

March Link

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

This morning as I walked up the path to the Parish House, I was greeted with the dulcet sounds of birds singing. The air was warm, and the sun was shining for the first time in weeks. There was a feeling of spring in the air that was spirit lifting if only for a few days. Granted in this time at the end of winter and the promise of spring, the earth could still beset us with a winter storm. We can all recall endless winters and surprise spring blizzards, but still, even with the possibility of more snow, this is a time of hope for spring. You can almost smell hope in the air.

Lent, too, is a season of hope. It may not seem to be a time of hope as we recall the crucifixion of Jesus. It may not seem to be a time of hope, as we walk with him through his ministry when he is misunderstood and rejected. It may not seem to be a time of hope as authorities plot against him and disciples abandon him. It may not seem to be a time of hope, as we recall our sinful nature that brought him to his cross.

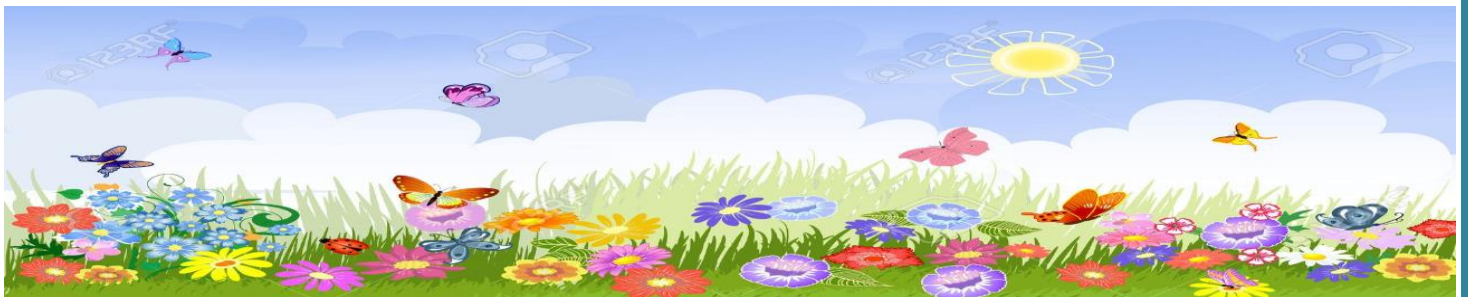
But indeed, Lent, as much as it is a time of repentance, it is a time of hope. We know that we are so loved by Jesus that he willingly went to the cross for us. We know that death did not and does not have the final word, but that He returned on the third day. We know our Risen Lord is the center of our faith. We know that we are never alone, but we travel in the steps of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Redeemer.

In every day of Lent, there is hope. Remember that in all of life's challenges, that in Jesus there is new birth and there is hope. In the darkest days, in our most challenging times there is always hope when we rely on our Lord.

May we all continue the journey of Lent in the true hope of Resurrection to come.

In His Love,

Pastor Barbara





THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thomas J. Bickerton, Resident Bishop
New York Area Episcopal Office
New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

February 1, 2024

Dear Administrative Council Chair,

"Just as you excel in everything ... see also that you excel in the grace of giving."

2 Corinthians 8:7

In our recent cabinet meeting, we have reviewed the giving of each of our local churches for the last year and noted that your church paid 100% of your connectional apportionments last year. As your bishop, I'm especially proud of the commitment you have to each other and the way in which you demonstrate your commitment through your payment of Connectional Apportionments. I am writing today to thank you for that commitment. It has not gone unnoticed and, I know, is a result of intentional hard work on your part.

Our United Methodist Book of Discipline clearly states that paying your Connectional Apportionments is every local church's "first benevolent responsibility." Your faithfulness on your giving to our apportionments, you are demonstrating that you are a partner in ministry with the New York Annual Conference. I'm proud to write and acknowledge your faithfulness not only to the New York Annual Conference, and not only to the broader connection of The United Methodist Church, but also to the "kingdom work" that God has called us to as faithful disciples.

Thank you so very much for your hard work and faithfulness. It is greatly appreciated

God is faithful! Faithful is also what God is asking us to be. In the book of II Corinthians, Paul recounts the extreme faithfulness of the church in Macedonia even in the midst of what Paul described as a severe ordeal in the midst of extreme poverty. They were faithful and joyful as they gave themselves to God and to one another. When they did, they gave beyond what the Bible says was their ability to give at all.

God changed the world through them. As we are faithful, I believe God will once again change the world, . . . through us!

Thank you once again for your faithfulness on your Conference Apportionments. I deeply appreciate it.

The Journey Continues, . . .

Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop

Bishop Bickerton will be at First Meriden on March 25 (yes Monday of Holy Week). Parish Coordinators will meet with him from 4-5, all clergy should be there for a meeting at 5, dinner will be served from 6-7:20, and his meeting with Laity and worship will start at 7:30. Laity are also invited for dinner.

We will be holding a District Retreat on April 12-13. Doug Poe will be with us (Director of the Lewis Center and James C. Logan Professor of Evangelism and Urban Ministry at Wesley Theological Seminary) and that meeting will be in West Hartford. The 12th is for clergy and the 13th will be open to laity. Stay tuned for more details.

Our District Conference will be May 4 with Leonard Sweet as our presenter. A location has not been determined yet.

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North Canton Community United Methodist Church 3 Case Street, North Canton

Would like to announce their

“Friday Night Out” St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef Dinner. Chef Ken prepares his famous Corned Beef and Cabbage, with special mustard sauce on the side. Potatoes, Onions, Carrots, soda bread. And of course heavenly dessert

Come and enjoy a night out at our Friday Night Dinner! March 15, 2024 5:00—7:00 pm

Adults \$17.00 Seniors \$15.00 Children (6 and under) \$10.00 Takeout Available Directions: Corner of Cherry Brook Rd. and Case St., about 5 miles north of Route 44/Route 179 intersection.

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Attention all Mary/Martha's: On Sunday April 24 a delicious lunch will be served at 12:00 at Cathy and John Baum's Granby home. Chef Dreama owner of the former Yellow Victorian of Riverton will prepare a chicken dish for us. We can host 15 woman so please let Cathy add you to the reservation. Her home phone # is 860-413-3158 if you don't see her in church.

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The Mary & Martha’s women’s group is planning a retreat at the beautiful Trinita Retreat Center in New Hartford, CT on May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. The cost of the retreat is \$90.00. There will be a few scholarships available. For more information or to make your reservation, please call Pastor Barbara at 203-623-3754, or the church office at 860-379-2157.

## Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church Awarded Grant To Help Provide A New Roof

The Northwest CT Community Foundation **Douglas and Janet Roberts Fund** has awarded a \$10,000 grant to Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church of CT., to help support a roof replacement project.

In 1989 the church was added on to, increasing its size and a new roof was installed at that time. That roof is now 35 years old and is now some years past its life expectancy.

“The church’s congregation is so grateful to have recently been awarded this funding Grant to help with our roof replacement project.”

The Northwest CT Community Foundation **Douglas and Janet Roberts Fund** was established through the estate planning of Douglas E. Roberts, a resident of Riverton for more than 80 years. The Northwest CT Community Foundation **Douglas and Janet Roberts Fund** supports the Barkhamsted Historical Society, educational enrichment for Barkhamsted residents, and regional nonprofit programming that benefits the residents of Barkhamsted.

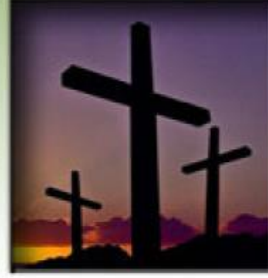
The Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church of Pleasant Valley (a subsection of Barkhamsted) Connecticut was originally built in 1846. This particular church also provides space for a food bank associated with both the church and FoodShare. This funding grant will help to make sure that the building’s roof gets replaced, allowing the church’s congregation and its food bank mission to both remain in this church building for many years to come.

These are pictures of the first phase of the roof replacement that was completed the end of October. The second phase of the roof replacement is scheduled to start June 1st.



Thank you to everyone who has contributed. Donations for this cause are still being accepted.

# Holy Week Schedule



**Service at 10:00 AM**



**Service with Holy Communion at 7:00 PM**



**Good Friday**

**Service at 7:00 PM**



**Service at 10:00 AM**



## Gospels for March

March 3: John 2:13-22  
 March 10: John 3:14-21  
 March 17: John 12:20-33  
 March 24: Mark 15:1-47  
 March 31: John 20:1-18

## March Schedule

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|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 3<br>March 10<br>March 17<br>March 24<br>March 31 | <u>Cleaners</u><br>Judy McKay & Darlene Slater<br>Ted Millahn<br>Ted Millahn<br>Volunteers Needed<br>Volunteers Needed                                                          | <u>Nursery Care</u><br><br><br><br>                                                      | <u>Ushers</u><br>Sandy Slemmer & Janet LaGrange<br>Barbara Sherwin & Shirley Green<br>Darlene Slater & Jennifer Lambour<br>Dawn Renfrew & Shelley Bailey<br>Steve & Barb Bailey |
| March 3<br>March 10<br>March 17<br>March 24<br>March 31 | <u>Greeters</u><br>John Lundy & Jay LaGrange<br>John Lundy & Jay LaGrange<br>John Lundy & Jay LaGrange<br>John Lundy & Jay LaGrange<br>John Lundy & Jay LaGrange                | <u>Lectors</u><br>Sandy Taylor<br>Steve Bailey<br>John Baum<br>Cathy Baum<br>Karen Dietz | <u>Coffee Hour</u><br>Angela Root & Terri Collins<br>Volunteers Needed<br>Volunteers Needed<br>Stephanie & Pat Stark<br>Cathy & John Baum                                       |
| March 3<br>March 10<br>March 17<br>March 24<br>March 31 | <u>Counters</u><br>Wayne Roberts & Barb Bailey<br>Barbara Sherwin & Steve Bailey<br>Barbara Bailey & John Lundy<br>Steve Bailey & Wayne Roberts<br>John Lundy & Barbara Sherwin | <u>Children's Message</u><br><br><br>                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                 |



# March

| SUN.                                                                                                                                                                                                               | MON.                                               | TUES.                                                                                                                                     | WED.                                                                                          | THUS.                                                                                                                                                                                   | FRI.                                                                                                                                                      | SAT. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                    |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                         | 1                                                                                                                                                         | 2    |
| <b>3</b><br><b>10:00AM</b><br><b>Worship Service with</b><br><b>Holy Communion</b>                                                                                                                                 | 4                                                  | <b>5</b><br><b>10:00AM</b><br><b>Bible Study</b><br><br><b>8:00PM AA</b>                                                                  | 6                                                                                             | 7                                                                                                                                                                                       | 8                                                                                                                                                         | 9    |
| <b>10</b><br><b>10:00AM</b><br><b>Worship Service</b><br><br><b>11:15AM</b><br><b>Trustees Meeting</b><br>                       | 11<br><br><b>6:00 – 8:00PM</b><br><b>Food Bank</b> | <b>12</b><br><b>10:00AM</b><br><b>Bible Study</b><br><br><b>7:00PM</b><br><b>Admin./Finance</b><br><b>Meeting</b><br><br><b>8:00PM AA</b> | 13                                                                                            | <b>14</b><br><br><br><b>2:00 – 4:00PM</b><br><b>Food Bank</b><br><br><b>6:45PM AA</b>                                                                                                   | 15                                                                                                                                                        | 16   |
| <b>17</b><br><b>10:00AM</b><br><b>Worship Service</b><br>                                                                       | 18                                                 | <b>19</b><br><b>10:00AM</b><br><b>Prayer Group</b><br><br><b>8:00PM AA</b>                                                                | 20<br><br> | 21                                                                                                                                                                                      | 22                                                                                                                                                        | 23   |
| <b>24</b><br><b>10:00AM</b><br><b>Worship Service</b><br><br><b>11:30AM</b><br><b>Mary &amp; Martha's</b><br><b>Meeting</b><br> | 25<br><br><b>6:00 – 8:00PM</b><br><b>Food Bank</b> | <b>26</b><br><b>10:00AM</b><br><b>Prayer Group</b><br><br><b>8:00PM AA</b>                                                                | 27                                                                                            | <b>28</b><br><br><br><b>2:00 – 4:00PM</b><br><b>Food Bank</b><br><br><b>6:45PM AA</b><br><br><b>7:00 PM</b><br><b>Worship</b><br><b>Service with</b><br><b>Holy</b><br><b>Communion</b> | 29<br><br><br><br><b>7:00 PM</b><br><b>Worship</b><br><b>Service</b> | 30   |
| <b>31</b><br><b>10:00AM</b><br><b>Worship Service</b><br>                                                                       |                                                    |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                           |      |

## March Announcements

### **Storm Warnings**

As we approach spring, winter can still sneak up on us so please remember to watch WFSB, channel 3 for any cancellations of meetings or worship due to stormy weather.

If you know of someone who is not getting the Link but would like to, please contact Re with their information and email address so they can be added to the list. If they don't have access to emails, just give us their mailing address and we will mail it out to them. We will also leave a few copies on the Besse table.

If you, or someone you know, is in the hospital in need of a visit please call either Pastor Barbara or the Church office to schedule a visit. Because of privacy laws, hospitals can no longer give out this information.

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Church office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon. If there is a Monday holiday, office hours for that week will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon.

Pastor Barbara will be in the office Monday and Tuesday from 9:30AM to 1:00PM, or by appointment.

### Church contact info:

Visit us online at: [pleasantvalleyumc.com](http://pleasantvalleyumc.com)

Church Office: 860-379-2157

Church Kitchen and Food Bank: 860-379-0346

Church email address: [pvumc181@gmail.com](mailto:pvumc181@gmail.com)

Pastor Barbara's email: [barb\\_drew@hotmail.com](mailto:barb_drew@hotmail.com)

Pastor Barbara's phone number: 203-623-3754