

May Newsletter



Unless you are living under a rock, we have seen the word DEI become a hot topic in our society. DEI is an acronym for “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.” The concept is designed to appreciate and value people’s individual differences and provide a range of various perspectives. Ideally, DEI is to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity that will help foster thriving and healthy work environments.

Although there is an ongoing debate surrounding DEI on both sides (for and against), it is imperative that followers of Christ look to scripture and seek the Holy Spirit to discern, understand and apply God’s holy word in addressing DEI.

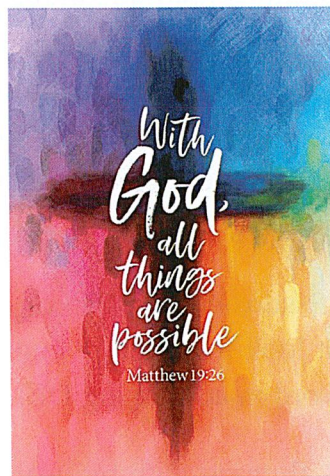
Throughout scripture, we see DEI aligning with biblical principles. God called different individuals who possessed various gifts to live out God’s call on their lives. DEI appreciates the diverse spiritual gifts of all people. We are reminded that we are all baptized into one body and made to drink of one Spirit (1Corinthians 12). Diversity within the Body of Christ highlights a beautiful and colorful tapestry created by the hands of God. Each part is carefully woven together into a work of art and becoming a harmonious masterpiece glorifying God.

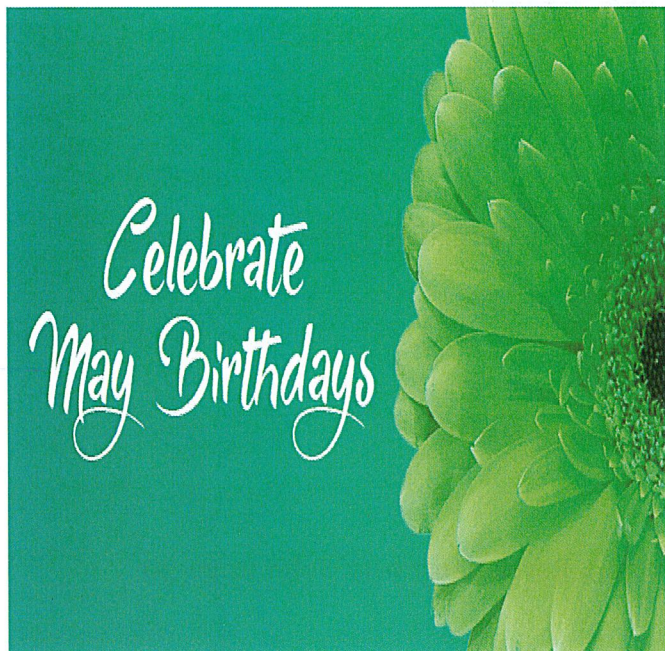
The diversity of gifts and callings within the Body of Christ should emphasize equality, not uniformity. For we all come with unique personalities, gifts and talents, but it is the same God given spirit. As children of a Holy God, we are to never stifle each other's uniqueness. Rather, we are to acknowledge and celebrate each person's God-given talent. We are to be open to learning new things from different people that will ultimately honor God and lift up humanity.

Whether you are for or against DEI, the Bible offers a framework and is clear in upholding justice, mercy, and love for all people. It is us human beings that must do the uncomfortable hard work that transcends the optics of superficiality. And so, the question we all need to ask ourselves, "What would Jesus do in responding to DEI?"

Peace,

Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor





May 1st Alex Attanasio, Roger Templeton
2nd Andrew Klutz
3rd Matthew Schuyler
10th Fern Pope, Gary Bousquet
11th Jason Bell
13th Michael Clare
15th Matthew Ackerman, Charlie Bowen
17th Jackie Blomberg, Sandi McKinnon
18th Larry Remetta
19th Jill Spina, Jim Cave
21st Lydia Templeton
24th Emily Gonzalez, Lauren Egan, Kathy Schuyer, Shirley Pope
25th Cynthia Howe, Deborah Strukus, Scott Wells
26th Jeff Bowen, Paul Carlone
27th Kevin Lee
29th Ally Gates

Happy Anniversary

*To the beautiful couple in all the land,
May your anniversary be Happy and Grand*



3rd Carolyn and Bill Berlepsch
7th David and Christine Seely
8th Carol and Dick Bell
13th Carol and Charlie Martens
16th Melissa and Duane Gates
20th Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione
25th Ray and Denise Smith
30th Karl and Sandra Neumann

MONTH OF SERVICES

May 4

Ushers: Lyle Cubberly, Lynn Sellers, David Moore, Bob Morrison
Camera Operator: Lisa Sutherland
Video Coordinator: Dan Attanasio
Worship Leader: Deb Anderson
Lectionary scriptures: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20), Psalm 30 (UM762), Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Communion Steward: Evelyn Scaglione
Fellowship Host: Jill Hale

May 11th-Mother's Day

Ushers: Jeane Howard, Diana Vincent, Rick Gilcher, Sherry Hynes
Camera Operator: Val Gilcher
Video Coordinator: Lisa Sutherland
Worship Leader: Laura Attanasio
Lectionary scriptures: Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23 (UM754), Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Fellowship Host: Bev Bowen and Liz Egan

May 18th

Ushers: Sharon Minick, Bill Hancock, Lynda Larson, Banks Babjak
Camera Operator: Banks Babjak
Video Coordinator: Karin Thelin
Worship Leader: Michael Babjak
Lectionary scriptures: Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148 (UM861), Revelations 21:1-6, John 13:31-35
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Fellowship Hosts: Corinne Brown and Wilda Lohutko

May 25th

Ushers: Evelyn and Dennis Scaglione, Sally Maxwell, Charlotte Parisi
Camera Operator: Jill Hale
Video Coordinator: Erica Babjak
Worship Leader: Banks Babjak
Lectionary scriptures: Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67 (UM791), Revelation 21:1-10, John 14:23-29
Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor
Fellowship Hosts: Deb Anderson and Lynda Larson

THE CONNECTICUT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

*Perfecting Your Tools
for Evangelism*

HOLY BIBLE

**SATURDAY
MAY 3, 2025**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER
SHEILA ARNOLD**

Location

North (Hartford) UMC 1205
Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT
06112

Morning Session - Collin
Bennett Building

Afternoon Session
- Sanctuary

Agenda

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM
Continental Breakfast

9:15 AM - 12:30 PM
Perfecting Tools for Evangelism
○ *Learning the art of
storytelling* - Sheila Arnold

12:30 PM - 1:25 PM
Lunch (Gourmet Menu/Bufferet
Style)

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM
CAN'T MISS! Mini Concert

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Connecticut District Conference
○ *Recognizing CLM, Lay
Speakers, and Confirmands*
○ *Farewell to
Retirees*
○ *Special Thank You Gift from
DS All Attendees*

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- 8:30 AM - 9:15 PM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
- 9:15 PM - 12:30 PM PERFECTING TOOLS FOR EVANGELISM
 - LEARNING THE ART OF STORYTELLING
- 12:30 PM - 1:25 PM LUNCH (GOURMET MENU/BUFFERET STYLE)
- 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM CAN'T MISS! MINI CONCERT
- 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM CONNECTICUT DISTRICT CONFERENCE
 - RECOGNIZING CLM, LAY SPEAKERS, AND CONFIRMANDS
 - FAREWELL TO RETIREES
 - SPECIAL THANK YOU GIFT FROM DS ALL ATTENDEES

LOCATION:

NORTH UMC HARTFORD

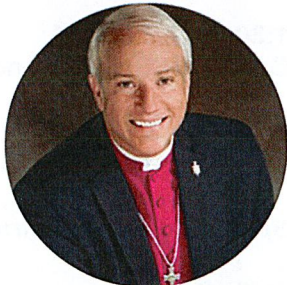
MORNING SESSION: COLLIN BENNETT BUILDING
AFTERNOON SESSION: SANCTUARY
**1205 ALBANY AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06112**

BISHOP'S TIME WITH THE CONNECTICUT DISTRICT

Monday, May 5 , 2025 at 6:00 PM

First UMC (Meriden)

159 East Main Street, Meriden, CT 06450



**BISHOP THOMAS J.
BICKERTON**

**RESIDENT BISHOP
NEW YORK AREA**



**REV. DR. ALPHER
SYLVESTER**

**THE CONNECTICUT
DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT**

Gather with us for Bishop's Time with The Connecticut District!

**Come and be a part of a special time of information sharing, fellowship, inspiration,
and connection as we gather for Bishop's Time with the Connecticut District.**

This is the opportunity to understand the vision for our journey ahead.



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOOD DRIVE

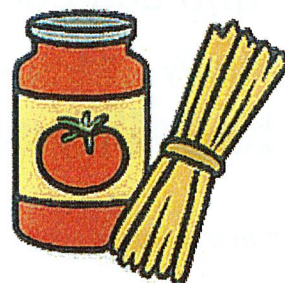
SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY
MONTH OF MAY

MAY 4



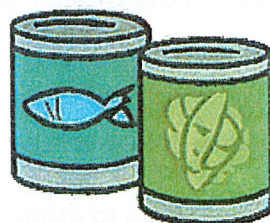
CEREAL AND
PEANUT
BUTTER

MAY 11



JARRED SAUCE
AND PASTA

MAY 18



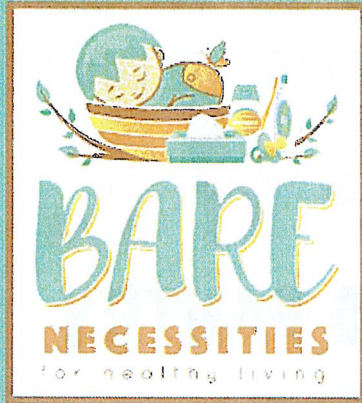
CANNED TUNA
OR VEGETABLES

MAY 25



CANS OF SOUP
OR CANS OF
BEANS

"keeping babies clean, dry, and healthy"



*Providing low
income families
with diapers*



Month of May

DIAPER AND WIPES DRIVE

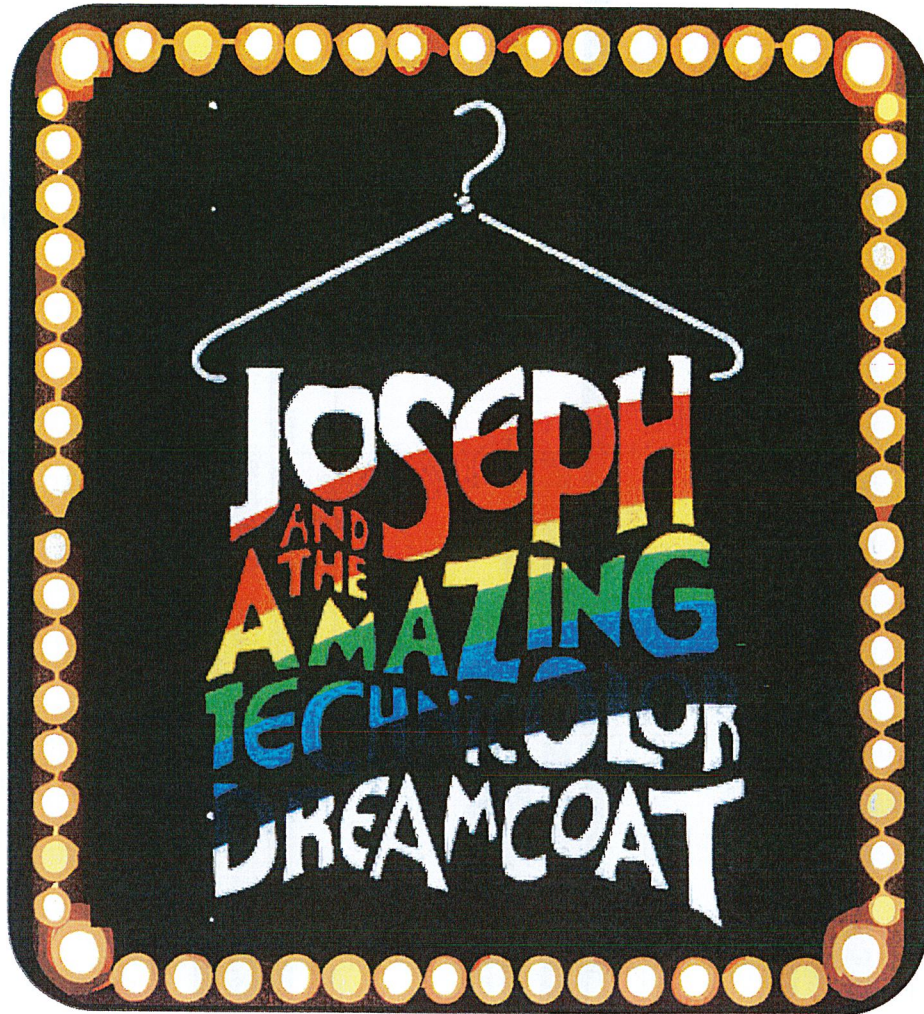
Collecting diapers, wipes, and cash donations.

Larger sizes particularly needed.

Bring your donations to Fellowship Hall

- CT Poverty Statistics: 38% of children under the age of 3 years old live below the poverty level.
- Bare Necessities is the only recognized diaper bank on the CT shoreline.
- 1 in 3 families in the US have a diaper need.
- 6–12 diapers are needed per day for infants/toddlers at an average cost of \$100 per month.
- Children must have a full day's worth of disposable diapers to attend daycare.
- Diapers and toiletries are not covered under safety net programs such as SNAP (food stamps) or WIC (woman, infants and children).

COME SEE A SHOW WITH US!



@ The Ivoryton Playhouse

103 Main Street, Ivoryton, CT

Sunday, July 13th @ 2pm

Special Group Pricing:

\$48 adult/\$25 student

Sign up in Fellowship Hall by May 11th.

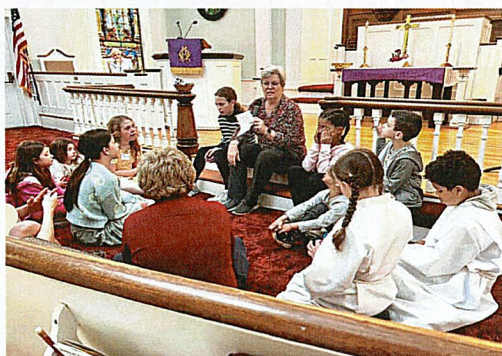
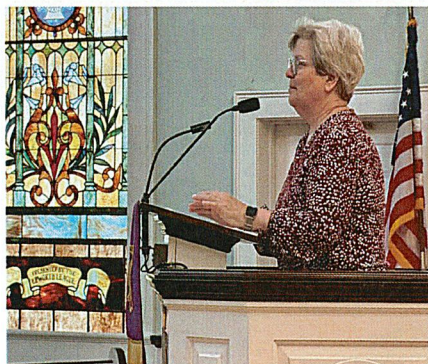
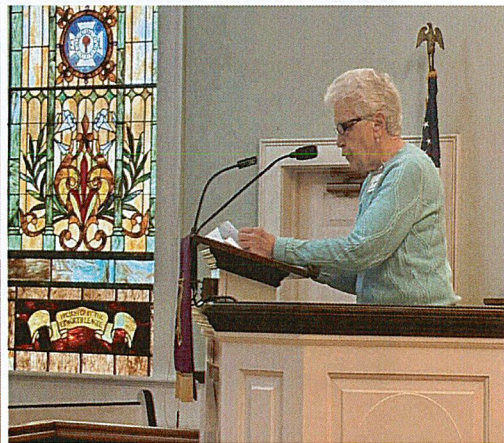
Payment is due by June 8th

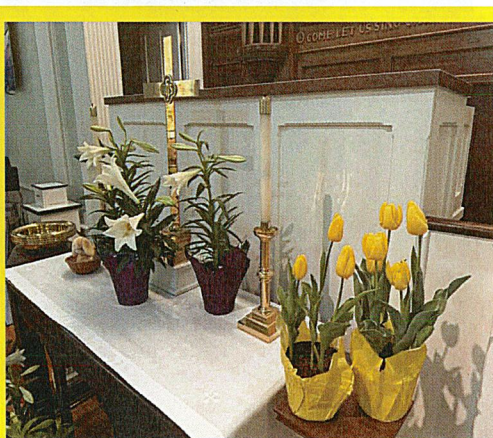
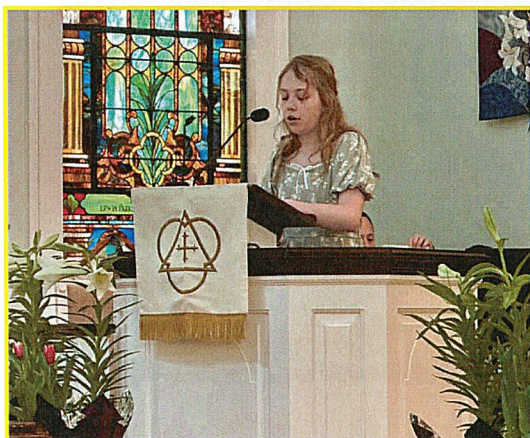
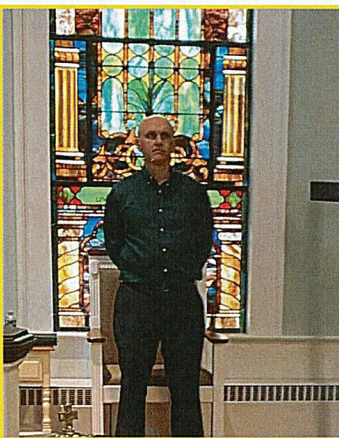
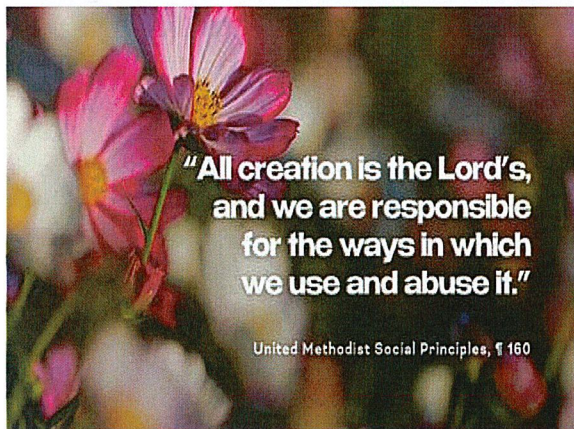
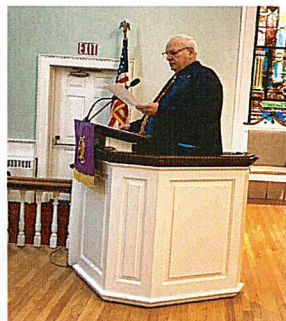
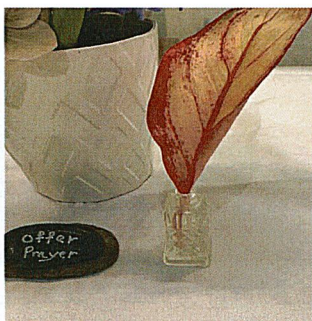
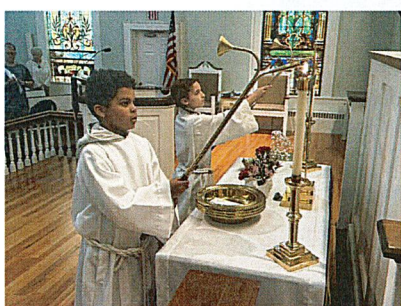
Questions? Please see Lisa Sutherland.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9am - Sunday School 10am - Sunday Worship @ 12pm - Confirmation Class	28 3:30pm - Book Club	29 7pm - Bible Study Online	30 9am - TOPS 5pm - Soup Kitchen	1 10am - Adult Bible Study 6pm - Scouts 7:30pm - Choir Practice	2 5:30pm - AA Friday Happy	3 Connecticut District 9am - Spring Cleaning Day
4 9am - Sunday School 10am - Sunday Worship @ 12pm - Confirmation Class	5 Bishop's Evening with the Cinco de Mayo	6 8am - WIC 7pm - Bible Study Online	7 9am - TOPS 5pm - Soup Kitchen 6pm - SCOUTS COMM	8 10am - Adult Bible Study 6pm - Scouts 7:30pm - Choir Practice	9 5:30pm - AA Friday Happy	10
11 Mother's Day 9am - Sunday School 10am - Sunday Worship @	12	13 7pm - Bible Study Online 7pm - Patty's Ukulele Group	14 9am - TOPS 5pm - Soup Kitchen 7pm - Church Council 7pm - Church Council	15 10am - Adult Bible Study 6pm - Scouts 7:30pm - Choir Practice	16 5:30pm - AA Friday Happy	17 8pm - Confirmation Trip to
18 Confirmation Trip to NYC 9am - Sunday School 10am - Grover's Baptism 10am - Sunday Worship @	19 8am - WIC	20 7pm - Bible Study Online	21 9am - TOPS 5pm - Soup Kitchen 7pm - AA Meeting	22 10am - Adult Bible Study 6pm - Scouts 7:30pm - Choir Practice	23 5:30pm - AA Friday Happy	24
25 9am - Sunday School 10am - Sunday Worship @	26 Memorial Day 3:30pm - Book Club	27 7pm - Bible Study Online	28 9am - TOPS 5pm - Soup Kitchen	29 10am - Adult Bible Study 6pm - Scouts 7:30pm - Choir Practice	30 5:30pm - AA Friday Happy	31

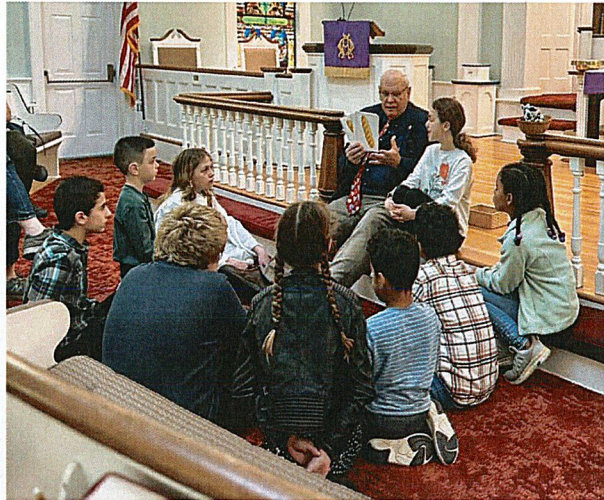


Spring clean-up will be May 3rd, please bring a rake, leaf blower, shovel and join us at the church to make it look nice for the Summer. The rain date will be the 10th.





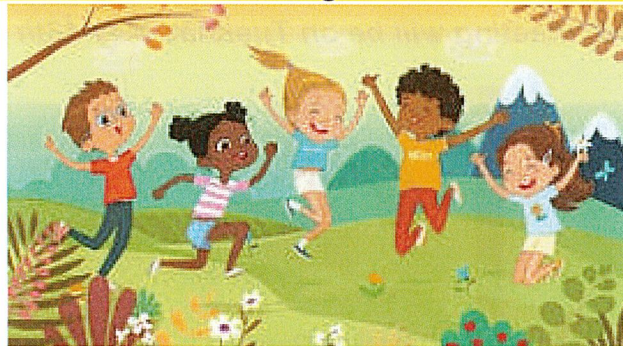
What a wonderful group of children in our Church family.

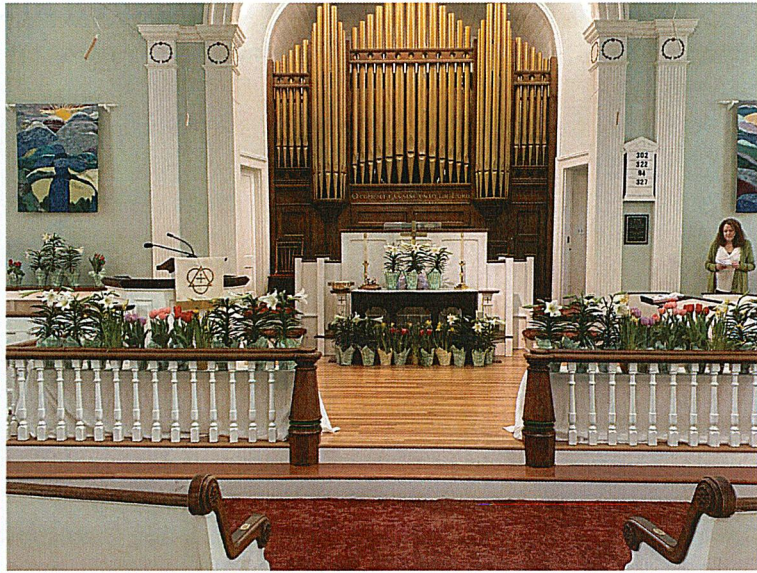
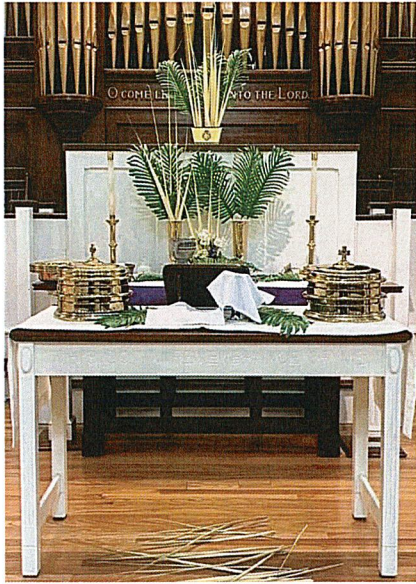


Pastor Rhonda spoke with our children during our Easter service about the range of emotions associated with Easter!

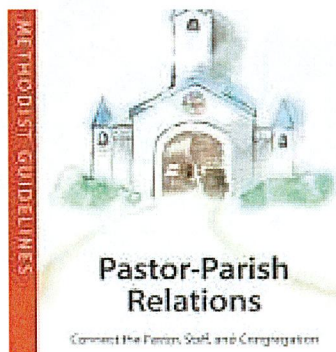


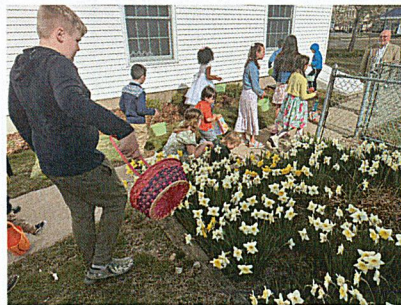
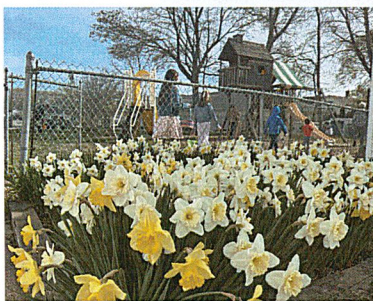
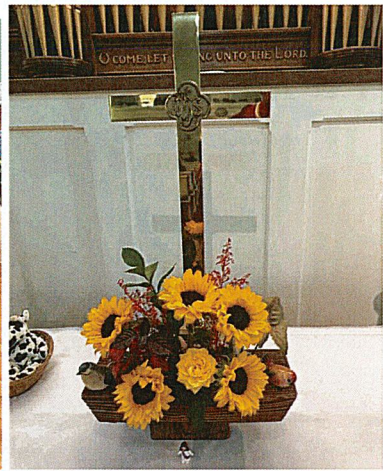
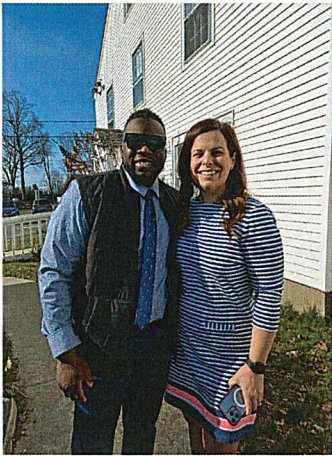
Children's Sunday will be June 1st

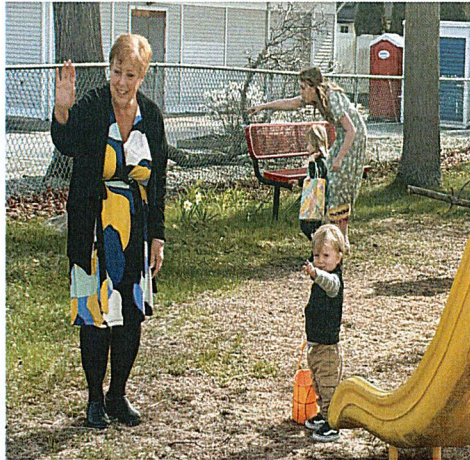




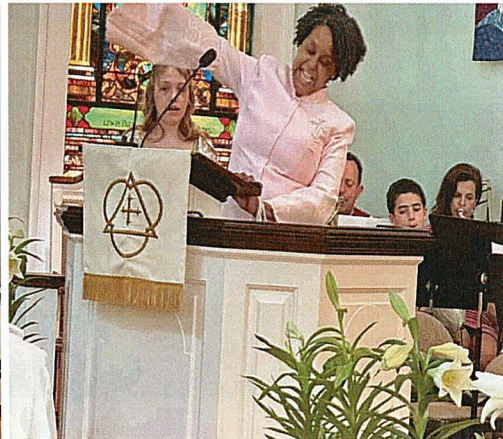
The next SPRC meeting will be on Tuesday May 13th at 4:30pm.

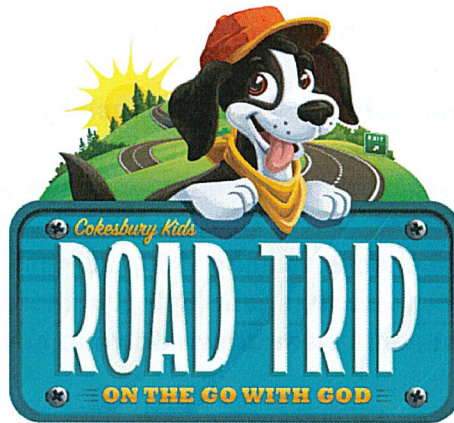






Our Brass group raised everyone's spirits, especially Pastor Rhonda's, as they accompanied the singing of our favorite Easter Hymns!





***Vacation Bible School is happening again
August 11-15th, 9am to 12:00 pm***

Sing and Play, Bible Adventures, Games, Snacks, and more...Registration forms are available in the back of the church, in the church office, in Fellowship Hall and in Sunday School Classrooms. If you have questions talk to Val Gilcher, Karin Thelin or Gail Whitney.



Money Matter\$ – Carl Engelhart – Finance Chairperson

Just a few notes as to where UMC-Clinton stands financially at the end of the 1stQtr25.

- Our Financial Secretary Jackie recorded and deposited \$41,600 of contributions received 1Qtr25.
- Our Treasurer Carol wrote checks totaling (\$60,700) that cashed during 1StQtr25.
- Simple checkbook math tells us we spent (\$19,100) more than we received 1stQ25.
- Bank balances and Investments were drawn down to cover the deficit.
- UMC-Clinton Investments @ 12/31/24 were \$998,600
- (\$12,300) has been withdrawn during 1stQ25 to cover the deficit.
- The stock market has dropped equity values 5.7% Jan-Apr25.
- Investments are estimated to be \$929,400 down (\$69,200)

If anyone would like a detailed finance report, please contact me @ carlengelhart@comcast.net or 828-288-1315 and we will get a copy to you.

SUNDAY MAY 18th - CHURCH SUPPER

Please bring a casserole, salad or dessert to a 5 pm supper

In Fellowship Hall.

A showing of “ALL THAT RAZZ” will follow.

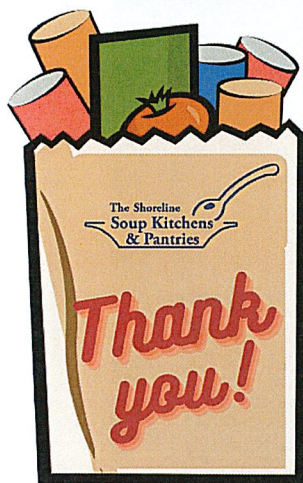
All that Razz is a 1981 production conducted by the late Isabel

Smith and featuring Pastor Vincent W. Watson,

church members and children

In quartets, solos and full cast songs and acts.

Pantry Wish List



Pasta
Spaghetti Sauce
Soup
Canned Fruit
Cereal
Peanut Butter

shorelinesoupkitchens.org



And for our own Soup Kitchen closet, canned vegetables are always needed.



Native American Ministries Sunday is May 4th

The Native American Ministries offer bolsters the work of Native American ministries in annual conferences throughout the United States. These ministries exist in rural and urban settings, including reservation and other community ministries. The Native American Ministries offering also provides scholarships for Native Americans studying at United Methodist schools of theology and empowers congregations to find culturally appropriate ways to minister to their communities through Christ's love. Please use your special envelope or put Native American Sunday in the memo line of your check.

Office Staff

Donna Carpenter, 860-669-8396, 9-1 weekdays

Email: office@clintonctumc.org

Website: www.clintonumc.org

[Calendar link](#)

Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg

Treasurer: Carol Bell

Our Mission

We celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit; being and making disciples of Christ by sharing God's gifts through word and deed.

