

THE TOWER

A Monthly Publication of The Golden Hill
United Methodist Church
An Open and Affirming Congregation

May 2018 Volume 55 Number 4



HOLY COW!?
We are PLANNING OUR
FUTURE TOGETHER!

Holy Cow Consulting is a church development consulting group that has worked with over 3000 churches during the past 25 years. Golden Hill has been selected by our Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton and Rev. David Gilmore, Director of Congregational Development & Revitalization, to receive the services of Holy Cow Consulting Group in addition to Reverend David Gilmore's guidance, to help our leaders gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church.

We are inviting you to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line survey assessment. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping us as we make decisions about the future of Golden Hill United Methodist Church.

In May, you will receive an email with a unique link to the CAT. Beginning May 6, we are asking you to go on-line by clicking on the link that will be provided and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. All answers are strictly anonymous. We ask that you do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences.

Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers. If you need a paper copy, please come to the office, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped return envelope. If you have questions, please contact Beth Collins by phone at 201-521-1467 or send email to: aocollins47@optimum.net

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- May 6 Church Assessment Tool Online Survey Begins (online access begins)
- May 29 Church Assessment Tool Online Survey Ends (online access ends)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. – Numbers 24-26

GOLDEN HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604 (203) 336-0152

Office E-mail: office@goldenhill.org Website: <http://www.goldenhill.org>



The mission of the Golden Hill United Methodist Church, a unique, diverse and dynamic Christian community, is to serve Christ in the city and the world through members who are ambassadors for Christ.

In the Spirit

SPRING: A SEASON OF RENEWAL The Byron Crosdale Experience

The vernal equinox signals the beginning of spring. The March or vernal equinox is also very significant in Christianity because Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the equinox.

Holy Week and Easter were exciting, uplifting and fulfilling experiences at Golden Hill, beginning with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and culminating with Easter Sunday. Christ is risen; He is risen indeed! At the time of this writing, it is the day after Easter...Easter Monday; and I am still celebrating the Easter experience, eating Easter bun and cheese (traditional Easter snack in Jamaica), humming and singing the beautiful Easter hymns. This euphoria will last for a while; I was so lifted up and filled with the spirit of the Lord. The attendance was wonderful; we saw nearly three hundred worshippers for Easter. We felt the Lord's presence in this Place of Grace, called Golden Hill.

I love the season of spring passionately! Don't you? We are enjoying earlier sunrise, later sunsets, softer winds, sprouting plants. I have a real deep and abiding love for spring; the crocuses blooming, the birds chirping and the sweet aroma in the air which is a foretaste of the lovely warm summer to come. It is such a beautiful sight to behold when the trees begin to bud; then send forth an array of flowers and colors and in no time is completely foliated. As Jesus reminded us ... Even Solomon in all his glory is not as well arrayed as the lilies of the field. This is God's plan of creation at play, and for us to take the opportunity to pause, exhale and recognize and enjoy the glory, grandeur, might and majesty of our creator.

Spring is a time of renewal of nature and the environment. It is also a metaphor for physical opportunities of spiritual renewal in our lives. During the long, dreary, icy cold and snowy winters we spent an inordinate amount of time indoors. We complain about the winter, always praying and wondering when it will go away; at the same looking hopefully for spring to emerge. We jump at the

first opportunity to get out in the yard and survey what needs to be done; cleanup the yard, prune dry branches, poke around the soil and plant some annuals for color. As one who loves gardening, pruning dry branches and "water sprouts" will make for a much healthier plant. We all do our annual spring cleaning of the house, and especially the messy garage. In our spiritual lives we must get rid of the mess and clutter that prevents us from having a closer and deeper relationship with God; and loving one another as the Lord commanded us to do.

As one who was born and spent his entire teen years in Jamaica, I never experienced winter; so it was a shock to me when I came to the USA on that late November to be introduced to sub freezing temperatures and be rudely initiated with snow and freezing rain. You cannot begin to know the shock and awe of leaving a tropical climate for the first time into wintry conditions. The trees all looked dead and desolate to me, like having no life, all devoid of leaves; as a prisoner of the indoors, it seemed so depressing as I pressed my nose against the cold window pane. Then hope transcends hopelessness because spring was about to emerge; I had no idea that there was a period called spring to come, which would change everything. Oh my Lord! My first spring was an eye opener; there was a total reset, a beautiful transition from the dreary winter to bright temperate days, birds chirping and suddenly the trees and shrubs came to life. Oh what a Mighty God we serve!



Many churches have annual Revivals in the spring, to signal a spiritual renewal in individuals' lives and the church. Many are spiritually enhanced and motivated by a well executed church revival; people leave these multi days events feeling refreshed, renewed and filled with God's grace. I personally have experienced this transformation after Revivals. Golden Hill had a very successful Revival about twenty years ago; we had a wonderful spiritual experience. I do not

(Continued on page 3)

(In the Spirit, continued from page 2)

know the reason why we haven't continue to do revivals, I suspect because it is not in the United Methodist tradition. Notwithstanding, we as a congregation and church need to revive again, refreshed, enlivened and be reinvigorated.

May the love of God and sweet fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always. I leave you to meditate, hum or sing this traditional Baptist Revival hymn; it is to me the Revival anthem. One love, one heart...singing...

Revive us again - fill each heart with thy love; May each soul be rekindled with fire from above.

Refrain: Hallelujah, thine the glory! Hallelujah, Amen! Hallelujah, thine the glory! Revive us again.

Wear Red for Pentecost

On May 20, we celebrate the birthday of the Christian church as we begin the season of Pentecost. Since the symbol of Pentecost is the red tongue of flame that appeared over those worshipping together, please wear something bright red to honor that day. Pentecost means "the fiftieth day." Christians today celebrate Pentecost seven weeks after Easter.

During April and May, our children in Sunday school have been learning about Jesus's disciples, the Holy Spirit, and the story of Pentecost as found in the Bible's Book of Acts, Chapter 2. Students have decorated the Wesley Suite classroom with posters, balloons and red crepe paper streamers in preparation for Pentecost Sunday. Each child is making a Holy Spirit candle, and we made birthday cards for homebound members.



Golden Hill Youth selected to attend National Youth Leadership Forum

One of our Confirmation youth has been selected to attend the week long National Youth Leadership Forum at St. John's University in New York this summer. This forum will explore STEM based career opportunities that historically have been tailored solely for men. She is the only student nominated from her Bridgeport school.

The cost for the week is \$3,500. Her teachers created a GoFundMe page to help raise funds so she may take part in this once in a lifetime opportunity. If you are interested in supporting her, her page can be found at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/38wz3-national-youth-leadership-forum>

The Tower is a monthly newsletter of the Golden Hill United Methodist Church, 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Submission deadline for articles is the 15th day of the month.

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GOLDEN HILL ADMINISTRIVIA

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HOW TO REACH US ONLINE!!

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CHURCH CALENDAR



- May 3 Prayer Walk, 10:00 am
Church Council, 7:30 pm
- May 6 Chapel Worship Service, 8:30 am
Adult Sunday School, 9:45 am
Sanctuary Worship Service & Children's
Sunday school, 10:45 am
CT District Conference at West Hartford
UMC, 2:00 pm
UMYF, 6:30 pm
Church Assessment Tool Online
Survey Begins (online access begins)
- May 7 Confirmation Final Class & Celebration,
5:00 pm
New Member Class, Parlor, 7:30 pm
- May 9 Prayer Walk, 12 Noon
- May 10 SPPRC meeting, 7:30 pm
- May 13 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY &
MOTHER'S DAY
Chapel Worship Service, 8:30 am
Sanctuary Worship Service & Children's
Sunday School, 10:45 am
Health Checks by Parish Nurse in
Education office 12:00 Noon
- May 14 New Member Class, Parlor, 7:30 pm
- May 17 Prayer Walk, 5:00 pm
Finance Meeting, 7:30 pm
- May 19 Canoe Trip hosted by the Men's Ministry
Group, 8 am
- May 20 PENTECOST SUNDAY
Chapel Worship Service, 8:30 am
Adult Sunday School, 9:45 am
Sanctuary Worship Service & Children's
Sunday School, 10:45 am
UMYF, 6:30 pm
- May 21 Prayer Walk, 12 Noon
New Member Class, Parlor, 7:30 pm
- May 23 Society & Missions Meeting, Oak Room,
6:30 pm
- May 24 Lay Servant Meeting, 7:30 pm

- May 27 Chapel Worship Service, 8:30 am
Adult Sunday School, 9:45 am
Sanctuary Worship Service & Children's
Sunday School, 10:45 am
UMYF, 6:30 pm

May 28 MEMORIAL DAY church office closed

May 29 Church Assessment Tool Online
Survey Ends (online access ends)

May 30 Worship Committee, 7:30 pm

May 31 Prayer Walk, 12 Noon
Open & Affirming Task Force Meeting,
7:30 pm

Looking Ahead... Mark your calendar

June 3 Christian Ed Sunday

June 7-10 NYAC at Hofstra University

June 10 United Methodist Women, Library, 12
Noon

June 17 Men's Ministry group hosting Father's
Day picnic

June 18 Quarterly meeting of the Trustees,
Finance and SPPRC with Pastor

July 27-29 Mission u Stay tuned for additional
details about this annual multi-generational week-
end for learning, worship and fellowship

New York Annual Conference In a schedule
shift to include more youth and young adults, the
annual conference will gather from Thursday, June
7 through Sunday, June 10. The plans include:

- Ordination on Sunday, June 10.
- Special experience for confirmands during wor-
ship.
- Baptism for those who desire to receive the
sacrament.
- Delegate voting for the Special 2109 General
Conference Session.
- Simultaneous mission work in Nassau County.
- Reports/updates on disaster recovery in Puerto
Rico from Bishop Hector Ortiz

Regular updates on the NYAC web site:
www.nyac.com/2018annualconference

Could you go 30 hours without Food?



Annually our Golden Hill youth group participates in the hunger awareness event known as the 30 Hour Famine to raise awareness of food insecurity and global hunger issues. Five energetic church youth and five adults gathered at church and gave up eating food for 30 hours on April 27-28 as they participated in activities to gain knowledge about hunger issues.

The 30 Hour Famine is an international youth movement to fight hunger. Each day 25,000 kids under age 5 will die - most of them from preventable causes like hunger, poverty, and disease. That's one child every three seconds. The empty stomachs our youth experience during this 30 hour experience raises awareness and can help make a difference in the world.

Our youth sought sponsors to donate money in support of their effort which the UMYF will donate to World Vision. UMYF participants raised over \$1000 to send to World Vision.

www.worldvision.org/our-work/hunger-food-security



The 4,000 pennies displayed represent the \$40 per month that is needed to provide food and help for a child who does not have the necessities of life.

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) is open to all young people entering grades 7 through 12. UMYF meets at the church each Sunday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. for worship, fellowship, service, games and all around fun.

Meetings/Ministries that Happen Weekly at Golden Hill United Methodist Church

- Sunday**
 - 9:45 am Adult Sunday School in the Parlor**
 - Children's Sunday School in Wesley Suite** (when dismissed from 10:45 service)
 - Nursery class in the Nursery** (when dismissed from 10:45 service)
 - 6:30 pm UMYF** (United Methodist Youth Fellowship) in the club room
- Tuesday**
 - 7:30 pm N.A. (Narcotics Anonymous) in Locke Hall
- Wednesday**
 - 2:00 pm Shower Ministry Lounge & Showers**
 - 5:00 pm Community Supper** in Locke Hall
 - 6:30 pm Shekinah Prayer Group** in the chapel
 - 6:00 - 9:00 pm Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts in Locke Hall & Library
 - 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal in Wesley Suite**
(Choir members should check Dan's music calendar for occasional changes)
- Thursday**
 - 7:00 pm N.A. (Narcotics Anonymous) in Locke Hall
- Friday**
 - 7:00 pm C.M.A. (Crystal Meth Anonymous) in Library
- Saturday**
 - 10:00 am Liturgical Dance in Sanctuary**
(Dance team members should check with Pastor Tisha for occasional changes.)



NOTE: Bold Print denotes a church related event/meeting, non-bold items are outside groups

Weekender Backpacks News Flash: School year winds down

Our UMW sponsored Weekenders Back Pack Ministry still needs your help before we take a summer break. Their last day for Bridgeport Schools is scheduled for June 25. We appreciate everyone's help in keeping our larder stocked. Please continue to check church bulletin boards and website for what items are needed.

Children's Book Corner

Here are our monthly recommended books to read and share with children. These books and more are available through school and public libraries, and bookstores. This list is provided by Becki Anderson, who is a school librarian and a Golden Hill member.



Charlotte the Scientist is Squished, by Camille Andros. For Grades 1-3. Charlotte is tired of not having enough space to do her experiments and used the scientific method to try to find a solution.

The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary, by Laura Shovan. Grades 3-6. Written as a collection of poems by a fifth grade class that is trying to convince the town not to tear down their school to build a grocery store.

We also want to take time to celebrate all of the donations from our own congregation as well as items from Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Helen Keller Middle School and many others. Working together, we have all helped 24 children go home with a bit more food for the weekend.

Here is the list of items we typically include in the backpacks. If you could keep your eyes open for sales (even during the summer!) and pick up an item or two, it would help to restock our shelves for fall. Thanks so much for all your support!

Food Items for Backpacks:

Individual boxes of cold cereal
 Individual packets of hot cereal
 Granola Bars
 Individual puddings
 Individual fruit cups
 Individual applesauce (either plain or fruit flavored)
 6-ounce juice boxes
 Mac and cheese - individual or cans
 Pasta with meat—individual or 13-ounce size
 Vegetables—individual or full size cans
 Tuna fish— individual or cans
 Chicken—3 or 5-6 ounce cans
 Ramen noodles—cups or packets



Our United Methodist Camps offer summer camping choices

The New York Conference of The United Methodist Church Camping & Retreat Ministry offers natural settings where all are welcome, connecting people in a Christian Community that invites reflections, connection and spiritual growth.

The New York Conference of the United Methodist Church has two excellent camping programs for children, youth and adults. Whether you enjoy a quiet time in a rustic setting or are seeking time with other adults for fun and a deeper spiritual connection Camp Kingswood and Camp Quinipet are there for you!

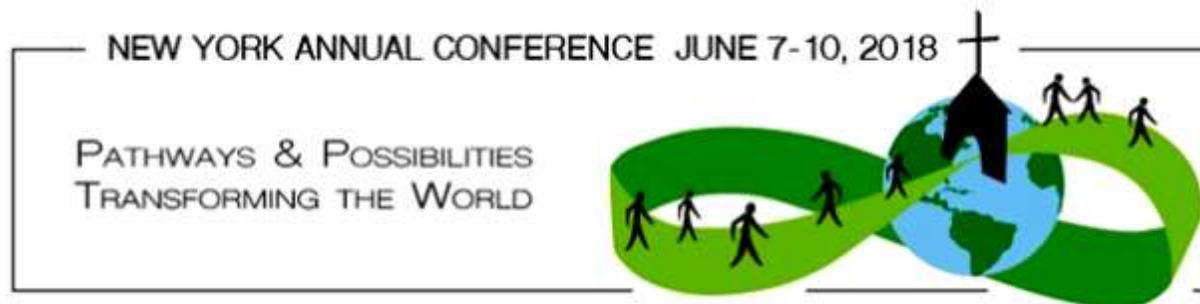
Camp Kingswood in Hancock, NY offers a rustic experience (tents and other camping equipment provided) by a lake. Camp Quinipet at Shelter Island Heights, NY has buildings and a central

dining hall and, of course, the ocean. Both camps have weeks for kids.

Camp scholarships are available to Golden Hill campers. If you have any questions about the United Methodist camping options or the camp scholarships, please ask our Golden Hill member, Jane Wakeman.

For more summer camp information check online at: <http://www.nyaccamps.org/>

See page 18 of the NYC online newsletter *The Vision*, April 2018 for another article *Making Room for Tents & RVs at Kingswood* by Jane Wakeman <https://www.nyac.com/vision>



A Call to the New York Annual Conference

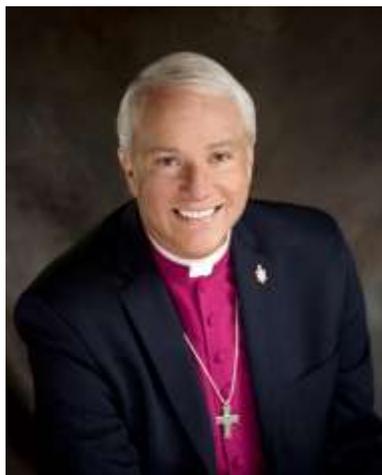
Dear Friends & Colleagues,

The time has once again come for the “Call to Conference” and it is my distinct pleasure to indeed “call you” to be a part of our annual time of discernment and holy conferencing.

Our theme this year is a continuation of our quadrennial theme, “Pathways and Possibilities.” This year our focus will be on the “transformation of the world.” I believe that we not only have a relevant message for the world but we have a clear mandate from Christ himself to bear witness to the fact that the world can be a better place with God at the center of our being. In a recent interview, someone asked me a question from a secular perspective. The question was, “Bishop, what is your product?” My answer was simple, “Our product is a better person.” This is what we believe! A better person is a changed person, a transformed person, a person who realizes that they have been created in the image of God and, with that realization comes the belief that they can participate in the creation of a better world for all people.

That will be our focus when we gather at Hofstra University. We will greet one another with a holy greeting. We will welcome Bishop Latrelle Easterling, the Bishop of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference as our preacher. We will center ourselves around the baptismal font and anoint ourselves with holy reminders of who we are and what we are called to be. We will engage in meaningful worship and have opportunity to participate in hands-on mission. Oh yes, we will have business to do, that’s for sure. We will elect delegates to the Special Session of the General Conference to be held in February 2019. We will hear reports and act on business. There is, no doubt, work to be done that requires your input and participation.

But the centerpiece of our time together will be on our continual journey toward transformation: a change of heart, attitude, emphasis, and approach that will reveal to us what Christ-like holiness looks like and how that transformation within can lead to a change throughout the New York Annual Conference and, indeed, throughout the world.



That is my hope for our time together. In fact, it is more than my hope. It is my prayer. Won’t you join me in that prayer, a prayer for a changed world, in these days leading up to our time together? And, more than that, won’t you literally make plans now to join me at Hofstra University, from Thursday, June 7th through Sunday, June 10th, as we continue our work on “Pathways & Possibilities: Transforming the World” together?

You’ve heard it! It’s a “Call to Conference!” It’s happening! And I need you to be present. I look forward to seeing you there!

The Journey Continues, . . .

Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop

A Message from our Conference Lay Leader

There is much excitement around the Conference Center these days as plans develop for the upcoming New York Annual Conference. As Conference Lay Leader, please accept this Call to Conference which convenes June 7 – 10, 2018 at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY.

Annual conference comes to reflect on the business of the previous year's work and present the vision for future plans and initiatives. A major task at this year's conference is voting. In addition one will experience joyful worship, witness the Ordination Service, gather to share information and fellowship and more.

While everyone is welcome to attend, only a predetermined number of persons from the 430+ churches and charges of the NYAC can vote. That number of voters is divided equally between clergy and lay members to annual conference; they vote on reports, resolutions, petitions, and for delegates to General Conference. "The lay members of the annual conference and alternates shall be elected annually or quadrennially at a Church or Charge Conference as the Conference directs." This is taken from The 2016 Book of Discipline, page 251. The lay member(s) from each congregation join the pastor to interpret and report the news from annual conference soon after it ends.

If you are a newly elected lay member to annual conference, a member of the Board of Laity will be available to welcome you, to partner with you, help you to get oriented, and answer any questions you may have to ensure that your experience at annual conference will be stress-free, meaningful and productive. We invite you to refer to the conference website for helpful and detailed information titled "What's My Job?" at www.nyac.com/laity.

The Laity Session is for all laity: lay members, lay leaders, lay servants, and all laypersons are strongly encouraged to attend this important event. The Rev. Dr. Grace Cajuat will engage us, inform us and challenge us to make disciples the Wesleyan way, so that we will become strong leaders who will develop vital congregations that eagerly make new disciples. This will be a time of renewal, sharing, collaboration, fellowship, and relationship building. You don't want to miss the Laity Session! "How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along!" Ps. 133:1 (The Message). This Laity Session promises to leave you with a more profound love for God and tools for carrying out the mission of the church which is: "to making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." In our time together, recognition will be given for work done between districts and boards. We will celebrate another year together as professing members of the UMC as we grow and endeavoring to offer Christ to those on the path to discipleship.



We invite you to join the Board of Laity in its six-week Pre-Conference Prayer and Meditation Vigil, each Monday through Friday morning 6:55 – 7:00 a.m. beginning Monday, April 23 through Friday, June 1, 2018. Each district will serve as host for one week. More to follow.

Indeed we are excited about the "Pathways and Possibilities to Transform the World through Disciple-Making." Please stay tuned; there's more to come!

In the service of the Lord,

Roena Littlejohn
Conference Lay Leader

Roena Littlejohn is a member of Golden Hill United Methodist Church in Bridgeport, CT

MISSION u Registration available through July 1, 2018.

Registration Forms available at:

www.nyac.com/eventdetail/2018-mission-u-9314250

Save the Date

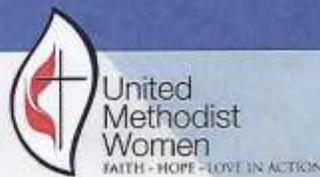
Mission u

July 27 - July 29, 2018

Stamford Hilton Stamford, CT

The studies include:

- Spiritual Growth: Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living
- Issue: What about Our Money? A Faith Response
- Geographic: Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States
- Youth: Is It Just Money? Our Dollars, God's Economy
- Children: Money Matters: A Study for Children



MISSION u
Formerly School of Christian Mission



*Learning Together for the
Transformation of the World*

For participants, Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society based on current mission study topics with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church. Participants grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context; conference events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women.

Friday, July 27 to
Sunday, July 29, 2018

Hilton Stamford Hotel
1 First Stamford Place
Stamford, CT

Mission u events also include: Worship & singing, Interest Groups around current issues, Mission Projects, Audiovisual presentations, and Fellowship events.

CALLING ALL 2018 GRADUATES!



If you or a family member are graduating this spring we want to know about it. As part of your church family, we want to share in celebrating this life event with you.

We will recognize graduates at the 10:45 A.M. worship service on Sunday, June 24.

Please send us your:

Graduate's name: _____

School: _____

Grade or degree completed: _____

Future plans (if known): _____

**Submit this information to the church office no later than Monday, June 11.
by phone at 203-336-0152 or via email to: office@goldenhill.org**



A special thank you goes out to all the Golden Hill folks and friends who participated in the restaurant day at **Taco Loco** on April 19. **Taco Loco** is donating **\$520** to our **Golden Hill Community Supper program!** This donation represents 20% of the pre-tax amount spent by our members and friends who dined at Taco Loco on that date.

We also received an additional \$150 in donations from Community Supper volunteers from other churches who couldn't attend the Taco Loco restaurant day, giving us a total of \$670, which should fund at least a month of community suppers!

It was fun to support a fundraiser to benefit needs in our church through a social occasion. Church staff and the Finance committee moved their meetings to Taco Loco and enjoyed dining together; one group at lunch and the other for dinner.

Thank you very much also to the Tomasio family, owners of Taco Loco, for their ongoing support of the Bridgeport community.

STEWARDSHIP REMINDER

Our home at Golden Hill UMC is like our family home. Whatever the season, the bills keep coming in. The electric and gas bills keep coming, the fellows who mow the lawn look for their pay, our staff needs to be taken care of, and yes, the guests on Wednesday who come to Golden Hill are hoping for a shower and a hot meal.



Spring and summer are a tough time for church finances, because many members and friends visit friends & family or travel to vacation destinations. If you are away, there is no offering plate handy for your offering envelope.

There is an easy solution. You can send your offering envelope to the church office or even consider paying your pledge in advance. By doing one of these things, our home at Golden Hill will be taken care of even if you are away. Our Golden Hill family thanks you for your thoughtfulness.

Our sincere thanks, Stewardship Committee



Men's Ministry Canoeing Outing
Huntington State Park in Redding, Connecticut
Saturday, May 19, 2018
Open to everyone!

We will leave the church back parking lot at 9:30 a.m or
the home of John Machledt, 65 Beers Road, Easton at 10:00 a.m.

We will return by 4:00 pm.

**If anyone does not want to canoe, there is a short ¼ mile walk to
the picnic area where we will be grilling the hot dogs and burgers.**

Canoes, paddles, and life preservers will be provided
as well as hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks.

Please bring a side dish such as potato salad, baked beans,
potato chips; dessert or fruit. Consider bringing a small folding lawn chair.

For more information contact either
Carl Moore at 203-535-6320, carlsm4@yahoo.com or
John Machledt at 203-268-8737, jmachledt@sbcglobal.net

You can place this reservation slip in the offering plate,
or return to the church office.



Men's Ministry Canoe Outing Reservation Form, May 19, 2018

Name: _____

Number of people attending: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Side dish you will be bringing: _____

UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION CONCERT CHOIR



NICHOLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONDAY, MAY 14 7:30 PM

The concert is free and appropriate for people of all ages.

Their music ranges from the Renaissance through the 21st century, including spirituals, gospel music, folk songs and music celebrating a global perspective.

The University of Mount Union Concert Choir is conducted by Dr. Grant Cook, It is among the oldest collegiate choirs in the United States, tracing its roots to 1896. Mount Union is a Methodist school in Alliance, Ohio. Open by audition to all students on campus, the Concert Choir comprises musicians from a wide variety of academic disciplines and, thus, truly represents the University's strong liberal arts foundation. Serving as an ambassador of the University, the Concert Choir performs annually throughout the continental United States and undertakes an international tour every four years. They will be touring Scotland in 2019.

**Nichols United Methodist Church
35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 375-5817**



**May is Mental Health Awareness Month
and Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church is hosting a concert
with The SymphoNYChorus, bringing awareness to mental health**

**May 12th at 7:00 pm
Ridgefield Playhouse**

The SymphoNYChorus, in association with NAMI Connecticut and sponsored by Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church, would like to invite you: An evening of inspirational music and reflections to bring awareness to challenge and replace the stereotypes, fear, stigma and shame of mental illness.

Please join us on Saturday, May 12, 7pm at The Ridgefield Playhouse. It is
FREE GENERAL ADMISSION.

The SymphoNYChorus is a faith-based community of vocalists and instrumentalists committed to sharing the message of God's love with musical creativity, passion, and excellence. The SymphoNYChorus was founded in 2008 by Director Henric Idestrom and has performed at churches, outdoor events, and non-profit organizations

<http://www.jesseleechurch.com/events/hope-for-mental-illness-concert-with-tsc>



May 1, 2018

“Grace to you and peace from our
Risen Savior, Jesus Christ!”

Greetings to my Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am writing on behalf of all Laity in the New York Annual Conference who are mission minded, love the Lord and, especially, those who have served the Church on multiple levels. In 2011 The New York Annual Conference unanimously passed a resolution recommending that a SHIRLEY PARRIS SERVICE AWARD be formed for uncompensated services performed by a Lay Person. This prestigious award was named for Ms. Shirley Parris for her lifelong devotion to Jesus Christ and her service to the local church, the NYAC, Northeastern Jurisdiction and the General Church.

We solicit your help in finding eligible Lay Nominees for this LAITY RECOGNITION. Would you kindly forward the Shirley Parris packet documents to anyone in your church or parish who might have a recommendation? As we move closer to the Annual Conference, time is of the essence. Please help us honor Lay Person (s) at the 2018 Annual Conference.

All completed nomination forms must be received by Friday, May 11, 2018 (deadline extended). They may be emailed to Roena.Littlejohn@nyac-umc.com or mailed to Roena Littlejohn, NY Conference Lay Leader, 91 Laurel Place, Bridgeport, CT 06604-1717.

Your help with this LAITY RECOGNITION is very much appreciated. For additional information, history, or forms, please click [here](#).

In the service of the Lord,
Roena Littlejohn, Conference Lay Leader
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