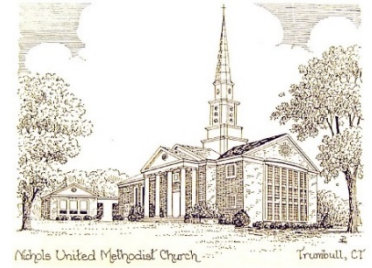


The Carillon

Nichols UMC

Volume Number 45, Issue Number 2

February 2022



Love, Not Just on Valentine's Day! – by Judy Lang – CLM

NIV Matthew 22:37-39 – Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself”.

NIV John 15:12 – My command is this, Love each other as I have loved you.

February 14th is Valentine's Day. This is an opportunity to show friends and family that we love them and give a card and chocolates in a heart-shaped box. This is nice, but love is so much more than a card and chocolate. We are called to love God with our heart, our soul, and our mind! This is agape love, which is a commitment of devotion directed by the will. It is both a choice and commanded as a duty. We are to love with our whole being without expecting anything in return! This is much more than a card and chocolate candy! It is a lifetime commitment!

This might sound overwhelming, but don't worry. With God's help we can take this love seriously and live into it. God loves us so much that Jesus came into the world as a baby, grew into a man, called His disciples, shared His ministry with those He met and then died to save us from ourselves and our sins! Jesus is committed to all of us. We need to be committed to this relationship and be truly invested in Him as Jesus is invested in us.

When we become members of the church, we take a vow to support it with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. We are to love Jesus Christ and the church, the tangible presence of God. We come here to sing praises to God and listen to a message of hope, love, peace, and commitment. We get involved in the ministries to help people within and beyond the doors of the church building. This is what the love of God looks like, and it takes ALL of us to make it truly happen!

We love our God, our Savior, our Holy Spirit, our family, and our neighbor, and we know God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit love us as well. We have the opportunity, and the responsibility, to witness about this love to those we meet each day. As we love each person individually, we live into the vow of our church membership in a tangible way. Maybe we should give each new church member a Valentine's card and a heart-shaped box of chocolates. We are loved by our God, our Savior, our Holy Spirit and our church family! Let us show this love to each other in return! Amen!

~Judy Lang, Certified Lay Minister



Seeing God at Work Today

The Lenten Devotional Booklet is coming soon!

Booklets will be available at church starting Sunday, February 27th. If you would rather receive the daily devotional by email, please email numccarillon@yahoo.com by February 21st to sign up. Starting March 2nd, those who sign up will receive an email each day during Lent with the current day's devotion.



Sunday Bible Study 8:45 - 9:30am on Zoom

This study is taught by David Preusch and focuses on the books of I & II Kings. Please note the time has been adjusted to allow people to attend this study online and still attend worship in person if so desired. This story begins with King Solomon and a unified powerful and influential Israel, which slowly unravels and culminates into a divided kingdom. It is relevant for us today as we live in such divisive times. This is an inclusive group study, and no preparation is required, just bring your Bible. The link for this study may be accessed by clicking here: [I & II Kings Study](#) OR Dial in: (646)-568-7788, Meeting ID: 924 8616 1829.

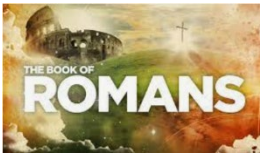


Peace & Prayer: Mid-Week Time of Devotion Zoom - Wednesdays 11:30-

11:45am - Every Wednesday Judy Lang hosts a brief time of devotion and prayer via Zoom. During this time of pandemic and crisis, this will be an opportunity to spend about 15 minutes centering ourselves in reflective thought and prayer. The link for this mid-week

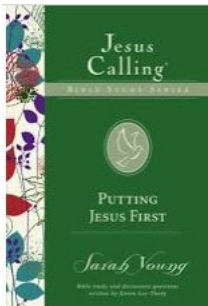
centering time can be accessed by clicking here: [Peace & Prayer Midweek Time of Devotion](#) OR Dial in: (646)-876-9923, Meeting ID: 366 149 7977, Password: 35#.

Word & Coffee 9-10am on Zoom



Pastor David continues the study on the book Romans through February 17th. Each week we will meet on Zoom, open in prayer, read the passage, and discuss what we have learned/questioned during our reading and reflection. All are welcome, and you may join any week. If you would like to attend, please email Pastor David

pastordavidnumc@snet.net. NOTE: a recorded version will also available upon request.



8 Week Study *Putting Jesus First* -Via Zoom:

Tuesday Evenings 7-8pm - Beginning February 22nd OR

Thursday Mornings, 9-10am - Beginning February 24th

Pastor David will be leading a new Lenten study *Putting Jesus First*. This study, from the author Sarah Young who wrote *Jesus Calling*, will explore what it means to place Christ first in every part of your life-and rely on Him in the busy times, anxious times, uncertain times, and lonely times. Please contact Carole Chameides no later than Monday, February 7th at

nicholsmethodist@snet.net or 203-375-5817 to **make a reservation so we can order enough**

study books (if able, an \$8 donation is asked to cover costs).



We're looking forward to Valentine's Day, Super Bowl Sunday, and more than anything else, a great month of Children's Ministry. Our 4-week series will focus on Jesus' teachings from the New Testament. We're calling it **OPPOSITE DAY**. Up is down, right is left and cold is hot. It sounds impossible to believe that struggles bring us closer to Jesus or that our enemies can teach us about love. All month we will be celebrating these beautiful opposites which will remind us all that a God we can't see is always with us and that it is better to follow Jesus than our own instincts. **Happy Opposite Day!**

Our Memory Verse for February:

II Corinthians 12:9a *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"*

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to travel on this faith journey with you and your families.

~Debbie Redin & Madison Mascola

NUMC Youth Group

January was filled with virtual meets only. It is always nice to see each other, even if it's only through a computer screen. Thanking God for modern technology! Until further notice we will continue to meet virtually. Planning is underway for the March retreat. It is my hope and prayer that we can participate, but as of yet, it is still undecided. If you would like to join us, the dates are March 11th - 13th at Lake Champion in New York. The cost to participate is \$180 per student. I need a response and payment by February 27th. This is open to students in both Middle School and High School. For more information on this please see below. Stay tuned for February happenings in the Nichols Notes and in my e-mails. I would like to do a family ski trip in February or March and would love to hear your thoughts on that. If you have any good & creative ways that we can get together or if you would like to be a part of my weekly updates just let me know and I can add you to the email list. Be safe, be healthy, be happy.

General description of Winter Weekend - 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 which 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.

A Note on Covid - We understand there is a lot of news surrounding the spread of Covid at the moment. There are varying levels of concern and differing opinions on the course the virus will take. Our position will have to be in line with Young Life's camp policy and will take into account each church's position to find the best common ground. We think it's prudent to wait till we are closer to the retreat date to determine our policy. We will be sure to have it prior to February 27th which is the last day to register.

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



God's Good Gifts – Stewardship 2022

Our 2022 Stewardship campaign theme is God's Good Gifts. God has given us many good gifts that have been entrusted to us. We are invited to share them with each other and the broken world in which we live. While our campaign concluded with Dedication Sunday on January 23rd, 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 2022. ~Blessings, Your Stewardship Committee



Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting the ministries of Jesus Christ at Nichols UMC. Just like last year, 2021 was a very challenging year for all of us. As expected, the pandemic caused us to close our building for in-person worship for a significant portion of the year and resulted in offerings that were significantly lower than budgeted. While we did experience some savings, our ministry costs exceeded our offerings by just over \$15,000. However, we were able to use some of our surplus from 2020 to cover the shortfall and avoid a deficit. God's blessings and your faithfulness are clearly evident. As has been the case for the last few years, we establish our anticipated budget based on our expected ministry spending, knowing that our stewardship campaign doesn't begin until January. Below is the preliminary budget for 2022 which shows there are some challenges ahead of us. The income is based on what we received this year, so we are hopeful that our pledges and giving exceed that number so that we can avoid the projected deficit. Our leadership will continue to work together to be good stewards of what God gives us through your generosity. As always remember our financial giving as well as our work continues to honor God here at NUMC. ~The Finance Committee

Nichols UMC 2021 Financial Results & 2022 Preliminary Budget

	'21 Budget	'21 Actual	'22 Budget
Pledge & Other Congregational Giving	\$361,401	\$338,900	\$339,920
MDO Offering & All Other Income	24,050	13,969	17,550
Total Offering & Income	\$385,451	\$352,869	\$357,470
Building, Maintenance, & Utilities	\$98,420	\$93,100	\$90,120
Pastor & Staff Costs	209,751	205,511	216,131
Ministries & Missions	18,700	14,043	15,425
NYAC Ministry Allocation	48,385	48,385	48,714
All Other Expenses	10,195	7,064	9,250
Total Expenses	\$385,451	\$368,103	\$379,640
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$0	(\$15,234)	(\$22,170)
Reserves from 2020 Surplus	\$0	\$15,234	\$0
Net Surplus/Deficit	\$0	\$0	\$0

Baptism

Grant Franklin Rockwell, son of Joshua & Marcie Rockwell, was baptized on January 8th.

Condolences

Our condolences and prayers go with the family of Herbert Wry, a former member, who died on December 18th. A memorial service will be held at Nichols UMC on May 21st.

NUMC Body and Soul Yoga Tuesdays 7:30-8:45pm in Fellowship Hall



As much as it's difficult to head out when the winds are howling and the temps are frigid, Laurie promises to bring her best to her teaching so that you leave the class warm, glowing, relaxed, and stress-free. Laurie Trupp, a Kripalu, certified yoga teacher for 17 years, will be teaching this class. The fee is \$12 per class or save \$2 a class by signing up for the series. A 7-week series starts February 1st. Please contact Janel Foote for more information: 203-521-1714 or ctjanel@gmail.com.

MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

Each Sunday there is a beautiful flower arrangement on the altar given to honor or remember someone in the church. After worship, these flowers are divided into 3 bouquets and delivered to 3 designated individuals who are either homebound, sick, or just need their day brightened. The recipients are in the greater Trumbull/Shelton area and the activity takes about 1-2 hours of time on a Sunday afternoon. When safe (no COVID issues) we can visit for a short while with the recipient. The people love getting these flowers! We need someone to coordinate finding volunteers to deliver the flowers each week after worship, as well as an expanded list of people to deliver the flowers. This is a very important ministry, and if you think you'd like to give it a try, to either deliver flowers or find folks to do it, please contact the church office and talk with Carole or contact me through email or phone call. My contact information is: judith.dasch.lang@gmail.com or 203-513-1448. I'd love to talk with you. Thank you in advance for considering helping the church in this important and special way. ~Judy Lang, Certified Lay Minister



Thanks to your willingness to participate, my mentor, Gail Sawicki, and I were able to deliver about 30 blankets to the Maefair Health Center just before Christmas. Thank you to all who participated and made my service project such a great learning experience. ~Jane Hall, Confirmand



Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County (that's Habitat CFC) is a nonprofit organization that builds communities and improves lives by eliminating sub-standard housing and creating affordable homeownership possibilities for families in Fairfield County. It has a well-earned reputation for success in creating homes for hard working, low income, tax-paying families. Habitat has been helping in Fairfield County for over 35 years, having built well over 200 homes helping over 1,000 family members. We are a part of Habitat for Humanity International. Habitat thanks Nichols for the support it has provided over the years. Please remember that there are ongoing opportunities to help; most important of course is providing financial support. But one can also help on site or volunteer at the ReStore. Contact Sandy Blanchard for information: 203-929-6489. Thank you for your support!



We hope all of you are caring for yourselves in the New Year, finding ways to eat healthy and exercise regularly. We will continue the following schedule:

BP Screening: On Hold

Grief Support Group: On Hold

FEBRUARY HEALTH TIP

Connecticut Department of Public Health Encourages Use of Updated CDC Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut Department of Public Health is recommending that residents follow the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention regarding isolation and quarantining for those infected with or exposed to COVID-19. DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD, said that given what is currently known about COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, the CDC is shortening the recommended time for isolation from 10 days for people with COVID-19 to five days. “This updated guidance shows the important role that data plays in shortening the duration of isolating for those diagnosed with COVID who are asymptomatic,” Commissioner Juthani said. “We have adopted a three-pronged approach to fighting this virus: vaccination, masking and testing. These simple steps are crucial in decreasing the risk of severe disease, hospitalization and death from COVID-19.” Commissioner Juthani added that residents needing a vaccine or booster, can visit ct.gov/covidvaccine to find a provider. The revised CDC information regarding isolation and quarantining guidelines includes:

For those who test positive for COVID-19:

- Stay home for five days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after five days, you can leave your house.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for five additional days.
- If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.

For those exposed to COVID-19:

If you are boosted, have received your first two Pfizer or Moderna doses in the last six months or your single J&J dose in the last two months:

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days
- Test on day five, if possible
- If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home

If you are unvaccinated, or are eligible for a booster and haven’t yet received one:

- Stay home for five days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for five additional days.
- If you can’t quarantine, you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day five if possible.
- If you develop symptoms, get a test and stay home

“Father, thank you for your truth. Help us to see what is important, what is eternal, and what is lasting...”

~Max Lucado

God Bless You All! Your Parish Nurses



February 1 Linda E. Lydiksen
February 1 D. Curtis Reed
February 3 Dana Garrow
February 4 Phoebe Monte
February 5 Joan S. Mehlhorn
February 6 Brenda Braun
February 7 Andre Kyrytschenko
February 7 Jim Lang
February 7 Carla Motyl
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 Lucy Orr
February 11 Evan Racette
February 11 Pamela Sevilla
February 12 Donna Harris
February 12 William Mills
February 13 Abigail Clark
February 13 Tom DiPinto
February 13 Errin Gaulin
February 14 Arthur Blanchard
February 14 Calla Hyland
February 15 James Coyne

February 15 Stevi Dineley
February 15 Carter Ouellette
February 16 Jeffrey Bruner
February 19 Joseph F. Marino
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 Juan C. Bianco
February 25 Steve Stoni
February 26 Matthew Greene
February 26 Lois Jones
February 26 Tyler O'Malley
February 27 Abigail Heaphy
February 27 Dorothy E. Schultz
February 28 Elvira Hansen

February 2022

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Nichols United Methodist Church

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Holly Piscatelli, Editor

Submit articles through

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DEADLINE FOR THE March 2022 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.

NUMW Fun February



The Nichols United Methodist Women cordially invites all men and women to our Fun February Program on Wednesday February 9th in Fellowship Hall. The program will feature our very own Carol Steinberg, "The Game Master", leading us in fun games and fellowship. We will gather at 10:45am for an 11am program. If you are not already on our calling list, you may make reservations by calling June Hoyt (475-319-2656) or Jan Moore (203-375-4636). All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Everyone could use a dose of laughter! Face masks are required, and if Trumbull Schools closed due to bad weather, we too will cancel.

Executive Board Meeting: Wednesday February 2nd at 9:45am, gather in the Lounge. The meeting will start promptly at 10am.