

# The Carillon

Nichols UMC

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April 2023



## **Resurrection: New Beginnings & New Opportunities – by Pastor David Piscatelli**

*Luke 24:1-12 (NRS) But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in, they did not find the body. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. <sup>6</sup>Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.*

Luke's account of the resurrection story portrays the anxiety, stress, and joyful reaction to the unexpected work of God. The women and the disciples had watched in horror as the religious leaders, the crowds, and the Romans proceeded to brutally beat the Son of God and nail Him to a Cross like a criminal. It was merely a week earlier, that they had accompanied Him into the city of Jerusalem with fanfare and shouts of "Hosanna! Hosanna!". They never thought something like this could ever happen, until it did. As they approach the tomb, they were expecting to find the crucified body of Jesus. The empty tomb only adds to their grief, at least at first. The women are terrified and perplexed. When they become aware that Jesus is risen, they run back to tell the disciples, only to be mocked and not believed. Not until after Peter sees for himself, do things start to move forward. The resurrection brings new beginning and opportunities. God's work in Jesus did not end at the cross, it became more glorious than they could ever imagine. Their work as disciples did not end; they become His witnesses to the broken world as the first believers formed faith communities that would become the church.

Most people don't like change, especially when it is unexpected. Change causes anxiety, stress, and sometimes major alterations to our lives. Adapting to a new child in the house can be quite an upsetting ordeal for parents, even as it is a time of joyful celebration. A new diagnosis in our health can require major shifts in our lifestyles, particularly if it is unwelcome and we didn't see it coming. New jobs, new responsibilities, and even the process of a pastoral change necessitate adjustments in perspectives, actions, and attitudes. These situations are certainly not as dramatic as the Resurrection of Christ, but they do remind us that God constantly uses events of this world to bring about transformation. Without the dreary winter weather, spring wouldn't feel so glorious. Without death, there would be no resurrection. Without change, there would never be new beginnings or new opportunities. While not every new situation is greater than we imagine, the grace and love of God usually is.

During Lent, we had the opportunity to hear the sermon series on Grace: Experiencing the Goodness of God in a broken world. Grace is an outflowing of God's love that invites us to experience God's goodness in salvation, mercy, healing, and resurrection. God is present in both the joyful times of our lives and those times of unwanted difficulty. When we go through change, God not only provides us strength to handle the challenges of life, God invites us to see new possibilities as opportunities for new beginnings.

God's greatest work is in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And God continues to be active in the broken world around us, seeking to strengthen the faith of believers today, just like those believers on the first Easter. We are Easter people; those whose role is to be ambassadors of Jesus Christ by sharing the love of God and our experiences with those others. Regardless of the changes life brings, may we see God at work and trust that God's goodness goes in front of us, behind us, and with us every step of the way.

~Grace & peace, *Pastor David*



# Holy Week & Easter Services

## Palm Sunday - April 2<sup>nd</sup>

8am - A celebration of the Passion of Christ with Communion

9am - Contemporary Palm Sunday Experience

10am - A celebration of the Passion of Christ and a Procession of the Palms led by our Sunday School kids

## Maundy Thursday - April 6<sup>th</sup> ~ In Person & Zoom

7pm - A celebration of the Last Supper in the sanctuary with a foot washing experience

## Good Friday - April 7<sup>th</sup> ~ In Person Only

12 noon - Community Ecumenical Service hosted by Christ Episcopal, 5170 Madison Ave., Trumbull, and sponsored by the Trumbull Interfaith Council

## Easter Sunday - April 9<sup>th</sup>

6am - Sunrise Service in the Gazebo at the NIA Field, led by Pastor David

10am - A celebration of the resurrection with communion



## **Parking - Easter & Palm Sundays**

Just a reminder, there are "No Parking" signs along Center Street (which connects Huntington Turnpike. and Shelton Road). Please be a good neighbor and avoid a ticket by parking in available spots in our lot or at the overflow lot at the NIA. Remember, if you come early - you not only get a great parking spot but a great seat in the sanctuary!



## **Sundays 9-9:45am Adult Bible Study - In Person**

This study is taught by David Preusch and meets in the Numbers classroom. Have you ever stopped and asked yourself just who Jesus is? Why did He appear on earth? And, most importantly, what does that mean for me? The answers to these questions and much more can be found in the Gospel of John and this study will be seeking answers to these questions. This is an inclusive study that includes the reading of short passages followed by questions about the passage for group discussion. Notes on the history and geography of the time and place provide context. There is no homework required but to bring the Bible translation of your choice. If you are new to Bible study and would like a place to start or would like a group setting, the Gospel of John is the place to start!



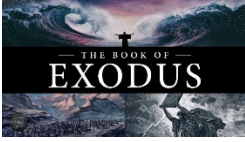
## **Sundays 10am The Message Conversation Study - In Person**

The Message Conversation study is back and meeting in the lounge after the 9am service. If young families are interested in joining us, please feel free to worship at 9am, stay for the children's sermon at 10am worship and join us in the lounge when the children go to church school. We are fine with the later arrival! No study guide or homework. Just a discussion of Pastor David's message. All are welcome! Any questions, please email Caryn Hammond at [Caryn3u2d@gmail.com](mailto:Caryn3u2d@gmail.com).



## Peace & Prayer: Mid-Week Time of Devotion - Zoom Wednesdays 11:30-11:45am

Judy Lang hosts a brief time of devotion and prayer via Zoom. This will be an opportunity to spend about 15 minutes centering ourselves in reflective thought and prayer. The link for this mid-week centering time can be accessed by clicking here: [Peace & Prayer Midweek Time of Devotion](#) OR Dial in: (646)-876-9923, Meeting ID: 366 149 7977, Password: 35#.



## Word & Coffee Thursdays, 9-10am - Zoom

*This study was paused for the Lenten study and resumes April 13<sup>th</sup>.* Pastor David leads this study on Exodus. Each week we will open in prayer, read the passage, and discuss what we have learned/questioned during our reading and reflection. All are welcome, and you may drop in (via Zoom) any week. If you would like to attend, please email Pastor David [pastordavidnumc@snet.net](mailto:pastordavidnumc@snet.net). NOTE: a recorded video version will also be available upon request for those who cannot attend the live session.



## Vacation Bible School – COMING THIS SUMMER!

### Dates & Times to Be Determined

Vacation Bible School is back at Nichols UMC! Our theme this summer is **Stellar: Shine Jesus' Light!** The children will learn that when life feels dark, when people don't get along, when good things happen, when we are sad, and when we need help, Jesus' light still shines in us. The children will sing songs, play fun games, make arts and crafts and listen to Bible stories about how they too can help shine Jesus' light in the world. Vacation Bible School is open to **children ages 4 years of age through those graduating 5<sup>th</sup> grade**. If you are looking for a new activity at Nichols United Methodist Church that will help you and your family grow closer to God and Jesus, this is it. **Vacation Bible School is being offered free of charge this summer, thanks to a generous sponsor.** If you are interested in registering your child for VBS or volunteering, please email our Education Director, Mabel Butress ([mbuttressnumc@gmail.com](mailto:mbuttressnumc@gmail.com)) or see her after the 10am worship service. More details will be provided soon as we review the results of our VBS survey! We look forward to seeing you there!



The most exciting time of the Christian calendar year (okay - second most exciting for the kids) is amongst us! Hopefully, we've all been doing some reflections of our faith journey as Easter approaches. We'll begin April by celebrating the triumphal, joyous occasion of Jesus entering Jerusalem as a reminder of our willingness to follow Him. On Easter Sunday we'll remember the ultimate sacrifice He made for

us. Being a Doubting Thomas is really quite a common and normal part of being a Christian, but we're going to reinforce that Jesus has indeed risen - believe it or not! The kids will learn how Jesus revealed Himself to His followers on the road to Emmaus and that He is alive and working in the world today. We will end April recognizing that we know and hear Jesus every day, He is always with us! I wish you and your beautiful families a very Happy Easter, remembering that He is not here; He has risen!

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*Mabel Buttress, Children's Education Director ~ 203-400-0894 ~ [mbuttressnumc@gmail.com](mailto:mbuttressnumc@gmail.com)*

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Easter Blessings to you all! April already? I am looking forward to the warmer weather and more outside activities with the youth group. Last month we went bowling and had a blast. We also had some opportunities to serve others with Feed the Hunger and Urban Impact in Fairfield. Next month I would like to get a team together to participate in the Crop Walk. This will be held on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 - 4pm in Bridgeport. The walk is 2 miles. If you think you might be interested in walking please let me know as soon as possible. For more information on the Crop walk visit this site:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023>. In April we will be going roller skating on the first weekend of the month. We will also be having a paint party and of course we will have our regularly scheduled meetings. On April 6<sup>th</sup> we will be going to the Downtown Cabaret to see "The Wizard of Oz" – funnnn! More info to come on that but please mark your calendars. The Cabaret is so much fun. We love to eat at youth group. If you like to cook and want to test your skills out on us, we would love to be your taste tasters. Meals are always welcome. Let me know if this speaks to your heart.

**April 1st** Roller Magic Waterbury - meet at NUMC at 2:30pm, pick up at 5:45pm (bring \$20)

**April 9th** Happy Easter

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** Regular youth group meeting 5-7pm in Fellowship Hall

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** Regular youth group meeting 5-7pm in Fellowship Hall (tentative paint party)

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** Regular youth group meeting 5-7pm in Fellowship Hall

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*Chrissy Ferrante, Youth Director ~ 203.558.7848 ~ [chrissy842001@comcast.net](mailto:chrissy842001@comcast.net)*

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## Condolences

Our condolences and prayers go with the family of Kathryn Schwarz, who died February 22<sup>nd</sup>. A funeral service was officiated by Pastor David at Cyril F. Mullins Funeral Home on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Confirmation Project:

My name is Ryan McKenzie and I am one of this year's confirmands. I am collecting non-perishable food items for the Mercy Learning Center located in Bridgeport. The Mercy Learning Center uses a holistic approach to provide basic literacy and life skills training to women with financial stress or employment insecurity. In order to help these women focus on their studies, the center provides emergency support, child care, and essential items such as food and toiletries. With your donations you are helping to make a difference in the lives of these women and help them to better their futures. I will have a box labeled for Mercy Learning Center in the hallway leading to Fellowship Hall from April 9<sup>th</sup> -April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each and every donation will be greatly appreciated! Thank you!



### **49<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Bridgeport Crop Hunger Walk Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> - United Congregational Church**

The walk will start and end at the United Congregation Church, 2200 North Avenue, Bridgeport. It is a 2.14 mile walk in the Bridgeport neighborhood. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised are donated to local agencies such as Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Thomas Merton Center, and Trumbull Social Services. The other seventy-five percent is used by the Church World Service to fight hunger locally, nationally, and internally, emphasizing self-sustaining agricultural practices. If you and some friends would like to walk, Phyllis Grafton can provide more information. Please make checks payable to NUMC with CROP in the memo. Thank you for your support.



Golden Hill UMC will be hosting their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bike Giveaway on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and bikes of all sizes are needed. The bikes are only given to individuals and families that have been invited to attend the giveaway. They have been referred to Golden Hill by social workers and schools as well as families that have received assistance from Golden Hill. Last year 56 individuals received bikes. If you have a bike that you would like to donate please call Phyllis Grafton at 203-386-8973 with any questions and to arrange pickup.



April 1 Suzanne Lucas  
April 2 Avery MacDonald  
April 3 Cindy Kopf  
April 3 James Mellinger  
April 5 Gregory DelVecchio  
April 5 Ryan Roberts  
April 7 Rebecca Rehm  
April 8 Gloria Figerle  
April 8 Riley Wade  
April 9 Kristian Schif  
April 9 Donato Stagnetta  
April 10 Joann Briganti  
April 11 Ashton Claydon  
April 11 Sandy O'Neill  
April 11 Holly Piscatelli  
April 12 Lonny Bauer  
April 12 Gavin Weir  
April 13 Trevor McMahon  
April 13 John Pfohl Jr.  
April 14 Brian Foote  
April 14 Susan J. Graham  
April 14 Jude Maltas  
April 14 Lila Maltas  
April 15 Nicole Lay  
April 15 Brandon Owen  
April 16 Caryn Hammond  
April 16 Jackson Pond  
April 16 Norman Wilson  
April 17 Caitlin Edvardsen  
April 17 Emma Ferris

April 18 Hannah Steigler  
April 19 Joseph Monks  
April 21 Gregory Coe  
April 21 Albert Pfannkuch  
April 22 Abigail Holmes  
April 22 Adam Lefer  
April 23 Kay Curtis  
April 23 Madelynn Ferris  
April 23 Tessa Speaks  
April 24 Dawn Pfohl  
April 26 Valerie Collison  
April 26 Gregg Ferris  
April 26 Steve Holmes  
April 26 Liz Marcus  
April 26 Caden Sapia  
April 26 Russell Schif  
April 27 Randy Chase  
April 27 Mason Mascola  
April 27 Grace Pedersen  
April 28 Jack Forde  
April 28 Angela Gorton  
April 28 Bob Lydiksen  
April 28 Louise MacCormack  
April 28 Brent Minty  
April 29 Savannah Ferrante  
April 29 Caitlin Overhiser  
April 30 Isaac Berkowitz  
April 30 Sam DiVasto  
April 30 Douglas C. Doyle  
April 30 Eric Mack



# April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesd...	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Every Sunday</b> 8 AM Worship w/ communion 9 AM Contemp Service 9 AM Bible Study 10 AM Worship w/nursery care, church school & Message Study 11 AM Coffee Hr		MDO 2 - Mon-Thur 9:30-1:45 MDO 3 Tues, Thr, Fri 9:15-1:45 Friday 4/7 will meet Monday, April 3. No school April 11-14				
<b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 am Confirmation 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 6:45 pm ASP 7 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Mtg. - Zoom	9:30 am Memoir Writing 5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7 pm Lenten Study - Zoom 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	9:30 am UWIF Board Meeting 11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> 9:00 am Lenten Study - Zoom 10:00 am AA <b>7:00 pm Worship</b>	<b>Good Friday</b> <b>12:00 pm Interfaith Service Christ Episcopal Tashua</b> 12:00 pm AA	
<b>Easter</b> 6 am Sunrise Service at the NIA Gazebo 10 am Worship in the Sanctuary 7 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Worship Mtg. - Zoom	5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 6-10 pm Footsteps 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	11:45 am UWIF Luncheon 11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 8:00 pm AA	9:00 am Word & Coffee - Zoom 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30-9 pm Footsteps	12:00 pm AA	7:00 am Merton House Sandwiches 10:30 am Robinson Memorial Garden
5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group 7 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Mtg. - Zoom	5:30 pm AA 6-10 pm Footsteps 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg - Z 7:00 pm ASP Bd Meeting 8:00 pm AA	9:00 am Word & Coffee - Zoom 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30-9 pm Footsteps	12:00 pm AA	
9:30 am Confirmation 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group 7 pm AA	12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Church Council Mtg. - Zoom	9:30 am Memoir Writing 5:30 pm AA 6-10 pm Footsteps 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	9:00 am Word & Coffee - Zoom 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30-9 pm Footsteps	12:00 pm AA <b>7-9:30 pm Confirmation Spiritual Night Apart</b>	
9:30 am Confirmation 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group 7 pm AA					March 2023 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 26 27 28 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	May 2023 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 30 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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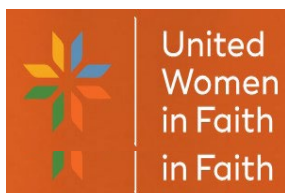
Holly Piscatelli, Editor

Submit articles through

e-mail: [numccarillon@yahoo.com](mailto:numccarillon@yahoo.com)

### **DEADLINE FOR THE May 2023 issue is April 12<sup>th</sup>**

The Carillon is published monthly except during July by the Nichols United Methodist Church, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT 06611. Send address changes to; The Carillon, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT 06611 Submissions should be emailed to [NUMCCarillon@yahoo.com](mailto:NUMCCarillon@yahoo.com) will be confirmed by the Editor.



## **UWF April Luncheon on Missions Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am**

NUWF cordially invites all women and men to our April 12<sup>th</sup> luncheon in Fellowship Hall, featuring our very own Carol Steinberg. Carol will share an informative overview on the many missions and charities that NUWF fund and support. All the moneys raised through our fund raisers goes toward these local and global missions. A detailed list can be found on our bulletin board. Our times are: 11:30am Fellowship, 12noon Meeting, 12:15pm Luncheon followed by our very special Program. If you are not already on our calling list, you may make reservations by calling Brenda Braun at 203-375-1257. The cost is just \$7. Place settings will be provided. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have continued to support us in our mission projects. Hope to see you all at the luncheon.

**Executive Board Meeting:** Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Lounge

**UWF Revised Fair Date:** Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> ~ donations now being accepted