



THE CIRCUIT WRITER

News from the United Methodist Church of Naugatuck

September 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

Getting RID of Blockage

Often times, I am amazed by the modern medical technology such as brain surgery, heart surgery, hip replacement, etc. Stent is one of them. I bet you know what a stent does but let me share the definition of stent from Wikipedia: A stent is an artificial 'tube' inserted into a natural passage/conduit in the body to prevent, or counteract, a disease-induced, localized flow constriction. When blood is not freely circulating through the arteries, it causes a serious problem to the whole body.

It is not only the human body that needs a smooth flow of circulation. Recently, we have experienced an unprecedented happening at our church. In the wake of the heavy rain, our fellowship hall was badly flooded. At first, we thought it was another flooding that our congregation has dealt with for decades. It wasn't. This time the sewage system underneath Meadow Street was blocked so that all the filthy water gushed out into the basement.

Thank God that we have an appropriate insurance coverage. All the necessary measures were taken by our insurance; the removal of the 13,000 gallons of water,

thorough clean-up and sanitization, replacement of wet wooden materials, etc. Just as in a human body, our church facility got badly messed up when a blockage occurred in the sewage system. And the first thing to be done for solving the problem was none other than to get rid of it. It wasn't enough to pump out the water and clean the mess up in the basement. We had to get rid of the root cause, the sewage blockage, which the town did.



It was indicative that how the blockage in the sewage system has inflicted so much damage on our church facility. When it comes to the welfare of the church of God, however, what really matters is not the physical blockage but the spiritual one. Figuratively speaking, the spirit of love, grace, and unity should run freely through the blood vessels of a church. Then, the spiritual nutrition will be delivered to every single membrane of the church.

On the contrary, a church malfunctions when it lives with the blockage. Now, friends, let us think about this. What would be the blockage which keeps our church from getting healthier and growing, if any? Whatever comes up in our minds let us pray for them together

In Peace,

Pastor Steven Kim



Thank You

From Ruth Lilback

I would like to thank all that helped make VBS 2011 such a successful and rewarding event. We could not have done it without the support of so many of our members of the congregation.

I would like to especially thank: Lauren Carrington (Worship Coordinator); Beverly Carrington (Crafts Chair); Preston Simmons (Worship Skits - our GRIOT!), Ethel Grant (Publicity Chair); Pastor Kim (Music Leader and Youth Teacher); Our Teachers and Activity Coordinators: Dawn Mudry, Carissa Argel, Barbara Hunt, Cindy Fellows, Chris Herb, Sue Agame, Esther Ruocco, Kary Argel; Gretchen Usawicz (Decorations), Erika Solomon (Registration & Decorations), Hannah Kim (Decorations), Cindy Herb (Crafts); Elma Solomon, Young Kim and Caroline Raj (Snacks Team).

Everyone that attended the event is added to this list as they contributed in one way or another. - THANK YOU ALL!

Our trip was a true biblical and spiritual Odyssey. We are ready to "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" Mark 16:15



Stewardship Thank You

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

If you have gotten a little behind with your weekly pledges this summer, please prayerfully consider your stewardship giving and commitment yourself to catching up as we start to swing into fall activities.

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

Peace,

The Stewardship Work Area



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

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The Reverend Steven Kim, Pastor

Gretchen I. Usawicz, Editor, The Circuit Writer
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Coloring Outside the Lines

-Jennifer Desmarais
Small Group Leader, Mother of three;
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Read Genesis 45:6-15

God can use to good purpose experiences and situations we wouldn't choose for ourselves. The child abandoned at birth can become the cherished son to a couple who lives oceans away. The woman who feels lonely in a crowded church can become the devoted friend who invests in and journeys with others. The brother sold into slavery can become the ruler in a foreign land who saves lives. God is flexible; God is innovative and resourceful. God sees myriad opportunities each time we veer off course.

God navigates the human experience like a GPS system. God sees the situations that befall us and watches as we make poor choices. We lose our way, and God recalculates. Tune in to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who says, "Recalculating." We may make a wrong turn, but God can recalculate, restore, and get us back on the road. Trust the leading of the Holy Spirit and God's word to lead to God's best desire and intention for our lives.

As with Joseph and his brothers. God brings good from a bad situation: a reunited family, wealth from poverty, provision in a time of dire need. God, indeed, had made the best of Joseph's detour in Egypt and recalculated. Expect detours. Celebrate long winding roads. Send postcards. Ask for directions. Be open to the Spirit and the will of God to use you to reflect divine love and the light into that dark alley that feels like it's "off route."



It's not about you but about what God can do through you. The Lord is a God of wonders. Life may turn into a white-knuckle ride; hold on tight and pray. God is "recalculating."

Merciful and gracious God, help me to quiet my mind that I might better know your wishes. Use me for your will, and give me the strength to bring your love and light to the dark corners of people's lives. Help me embrace challenges as opportunities to recalculate. Amen.



Father, we, too, have said we want to follow your teachings and show your love to the world, but we still resist. Help our hearts and our bodies follow our words, not just saying we will be your body, but by doing your work and returning part of your abundance so that your work may truly be done. Amen.
(Matthew 21:23-32)

Mission Opportunities

NEON

Our Church has joined six Naugatuck Churches in the Naugatuck Ecumenical Outreach Network (NEON). NEON was formed in 2008. "It is a group of caring and concerned churches and individuals who have joined together to help feed the hungry in the greater Naugatuck community." NEON has three main focus areas: establishing a regular hot meal program, establishing an Angel Food Ministries distribution center in Naugatuck, establishing an ongoing lunch program for local children for periods when school is not in session. Everyday this summer for the month of August, the group fed up to 135 students free lunches on the Green - all with the help of volunteers. We can help next summer. The group host free community dinners once a month on Saturdays at St. Michael's Church whose kitchen is being renovated with grant money, so that the kitchen is in compliance with State regulations. The dinner dates are Saturdays at St. Michaels:

- September 24 5-7 p.m. Meatloaf, baked potato,
green beans & cake
- October 22 5-7 p.m. to be announced
- November 19 5-7 p.m. to be announced

These free dinners need lots of volunteer help - this is our opportunity to fulfill our commitment to following the Practice of a Fruitful Church: extravagant generosity. During our Church's Council meeting, we made a commitment to offer free meals to the community in conjunction with our fundraising suppers - by joining NEON we are able to pool our efforts with those of others in the community working to fulfill Jesus' command to feed the hungry and care for our neighbors. Please volunteer: as a cook, server, setup, or clean up. You can call NEON dinner coordinator, Dottie, at 203-723-7932 or contact any member of the Mission team. Teenagers and adults are needed. For more info go to: neonfood.com.

Naugatuck River Clean Up

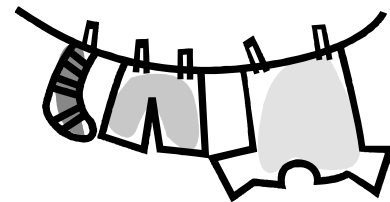
We will try again on September 18, at 10:15 a.m. to participate with Kevin Zak (Coordinator) on a river clean up. Since this is a Sunday morning, the High School Sunday School students will be invited to take the initiative here - this will be their Sunday School lesson. Their Sunday School teachers and Pastor Steven see this as an opportunity for the students to serve the community. We will need a few adults to accompany the students and teachers. Let Ethel know if you can help out. Call Ethel at 203 723-2428.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop hours will change September 3, 2011. The NEW HOURS WILL BE 9 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, Thursdays and Fridays. Stop by and shop and help support our Church's missions and outreach. If you have gently used clothing to donate, drop them by the Church anytime and they will make their way to the Thrift Shop.

A New Beginnings "Thank You" from Elma Solomon

We are happy to report that the church dressed three students for school this year. We were asked to support two students, but because of the continued generosity of the church and the need of the community, we were able to support a third child. On behalf of New Beginnings I would like to thank everyone who contributed.



September Servers

Liturgists – Check on Line at www.numcct.org

- 04 September John Hope-Ross
- 11 September Deb Torrice
- 18 September Jack Lewis
- 25 September Ethel Grant



Together We Make A Difference Through Shared Ministry Apportionments!

Heavenly Father, we know that too often we focus on what is owed us rather than the great abundance that has been provided through you. With your help, we can become generous and grace-filled, using our resources as tools for ministry rather than for our own desires. Help our hearts understand how earthly wealth can be used for Kingdom work. Amen. *(Matthew 18:21-35)*

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

Our Shared Ministry Sunday is the 18th of September.

Church Calendar

- September 4 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost.
Holy Communion
- September 11 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Rally Day and Church Picnic

Ecumenical 911 Memorial Service at Congregational Church at 5:00 p.m.
- September 18 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Shared Ministry
- September 21 Church Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- September 25 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Healing Service.
- Upcoming Events Charge Conference on Thursday, November. 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Youth Group Retreat to Franconia Notch N.H.

This fall the youth group will be going on a retreat to Franconia Notch, New Hampshire, to enjoy a weekend of hiking, camping, and good company. The planned dates are Friday September 30 to Sunday, October 2. If your son or daughter in grades 6 through 12 is interested in going on the retreat, or if you have any questions, please contact either David Hunt or Pastor Steven. Cost is yet to be determined based on a head count.

David Hunt email: Hunttdt@clarkson.edu
Cell: 203-558-6584
Pastor Steven email: kyj0910@gmail.com
Cell: 203-721-5423

Good Fridays Coffee House

- Rob Petro, Coordinator of the Good Fridays Coffee House

GF IS BACK IN TOWN! The Good Fridays Coffee House is an oasis of inspiration and renewal! You are cordially invited to attend Good Fridays, where from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. you may sip, connect, and listen to inspiring music. There is no cover charge, and we offer free refreshments and snacks. Come, check us out, enjoy the aroma of coffee, fine snacks, and great music.

DATE	BAND/PERFORMER	WEBSITE	MUSIC DESCRIPTION
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

Let's Celebrate Rally Day!

All-Church Picnic

Sunday, the 11th of September, 2011,
following the
10:15 a.m. Worship Service
in the Parsonage Garden



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF NAUGATUCK

A community of God seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.

208 MEADOW STREET

NAUGATUCK CT 06770

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Naugatuck, CT

The Deadline for
the October Issue
of
The Circuit Writer
is September 21.
Thank You.

