



CORNERSTONE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
a United Methodist Church

Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel, Pastor

at the Corner

November/December 2020

Congratulations



**Pastor Liz
on Your
Ordination!**



FOR INFORMATION ON
ZOOM ONLINE EVENTS,
INCLUDING
BIBLE STUDY
AND SUNDAY
WORSHIP, GO TO
COME2CORNERSTONE.ORG



718 West Ave.
Norwalk, CT 06850
203-866-3707
office@come2cornerstone.org
www.come2cornerstone.org

Office hours:
Monday to Friday, 10am-1pm

Pastor
Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel

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Megan Krois

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Debra Horton

Editors, The Messenger
Nancy Kenworthy
Lynn Russo Whyllly

If you have news or concerns you would like communicated to the church, please have your information to Nancy Kenworthy by the first of the month for the following month's issue.

Lectionary

November 22
25th Sunday
after Pentecost
(Reign of Christ)
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29
1st Sunday of Advent
United Methodist
Student Day
Isaiah 64: 1-9
Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9
Mark 13: 24-37

December 6
2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40: 1-11
Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3: 8-15a
Mark 1: 1-8

December 13
3rd Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
John 1; 6-8, 19-28

December 20
4th Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16
Luke 1: 47-55
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

**December 24
Christmas Eve**



Isaiah 9: 2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2: 11-14
Luke 2: 1-20

December 27
1st Sunday after Christmas
Isaiah 61: 10-62: 3
Psalm 148
Galatians 4: 4-7
Luke 2: 22-40

December 31 Watch Night
Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21: 1-6a
Matthew 25: 31-46

Cornerstone's **vision** is to be a space open to all persons to experience God's grace and love, and to share that love with others, through acceptance, service, and witness, as followers of Jesus Christ.

Cornerstone's **mission** is to embrace and nurture everyone we meet as we build together the body of Christ and express God's love by our witness in the world.



“When I Was Hungry, You Gave Me Something to Eat”

In October, 2020, the City of Norwalk received the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm to Families Grant, which brought a tractor trailer into the city directly from the farms to feed families dealing with food insecurity.

Because of the work we have done through the Blessing Boxes and the relationships and partnerships we have established, Cornerstone was asked to be the leading organization for distribution. The City of Norwalk Chief of Community Services, Mr. Lamond Daniels, reached out directly to me to help the city ensure that families would receive this food.

Cornerstone has been instrumental since early April in feeding families with the Blessing Boxes from Hands of Hope, a wholesale distributor in Pennsylvania. I received the contact and was instrumental in creating partnerships with the city food providers. But the one thing Cornerstone did not want to do was recreate the wheel. Food providers were seeing a shortfall in food, with food banks across the country working to respond to those in need. So Cornerstone worked to backfill the shortfall. These partnerships have only increased as the pandemic persists, and the community has come to see Cornerstone as working to meet their critical needs.

In view of the work that it takes to lead and organize these days of distribution, Cornerstone has postponed distribution of the Blessing Boxes, so as not to overwork our volunteers and exhaust our resources. As it is, because of several administrative changes at the federal and state level, Cornerstone has supplemented a few of the USDA deliveries with Blessing Boxes. The USDA selected only about a third of the previously selected farms for the third round of grants, leaving farms with food that was planted but now cannot be harvested. At the state level, initially we had more food coming in from more farms, but now find we are short of trucks, leaving many without food.

Now we are scrambling and supplementing the USDA trucks with Blessing Boxes to serve the many families that depend on the food. In fact, we have spent down our own resources for the Blessing Boxes, and are now asking for renewed support. So please, if you can donate anything to support feeding our community, we would greatly appreciate it. One box will feed a family of three for at least four days. One box costs us about \$8, which includes transportation from Pennsylvania, and we usually order 504 boxes every two weeks. Send donations to the church and put “Feeding Ministry” or “Blessing Boxes” in the memo line. Or donate at Venmo.com at @Come2Cornerstone.

Also to help with this critical ministry, we have hired a part-time outreach coordinator to manage these efforts, so if you can make it \$10 per box to keep doing this good and necessary work to help cover the cost of the coordinator, we would greatly appreciate you.

Sincerely,
Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel



Cornerstone's Long History of Supporting Scouting Moves to Another Level by Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel

Did you know that I developed a Rites of Passage for Young Men, called the Timothy Project? Based on the letters to Timothy in the Bible, I developed a curriculum that took young men through a series of workshops, cultural excursions, service learning, and mentoring with spiritual direction that raised a cohort of young leaders. While serving as a youth advisor at Butler Memorial United Methodist Church in the Bronx, I witnessed young men of color finding themselves in the church and participating in ministry areas more geared to or focused on young women, such as the cotillion and praise dance ministry. The numbers were so great that it became clear it was time to focus on the young men. I then asked a few good men I knew in the church and community to come and speak to the young men about their journey to becoming men. This is a conversation that is not usually had, but always implied.

It was based on topics that would raise awareness of cultural identity, civic and familial responsibility, health awareness, and physical, spiritual and emotional wholeness.



I saw transformation in these young men and was surprised to discover that the men I called on had never had these conversations themselves.

Because of this work being done with the young men, the young women realized they needed the same support. So I developed Deborah's Academy. This was based on Deborah, whom we meet in the book of Judges, who leads Barak into battle. I was quick to learn that the young women needed something different than the young men. Nonetheless, the time and the space in development were necessary. At Cornerstone, I have been looking for the opportunity to revive these ministries.

While attending the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for our BSA Troop 19 in September, where five boys became Eagle Scouts, a Scout executive made the statement that

he wanted to recruit more youth for scouting. And in classic "Pastor Liz" form, I asked "what can the church do?" Sharing my feelings of starting a troop to serve a more diverse group is my most immediate vision, and I pitched the idea to the Scout executives for Yankee Council. They met with me that week. It has been long determined that there needed to be another troop in Norwalk that served more of the youth from South and East Norwalk, but past efforts have not been very successful.

Because of the cultural context and diverse support, the program must meet the needs of a diverse multiethnic community. When the Scout Executives reviewed the Timothy Project, they thought this could be the piece that makes it all work. Especially with the political and social climate in which young men and women of color are under attack in this country, this would be a solution to meet their need that current institutions and programs have not been able to fulfill.

Coach Eric Brantley, District Executive for Yankee Council, has taken a personal stand in making sure these troops get started and are successful. His counterpart James Patterson, District Executive for lower Fairfield County, has been working with me in setting up the Charter, recruiting adult leaders, and preparing to recruit students. The Norwalk Chief of Community Development, Mr. Lamond Daniels, has also been instrumental in providing support and community networks to help make this successful. Andy Gayton of Cornerstone, Eric Fischman of Temple Beth-El, Doug Bell and Jalin Sead of the 1st Taxing District, have all made a commitment to work with the youth and leaders of the new Scout troops.

We are proposing three new troops: Cub Scouts (Male/Female), BSA Troop for Girls, and BSA Troop for Boys. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to contact me. The entire church is welcomed to come and support this ministry through witness, time, gifts, and presence. The newly formed Church and Society Committee will be taking on this ministry as a priority under their leadership.

Reopening Our Building by Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel

Cornerstone has been given the green light from our District Superintendent for Reopening the Church. The guidelines that we have submitted have been approved. However, with the numbers for cases increasing, I am not in a rush to get us back in the building for worship. The building will be open with stringent guidelines in place and reserved rooms for any meetings or ministry to happen.



Our Reopening Guidelines are available on the Cornerstone website (come2cornerstone.com), to view prior to coming to church. A Google sign-up form has been created for volunteers and attendance in the church.

Tracing contacts is essential, so please make sure to sign up before you come. All of our outside groups will have a new user agreement form to sign that requires them to follow the guidelines set forth by the CDC and UMC. Since we are still unaware of the full effects of COVID-19, we encourage you to continue to wear your face covering, wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds, and practice social distancing, even when wearing a mask.

To Request a Blessing Box...

While the majority of boxes will be distributed to local agencies, for distribution to families in need, we don't want to ignore our own immediate church family and any needs we may have. Each box contains 30 to 40 lbs. of food.



Please contact the church office to order your box for pick-up. Call 203-866-3707 or email office@come2cornerstone.org. Further details on pick-up date and location will follow, once you order the box.

The expenses for this program are shared by several community organizations. Donations are gratefully accepted. You may write a check to the Cornerstone Community Church and show "Blessing Boxes" on the memo line or donate through Venmo using @Come2Cornerstone.

News from This Year's New York Annual Conference



The Annual Conference of the NYAC was held virtually the weekend of October 24. The NYAC published the following statement to describe what would take place:

Full Session – Clergy and Laity – Saturday, October 24 at 1:00pm

“In this abbreviated annual conference session there will be no petitions or resolutions, as there are no legislative sessions. Only the necessary items such as budget, pension, and equitable compensation will be reported. There will be worship and recognition of those who have died during this last year. Korean and Spanish translation will be provided and sessions will be live-captioned.”

Jay Silvester, our delegate to Annual Conference, reported that Bishop Bickerton gave an inspiring sermon relating our current pandemic state to the Hebrews wandering in the desert for 40 years. He stressed the importance of keeping your faith in uncertain times just as the Hebrews continued to walk neck deep through the Red Sea until it parted.

Jay also noted the following from the presentation by the Commission on Finance and Administration:

- Apportionments: Received 47% this year as compared to 57% last year
- Adjustment to Apportionment for churches would require a vote before the NYAC
- Youth ministry position eliminated in June 2021

You may read the full reports here: <https://www.nyac.com/eventdetail/14135170>

A few highlights of interest to us are:

- Work continues on being more accessible for people with disability.
- UMM theme for 2019 – 2020 was “Men on Fire for God.”
- UMW celebrated 150 year anniversary

The Asian Council discussed the fact that the Asian ministries of New York Annual Conference did not reflect the diverse Asian demographics represented within the geography of New York Annual Conference. In addition, the group questioned the readiness of NYAC for the changing climate of the world and the future ministry needs of the Asian communities.

Black Methodists for Church Renewal, led by Rev. Sheila Beckford, have a very intensive, very important report that is worth reading in full.

<https://www.nyac.com/connectional-ministries-and-ministries-of-nurture>

Here are a few excerpts:

We must dismantle the ways in which our denomination has been complicit in maintaining, and in some cases promoting, systemic racism and white privilege as the way to affirming and living out “scriptural holiness.”

Black and Brown pastors experience abuse when appointed to Cross-Cultural/Cross-Racial appointments and are required to teach their abusers to be anti-racist.

We are conscious of a long history of good sentiments, intentions, and spoken commitments being offered without tangible fruit as a result.

Include anti-racism training for all predominantly White congregations to be completed and presented to the next called session of the New York Annual Conference.

We, the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, cannot continue to give lip service. We do not want cheap grace in the form of empty promises and apologies.

The Connectional Ministries Vision Table, led by Rev. Matt Curry, Dir. of Connectional Ministries

Our journey together brought us face to face with the stark truth that racism continues to be a clear and present danger in our midst, and our church has entered into the fray. Speculation about what the denomination will look like after General Conference has subsided, to be replaced with intentional efforts to bring hope, justice, and peace in the wake of the violent responses to the mistreatment and deaths of so many of our brothers and sisters of color.

CORPORATE REPORTS

Board of Trustees, James W. Perkins, President. Excerpts:

South Norwalk UMC Fund. This fund is now overseen by the Cabinet and contains money received from the sale of the South Norwalk UMC Parsonage in 2009 and the South Norwalk UMC Church in 2014. The funds are to be used to support current and future UMC ministries in the South Norwalk, CT area. It is now under management of the Frontier Foundation and the indication that the account value has gone to \$0 reflects this transfer.

Opening balance of the fund: \$1,836,913; Year-end balance: \$0.

Danke Trust Fund. In 2011, a probate court transferred to the Conference a prior bequest that had been made to the First UMC in South Norwalk. At the time of transfer, the bequest of Herman M. Danke was valued at approximately \$600,000. The trust makes required minimum distribution of 4.75% of average market values or approximately \$25,000-\$30,000 annually. Opening balance of the fund: \$574,024; Year-end balance: \$654,195.85.

Properties in which the Conference holds a legal reverter (renewal/end date):

Stained glass windows at First UMC, South Norwalk, CT (2014-2021)



And, of course, the BIG NEWS is that our Pastor, Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel, was confirmed for ordination this year. The ordination service for all the candidates took place on November 15. We will celebrate her on November 22.

Jacqueline Dayton: 1935–2020



Jacqueline Violet Watson Dayton, 84, passed away on October 2, 2020. Jackie was born in Norwalk on October 19, 1935, and she was a lifelong Norwalk resident.

She was a graduate of Norwalk High School and New Britain's Teacher's College (now Central Connecticut State University), and earned her Master's degree in Education at Fairfield University.

Jackie was a kindergarten and elementary school teacher for over 25 years at Honeyhill and Tracey Schools in Norwalk. She was known for her warm smile, her unwavering patience, her extraordinary kindness, her beautiful singing voice, and her love of children. Jackie's former students – now adults – regularly recognized her on the street and would recall their days in her classroom with incredible fondness.

Although her memory and health were failing for years, her joy for life and indomitable spirit kept her pushing forward. Jackie radiated warmth to all whom she met. To know her was to love her. However, Jackie's greatest love was for her family and she always described the moment her grandchild Jade was born as the happiest moment of her life. Jade was Jackie's love and joy.

She attended East Avenue United Methodist Church from age 3 until June, 2016, when it merged with Norwalk United Methodist Church to become Cornerstone Community Church. She was a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Church choir throughout her life.

Jackie was predeceased by her husband, Harold T. Dayton, Jr., on February 13, 2000. She is survived by her children, Deborah Dayton of Norwalk and Keith Dayton of Wilton, and her granddaughter Jade Violet and Jade's mother Tracy Lee Dayton. She is also survived by her siblings, Herbert Watson, Jr., Wayne Watson, and Kathleen Watson.

Jackie's loss will be deeply felt not only by her family, but by her many cherished friends and her extended family.

A memorial service to honor her life will be held in the Spring. Please consider honoring her memory with a donation to the Alzheimer's Association (Norwalk CT), Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (Manhattan) or Wildlife in Crisis (Weston CT).

Excerpted from *The Hour*, Oct. 8, 2020



Access the Upper Room Online!

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/3iCgLyO>

**Listen By Phone (free during
the pandemic):**

<https://bit.ly/2O3E1YD>

Read the blog:

<https://bit.ly/3fci5WU>

Stay connected with your faith and with Cornerstone through:

- come2cornerstone.org
- facebook.com/come2cornerstone
- **Twitter:** @come2ccc
- **Instagram:** come2cornerstone

Dora Mae White, R.N. ("LaLa"): 1925–2020



Dora Mae Cromley White, 95, of Norwalk, CT, passed away on October 19, 2020, at her home, surrounded by her loving family, after a brief illness. Born in Norwalk on March 18, 1925, she was a graduate of Norwalk High School Class of 1942 and Norwalk Hospital Nursing School in 1946, affiliated with Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, and was a Nurse Cadet during WWII. She was employed as a Registered Nurse by Dr. Harold Genvert, Dr. Thomas Ippolito and Dr. Donald Leone, all who practiced in Norwalk.

She met the love of her life Robert M. White, Sr., after WWII, and they were married for 67 years before his passing. Dora was a long time member of the East Avenue United Methodist Church where she taught Sunday school, was a member of the choir, and head of the Mission Committee for 20 years. She was responsible for organizing the annual Red Cross Blood Drive and also organized the first Marrow Match Donation Drive. She enjoyed time with her family most of all, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, also traveling to many places, but her favorite place was Cape Cod. She loved singing to her grandchildren, making crafts, and being by the water.

Dora is survived by her daughter, Pamela White (Urban) and son, Robert (Carolyn) White Jr., and their families.

The family would like to extend its deepest appreciation and thanks to Dr. V Varadarajan and the staff of Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Fairfield County who have been extraordinarily compassionate and kind during Dora's illness.

A Celebration of Life was held on Thursday, October 22, at 2:00 pm, at Cornerstone Community Church, 718 West Avenue, Norwalk. Interment followed at Riverside Cemetery, 81 Riverside Avenue, Norwalk. Collins Funeral Home.

Excerpted from *The Hour*, Oct. 21, 2020



Please pray for: Amber Fogarty Bobwich, Suki John, Scott Trowbridge, Beverly Sweeney, Georgette Williams, Ed Sisson, Lillian Webb, Lorie Kristof, Jim

Wilson, Fred Anderson, Franklin and Evet Roberts, Lynn Russo Whyly's brother Tommy, and friends Kenn and Camey, and Jo, Todd's friend Susan Lyons, Betty Bardes' great-grandson Brinley, Chris Radu 's mother Shirley Lewis, Owen and Cheryl Mehle's friend Charles Marcucci, Claire Odiermo, James Sampson, Chris Chang, Kon Swee Chen, Ludi Gabagat's sister Corazon Capilitan, Patty Quick Wise and Tony Wise with COVID-19, family of Jackie Dayton, family of Dora White, family of Roseann Pepe's sister Kathleen, Jennifer Trowbridge's friend Ernie Young

4 WAYS TO GIVE TO CORNERSTONE:

By Mail:
Cornerstone Community Church
Attention: Gwen Hong
718 West Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer):
Download the form from the Friday blast

Venmo: Search for @Come2Cornerstone

Online: Add Cornerstone as a payee through your online banking

At the Corner

"Our Cornerstone Early Learning Center greatly needs sanitizing supplies. When you order or shop for your groceries or pharmacy items, please also pick up sanitizing wipes and/or spray to donate to CELC. They must do a complete cleaning every day. Thank you for your help."



Cornerstone Early Learning Center

718 West Ave Norwalk Ct 203-831-8349

Full Time/Part Time Full Year Childcare

Ages 6 weeks - 5 years old

Mon-Fri 7:30am to 5:30pm

We have immediate openings for

Infants, 2's, Preschool

We accept Care 4 Kids

**Following Office of Early Childhood and CDC cleaning
and sanitizing procedures daily**

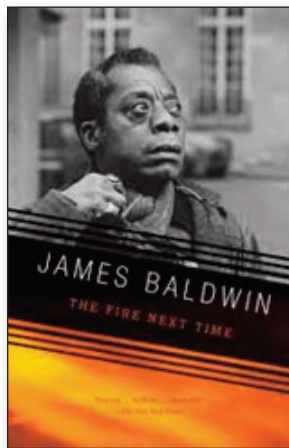
CELC is State Licensed

Staff members are CPR/First Aid Certified

Director: Debra Horton

www.happykidsatcelc.com

CELC children got into the Halloween spirit by painting pumpkins!



One Book One Community: The Fire Next Time By Pastor Elizabeth Abel

On September 30, I had the distinct privilege of sitting on the panel of moderators for the Norwalk Public Library – SoNo Branch – “One Book One Community” event. The other panel moderators were Elijah Manning, Jalin Sead, Farrah Marin, Norwalk Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Alexandra Estrella, and Connecticut House Representative Brandon McGee.

Once we worked around all of our schedules, we collaborated on Zoom to develop a format for the discussion, by each raising five questions that were inspired from our reading of the book. Then, collectively, we were able to identify the themes that were raised and hone in on a solid seven questions for the discussion. The discussion we had during our planning time together

resonated during the public discussion.

We were joined by Karen Thorsen, a close friend of Mr. Baldwin and lead curator for the James Baldwin Foundation. She brought Mr. Baldwin into our conversation as having a personal friendship with him. Our discussion was so rich and engaged the audience in such honest dialogue that we were unable to finish the planned discussion and presented a part two of the discussion on November 12th.

Observations from the Audience by Nancy Kenworthy

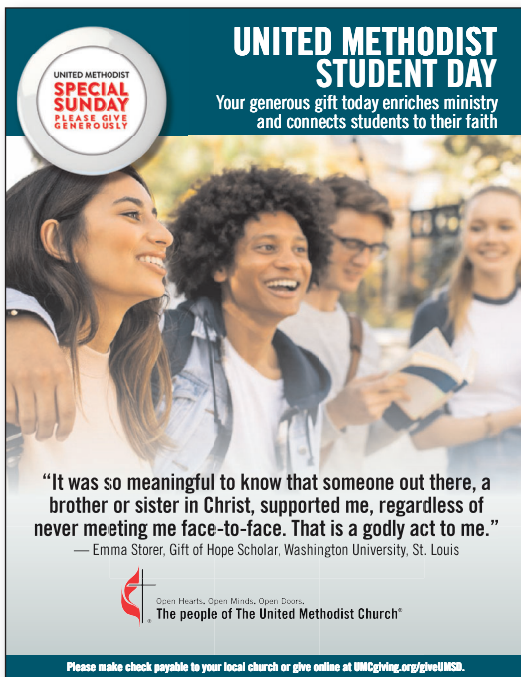
Hearing the commentary and insights of these distinguished panelists was indeed a “rich and engaging” experience, as Pastor Liz said above, on many levels. All of them are working with passion and energy to improve life for underserved and marginalized people, here among us, in Norwalk. It was a revelation and an inspiration to learn of their work as well as their perceptions relating to James Baldwin’s writing. Jalin Sead on the sense of disenfranchisement and hopelessness of young Black men regarding voting; Elijah Manning on efforts to correct school curricula to include the immense contributions of non-white people; Farrah Marin on her dedication as a social worker to bring about healing and to honor her ancestors; Dr. Estrella on commitment to specific plans to reach every child and to be a school system fully reaching out to the community; and of course, our Pastor, who is doing so much to feed the bodies as well as the souls of hundreds of hungry people, provided a renewal of faith in what people working for the good of all, beyond themselves, can accomplish.

Questions included: “What would Norwalk be like if there were no Black people here?” Panelists noted that there are neighborhoods in Norwalk now, where there are no Black people, and where they are looked at with suspicion if they show up in those places. Or: “where do Black people belong?” With some surprise at the question, all agreed that the only acceptable answer was, “everywhere.” Elijah Manning quoted an African proverb: “If you want to move fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.”

United Methodist Student Day is November 29, 2020

Even before this financial and health crisis, college had become an unrealistic hope for many students. The burden of taking on prohibitive amounts of debt can feel overwhelming. It limits bright, qualified students from bringing their full selves into professions to which they feel called.

When we support United Methodist students today, we not only give them a financial boost to help them realize their dreams; we also we give them a spiritual boost, helping them to recognize that the church has confidence in them and in their gifts.



The graphic features a circular logo on the left with the text "UNITED METHODIST SPECIAL SUNDAY PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY". To the right, the text reads "UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY" and "Your generous gift today enriches ministry and connects students to their faith". Below this is a photograph of four diverse young adults smiling. A quote from Emma Storer is included: "It was so meaningful to know that someone out there, a brother or sister in Christ, supported me, regardless of never meeting me face-to-face. That is a godly act to me." The logo for "The people of The United Methodist Church" is at the bottom, along with the website UMCgiving.org/giveUMSD.

This offering helps to send United Methodist students into the world with justice-seeking, healing and compassionate values that have been instilled in them over the years.

When the church comes together to serve our students, we partner with God. We pray for students while putting our prayers into action through this special offering.

Please write your check to your local church with "UMSD" written on the memo line and send to the church office, or use electronic giving.

Dia del Estudiante Metodista Unido, el 29 de noviembre de 2020

La carga de asumir cantidades prohibitivas de deuda puede ser agobiante. Puede limitar a los estudiantes

brillantes y calificados de traer su propio ser a las profesiones a las que se sienten llamados.

Cuando apoya a los estudiantes metodistas unidos no solo les está dando un estímulo financiero para ayudarles a realizar sus sueños, sino que también les da un estímulo espiritual, donde reconocen que la iglesia confía en ellos y en sus talentos.

Esta ofrenda ayuda a enviar a los estudiantes de La Iglesia Metodista Unida al mundo con valores de búsqueda de justicia, sanidad y compasión que se les han inculcado a lo largo de los años.

Cuando la iglesia se une para servir a nuestros estudiantes, apoyamos la obra de Dios. Oremos por los estudiantes mientras ponemos nuestra fe en acción a través de esta ofrenda especial.

Por favor, escriba un cheque a nombre de su iglesia local con "UMSD" escrito en la línea de memo.

Attend Lay Servant School!

NY-CT Lay Servant Committee reached out to Pastor Liz to lead the Lay Servant Ministries Basic Course, via Zoom, this fall. The Basic Lay Servant Ministry Course offers an opportunity for all members of the church to explore, study, and open doors in your faith journey. Our faith journey is always changing, and NOW is the perfect opportunity to see where God is calling you. Lay Servant Ministries is the initial first step for many laypersons toward their faith journey as they strive for a closer relationship with the Lord. It is where laypersons go from being Sunday worshippers to becoming confident leaders in local churches.



The Ministries of Lay Servanthood are Leading, Caring, and Communicating. For this session, Pastor Liz has nine students from around the NY-CT District, five of whom are from Cornerstone, including one youth, our very own Daniel Silvester.

The District Lay Servant Coordinator is Jackie White, who coordinates and maintains all records of the Certified Lay Servants. The new graduates are recognized at the District Conference and approved every year at our Church Conference. This course is made available every year and is open to all members and potential members.

Actually this course could be used to develop leaders and welcome new members to any congregation, and even be used to help support small group development. After the basic course is completed, students are invited to participate in advanced courses to become certified lay servants in the district. To remain certified, laypersons need to stay in coursework regularly, taking a course at least once every five years.

If you are interested in more information please reach out to the church office. Or visit UMCDiscipleship.org.



Laity Sunday

On October 20, we observed Laity Sunday, with participation by our lay members. Recent graduates of the Basic Lay Servant Course, taught by Pastor Liz, participated. Jay Silvester led music, as always. Daniel Silvester read scripture, and Amy Silvester delivered a wonderful sermon on the Economy of God. She described economics as a discipline intended to help those who are underprivileged – not the description we always think of for that area of study. In God's economy, she said, the Fruits of the Spirit are the products that we need to cultivate. Investing in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control is what will bring the kingdom of God into our midst, where justice and health exist for everyone equally. Thank you, laypersons, for your contributions.

On October 20, Cornerstone held its annual Church Conference presided over by our District Superintendent, Rev. Tim Riss. Here is the slate of officers and committee members we elected for the year 2021.

NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Church Council

Chairperson	Jay Silvester
Pastor	Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel
Secretary	Nancy Kenworthy
Lay Leader(s)	Pat Bobwich, Amy Silvester
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Jay Silvester
Membership Secretaries	Cleotilde "Ludi" Gabagat, Arlene Trowbridge
Church Treasurer	Gwen Hong
Chairperson of Finance	Andrew Trowbridge
Chairperson of PPRC	Glenn Gabagat
Chairperson of Trustees	Bruce Root (to be re-elected 2021)
Chairperson of Worship	Lyra Richards
Young Adult Representation	Sara Pernek, Christina Wyclif
Youth Representative	Joanna Gentle, Laquasha Belle
Financial Secretary	Lynn Russo Whyllly
Certified Lay Servants	Nancy Kenworthy
Members at Large	Carol Solheim, Cheryl Mehle, Patricia Yarnold, Todd Faus, Megan Krois, Emily Wallmann, Bob Miller, Merary Cardona

Board of Trustees

2021	2022	2023
Tony D'Andrea	Bruce Root	James Hong
R. "Andy" Gayton	Carol Solheim	Cheryl Mehle
Andrew Trowbridge	Merary Cardona	Louis Gabel

Pastor Parish Relations Committee Ex-Officio: Pat Bobwich

2021	2022	2023
Lyra Richards	Frantz Telo	Annaliese Hersom
	Emily Gayton	Glenn Gabagat

Nominations & Leadership Development Ex-Officio: Amy Silvester, Lay Leader

2021	2022	2023
Lynn Russo Whyllly	Todd Faus	Ludi Gabagat
Amy Silvester		Sasha James

Finance Committee (BOD, 258.4)

Chairperson	Andrew Trowbridge
Vice Chairperson	
Financial Secretary	Lynn Russo Whyllly
Secretary:	Carol Solheim
Treasurer:	Gwen Hong

The Finance Committee is made up of the following Church members: Lay Member to Annual Conference, Chairperson of Church Council, Chairperson of PPRC, Trustee Representative, Stewardship Representative, Lay Leader, Church Business Administrator, and others as the Church Conference determines.

Ministry of Nurture: Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel

Cornerstone Early Learning Center Board: Carol Solheim, Rhonda Mitchell, Peggyann Diaz, Debra Horton

Education: Amy Silvester, Joyce Kenworthy

Membership: Ludi Gabagat, Arlene Trowbridge, Frantz Telo, Nancy Kenworthy

Worship: Jay Silvester, Lyra Richards, Frantz Telo, Ludi Gabagat, Todd Faus

Ministry of Outreach: Pat Bobwich

Communications: Jay Silvester, Lynn Russo Whyllly, Nancy Kenworthy, Carol Solheim

Feeding Ministry

Community Thanksgiving Luncheon : Jay Silvester, Jessie McGarty, Cheryl Mehle, Pat Bobwich, Emily Gayton, Merary Cardona

Blessing Boxes: Christina Wyclif, Andy Gayton

Compassion: Bob Mlller, Ludi Gabagat, Frantz Telo, Arlene Trowbridge

Church and Society (Justice/Advocacy): Nancy Kenworthy, Jay Silvester, Emily Gayton, Andy Gayton, Joy Richards, Jennifer Finley Brown, Amy Silvester

Missions: Arlene Trowbridge, Carolyn Einstman, John Einstman

Scouting: Bruce Root, Tony D'Andrea, Andy Gayton

Stewardship: Cheryl Mehle, Pat Bobwich, Jeannine Howard, Amy Silvester, Patricia Yarnold, Gwen Hong

United Methodist Men: Jay Silvester, President

United Methodist Women Representatives: Cheryl Mehle, Ludi Gabagat, Amy Silvester

Ministry of Witness: Amy Silvester

Evangelism: Todd Faus, Bob Miller

History: Patricia Yarnold, John Einstman, Merary Cardona, Lyra Richards

Hospitality: Emily Gayton, Gwen Hong, James Hong, Emily Wallmann



All Saints Day: November 1, 2020

On Sunday, November 1, we celebrated communion and paid tribute to our saints who had entered the Church Triumphant during this past year.

Georgianna Bolton	Lourdes Gonzago	Susan Maddox	Katrina Spicer
Alice Buono	Helen Headley	Grete Nyrop	Frank Waters
Karen Crossett	Dawn Hill	Thomasine O'Grady	Charles White
Jacqueline Dayton	Betty Kestenbaum	Randy Romano	Dora White
Ruth D'Andrea	Eddie Lasouski	Ron Secchi, Sr.	Barbara Wilson
Barbara Farrington	Jacqueline Lubell	Mary Skibek	

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

To make a Christmas memorial gift to lift up someone dear to you, please use the form below and place it in the offering plate or bring to the church office by December 14. The cost for each gift starts at \$15.00.

You may contribute to the music fund, or you may fund a poinsettia for a homebound person. Of course, you may do more than one.

Poinsettias will be delivered to homebound persons after Christmas, unless you indicate that you want to keep yours. Please indicate your desire here:

Taking my flowers: _____

Leaving my flowers: _____

Memorials will be printed in the Friday News Blast at the end of December.

Give my memorial contribution to the:

___ Music Fund ___ Outreach Fund ___ for the Homebound

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

Or

In honor of: _____



ALMOST CHRISTMAS

A WESLEYAN
ADVENT EXPERIENCE



Rev. Elizabeth C. Abel, Pastor
Present

Almost Christmas

An Advent Preaching Series

Begins November 29, 2020

Book: \$10.49
Purchase through the Church Office
by
November 23, 2020
203-866-3707



**HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY AND CONGREGATION SAFE.
PLEASE FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES BELOW AT ALL TIMES:**



WASH YOUR HANDS

- 1 Wet** 
- 2 Get Soap** 
- 3 Scrub for at least 20 seconds** 
- 4 Rinse** 
- 5 Dry** 



cdc.gov/coronavirus

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>22 10:00a Cornerstone Bilingual Worship on Zoom 12:00p-2:00p Community Thanksgiving Luncheon 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Lyra Richards</p>	<p>23 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Carolyn Einstman</p>	<p>24 1:00p Corporate Prayer 7:00p Nominations and Leadership Development Mtg. on Zoom</p> <p>Birthdays: Susan Maddox</p>	<p>25 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:00p Bible study on Zoom</p> <p>Birthdays: Marge Appleby</p>	<p>26 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>  <p>HAPPY THANKSGIVING CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>28 12:00p Disciple Bible Study on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>
<p>29 10:00a Cornerstone Bilingual Worship on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Chuck Pennington</p>	<p>30 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>1 DECEMBER 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>2 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:00p Bible study on Zoom</p>	<p>3 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>4 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Lynn Russo Whyly</p>	<p>5 12:00p Disciple Bible Study on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>
<p>6 10:00a Cornerstone Bilingual Worship on Zoom w/at-home communion 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>7 1:00p Corporate Prayer 7:00p Trustees Mtg. on Zoom</p>	<p>8 1:00p Corporate Prayer 7:00p Finance Committee Mtg. on Zoom</p>	<p>9 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:00p Bible study on Zoom</p>	<p>10 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Frantz Telo</p>	<p>11 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>12 12:00p Disciple Bible Study on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Owen Mehle</p>
<p>13 10:00a Cornerstone Bilingual Worship on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>14 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>15 1:00p Corporate Prayer 7:00p Council Mtg. on Zoom</p> <p>Birthdays: Georgette Williams / Max Alston</p>	<p>16 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:00p Bible study on Zoom</p>	<p>17 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>18 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>19 12:00p Disciple Bible Study on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>
<p>20 10:00a Cornerstone Bilingual Worship on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>21 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>	<p>22 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>Birthdays: Andy Trowbridge</p>	<p>23 1:00p Corporate Prayer 6:00p Bible study on Zoom</p>	<p>24 1:00p Corporate Prayer X:00p Christmas Eve Service on Zoom</p>	<p>25 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p> <p>MERRY CHRISTMAS! FELIZ NAVIDAD!</p> 	<p>26 12:00p Disciple Bible Study on Zoom 1:00p Corporate Prayer</p>

At the Corner



718 West Ave.
Norwalk, CT 06850

Andy Gayton and Andy Trowbridge Have Been Busy!

They rehung both the quilt in the Upper Room and the shelf in the kitchen!

