



The Cross & Flame



The United Methodist Church, Branford
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APRIL



Easter Meditation by Pastor Kent

But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." - Mark 16:7

The GOODS NEWS of Jesus' resurrection is meant to be shared! The command is "go and tell" but fear keeps us from sharing. Fear of the unknown, fear of the new, fear of events that we do not understand. And so the women (in Mark's Gospel) leave without telling anyone.

Every Sunday is like a little Easter celebration as we acknowledge that Christ is risen, calls us to follow as disciples and sends us out as apostles with Good News of resurrection and new life.

Please plan to attend worship and consider bringing friends and family with you as we celebrate the resurrection.

Please also consider giving an extra offering to the church in celebration of God's Good News. Please mark your gift as "Easter Offering" and mail it to the church ahead of time or place it in the offering plate on Easter morning.

Hallelujah!!! What a Savior !!!
Blessings, Pastor Kent

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 9:30 AM

Sunday School: during worship
(except 1st Sun of each month)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tue. - Thu. 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

15th Day of every month

Missed a Sunday? Unable to attend worship?

You can catch the weekly sermon video at
www.umcbranford.org

Pastor's Bible Study



Two sessions of the Pastor's Bible Study are offered each week on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM and Thursdays at 10:00 AM. Please consider joining one of these groups!!!

The launching of our next study will be delayed until Pastor Kent returns from vacation. When we resume, we will be reading from the life and teachings of Rev. Dr. Billy Graham. Three titles are under consideration. Please feel free to tell Pastor Kent if one of these is more interesting to you than the others. "Just as I Am: The Autobiography of Billy Graham"; "The Journey: Living by Faith in an Uncertain World"; or "The Holy Spirit". All three of these studies will be based on our reading of the text. (They do not have DVD accompaniment.) Please join us on Tuesday April 24th (7 PM) or Thursday April 26th (10 AM) as we begin this new journey.

We anticipate engaging times of conversation, growing together as we are inspired by the life and teachings of Rev. Dr. Billy Graham

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

HOLY THURSDAY - March 29

6 PM Dinner / 7 PM Worship - St. Stephen's AME Zion

GOOD FRIDAY - March 30

12 Noon - 2:30 PM (Branford Downtown Churches)
6 PM Community Dinner / 7 PM Worship

EASTER SUNDAY - April 1

6:15 AM Sunrise (Branford Point)

9:30 AM Celebration of the Resurrection



Holiday Festival – November 10, 2018
SAVE THE DATE!



Why an article so early???

Because we are going to need lots of contributions this year..

Yes, it is a “Holiday” Festival because it is early enough to include both Thanksgiving and Christmas items.

Last year’s experiment with a Friday night dinner and early opening proved to be a lot of work with minimal results. So, this year, it will be a Saturday only event.

The reason for this early notice is that we had very few items left to put out again – and many of the items have been around for several years. If we all start planning now and working on items for November, there won’t have to be a last-minute panic. With help from everyone, this can be a major fund raiser. What can you contribute? Handcrafts, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, photos, artwork, jams and jellies when fruit is in season, silent auction items. You can start a box for Granny’s Cellar when you are doing spring and fall cleaning.

Needless to say, it’s too early for food items – that comes later.

Please keep the festival in mind when you are in the mood to work on hobbies, preserve food, clean out, etc.

Of course, we’ll be looking for volunteers to chair and work in the various areas: handcrafts, food, jewelry, silent auction, plants, granny’s cellar, cook and serve refreshments.

We are also open to suggestions for new and different additions to the festival. Craft fairs and festivals may not be as popular as they once were, but ours still is a good fundraiser – around \$3,000. Anything we can do to make it better will help.

Ginger & Rosemary

A Message from Don Robinson

“A promise is a promise, is a promise, is a promise”

As Jesus ascended into heaven he said, “Lo I am with you always to the close of the age.” Wow! What a promise.

A school teacher from Kitchner Canada by the name of Everet Storms claimed that when read the Bible for the 27th time, he added up the number of promises that God made to us and came up with 7,437 and he added, “God has kept every one.”

That’s not always the case with us. Promises are easily made and easily broken. A former Governor of Louisiana was referred to as one who promised the world to anyone who would give him a vote.

The fact that our society has disintegrated to that low level doesn’t mean we have to. We should be people who are promise givers and promise keepers. God has made promises to us that he has kept, and we, as believers of our God in Jesus Christ, should do the same.

Remember when Jesus told the disciples, as they were on their way to Jerusalem, that he would be given over to the hands of sinful men and would be killed? He promised that on the 3rd day he would rise from the dead and he did! We celebrate Easter every Sunday, the Lord’s day, the remembrance of Jesus keeping his promise.

Christians are supposed to do the same. We may not be able to prove the promises of God to us in advance, but we live them. You will find that they are true, every one of them. This is how you know that the promises of God are true, stand on them, live on them. Every one of them.

Be careful what you promise. Can you keep it? God did. God blesses you with his promise.



Blessings, Don Robinson



Nursing Home Ministry

Don Robinson is dedicated to providing this important ministry. He visits a number of nursing homes and would LOVE to have others join this ministry. He would be happy to talk with anyone interested and help them get started. Call Don at 203-488-6111 or see him in church.



Sewing for God



Monday's 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm
Weather permitting

Our friends at Artis will now be current as we have

finished 9+ quilts. A special thank you to Cindy A and Gayle M for all their help in reaching our goal.

We are now working on finishing another 9 quilts for the backup closet for any more 'neighbors' at Artis.

Come join us, for there are always things to do, such as pressing, clipping, sewing, etc. All supplies are provided. Questions? see Rosemary.

PS: I would like to acknowledge Lisa S and Diana Q / Bob R for all the quilting donations we received. They will be put to good use for our friends at Artis.

Thank you so much.

Women's Spring Luncheon

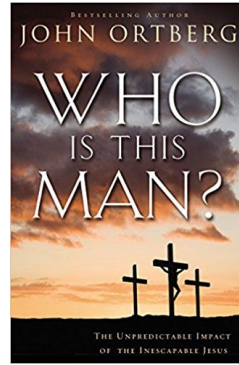
Monday, April 16th
12:30pm



Bistro Mediterranean,
383 Main Street East Haven

Lunch Prix-Fixe (Appetizer, Entrée & Dessert)
Total cost is only \$19 pp * tax/tip included
Signup sheet on Signup Board

Men's Breakfast:



Our monthly Men's Breakfasts group will meet on **April 28th at 8:00 AM**. After a time of good food and fellowship we will view a video which will (hopefully) stimulate some energetic discussion as we reflect on its meaning for our lives and our faith.

Looking for Your Tabs !!



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES

NEXT DELIVERY DATE IS:
May; 2018

Collecting pop tabs is a fun and easy way to support the Ronald McDonald House New Haven. All of the money is used for the Ronald McDonald Houses to support families staying with us while their children are undergoing medical treatment

t's easy! All you need to do is remove the pop tab from each can before you put the can in your recycle bin. It's fun! You can involve community groups and your family in supporting the cause without a lot of effort.

Check all your cans for tabs, they add up quickly. Put a small jar on your counter and you will be surprised how fast it will fill up.

Rosemary & Tony

Weekly Calendar

Communion at Artis: Sun @ 11:30 AM
Monday Morning Quarterbacking: Mon @ 10 AM
Sewing for God: Mon @ 4 PM
Branford Chorale: Mon @ 7 PM
Pastor's Bible Study: Tue @ 7 PM & Thu @ 10 AM
AA: Tue @ 7:30 & Sat @ 7:00 PM
Learn & Play Chapel: Wed @ 10 AM
Prayer Shawl Ministry: Wed @ 10:30 AM
Faith Talk at Artis: Wed @ 11 AM
Al-Anon: Thu @ 7:30 PM
Devotional Bible Study: Thu @ 7 PM Shoreline Cafe

"Where the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit converge to change hearts and lives."



Learn & Play

We are happy that spring has finally arrived and hope to start getting outside on a regular basis!

This month our Bible Faith Point will be that God makes all things new. We will talk about the sower and the seed, the parable of the mustard seed and the conversion of Saul. We will also watch caterpillars turn to butterflies and tadpoles turn into frogs. Our memory verse will be "This is the day the Lord has made." Psalm 118:24a

April is the month that we celebrate the Week of the Young Child. As of this writing, we are still waiting for notification from the Branford Early Childhood Council about activities that are planned this year. Learn & Play will plan a diaper drive for the Branford Pantry which helps provide diapers for those families that are in need.

Looking ahead: Summer Camp is now registering three and four year olds for nine weeks of fun summer activities from June 25 – August 27. Part time and full time openings are still available if you know of anyone that may be looking for one to nine weeks of summer activities for their child. This year's theme is "Oh the Places You Will Go with Dr. Seuss" Each week we will focus on a different book and plan activities and special visitors. Water play will be included daily.

Looking way ahead: We are also registering for fall classes. At this point many of our classes are full with waiting list, however there are a few openings left. If you know anyone that may be interested, please have them contact us soon!

For My Secret Pal

*A secret friend is wishing you
a bright bouquet of flowers,*

*A cup of sunshine especially brewed
to fill your waking hours.*

*A prayer is said just for you
to our Father up above,*

*Here's wishing you much happiness,
here's wishing you much love.*

*Kathly R. Wifford
Art and Verse © 1999-2000*

April Calendar

Mon 2 - 7 PM	Faithful Stewards
Wed 4 - 7 PM	Church Council
Wed 11 - 7PM	Learn & Play Board
Wed 25 - 7 PM	Staff Parish
Relations	
Fri 27 - 6 PM	Community Dinner
Fri 27 - 7PM	Youth Night
Sat 28 - 8 AM	Men's Breakfast

Youth Night

Our monthly youth night is a time for fun & fellowship!!! All youth from our church (6th-12th grade) are encouraged to attend and bring their friends. We meet in the church basement from 7-9:30 PM. Snacks are being provided. Ping Pong, Air Hockey, Foosball and video games are all available and we'll continue to add other activities in the future.

The date of our April Youth Night will be Friday the 27th !!!

April Birthdays

Stephen Solomon	3
Emily Mazzucco	4
Gustave VanDerMaelen III	4
Robert Emslie	10
William Gagné	10
Daniel Gagné	16
Jane Jacobson	16
Debra O'Neill	18
Nicole Sevigny	25
John Beatty	26
Justine Guckin	27
Alex Loukides	27
Courtney Rader	30

April Anniversaries

Harry and Dorothy Chamberlain	9
Tony and Rosemary Luzzi	19

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