Stewardship, General Board of Discipleship
of the United Methodist Church

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
Toiletries are needed.
Diapers are needed for the Shelter.

Together We Make a Difference

Missions and Outreach Committee Members: Ethel Grant, Chairperson, Linnea Behlman, Bev Carrington, Lisa Herb, Diane Monsam, Kim Dilts Louey, Rob Petro, Elma Solomon, Ed Usawicz, Gretchen Usawicz, Marion Zirolli

March Servers

Liturgists – Check on Line at www.numcct.org

- 06 March.....Deb Torrice
- 13 March.....Ethel Grant
- 20 March.....Jeff Hunt
- 27 March.....Wayne Zirolli

Ushers

Rob and Jerri Petro

Alcolyte

Austin Herb

Together We Make A Difference Through Shared Ministry Apportionments!



That's what connectional giving, known as Shared Ministry Apportionments, is all about. Connectional giving is built on a desire and commitment as United Methodists to meet the needs of God's family. We combine smaller gifts into a

larger amount in order to effect transformative change in the lives of people and the world.

Thanks to our support of Shared Ministry Apportionments, as a connectional church, we can make a difference, all in the name of Jesus Christ. Our apportionments are a reflection of the priorities established in the budget for the entire conference.

**Our Shared Ministry Sunday
is the 20th of March.**



Church Calendar for March

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| World Day of Prayer | Friday, March 4 |
| Ash Wednesday Service | Wednesday, March 9
at 7:00 p.m. |
| First Sunday in Lent: | March 13
(Daylight Saving Time Begins) |
| Outreach Service | March 13
Gathering at the church
at 10 a.m. |
| Second Sunday in Lent | March 20
Purim, Vernal Equinox |
| Third Sunday in Lent | March 27
Healing Service |
| Fourth Sunday in Lent | April 3
One Great Hour of
Sharing |

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A Thank-You Note from Pastor Steven

Thank you all for your prayers and support during my visitation to my family in South Korea. I look forward to having our spiritual journey altogether this coming spring. May God bless you all in abundance!

SIGN UP

For Our All-Church Service and Outreach Day

March 13, 2011

The All-Church Service and Outreach Day will involve the whole church – children and adults going to work together outside the Church walls to minister and outreach to the community. John Wesley said, "...religious communities are essential in making links among people on the different sides of economic divides to make clear the 'shared humanity' and to get everyone engaged in responding to needs."



Please pick a first (1) and second (2) choice. Please list each family member's name and the project that they wish to participate in. Put completed form in the Offering Plate or give to a Team Leader.

**If you have questions or concerns,
 please call Ethel at 203 723-2428.**

On March 13, 2011, we will meet here at the Church at 10:00 a.m. for the Pastor's Blessings and then set off on our missions. Everyone should return by 2:00 p.m. for a potluck meal and sharing of experiences.

Some of the Sunday school teachers are planning special mission activities for the younger children at the Church. Parents of Sunday school students will be notified very shortly as to these plans. If you plan to be in mission with your child, please also list your child's name below.

Below is the sign-up information for the projects, which will be located in the Narthex.

This Sign-Up Will Be in the Narthex

	Waterbury Soup Kitchen Cook and serve a meal Leader: Ruth Lilback	Waterbury Shelter Sunday Service Leader: Ethel Grant	Naugatuck Food Bank Collect and Stock Food Leader: Elma Solomon	Free Lunch Cook and Serve a Meal Leader: Chris Herb	Visit Local Nursing Homes Leader: Lin Behlman	Blight and Beautification Patrol Pick up Debris in Naugatuck Leader: Rob Petro	Home Care for Shut-Ins /Seniors Visit, repair, etc. Leader: Jeff Hunt
Family/Names							

Call Ethel Today and Volunteer

Choose Your Mission Stewardship in Action Continuing the Faith Journey

We all have an opportunity on Missions Sunday, March 13 to minister to others outside the walls of the church, rather than comfortably sitting in the pew. "I like the pew," you say as you are challenged to move outside of it.

But, admit it, on Sunday while you're sitting in the pew, you're thinking "I hope they don't ask for more money." "It's 11:25 a.m., why isn't the service over?" "I have so many other things to do..." "Another sign-up sheet . . . now what?"

Unfortunately, we often find ourselves not really happy or satisfied with our lives.

Now, take a look at the Mission opportunities we have for the 13th and envision the lives and the needs of the individuals these missions touch.

Be thankful for what you have, and be good stewards to those who don't have.

"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

- 1 John 3:17 ESV

In Christ and Peace,

The Stewardship Committee

Kimberly Dilts, Chair * John Hope-Ross * Jeff Hunt *
Paul Harrison * Bill Carrington * Audrey Kirdendall *
Pastor Steven * Cindy Herb

Receiving God's Love

-Excerpted from our Lenten Study,
Five Practices of Fruitful Living
by Robert Schnase

Accept that you are accepted. The first step toward fruitful living involves saying *Yes* to God's unconditional love toward us. God's love changes everything. The opening of ourselves to God's grace stimulates a passionate desire *to love God in return...*

Questions for Reflection

When have you experienced a time in your life when love changed you? Did this experience come to you suddenly and consciously or in more subtle ways? How did it change you?



Holy God, you have offered us the Living Water of Jesus Christ as sheer gift! We come to you now to drink deeply, to be nourished in the reality of eternal life at this and at every moment. We bring our commitment to witness to you in the world through the network of our relationships, as did the Samaritan woman: one

family, one person at a time. Like her and those she brought to Jesus, we have heard for ourselves and know that you truly are the Savior of the world. This is no small ritualistic act that we do; we give to you alone our hearts and our lives! This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. (*John 4:5-42.*)

-By Betsy Schwarzentraub,
Director of Stewardship, General Board of Discipleship
of the United Methodist Church

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. Check out the complete schedule for 2011:

2011 Good Fridays Schedule

DATE	BAND/PERFORMER	WEBSITE	MUSIC DESCRIPTION
March 18	Insight	http://insightchristianmusic.webs.com/	Rock n' Roll/R&B
April 29	John and Alison DeSorbo	http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/DESORBO	Gospel and Country
May 13	Glen and Friends		Urban/Contemporary
June 10	Spirit Song	http://www.cityfest.us/spiritsongministries/index.htm	Worship/Contemporary
September 30	The Soul Lifters	http://www.myspace.com/thesoullifters	Rock and Alternative
October 21	Further Still	http://www.furtherstillmusic.com/	Alternative/Blues
November 11	Allergic to Bees	http://www.seymourecbc.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

Corned Beef Dinner To Go

Call in your order to 203-729-3293 or E-mail Chris Herb at herbchristian@sbcglobal.net



Pre-order your Corned Beef Dinner *TO GO*, with pick-up or delivery on Saturday, March 12, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. This

traditional corned beef dinner includes cabbage, potatoes, carrots, rye bread, dessert, and tasty corned beef.

Orders must be received by the 6th of March by calling 203-729-3293 or e-mailing Chris Herb at herbchristian@sbcglobal.net

\$13pp - \$1 discount for donated canned food item.

For more information or to help, contact Chris Herb at 203•729•3293



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Easter Flowers

Name in Memory of, or in Honor of (circle one) _____

Relationship: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Name in Memory of, or in Honor of (circle one): _____

Relationship: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Please indicate the number of flowers you wish to order:

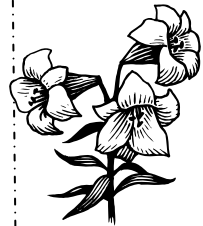
_____ \$12 Easter Lily

_____ \$9 Tulip

_____ \$9 Hyacinth

Altar Memorial Donations (used for various costs in preparing the Sanctuary)

\$ _____



Please make checks payable to:

The United Methodist Church Flower Fund.

Deposit the order in the offering plate, mail to the church, or give to Bev Carrington.

_____ I wish to have my plant delivered to a shut-in.

_____ I will pick up my plant.

The plants may be taken after the 10:15 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

Order deadline is Palm Sunday, 17th of April



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SIGN UP

For Our All-Church
Service and
Outreach Day

March 13, 2011

Details on Page 8

Sign-up in Narthex



*f*ive Practices of Fruitful Living

Let's Learn about: Radical Hospitality Passionate Worship
Intentional Faith Development. Risk-Taking Mission and Service
Extravagant Generosity

Lenten Soup and Study Suppers

THURSDAYS

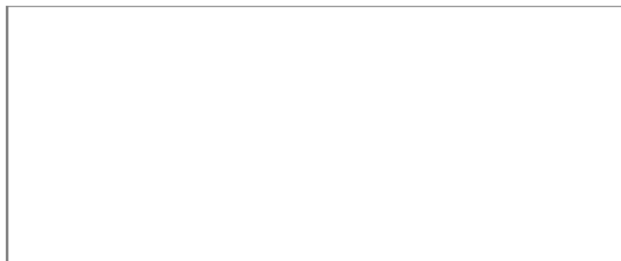
March 17, 24, 31, and April 7, 14

5:45-7:15 p.m.

Sign-up in Narthex

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 APRIL Issue of
The Circuit Writer
is 17 March.
Thank You.