



# THE CIRCUIT WRITER

News from the United Methodist Church of Naugatuck

May 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

## Being Content Whatever the Circumstances Life in the Super-High Gas Price Era

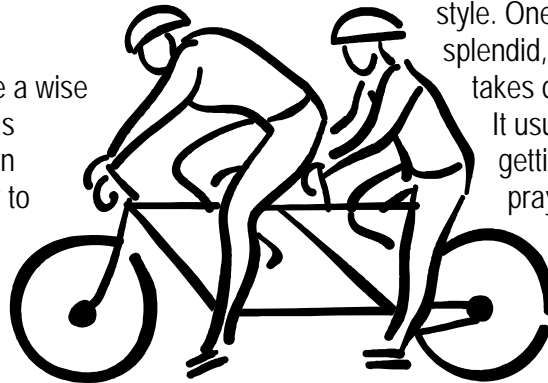
Nowadays, my life is in a sort of the emergency mode. It is all because of the super-high gas price. I feel like dreaming as I recall the old days back in the early 1990's when I first came to America and settled in New Jersey. Back then, gas was sold in NJ by as low as \$1.05 per gallon. Their gas price is still one of the cheapest around the country. Ah, the good old days! However, then is then, and now I have to face the reality, the super-high gas price \$4.04 as of April 20, 2011. That is the cheapest price in Naugatuck!

So, these days I am determined to be a wise driver in order to beat the monster gas price. Firstly, I try not to go out of town unless it is necessary. Secondly, I try to be more strategic in going shopping. The phrase 'planning on shopping' is now in my radar. I also try to improve my driving habit especially in town unless I drive a Prius. There are times I tend to procrastinate on the town streets so that I get stopped at the red lights unnecessarily. If I drove more conscientiously, I could avoid them oftentimes.

In general, I think I have been a bit spoiled living in America as far as my driving habit is concerned. Do you know that the super-high gas price in America nowadays

is still relatively cheaper than that in most European countries and other industrialized ones? Are you aware that American people who are less than 5 percent of the world population consume more than 30 percent of the energy that the whole world consume annually?

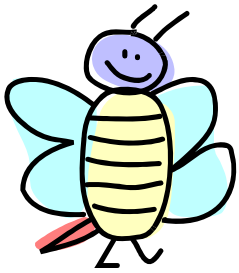
So, maybe we can take this super-high gas price as a wake-up call from God in regard to our life style. Oftentimes, genuine happiness is found in the simple life style. One's body might take delight in colorful, splendid, and luxurious life style but one's soul takes quite a different approach to happiness. It usually prefers to serene atmosphere, getting near to nature, spiritual meditation, praying to God, and so on.



Finally, let me share with you what Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4: 12-13, *"I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."* Being content whatever the circumstances is one of the greatest wisdoms in life. Friends, I recommend to you to remember these words whenever you feel badly for the monster figures on the price tower in the gas stations. May God bless you all and lead you onto the life of genuine happiness!

In peace,

Pastor Steven Kim



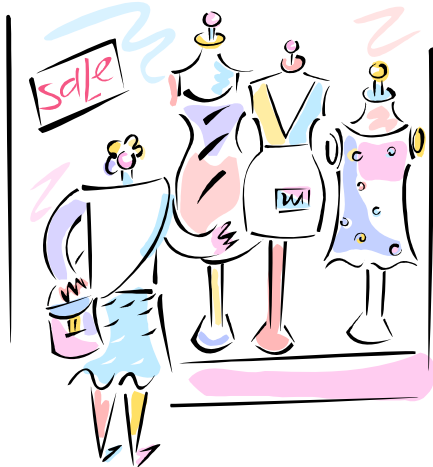
## Be A Good Steward

### Be a Recycler



Help out our church and keep our streets clean, by donating your bottles and cans. You may leave them off in the third bay of the garage.

### Be a Thrifter



Stop by and visit with our cheerful Thrift Shop staff, and become a thrifty shopper! A \$4-A-Bag sale is going on now We have a great selection of clothing for men, women, and children. Also, if you are doing your closet spring cleaning, don't forget that the Thrift Shop is always looking for good used clothing.

Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### Begin

- By Nicky Mehta  
Wailin' Jennies

<http://www.thewailinjennys.com/>

Hey, maybe the time  
just wasn't right to hang on  
When are you gonna learn  
Things sometimes turn instead of turn out

Hey, when are you gonna stand  
Stop looking over your shoulder  
Me, with a head full of words  
And not one useful expression  
Hey, let go

We, with holes in our hearts  
Were whole at the start  
Our story began  
We film ourselves 'til the end  
Try to suspend our lives in the dark

Hey, when are you gonna stand  
Stop looking over your shoulder  
See, there's a sun in the sky  
And a moon that will take us til morning  
When are you gonna stand  
Stop and begin this moment  
Hey, let go  
Let go



The United Methodist Church  
of Naugatuck, Connecticut

208 Meadow Street 203•729•4236  
Naugatuck, CT 06770 [www.numcct.org](http://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](http://TheCircuitWriter.com)  
[gusawicz@region15.org](mailto:gusawicz@region15.org) 203•729•0572

## *More Mission Opportunities For US*

We had so much success with our "Service and Outreach Day" in March that we do not want to let the 'fire' go out. Your enthusiasm was contagious.

As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to make disciples, care for the sick and the poor, and care for the environment. Here are some opportunities for mission, that by joining together, we can make a positive difference in the world.

### ***Saturday, May 14 Waterbury Citywide Earth Day Cleanup (Rain date May 21).***

9:00 a.m. to Noon.

You do not need to sign up – get a group together and just show up. This is a great 'care for the environment' family project. Everyone will meet at Sears Automotive parking lot (next to the Mall.) There you will receive everything you need for the cleanup along with a lunch ticket to Frankie's on Watertown

Avenue. If you have questions, see Rob Petro who is in charge of this project as he is a Liter and Beautification Commissioner in Waterbury.

### ***Saturday, May 28 Two Opportunities Change the World – Naugatuck River Cleanup and Nursing Home/Shut In Visits***

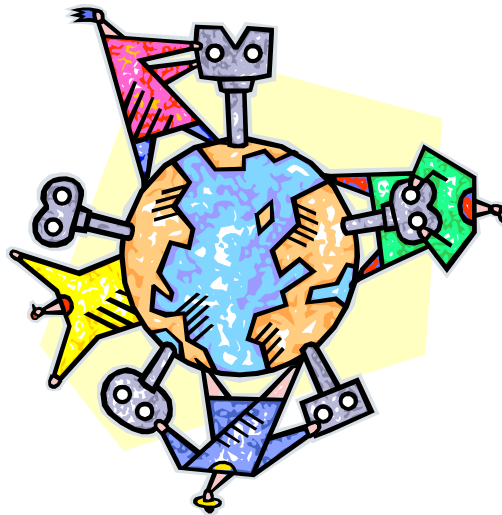
10:00 a.m. to Noon

This opportunity is connected to our March "Service and Outreach" Day. In May United Methodists around the world will join together to make a positive difference locally and globally. We are hoping to see as many of our members as possible to come out and help with the

continuing clean up of our Naugatuck River. Over the last ten years great strides have been made to clean it up and keep it clean, however people continue to throw litter into the river threatening the wildlife that presently flourishes in the now 'clean' river. The river now supports a variety of fish and other life forms – and we have even seen little yellow rubber duckies floating along sometimes!

'The rebirth of the Naugatuck River has triggered intense interest in it's future. Kevin Zak, one of the founders of the Naugatuck River Revival Group based in Platts Mill, will be our guide for the clean up and insuring that the river has a future. He and his group of volunteers have been caring for the river for the past three years.

A sign up sheet will be in the Narthex. This event is open to adults and children. You do not have to get into the river unless you want to – the banks are littered also!



### ***Nursing Home/Shut-Ins Visit – May 28 (10:00a.m. – Noon)***

We will also have a team going to the Nursing Home and to Shut Ins. This is a mission we hope to expand in the future. Those who were part of this team during "Service and Outreach Day" felt they got as much as they gave by their participation. Our members and others in the Nursing Home were very pleased by the team's visit that we feel called to send a team again. Please consider bringing a little 'sunshine' into someone's life.

Linneah Behlman will help to organize this event. Sign-up in the Narthex.

Diane Monsam, Kim Dilts Louey, Rob Petro, Elma Solomon, Ed Usawicz, Gretchen Usawicz, Marion Zirolli

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(Continued on Page 4)

More Mission Opportunities for US (from Page 3)

## ***Birthing Kits*** for Annual Conference – (June 8-11)

For this year's United Methodist New York/Connecticut Annual Conference, churches are being asked to bring either health kits or birthing kits to restock the warehouses. Missions has settled on collecting items for *birthing kits*. Often women in third world countries give birth at home with the help of a traditional birth attendant who is not a professional medical person. Sometimes this is not the safest or most sanitary situation. Through training from professionals, birth attendants learn to conduct antiseptic deliveries using a birthing kit.

Missions and anyone who would like to help will put the kits together at least 20 kits – more if we can. You may donate items or monies for us to purchase the items. Checks should be made out to the Churches with notation - birthing kits. Please fill in the items list in the Narthex if you are donating items. Thank you. For questions: Ethel Grant

We are looking for these items if you wish to donate items:

- 20 1 or 2 oz bar of soap
- 10 latex surgical or thin rubber gloves
- 1 roll plastic sheeting (4 mil) thin – (we will cut to size needed – which is 1 sq. yard.)
- 1 ball of cotton string
- 40 receiving blankets – not fleece
- 2 boxes gallon reseal plastic bags

Thank you once again for your dedication to those in need.

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## Together We Make a Difference

Missions and Outreach Committee Members: Ethel Grant, Chairperson, Linnea Behlman, Bev Carrington, Lisa Herb,

## Compassion

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical, and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves.

Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honor the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody without exception, with absolute justice, equity, and respect.

- By Karen Armstrong  
Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life

## 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

### Items Needed for May

Jello, Muffin Mix, Tea, Coffee



## Majesty, Worship His Majesty

\*No. 176 The United Methodist Hymnal by Jack Hayford

### May Servers

Liturgists – Check on Line at [www.numcct.org](http://www.numcct.org)

1	May	Ethel Grant
8	May	Wayne Zirolli
15	May	Susan Agamy
22	May	Jeff Hunt
29	May	John Hope-Ross

### Ushers

Carl and Cindy Herb

Contact our Usher Coordinator, John Hope-Ross, at 203-723-4091 if you would like to serve as an usher.

### Church Calendar

- May 1..... Second Sunday of Easter  
Milal Missionary Concert at 6:30 p.m.
- May 8:..... Third Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day, Native American  
Awareness, Baptism of Olivia Lewicki
- May 15..... Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Children's Sermon by High School Class,  
District Conference (2~4 p.m.) at Prospect  
UMC in Bristol
- May 22..... Fifth Sunday of Easter, Heritage Sunday
- May 29..... Saturday, Outreach Day – Naugatuck  
River Clean-up, Nursing Home Visit
- May 29..... Sixth Sunday of Easter
- June 5..... Ascension Sunday
- June 8~11.. Annual Conference
- June 11..... Celebration of Mission at Hofstra University
- June 12..... Children's Sunday, Pentecost, National  
Children's Day

### Worshipping Your Audience of One

- By Dr. Jack Graham

*I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.  
Oh, magnify the LORD with me,  
and let us exalt his name together!*

Psalm 34:1-3

It's an unfortunate reality in our culture today that church has become a spectator sport. After all, you go to a play or a concert to be entertained. And when you walk into most churches, you see a similar setup—seats, a stage, and a sound system.

Because of this, I think many in the Church today have the idea that those up on the stage are the performers, the congregation is the audience, and God is up in heaven directing. So the congregation's role is just to observe and respond if the show is good. But if the show isn't good, then you can always leave and catch a different show next week at another church!

But that's not what real worship is. In real worship, the members of the congregation are the performers and God is the audience. God is the one who listens to the praise that only you can give. He is your audience of one!

So next time you're in church, remember that your role isn't to come and enjoy the performance, your role is to sing and worship your Heavenly Father!

**Instead of treating church like a show put on for you, consider yourself to be a performer for God, your true audience of one!**

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\*So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus. Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.  
Majesty, worship his majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings.

## Together We Make A Difference Through Shared Ministry Apportionments!

Thanks to our support, the three campgrounds owned by the NY Annual Conference are fully insured for the more than 18,000 who use the camps annually. The vision for these outdoor ministries is to "build a healthy body of Christ through the generation and regeneration of Christian love in community with all of God's creation, our sacred gift and trust." Epworth Camp and Retreat Center has six lodges and a wilderness camping area with shelters. The camp is focused on promoting permaculture, a model for living practices and land use that are in tune with nature and good stewardship. Camp Quinipet, located on Shelter Island, offers a retreat center, new welcome center, Christian overnight camp, sailing for youth and adults, summer day camp, and environmental and adventure education for schools. Kingswood, in the Catskills, offers tent and trailer camping amid forests and rolling hills. There is a swimming lake and trails for hiking.

Our Shared Ministry Sunday is the 15<sup>th</sup> of May.



## **NEEDED:**

### Nursery Coordinator

We are in need of a Nursery Coordinator.

This person will have to schedule volunteers to cover the nursery area during service

Please see Chris Herb or Jennifer Barrett, Co-chairs of Education Work Area, or Sherrie Ploof, Sunday School Superintendent if you have interest in this position.



## Let's Go Island Odyssey Get-Away

- Contact: Ruth Lilback  
203-271-1569 OR via email at [mnr51642@gmail.com](mailto:mnr51642@gmail.com)

### 2011 Vacation Bible School Ready to Sail

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 for one week. 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!

**Take the Survey** - We are currently surveying church membership for availability to maximize participation. If you have not filled out a survey yet, please contact Ruth Lilback at 203-271-1569 OR via email at: [mnr51642@gmail.com](mailto:mnr51642@gmail.com)

We look forward to traveling with you ...



## From Chris Herb

MAJOR EVENTS CHAIRPERSON

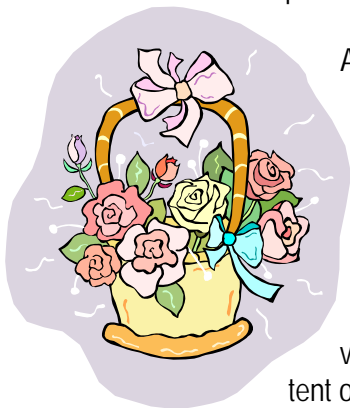
Need More Information?

Contact Chris at: 203-729-3293

herbchristian@sbcglobal.net

### Spring Showers Bring Mother's Day Flowers

Our annual Mother's Day Flower sale will take place in the church parking lot on May, 6, 7, and 8 between 12:00 Noon and 6:00 p.m.



A wide variety of hanging baskets, annuals and perennials will be available. Come buy mom a flower and spruce up your yard and garden.

We are in need of volunteers to help set up the tent on Thursday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m., and to help with sales on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. See Richard Hassenfeldt or Chris herb to let us know how you can help out.

### Strawberry Celebration Slated for June 18

Our traditional Strawberry Celebration and Ham Dinner will be held on Saturday June 18. This year's dinner will be cooked by "Chef" Bernie Grant. Bernie is looking for an assistant to help him out. If you can help in the kitchen please let us know. We are also in need of volunteers to 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

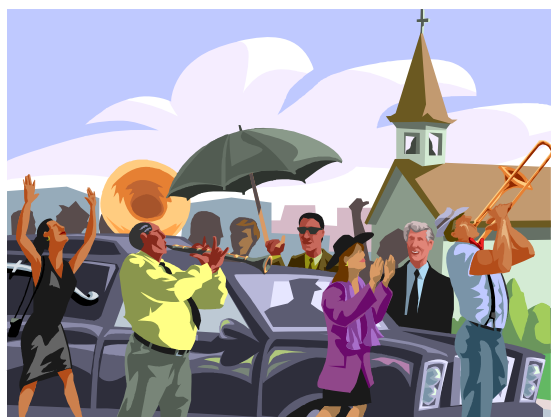
We will hold a tag sale on Saturday June 18 between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. You may begin to bring your donated items the week of May 23. **Please do not bring any items for the tag sale before May 23**, as it increases the chances that they

will be ruined by the water that leaks into the garage. 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.



### EWA Fundraiser a Success

To help offset the costs of the materials used to teach the Sunday School classes the Education Work Area (EWA) held Fellowship Hour for "ransom". This fundraiser provides coffee and juice but asks for people to pay a "ransom" to get a baked good. The EWA would like to thank everyone for being a good sport and with our fundraiser and pay a healthy ransom for our goodies. Your support goes a long way in the education we are providing to the youth of our 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.

DATE	BAND/PERFORMER	WEBSITE	MUSIC DESCRIPTION
May 13	Glen and Friends		Urban/Contemporary
June 10	Spirit Song	<a href="http://www.cityfest.us/spiritsongministries/index.htm">http://www.cityfest.us/spiritsongministries/index.htm</a>	Worship/Contemporary
September 30	The Soul Lifters	<a href="http://www.myspace.com/thesoullifters">http://www.myspace.com/thesoullifters</a>	Soul and Gospel
October 21	Further Still	<a href="http://www.furtherstillmusic.com/">http://www.furtherstillmusic.com/</a>	Alternative/Blues
November 11	Allergic to Bees	<a href="http://www.seymourebcc.com/bees/thebees.html">http://www.seymourebcc.com/bees/thebees.html</a>	Folk/Contemporary
December 2	Patrick Destoop	<a href="http://www.myspace.com/patrickdestoop">http://www.myspace.com/patrickdestoop</a>	Country/Folk
December 9	Redeemed	<a href="http://www.redeemedct.com/index.html">http://www.redeemedct.com/index.html</a>	Rock/Jazz/Christmas/Blues

Questions: •Call Rob at 203•419•0890



# Milal Missionary Choir

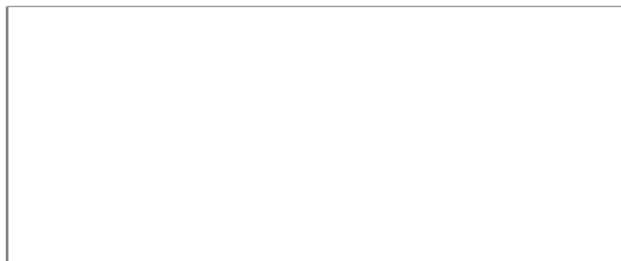
Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> of May  
6:30 p.m.

Don't Miss This Must See Joyous and  
Uplifting Musical Event!

This 50+ member assembly has played to packed houses  
at Radio City and Carnegie Hall, and traveled  
from Tokyo to Frankfurt and Atlanta to Los Angeles.

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208 MEADOW STREET  
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*A community of God seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.*

The Deadline for  
the JUNE Issue of  
The Circuit Writer  
is 19<sup>th</sup> of May  
Thank You.