

# A VIEW FROM THE STEEPLE December 2009



The ***View from the Steeple*** is published monthly by The Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC.

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## *Ministerial Musings, December 2009*

One Sunday recently I talked (in passing) about the co-creative powers of God in three "persons". I talked specifically about the Sophia (WISDOM) tradition in the Hebrew Bible and Old Testament and about the Logos (WORD) tradition in the New Testament. "Logos" and "Sophia" are names given to the co-creative powers that, with God brought the world and creation into being, from the perspectives of different cultural traditions. In both the ancient Middle East and in ancient Greece, our spiritual parents (as we do now, and have throughout time) sought for creative and poetic ways to speak the larger-than-limits truth that God is beyond the boundaries within which we live a speak and move and have our being ~ that God's creative force, in all its deep mystery and profound majesty defies human comprehension ~ and is beyond us; has always been, is and will be creating. Deeply moving music, great works of art, performing arts that take into realms of deep thought and by which we are deeply moved, all are informed by Spirit, all are of Sophia and Logos.

It is easy to think in terms of greatness, majesty and mystery, Spirit, God, Logos, Sophia as though the go most naturally together. Many find it much harder to think that God is also made evident and real in simple expressions of common caring. Not all of us have a great work of art in us. However, made in the Image of God, we are all called to BE great works of art, and to make God's love real in the world around us.

I am taken with a piece written by Elizabeth Johnson in which she articulates and explores Sophia-energy. As you read this piece, please set it into the context of our denomination's call to us to understand that God is, indeed, still speaking ~ and if so, still creating, still calling, still being in our midst. Sophia, co-creative energy force with God is powerful...

"Hers is the power of person-making among those diminished by pain who do not know their own dignity;  
Hers the grace of conversion to turn from dead-end ways to walk the path of newness of life;  
Hers the light of conscience;  
Hers the power to shake up assured certainties and introduce the grace of a new question;  
Hers the strength to foment discomfort among the unduly comfortable;  
Hers the oil of comfort (cum + fortis, "making strong") known in experiences that heal refresh and invigorate;  
Hers the vigor that energizes the fire of active, out- going love, the creative power that knits us into life continuously and mends the torn fabric of our lives, forming in the process fine new and possibly surprising patterns."

From *She Who Is: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse* by Elizabeth A. Johnson New York: Crossroad, 1992

In this season of tender mystery, of searching for the "perfect gift" for those we love; let's us turn inward, away from blaring music and glittery gimmicks, to the silent, comforting and commanding presence before the "still small voice within...and become in our selves co-creators with God of a world in which God's WISDOM/Word is made real through us in the life of another ~

So may it be.

In faith,  
*Claire*



## POINSETTIA DONATION

Each year the Women's Federation accepts Poinsettia Donations providing our church family the opportunity to gift a Christmas Poinsettia Plant in honor of or in memory of loved ones. The Christmas Poinsettia Plants will beautify our sanctuary on Sunday, December 20, 2009. After the service all the plants will be delivered to persons who need to be remembered by the Church during the Christmas Season. The cost of each plant is \$10.00.

If you would like to gift a Poinsettia please complete a Poinsettia Donation form, making checks payable to The Women's Federation and turn into the Church Office on or prior to Sunday, December 13, 2009. Additional order forms are located on the table in the Narthex.

## 2009 POINSETTIA DONATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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In Loving Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to:  
The Women's Federation

Please send checks and completed forms to the Church Office at:  
130 West Main Street Plainville, CT 06062

**Deadline: Sunday, December 13, 2009**

Price: \$10.00 (No orders accepted without prepayment.)

All plants will be donated to persons who need to be remembered by the Church during the Christmas season.

# MISSION-SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE NEWS

**YOUR MSAC: Audrey, Carol, Joni, Mary, Pauline, Rinette, Robin, and Ruthe**



## **Covenant to Care for Children Christmas Wish Tree**

Again this year, we hope to make Christmas just a little brighter for the children of our “adopted” Covenant to Care for Children DCF social worker Lynn Ludwin. There is a Christmas tree in the narthex decorated with tags. Please take a tag, and then purchase the child’s Christmas wish. **Be sure to return the tag affixed to the wrapped or unwrapped gift on or before Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.** On the 13<sup>th</sup>, for unwrapped gifts, we will wrap the gifts following the morning worship service. Lynn will then deliver the Christmas gifts the following week, in time to make her young clients very, very happy. In advance, thank you for your warm, caring generosity.



## **Christmas Care Package Outreach for Webster Correctional Institution**

In last month’s *Steeple*, we published Rev. Carol Salka’s letter to our church. As the chaplain at the Webster Correctional Institution in Cheshire, Rev. Salka wrote to ask our church to participate in her annual Christmas Care Package Outreach for the inmates. Your Mission-Social Action Committee has placed a box in the narthex for collecting *only the items listed below*. Thank you for your donations.

**The last day for donating is Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.**

*As in past years, **we ask that you give only the items listed below.** Each Christmas bag must be identical and can only contain the following approved items:*

Soap	(bath size)
Toothbrush	(adult size)
Toothpaste	(large 6.2 oz)
Instant hot chocolate	(individual packets)
Hard candies	(individually wrapped)
Deodorant	(no glass or women’s deodorant)

From Rev. Carol Salka’s letter, “*..As we have received from the fullness of God’s grace, may we reach out with that grace by giving generously to those who are imprisoned and alone at Christmas. As we give to His beloved ‘least of these’, it is a service of love to the One Who is our Source and Who gave His very life for us*”.





***Christmas Fund Offering – December 20<sup>th</sup>***  
***2009 Theme: “Prepare the way...”***

Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas Gift Checks to hundreds of annuitants. In 2009, the Christmas Fund is celebrating 107 years of continuous ministry. In 2008 the Christmas Fund received \$1,600,000 and nearly 1,500 families were assisted. Our goal is to provide at least \$1,650,000 in assistance from the 2009 appeal.

The proceeds from *The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund* are used to provide gifts to clergy and lay employees in all stages of their lives and ministries to and through the UCC. The availability of these funds is critical to the ability of the Board for Ministerial Assistance to help ensure a sustainable quality of life for those who ultimately receive the gifts. As we approach the 2009 Advent season, we find ourselves living through one of the longest protracted recessions in anyone’s memory. During 2009 the Pension Boards have received an average of 3 to 4 new requests for assistance, each week! Response to those requests is possible because of dollars given to the Christmas Fund. The gifts go directly to those who serve or have served the church, in their moments of critical need. Currently, nearly 1,500 families have received either a one-time grant or are receiving continued assistance through your gifts to the Christmas Fund Offering.

Your generous contributions through participation in the *Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund* can and do make a difference in the lives of many.

**The theme for the 2009 Christmas Fund Offering is: "Prepare the way..."**

Prepare the way...through your participation in the Annual Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund. God’s people have lived through terrible and terrifying times throughout history. There is one constant that remains true even in these times: God has never forsaken the promise to care for the covenant people

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

**The Christmas Fund Offering will be collected on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.** In advance, thank you for your donations.



**SHHHHHHHH.....Can you keep a secret?????????????**

Five years ago, when Shirley Brown turned 90, many of us shared in her surprise birthday celebration with coffee hour refreshments provided by Betsey and Russ. *Amazingly, everyone kept the secret*, and Shirley was surprised.

Our challenge now is to do it again! Betsey and Russ invite all members of the church to **surprise Shirley for her 95<sup>th</sup> with cake and coffee on Sunday, December 13 in Kelsey Hall after church.** We hope you can make it! If you need a ride, please call the Church Office at 860-747-1901.

By the way, Shirley's actual birthday is December 7<sup>th</sup>. She loves cards, especially funny ones, so if you can take a moment to send her one, she'd love it.



## Will You Grant a Wish?

*There are many items  
the Church needs,  
Sized big and sized small.  
Choose from our Wish List;  
There's something for all!*

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### The Church's Wish List

Plumbing/Heating Repairs	\$150.00	
Office Supplies	\$50.00	<i>Use Scrip cards for Supplies and be twice as nice to our Church!</i>

*Donations of Scrip gasoline cards, Scrip grocery cards, and dietetic foods gratefully accepted by our Minister for assistance to those in need. Canned and dry goods are collected on Communion Sunday for the Plainville Food Pantry. Helping hands make a wonderful gift, too.*

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*you'd like to contribute an item or even part of an item from our Wish List for the Church, please write the name of the item in the memo portion of your donation check. Your check can be made payable to the Congregational Church of Plainville and placed in the offering plate or in an envelope in the Church Office mail slot. Your donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**May God Bless you for your generosity!**

# Mystery Dinner

For those of you who have been waiting for information on the Mystery Dinner, you'll have to wait a bit longer as the date has been moved to January 23, 2010. Mark your calendar!

<p><b>Thrift Shop News!!</b>  <b>We need volunteers to work at the Thrift Shop on Wednesdays and Thursdays!</b>  <b>Please call or see Fran(747-9989) or Bonnie(747-6483) to sign up.</b></p>
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### **Christmas in Fredericksburg: A Christmas Play for All Ages**

Our Director of Choirs, Matthew Bartlett, has written an original work: *Christmas in Fredericksburg*, and you and your children are invited to premier this piece! The play sets a scene that takes place in December of 1862, and in it we follow the paths of many people as they struggle through the Civil War after the Union defeat at Fredericksburg. Some of the major cast includes Robert E. Lee, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, Abraham Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln, Stonewall Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant and many other Civil War characters. If you would like to be a part of this Christmas program please contact Matthew Bartlett. All who come will have a part. The performance is scheduled for the afternoon of **Sunday December 20th**; please be sure that date is free for you before you sign up! Friends are also welcome. Thank you for your consideration, interest and support.

### **Need COMMUNITY SERVICE Hours?????**

Please see/talk to Rev. Claire (747-1901 #1), the Trustees, and/or Mrs. Cone and Mrs. Colley. We have plenty of opportunities for those looking for Community Service hours! And we are glad to help.



### **Thank You - Food for Friends Offering**

During worship on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, the Mission-Social Action Committee asked for donations for our church's local mission with Food for Friends. Joni Czajkowski, Coordinator for "Food for Friends", delivered the Message of Christian Concern. As members of the Plainville Conference of Churches, volunteers from our church assist every fifth week in serving a meal in Kelsey Hall to Plainville residents negatively impacted by the economic downturn. Thanks to those who contributed, the Food for Friends Offering netted \$395. Thanks so much for caring and supporting the Plainville Conference of Churches' Food for Friends outreach.



## UnitedScrip – Ongoing Fundraiser

**A BIG thanks for shopping with UnitedScrip!** This is our church's ongoing fundraiser.

**Advent is here, and Christmas is just around the corner!** Please purchase all of your gift cards through our church's scrip fundraiser. Pick up UnitedScrip order forms in the narthex or in Kelsey Hall. Simply check which stores, restaurants, and gas stations that you frequent, then make a check out to our church and give the order form with a check to Carol after church in Kelsey Hall. Blockbuster just became our newest participating store. Be sure to purchase your store/gift cards for all your normal shopping needs. You will receive the full face value of the gift card, and our church will keep a percentage of the face value. **It's win-win for all!**

<i>Our Scrip Profits for 2009:</i>	<i>\$\$ (2009 Budget Target: \$2,000)</i>	<i>% of Annual Budget Achieved</i>
Month of Jan:	\$48.80	
Month of Feb:	\$107.90	
Month of March	\$143.70	
Month of April	\$84.55	
Month of May	\$99.95	
Month of June	\$133.75	
Month of July	\$43.90	
Month of August	\$111.75	
Month of September	\$102.45	
Month of October	\$101.35	
<b>Total Scrip Profit for 2009:</b>	<b>\$978.10</b>	<b>Through October 49% (target 83%)</b>

For October 25<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>, we thank the following church families who participated: Astolfi, Bamberg, Boiczuk, Colella, Conklin, Drachenberg, Edge, Fuller, Heap, Hoerle, Janota, Johnson, Karabin, Kordes, Letendre, Mailhot, B. Mazurek, Michaud, Mowry, D. Pelletier, Pershken, Peterson, Potter, Seeds, Stafford, and Yanez, and Mission-Social Action and Diaconate for purchasing some Snowflake Fair Silent Auction Basket items, and Food for Friends. Thanks!

For any questions regarding our scrip fundraiser, please call Carol Peterson during the day at 747-5174.



## FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Income</u>
January \$22,034.24	\$20,391.20
February \$17,978.25	\$20,188.39
March \$20,913.57	\$19,438.88
April \$35,027.37	\$28,247.28
May \$17,658.98	\$16,271.87
June \$15,386.35	\$17,229.06
July \$13,682.19	\$12,094.34
August \$16,301.32	\$13,720.48
September \$11,871.81	\$17,663.62
October \$16,106.36	\$18,907.40
<b>TOTALS \$186,960.44</b>	<b>\$184,277.52</b>

## Here is your opportunity to have a personal impact on your church!



### **NOMINATIONS, PLEASE!!!**

If you are looking for ways to serve the church next year (or even if you aren't!), we have many leadership positions open. We have at least 35 open positions at this time, and we haven't confirmed if all of the other positions are continuing on next year. If you are the type of person who prefers to be asked, consider yourself asked. The following positions are open at this time (there may actually be a few more available):

- Christian Education (oversight of child and adult education): 6 positions
- Christian Stewardship (year-round stewardship education and annual pledge drive): 9 positions
- Diaconate (worship set-up, serving communion, much more): 2 positions
- Evangelism and Church Growth (fellowship and new members): 1 position
- Finance (all things financial and working with Treasurer and Financial Secretary): 1 position
- Mission-Social Action (missions of the church, social justice advocates): 2 positions
- Music (oversight of music program): 5 positions
- Personnel (oversight of personnel policies and procedures): 2 positions
- Delegates to Farmington Valley Association or UCC Connecticut Conference: 1 position

In addition, we need a Church Historian and a Church Clerk (aka recording secretary).

In 2009, we filled 58 of the 99 available slots. While all who served in this way, did so because they both felt called and enjoyed what they were doing, we had a few people doing double-duty (serving more than one committee or serving as a church officer while also serving on a committee). We had no Christian Stewardship Committee, needed more help on Christian Education and Music, and had no Church Historian to track the important events in the life of our church.

If you would like more information on these various positions and what the extent of the responsibilities would be, please contact Ken Hodge. Please consider filling one of these positions in the leadership of your church. Remember, we *are* the church; working together we make life here rich and rewarding for all.



### **NEED TO CONTACT THE OFFICE?**

- 1) Stopping by during OFFICE HOURS: 9:30 - Noon, MONDAY through FRIDAY. If I am not here, please leave your message in the slot in the office door.
- 2) Calling 747-1901 (# 1 for the minister; #2 for the secretary) and leaving a message
- 3) Emailing congregational9486@sbcgloblal.net.

***PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS THE ONLY EMAIL ADDRESS BY WHICH YOU WILL DIRECTLY REACH THE OFFICE.***



### **Information on the "Called to Care" program:**

"Paul is at his caring, honest, but *intense* best in his first letter to the Corinthians, notably when he writes about the specific spiritual gifts in Chapter 12. He speaks of the differences and diversities among the followers in Corinth, but with each phrase he hammers home the point: all the special, powerful gifts you Corinthians have been given came from the same Spirit, for the same purpose. He rattles off a list of the gifts he already knows they've been given: words of wisdom; words of knowledge; faith; healing; miracle-working; prophecy; distinguishing of spirits; tongues; interpretation of tongues – each one punctuated with "by that same Spirit". In this list at verse 4, Paul is not talking about offices or jobs (he does that a bit later), he is talking about the specific gifts of the Spirit and how they are to be used. He follows this by declaring how each member is radically valuable to the whole believing community. After that, he speaks of the heart of all of it: love.

The List in Romans 12: The apostle Paul also discusses the subject of spiritual gifts in his letter to the Romans. In Romans 12, he is talking about the attitude of the believer in Christ, someone who is given to God. He then starts to speak against an attitude of being better than anyone else. Each member has a value to the Body of Christ (the believing community), shown when God gives specific spiritual gifts to each, as is fitting for each one's faith; prophecy, service (as a ministry), teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, the showing of mercy.

Paul once again is not writing about the Spirit's gifts, but about *the attitude* taken when using them. Though the talk is spiritual gifts, the intent is more like what he had when writing about the spiritual fruit. Paul is writing about the character that marks a Christian; the gifts are there for putting that character *into action*. Paul holds the gifts of the Spirit to be so important that when he teaches the fellowships about other matters, he teaches about the gifts. The role the spiritual gifts play is so central to a healthy fellowship that they affect everything else. " From

Spirithome.com

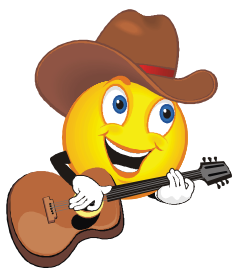
In the Protestant church, we speak of "call" when we are trying to express that inclination, or compulsion (a kind of "can't not" as in, "I can't not do this thing" ~ when we find ourselves in a situation in which we recognize that life is giving us ~ no expecting us ~ to rise to an occasion in which we realize we do have a gift, or something to offer.

In recognition that we have new faces in church every week, a growing church school, new programs and/or new initiatives almost every month, and only one minister.... The Deacons have decided to support our church members who have on-going pastoral needs (those shut-in or house bound, or with on-going non-critical or urgent pastoral needs) through a special program offered through the United Church of Christ ~ Called to Care. Now, you might argue, we are all Called to *Care*, but honestly, there are those who sit and listen in support better than others ~ it is a gift. This seven session training program helps the care-giver know how to attend to various life circumstances with specific prayer selections, local and national referrals for further resources, and calm centeredness when attending to a care-receiver with whom they will be carefully matched. Introspective self-assessment, training in pastoral skills and care, and skill-building attention to case studies, will help those who choose to become a part of this initiative, know that they have the skill set to respond with confidence to any situation (by the way, this is good for situations outside the church community as well) that may arise between themselves and another human being who needs compassionate attention to a troublesome issue.

On the first Sunday in March, those who complete the program will be commissioned during worship, and the Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC Called to Care initiative will begin its life of caring. Care-givers will have on-going support to provide for this church's on-going pastoral needs as a kind of "right arm" to the minister to support, not replace the pastoral care and attention the minister is also called to provide to a congregation.

***If you are interested in learning more about this life-giving training program, please plan now to attend the informational session on December 8th at 7:00 p.m.***

## Calling all Youth Musicians!



If you are interested in playing your instrument prior to the Christmas Eve 5pm service, please see Kathie Marsan by December 1st.



## 'IN THE SPIRIT' COFFEEHOUSE

Do you enjoy music, poetry, or other performing arts? **SAVE THE DATE!** Evangelism and Church Growth will host its sixth annual **'In the Spirit' Coffeehouse** on December 12th at 7 pm in Kelsey Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us for a relaxing evening of entertainment, fellowship, and refreshment as we prepare for Advent and Christmas. If you or a friend would like to present something that evening (the stage is open to all), please contact Karen Hodge @747-8690 or [hodgekg@nu.com](mailto:hodgekg@nu.com) so that we may coordinate the program. Please bring an item for the Plainville Food Pantry.



Join us for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm leaving from Kelsey hall and followed by hot cocoa and cookies for the carolers!

Memorial Service of Light ~ Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.







## WORSHIP IN COLOR!

~Winter/Spring Theme Sundays ~

In continuation of our fall themed Sundays and the wearing of specific colors relating to these themes the Diaconate is inviting both young and old alike to participate in the following manner. We decided that it would serve both the purpose of “theme” and also as an education for church members if the colors for the themes tied into the Church Liturgical Year. We will be coordinating with the co-superintendents of the Church School to use these themes as a “teaching tool” in the Church School Program. You will be learning more about these themes as the year progresses through bulletin boards, worship bulletins and parent notices coming home with your children reminding you of the color theme on the following Sunday. Below you will find the schedule for the Sunday, Color and Theme being observed.....Your Diaconate

December 6 <sup>th</sup> ~Violet or Blue	(Second Sunday of Advent)
December 13 <sup>th</sup> ~Violet, Blue or Rose	(Third Sunday of Advent)
December 20 <sup>th</sup> ~Violet or Blue	(Fourth Sunday of Advent)
December 24 <sup>th</sup> ~ White	(Christmas Eve)
December 27 <sup>th</sup> , January 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup>	~ White(Christmastide)
January 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup> and February 7 <sup>th</sup>	~ Green
February 14 <sup>th</sup> ~White	(Transfiguration)
February 21 <sup>st</sup> through March 21 <sup>st</sup>	~ Violet
March 28 <sup>th</sup> ~Violet or Red	(Palm Sunday)
April 4 <sup>th</sup> ~ White	(Easter)
April 11 <sup>th</sup> through May 16 <sup>th</sup>	~ White(Eastertide)
May 23 <sup>rd</sup> ~Red	~Pentecost Sunday
May 30 <sup>th</sup> ~White or Green	~Trinity Sunday

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***In our Prayers this month, we remember:*** Yamilee deZuniga(Bobbie Turcotte’s sister), Carl Pelletier, Justin Meyers, Jean Sledge, Bob Erickson, Audrey Posadas, Marcia and Woody Winslow, Art & Hank, Richard Cooley, Eric Perry, Shirley Brown, Larry, Aimie & Matthew Mosher, Alexa and Michael Pugh, Richard “Duke” Bird, Don Williams, Bunny Colter, Cathy Valvo, Burton Johnson, Ruth Pater, Jane Kowalchuk, Teresa Townsend, Nichols/Parker Families, Rochelle, David Crabtree, Judy Beausoleil, Michael Fraychak, Craig Mackenzie, Eleanor Kordes, Jessie Flanders, Luke Santhouse, Dick and Joan Dante, Gary Hubbell, Don Barrows, Dorothy “Dot” Haley, Maria Schatz, Davida Foy Crabtree, Jeff Schaefer, Peg Hoerle, Mary Devine, Gordon McCann, Jeane Pierson, ***and the families of*** Dorothy “Peg” (Gerrish)Young, Vera Vaughn(Suzanne Colley’s aunt), Raymond Ibitz, Jeannette Rizzo(Joie-Marie Mazurek’s grandmother),Richard Colter, Michael Terzi, Roger Ellis, Holly Ledger, Margaret Landry, those who died at Fort Hood, Ashley Newton, Helen McKernan, David Morris, T.J.Trojanowski, Dena Chojnicki, as well as members and friends serving in the military: Spencer Pelletier, James Palmer, Gabriel Smykla, Michael Leroux, and Mark Terrill.



We wish a very *"Happy Birthday"* to the following members of our congregation who have December birthdays: Chase Beausoleil (12/2), Shirley Brown (12/7), Jean Cotton (12/8/), Merwin "Skip" Schaefer (12/9), Nicole Guglietta (12/15), Joseph Robar (12/23), Grace Wells (12/25) and Woodrow Wilson (12/30).

We also wish a very *"Happy Anniversary"* to the following members with December anniversaries: Sharon Bartosiewicz (12/30).

### MILESTONES AND HIGHPOINTS

New Members (12/6/09)

Dave Mazurek, Paula Jusa,  
Tabitha & Justin Manafort

Transfers or terminations of membership

None reported

Inactive

None reported

Deaths

Richard Colter, 11/9/09 and

Dorothy "Peg" (Gerrish)Young, 11/24/09

Marriages/Unions

None reported

Births

None reported

Baptisms

None reported



Church School Open  
House ~  
Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> ~  
after worship

New Members joining on December 6<sup>th</sup> ~  
Paula Jusa,  
Tabitha & Justin Manafort,  
Dave Mazurek.





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We received a Thank You from Al-Anon in November:  
Thank you for the use of the room on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. Al-Anon, Monday Morning

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We received another thank You from Al-Anon in November:  
Thanks for all your help! Al-Anon

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We received a note from Chris Potter in November:  
Hi Claire, I just wanted to take the time and thank everyone in the congregation for their support of my Eagle project of the new entrance way that the day care use every day for a long time from this day forward. Without everyone's support this project would not have been successful. A special thank you to the Trustees for working with me in support of my project, along with special thanks to all who donated money to help fund the project. I need to recognize these people, Mr. John Pater, Mr. Dave Mazurek, Mr. Chris Johnson, Mr. Bill Calder, and Mr. Rex Cone who without your help and knowledge this project wouldn't have been possible. I have learned much in seeing this project thru completion but also have learned that we have a great bunch of people who support our church. I am currently going thru the paperwork necessary for my Eagle Board of Review and will keep everyone posted. Yours in Christ, Christopher Potter

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We received a note from Cheryl Cone in November:  
Dear Church Family, thank you all so much for all your cards, prayers, love & encouragement during my nose surgery. I always left church feeling encouraged & loved. Thanks again for the wonderful meals, our whole family enjoyed them. Young Rex really was impressed! You are the best in the world no one could do as much! Thanks so much. God Bless you all, Love, Cheryl

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We received a note from Connie MacMillan in November:  
Dear Claire and Plainville Family, Thank you so much for the 'send-off' gift of two gift cards to the Outback Steakhouse. We have not used them, but I'm very much looking forward to a meal away from the stove and dirty dishes. Though I'm fine with cooking, there's nothing like an excuse not to have to! I do hope that all is going well in the 'music department', and that you're continuing to find joy in serving our God with music! Wishing you all the best, Connie MacMillan

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We received a note from the United Way in November:  
At this time of Thanksgiving celebration our thoughts turn gratefully to you with warm appreciation,  
Your friends at United Way of West Central Connecticut

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# CHURCH CALENDAR

## December 2009



**\*\*Steeple articles due by: December 18, 2009\*\***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<del>29</del> <b>9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>10:00 am - Worship:</b> <b>6:30 p.m. ~ Adult CE</b>  7:30 pm – Recovery	<del>30</del> 10:00 am AI Anon	1 10:30 am - AA  7:00 pm - AA  <b>7:15 pm -</b> <b>All</b> <b>Committee</b> <b>Meeting Night</b>	2 5-7pm Food for Friends 6:30 pm Music Committee  <b>7:30 pm-</b> <b>Adult Choir</b>	3  <b>6:00 pm-</b> <b>Hand Bell</b> <b>Choir</b>  7:30 pm - NA	4	5  6:30 pm - NA
6 <b>9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>10:00am - Worship:</b> <b>Communion:New members</b> <b>6:30 p.m. ~ Adult CE</b>	7 10:00 am AI Anon	8 10:30 am – AA 7:00 pm- Called to Care Informational Session 7:00 pm - AA	9 5-7pm <b>Food</b> <b>for</b> <b>Friends</b>  <b>7:30 pm-</b> <b>Adult Choir</b>	10 <b>6:00 pm-</b> <b>Hand Bell</b> <b>Choir</b>  7:30 pm - NA	11	12  7 pm- In the Spirit Coffee House
13 <b>9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>10:00 am - Worship</b> <b>After Worship:</b> <b>Star Tree Wrapping,</b> <b>2pm Caroling,</b>  7:30 pm – Recovery	14 10:00 am AI Anon	15 10:30 am - AA  7:00 pm - AA  <b>7:30 pm -</b> <b>Church</b> <b>Council</b>	16 5-7pm Food for Friends  Service of Light 7 pm  <b>7:30 pm-</b> <b>Adult Choir</b>	17 <b>6:00 pm-</b> <b>Hand Bell</b> <b>Choir</b> 6:30 pm - NA Administrative 7:30 pm - NA	18   <b>*All Steeple</b> <b>Articles due</b>	19  6:30 pm - NA
20 <b>9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>10:00am - Worship</b> <b>~Poinsettia Sunday</b> <b>4:00 Christmas in</b> <b>Fredericksburg</b>  <b>6:30 p.m. ~ Adult CE</b>	21 10:00 am AI Anon	22 10:30 am – AA  7:00 pm - AA	23  <b>5-7pm</b> <b>Food for</b> <b>Friends</b>  <b>7:30 pm-</b> <b>Adult Choir</b>	24  <b>Christmas</b> <b>Eve</b> <b>Services</b> <b>5pm &amp; 11</b> <b>pm</b>	25   <b>Merry</b> <b>Christmas</b>	26  6:30 pm - NA
27 <b>9:00 am - Choir Rehearsal</b> <b>10:00 am - Worship</b>  7:30 pm - Recovery	28 10:00 am AI Anon	29 10:30 am - AA  7:00 pm - AA	30 5-7pm Food for Friends  <b>7:30 pm-</b> <b>Adult Choir</b>	31  7:30 pm - NA	<sup>1</sup> 	<sup>2</sup>  6:30 pm - NA

**A  
View  
from  
THE  
STEEPLE**



**December 2009**



**PLAINVILLE THRIFT SHOP**

Phone: 747-2418

**HOURS**

Wednesday: 10 am – 4 pm

Thursday: 10 am – 4 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am – NOON

Clothing and household items in  
good or new condition.  
Donations accepted during business  
hours ONLY.

*The Congregational Church of Plainville, UCC  
130 West Main Street  
Plainville, CT 06062*

Change Service Requested