



The Messenger

King Street United Church of Christ

February 2009

Issue 2 of 11

**King Street
United Church of Christ**
201 South King Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06811
Worship on Sundays at 9:30 AM

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Church E-mail:
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www.kingstchurch.org

Pastor
Rev. Cindy Maddox
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Other hours by appointment
(203) 748-0719
(203) 791-1862 Home
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Confidential E-mail:
Pastor@kingstchurch.org

Secretary
Tish McCarthy
Office Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
E-mail: office@kingstchurch.org

Music Director
Paul Malyszka

Director of Senior Bells
Jan Gregory

Director of Junior Bells
Barbara Nobles

Sexton
Bob Cotton

Relationships can be many things. They can be fulfilling or frustrating, wonderful or wonder-less, exhilarating or exhausting or hum. Relationships can be life-giving, life-sustaining, or life-denying. What relationships cannot be avoided!

We are created by God to be in relationship. We are not intended to be solitary creatures, but in communion with one another. Our lives are enriched by the many different types of relationships we possess, whether they be romantic, platonic, familial, covenantal, or any combination of these. Although all of these relationships are crucial, I want to address here one type of relationship, and that is the marriage or partnership relationship.

Many of you probably received some form of premarital counseling before you made what you hoped would be a lifetime commitment to another human being. If you did, I hope it was meaningful and helpful to you at the time. Strong relationships, however, require more than three sessions intended to help googly-eyed lovebirds prepare for reality! Sometimes we need a checkup, even a tuneup, to keep us going strong.

I am trained in a marriage preparation and enrichment program called Prepare/Enrich, by Life Innovations, Inc. The primary component of the program is an online inventory of questions intended to help identify the strengths and growth areas of relationships. I use this program with couples preparing to be married, and I have found it both accurate and helpful.

Life Innovations is offering a Valentine's "Couple Checkup" special. During the week of February 8th-15th, couples can take this online inventory for only \$20 instead of the usual \$30. Reports are sent to me, and I can sit down with you and review with you the strengths of your relationship and the areas that might need some work. If you are interested in participating in this program, just let me know and we'll set it up right away.

Regardless of your interest in this program, I hope you will make time this month to take inventory of the primary relationships in your lives. We all know that love isn't just hearts and flowers. Love also takes hard work and diligence and listening when you'd rather yell and speaking the truth when being silent would be so much easier. If there is any way your church can help, please let us know.

No matter your challenges, I hope your relationships are life-giving reflections of the love of God.

Cindy



Carolyn Ruffles Blanche Masi
Ruth Tibbetts MaryEllen Sanzeni
Scott Merrell Roger Nelson, Jr.

Cathy Zacotinsky's dad, recovering from surgery

The family of *Marie Benicewicz*, who passed away on January 9th

The family of *Ed D'Ettore*, who lost his battle with lung cancer and passed away recently

Art Roberts, recovering from fusion surgery

Doreen Cotton, whose mother passed away on December 2nd

Randy and Jan Esposito's daughter-in-law *Courtney*, who is pregnant and undergoing treatments for breast cancer

John Jennings recovering from a stroke;

Harriet Mangels, whose husband, Bob, passed away on May 2007;

Ann Salamone, Christine's mother-in-law

Marcelle Corsi, Shari Lynn Niland's mother

The families of the victims affected by recent tragedies, violence and natural disasters;

Those who are serving in the armed forces and their families and all who are victims of war.

LASAGNA BUFFET



The lasagna supper will be
February 15th

Open to the community, it will be continuous seating from 5:00-7:00p.m. We'll serve:

Fresh garden salad - Family style with dressing
Cheese lasagna with meat or vegetarian sauce

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Parmesan cheese on the side
Italian bread, butter and olive oil
Cold beverages: soda, iced tea, water

Hot beverages: coffee and tea
Home baked desserts: pies, cookies, cakes

**Cost will be \$10.00 for adults, \$9.00 for seniors
\$5.00 for children 5-10 yr. old,
4 and under free**



FEBRUARY LASAGNA DINNERS HELPERS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Chuisano, Michelle | Patton, John |
| Cotton, Doreen | Petzold, Jeff |
| Cotton, Stephanie | Petzold, Lisa |
| Dunkle, Mary | Ruffles, Carolyn |
| Dunkle, Tom | Ruffles, Cindy |
| Goodwin, Kim | Shaw, Sharon |
| Healy, Liz | |



For all Lasagna Dinner helpers....

I wanted to thank everyone who has helped to prepare, serve, and clean up after the dinners so far this year. Also thanks for those yummy desserts. Your commitment to this monthly community event and fund raiser is much appreciated. As schedules have changed, thanks to those of you who stepped in to ensure we had a good crew for each area of work. And thanks in advance to all of our crews for the coming months. If you have a preferred time slot, please let me know upfront so I can accommodate.

Many thanks for your efforts!
 Kim Goodwin, Lasagna Dinner coordinator



On Wednesday, February 25, we will gather at 7pm for our annual Ash Wednesday service. This is a quiet, reflective service which gives us time to examine our lives, consider our frailty, and reflect on what might be keeping us from a fuller relationship with God. Please join us for this special service.

From Rome to the UCC

Ever wonder why Catholics do the things they do? Ever wonder why Protestants do the things they do? Ever wonder what the big difference is, anyway?

Beginning on February 1st we will offer an adult education class to explore the similarities and differences between the Catholic church and the Protestant church, particularly as it applies to us in the United Church of Christ. The class will be helpful for those who came from a Catholic background, but it should also be interesting to Protestants who want a better understanding of their friends' faith as well as their own. We will meet every Sunday after worship in the library. Please join us.



in case of inclement weather

In case of bad weather, how will you find out if church is cancelled? It will now be posted on WFSB-3. You can check either on television or online at www.wfsb.com. And if you like text messages, you can even sign up for automatic alerts to be sent to your cell phone. Keep in mind that, depending on the conditions on any given Sunday, we could choose to have a one or two hour delay rather than cancelling.



TO CLAP OR NOT TO CLAP

In the last few months I've seen several cartoons about seating sections in churches. In the first one, an usher asks new arrivals for their seating preference: "Clapping or no clapping?" In the second cartoon, there are signs pointing to the "clapping section," the "no clapping" section, and the (much smaller) "Preach it, Sister!" section.

Both cartoons made me chuckle because they ring true. Some people want to clap after special music, and others do not. The "clappers" think it shows appreciation, energy, and liveliness. The "non-clappers" believe that clapping is inappropriate and even disrespectful in church.

Although we are not experiencing conflict about this issue, I have been asked to explain why we do what we do. At King Street UCC it is our practice not to applaud special music because this music is provided for the glory of God, not for the glory of the individuals. Applause celebrates performance, and those who sing or play in worship are not performing. They are worshipping God, and worship is celebrated—but not typically applauded in mainline church services.

So why do we applaud when the children sing? Because they do not yet understand the difference between performing and worshipping. Applause is what they understand, and so we speak in the language they can recognize.

We highly value the musical ability we have in our church, and we appreciate those who contribute to our music ministry. We thank them for their time . . . and we thank God for their gifts.

Cindy

Valentines to give your children

- *Acceptance* - Teach kids that you love them for who and what they are. Give this gift with a kiss.
- *Self-confidence* - Help children understand that they can trust themselves. Give this gift with a hug.
- *Life without needless fears* - Don't let your kids see you as a worrier. Give this gift with laughter.
- *Appreciation* - Help children acquire a spark of gratitude and enjoy all of life. Give this gift as they go out the door.
- *Faith* - Introduce your children to God, the best friend they'll ever have. Give this gift by taking them to church every Sunday.



TRUE LOVE GROWS

Through sunshine, rain,
Through smiles and tears,
Through sickness, health,
And passing years,
True love still grows
More firm and sure,
More deep and strong,
More sweet and pure.

—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems



A Tapestry of Love Woven with Memories

Through the years we have had many outstanding members in our Women's Society. Below are a few whose memories we all cherish. Who were they and what made them so special?

The first one I would like to remember is **Agnes Bohne**. She was a little lady but had a powerful presence about her. She lived on King Street across from the church. A life-long employee of the New York Telephone Company, she retired in 1969, and from then on gave unselfishly of her time and energy in our church and community. She was a member of the Dorcas Circle, and she served as treasurer of the Women's Society for 15 years. For many years she allowed us to fill her garage to the brim with attic treasures to be sold at the church fair. Her Catholic faith would not allow her to attend our services, but on many a Sunday afternoon, after the busy activities of our day, a lone figure would be kneeling at the altar, rosary beads in hand. Her devotion to our church was unending.

Helen Walker became the first President of the Women's Society. She had a special way about her and could do just about everything. She could cook, sew and sing beautifully. Down through the years Helen chaired many of our church suppers, making many of the special costumes we wore. Her husband, Jack, was the last superintendent of the Broadview Farm, Danbury's refuge for the less fortunate, which closed in 1962. Helen was known as the matron of the almshouse. In this role she did everything that a mother could do for the inhabitants. The farm is now the site of Broadview Middle School. Helen and her husband had a daughter Judy and twin sons, Joe and Jack. All sang in the choirs, often singing solos.

Mildred Wibling was responsible for the lovely Swedish Suppers we had year after year. We wore Swedish costumes and were written up in the News Times. It was a very popular event and well attended. Mildred was responsible for the lovely felt Christmas ornaments we made for our Christmas Fairs. Wherever she went she would search for different ornaments from which we could make patterns and duplicate them. Many of us still trim our trees with these treasures.

Another favorite was **Helen Brundage**, a descendant of Aaron Pearce, founder of our church. She was a nurse in World War I, serving in England. As a member of our church she served on the Board of Trustees, charter member of the Women's Society, and was active in the Dorcas Circle. A woman blessed with the will to give of herself to others, and who will live forever in the memories of our hearts.



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>1</p> <p>9:30 am Worship/Communion</p> <p>10:45 am Adult Education</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30 pm Women's Society</p>	<p>3</p> <p>6 pm Jr. Bells</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8 pm Sr. Bell Choir</p> <p>Bell Choir</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>7:30 pm Sr. Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am Worship</p> <p>10:45 am Adult Education</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6 pm Jr. Bells</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8 pm Sr. Bell Choir</p> <p>Bell Choir</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>7:30 pm Sr. Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>5-7 pm Lasagna Dinner/Thrift Shop Open</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am Worship</p> <p>10:45 am Adult Education</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7 pm Ministry Council</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6 pm Jr. Bells</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8 pm Sr. Bell Choir</p> <p>Bell Choir</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>7:30 pm Sr. Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am Worship</p> <p>10:45 am Adult Education</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6 pm Jr. Bells</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7 pm Ash Wednesday Service</p> <p>8 pm Sr. Bell Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>7:30 pm Sr. Choir</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9-12 pm Thrift Shop Open</p> <p>1 - 5 pm Dorothy Day</p>

February 2009



Prayer for Presidents' Day

Lord of heaven and earth, we offer you our deepest appreciation for this blessed land. Stir up a sense of stewardship in every citizen so we all may care for our nation and each inhabitant of it.

We pray especially for our leaders. Prompt everyone in a position of authority, from local to national leaders, to strive for righteousness, justice and the welfare of all citizens.

Finally, we pray that we may be ever mindful of the psalmist's teaching that "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord ..." (Psalm 33:12, NRSV). May that promise become real "from sea to shining sea." Amen.



**MARCH Messenger articles due
Sunday, FEBRUARY 22TH**

E-mail articles to Knisleys127@sbcglobal.net



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201 South King Street
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**Reverend Cindy Maddox
Pastor**