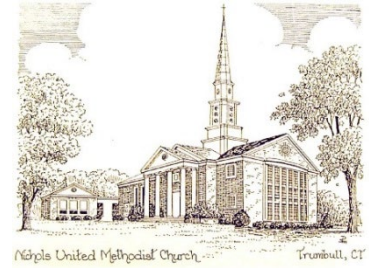


The Carillon

Nichols UMC

Volume Number 46, Issue Number 2

February 2023



God, The Ultimate Problem Solver! - by Judy Lang, CLM

NIV Job 37:5-7 – God’s voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, “Fall on the Earth”, and to the rain shower, “Be a mighty downpour.”

NIV John 14:27 – Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

February is a month of challenging weather! The weather reports make us look out the windows and we are then either depressed or relieved. We have no control over the weather, we get what we get. Whether it’s the weather or something else, we all have experienced very difficult circumstances that we don’t know how to handle. As Christians, we are fortunate to know what to do when our hearts are troubled, and we feel afraid. Troubles can come anytime and for any reason. The problems might be different, but the remedy is always the same. We are to pray to God and Jesus for their presence and help to work through the challenges at hand. The Prayer Angel network helps us know that we are not alone and when others pray for us, it makes a huge difference in our ability to deal with what life throws our way. When we give our fears to God, our energies are directed in a positive direction. We no longer flounder without a sense of peace and focus. God’s voice thunders in amazing ways and He does things we don’t understand; but we pray for discernment and for trust that God knows the best way for us to get through the challenging times.

As we navigate through the seasons of the year, and the seasons of our lives, let us keep Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at the forefront of our hearts, minds and spirits. They want to hear our fears and concerns, they have the right answers, and the right remedies for all that we are dealing with. We know their ways are not our ways, and their ways are far superior! Psalm 56:3-4 says that we are to trust in God, whose word we praise and trust, we will then not be afraid. Many scripture verses tell us not to fear but if we do, who to lift the fears to. May we all trust in the Lord our God and know all challenges are handled by “God, the Ultimate Problem Solver”! Amen? Amen!

~Judy Lang, CLM



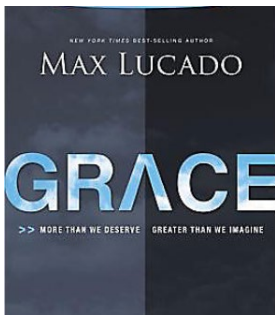
Ash Wednesday Worship Service – February 22nd at 7pm

Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. This practice is the historic focus of Ash Wednesday observance and gave the day its name. Join us for this reflective time of worship and receiving of Ashes to kick off our Lenten season. Due to the nature of the service (the imposition of ashes) this service will only be available in person.



Grace

Experiencing God's Goodness in a Broken World
Beginning Sunday, February 26th



7 Week Study on Grace -Via Zoom:

Tuesday Evenings 7-8pm – Beginning February 21st OR
Thursday Mornings, 9-10am – Beginning February 23rd

Reservations Required by Thursday, February 16th to Obtain A Study Book

Pastor David will lead a new study by Max Lucado titled “Grace—More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine”. Grace is often a difficult concept to understand.

We can't earn it and we don't have to pay it back. Join us to learn how to make receiving and sharing God's grace a regular part of our life. We will use videos and a study book by Max Lucado, and it will be facilitated and taught by Pastor David. Please contact Carole Chameides no later than Thursday, February 16th at nicholsmethodist@snet.net or 203-375-5817 to **make a reservation and obtain your study book** (if able, a \$10 donation is asked to cover costs).



Spirit Filled Conversation ~ Grapes & Hops will be taking a break during Lent



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!



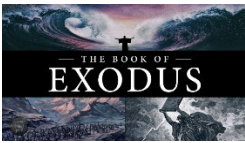
Sundays 10am The Message Conversation Study - In Person

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.



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

Please note this study will pause February 23rd through April 6th for the Lenten study. 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. NOTE: a recorded video version will also available upon request for those who cannot attend the live session.



The Grace of Giving - Stewardship 2023

Our 2023 Stewardship campaign theme is *The Grace of Giving*. Generosity, the act of giving, is a gift from God. Grace is the unearned lovingkindness and favor of God. Because of who God is, He generously gives us every good gift we need to live and thrive as individuals and a church. These gifts are not for us to keep to ourselves; they are to be used and shared in the broken world in which we live. While our campaign concluded with Dedication

Sunday on January 22nd, we want to remind everyone that there is still time to make a commitment of our time and talents as well as a financial pledge. You can mail in your Giving Card or send a confidential email to the Financial Secretary by following the instructions on our website (www.nicholsumc.org/online-giving). Please be in prayer about how we can all work together to do the work that God has called us to do in 2023. ~Blessings, Your Stewardship Committee

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper - Tuesday February 21st, 5:30-7pm



Please join us for the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake. The menu includes regular, blueberry, and gluten-free pancakes, real maple syrup, sausage, hash browns, stewed apples, and beverages. A free-will offering will be accepted. Reservations forms will be in the church bulletin or call Phyllis Grafton (203) 386-8973 to make a reservation. Shrove Tuesday is typically celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday as the last day for celebration and feasting before the period of fasting required during Lent. In many regions, pancakes are served, remembering a time when people consumed milk, fats, and eggs before Ash Wednesday. Similar consumptions of fatty foods caused this day also to be

named Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras.



We're so excited for February, the month of LOVE! This month, we will be exploring God's word in Matthew 5. Children will discover how Jesus gave us a recipe for happiness with the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), explore how to let our light shine (Matthew 5:16), learn the difficult lesson on forgiveness, both giving and receiving (Matthew 5:23), and practice ways in which we can love one another – even our enemies! (Matthew 5:43-44).

Sunday School counts on volunteers to run; we must have at least two adults every Sunday. Please consider volunteering! If you're interested or have questions, please contact me or see me after the service. Happy Valentine's Day!

Mabel Buttress, Children's Education Director ~ 203-400-0894 ~ mbuttressnumc@gmail.com



Hello February! This is my favorite time of the year for our youth. Our winter retreats are phenomenal, and jam packed with fun. If you would like your kids to participate, please let me know as soon as possible. To register for the middle school retreat, do so at this link: <https://www.pilgrimines.org/winterblast>. I know that for many this might be their first experience away from home, and there is a bit of hesitancy, but these retreats are great growth opportunities and bonding experiences for the kids and leaders alike. Check out the video below to see how much fun we really have and call me with any questions. A little

bit of information about Winter Weekend from The Network...Winter Weekend was created through a community of churches from Fairfield County called The Network. It is a county-wide retreat that has an emphasis on teens encountering God and connecting to community. The weekend is designed for students to take time to get away from the stress and pressures of daily life to experience God in worship, honest conversations, and fun adventures. The venue we will be using is Lake Champion in Glen Spey, NY. This is a premier 370 acre year-round retreat center located in the foothills of the southern New York Catskill Mountains. Their facilities are nestled amongst towering pines, peaceful streams, and overlook a spectacular 50 acre lake. <https://lakechampion.younglife.org/> Again, check out the link below to see how much fun retreats really are. We are always in need of meals. If you would like to volunteer and prepare a meal for us it would be greatly appreciated. The sign-up sheet is in the hallway leading from the church to fellowship hall, or just let me know.



Check out the highlight video from a previous Winter Weekend here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hkumgDs6419YU_WLA7reb4qMggtVDly9/view

Our February calendar is as follows:

February 4th - 6th – Middle School Retreat at Pilgrim Pines

February 12th – Fellowship Hall 5-7pm

February 18th Weekend – This is Winter break in the school system so event and day to be determined depending on youth availability – check your email for updates

February 24th - 26th - 8th thru 12th grade Winter Weekend retreat at Camp Spofford

Chrissy Ferrante, Youth Director ~ 203.558.7848 ~ chrissy842001@comcast.net

Condolences

Our condolences and prayers go with the families of:

- Jodi Robinson, who died December 22nd. An interment at NUMC's Memorial Garden will be held in the spring.
- Olle Haggstrom, who died January 2nd. Friends may express condolences and share recollections with the family on Thursday, April 20th from 4-8pm at The Blue Goose Restaurant, 326 Ferry Boulevard, Stratford, CT.
- Robin Berg, who died January 4th. A service will be held in his home state of Wisconsin.

Confirmation Project:

Hi, my name is Jude Maltas and I am one of the confirmands this year at Nichols United Methodist Church. For my service project I will be collecting new or gently used softcover books for the teens at the Bridgeport Juvenile Detention Center. We all know reading can change a person's life. These donations will be greatly appreciated to entertain and educate the teens and help them to get away from their worries. They really look forward to reading new books. These books should be softcover and suitable for teens and young adults. They especially enjoy graphic novels, but any fiction or non-fiction will do. I will leave a box in the hallway to Fellowship Hall from February 12th through February 26th. Thank you in advance for your donations.



Habitat for Humanity Bake Sale

There will be a bake sale on Sunday February 12th and 26th after the 10am church service. Apple dumplings, cakes, cookies, yeast bread, and frozen unbaked apple, blueberry and peach pies will be available. Please call Phyllis Grafton (203-386-8973) to place an order.



When I wrote a year ago, I reminded you that home is where the heart is; home is where you hang your hat; and home is where your story begins. That is as true today as it has ever been! You know what Habitat does: it builds decent, stable homes, and bright futures for hard-working, low-income people. The last two years were tough on Habitat, no doubt about it. But Habitat has rebounded magnificently. It is just now beginning a 10-home project on Bridgeport's Chopsey Hill Road, just off Route 8's Exit 5. Volunteer opportunities are abounding! Habitat is one of Bridgeport's success stories. It has built "green" homes for 37 years, over 280 homes to date, for 1,100 people. Nichols has consistently contributed through our donations and volunteer efforts. Last year, the pews from our now revamped chancel area went to Habitat's ReStore where they sold for over \$1,000, money then spent on new homes for hard working, deserving people. On January 16th we celebrated the Martin Luther King Day of Service. MLK once said: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'" He went on to say "Everyone can be great, because anyone can serve. You don't have to make the subject and verb agree to serve; you only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." And that's also the message of Habitat: grace and love. And service. Helping others in any number of ways. If this resonates with you, then re-read the Habitat blurb to see where you fit in. Or call me, Sandy Blanchard (203-929-6489), for directions.



We strive to have in-person worship and Sunday School each week during the winter, but the weather does not always cooperate. However, there will always be worship service via Zoom and YouTube Live. The first and best rule is that if you do not feel the roads are safe for travel, please stay home and join us online! Even if the church is open, we want everyone to take a "safety first" attitude toward attendance. Whenever possible, decisions about closing information will be made as early as possible. The goal will be to send all notifications via a Nichols' Notes special e-mail announcement no later than one hour before worship. Additionally, closing information will be posted on WFSB (CBS Channel 3) and WTNH (Channel 8). The codes used on each station is often limited in description and we will do our best to clarify cancellations. Blessings to all during these winter months!



Annual Fall Attic Treasures Fair – October 7th Donations Now Being Accepted

New or gently used:

- Children's toys and small furniture
- Small pieces of antique furniture (chairs, rockers, end tables, mirrors, etc.)
- China, crystal, everyday dishes, glassware, pots, pans & household items
- Jewelry – gold, silver and costume
- Linens (tablecloths, placemats, towels, curtains, comforters & quilts) **all linens must be clean**
- Vintage clothing (dresses, hats, scarves & purses)
- Holiday decorations & decorative pieces, clothing & costumes for all holidays (Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving & Halloween)
- Sewing supplies & notions
- Current books (children's books, cookbooks, sports & history) – please NO textbooks
- Wrapping & tissue paper, bubble wrap & gift bags

Please note items NOT accepted: large pieces of upholstered furniture, heavy sporting equipment, outdated luggage, non-working electrical appliances, electronics, books or stuffed animals.

For additional information on acceptable items for donations and drop off times, please contact: Louise MacCormack (203-225-9263), Grace Ferrigno (203-375-1298) or Nina Telep (203-375-3562).

Questions about jewelry donations, please contact Mary Jane Berkowitz (203-414-6918). All other questions please contact our Fair chairperson Becky Virgalla (203-788-2889) bvirgalla@yahoo.com.



February 1 Linda E. Lydiksen
February 1 D. Curtis Reed
February 2 Katherine Hansen
February 3 Dana Garrow
February 4 Phoebe Monte
February 5 Joan S. Mehlhorn
February 6 Brenda Braun
February 6 Sophie Hansen
February 7 Andre Kyrytschenko
February 7 Suzanne R. Rader
February 7 Josh Rockwell
February 8 Bailey O'Malley
February 9 Sara J. Platz
February 10 Marianna Satrazemis
February 11 Evan Racette
February 12 Donna Harris
February 12 William Mills
February 13 Abigail Clark
February 13 Tom DiPinto
February 14 Arthur Blanchard
February 15 Stevi Dineley

February 16 Jeffrey Bruner
February 19 Joseph F. Marino
February 19 Callum McGregor
February 19 Amy Payson
February 20 Michael Pogany
February 21 Christopher Clark
February 21 Steve Preusch
February 21 Kathleen Schif
February 22 Matthew Baccaro
February 22 Thomas Baccaro
February 22 Annie Bryson
February 22 Brian O'Neill
February 23 Gavin Brady
February 24 Susan Blanchard
February 24 Humphrey Bryson
February 25 Steve Stoni
February 26 Matthew Greene
February 26 Lois Jones
February 26 Tyler O'Malley
February 28 Elvira Hansen



February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 9:30 UWIF Bd Mtg 11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	2 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 10:00 am AA	4
5 9 am Confirmation Class 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 6:45 ASP 7 pm AA	6 12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm SPRC Mtg. - Zoom	7 9:30 am Memoir Writing Group 5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	8 11:30 UWIF Luncheon 11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	9 9:00 am Word & Coffee 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 10:00 am AA	11
12 9 am Confirmation Class 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group 7 pm AA	13 12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Worship Comm. Mtg. - Zoom	 Valentine's Day 5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	14 11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Trustee Mtg. 7:00 pm ASP Bd Mtg 8:00 pm AA	15 9:00 am Word & Coffee 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 10:00 am AA	17 7:30 am Merton House Sandwich Making
19 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 5-7 pm Youth Group - TBD 7 pm AA 7 pm Scout Comm. Mtg.	20 President's Day Office Closed 12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Finance Mtg. - Zoom	21 9:30 am Memoir Writing Group 5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	22 Ash Wednesday 11:30 am Peace & Prayer - Zoom 6:00 pm AA 7:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 8:00 pm AA	23 9:00 am Word & Coffee 10:00 am AA 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 10:00 am AA 5:00 pm Cub Scout setup Pinewood Derby	25 8-4 Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby
26 9 am Confirmation Class 5-6:30 pm Sea Scouts 7 pm AA	27 12:00 pm AA 6:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm Church Council Mtg. - Zoom	28 5:30 pm AA 6:30 pm Bells 7:45 pm Praise Band Rehearsal	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	January 2023 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 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	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

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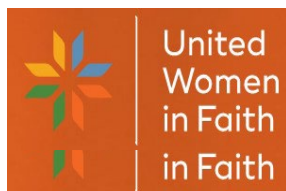
Holly Piscatelli, Editor

Submit articles through

e-mail: numccarillon@yahoo.com

DEADLINE FOR THE March 2023 issue is February 12th

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 will be confirmed by the Editor.



UWF February Luncheon

Wednesday, February 8th at 11:30am



Nichols United Women in Faith wishes everyone a happy new year and invites all men and women to our February luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker is Deborah Greenwood, Director at the Center for Family Justice. She will share informative and life changing updates on the center. The center provides much needed services to families impacted by domestic & sexual violence and child abuse. In other words, *hope*. Please note our times: social time 11:30am, general meeting and devotions 12noon, luncheon 12:15pm, followed by the program at 1pm. The cost is \$7. If you are not already on our calling list, you may make reservations by calling June Hoyt at 475-319-2656 or Vicki Wilmont at 203-751-9865. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We're lookg forward to seeing you all.

UWF Winter Weather Reminder – We follow the Trumbull school cancellation announcements. If school is cancelled, we will NOT meet.

Executive Board Meeting – Wednesday, February 1st at 9:45am in the Lounge. The meeting starts promptly at 10am