



## *SIGNS OF LOVE*

Each Sunday afternoon, I get a chuckle reading the various tweets from the Twitter page entitled, "This week in church signs". Some of the sayings have me thinking and laughing, while others have me scratching my head. I remember how I enjoyed changing the church sign each week at my last two pastoral appointments. The church sign became a vital part of the ministry within the community. People purposely drove by the church just to read the weekly saying. Some would even take pictures of the sign. I cannot begin to tell you how many sacred encounters I've had with people who stopped to converse with me about it.

Signs are a form of communication that can: give us direction, communicate a message to an individual or specific group, share information, help promote and identify a product or service, or make a call to action. Effective signs are plainly displayed with a clear message.

Our Christian walk is like a sign. What messages are we conveying within our daily encounters with others? What are we communicating to the rest of the world; hopefulness or hopelessness, love or hate, acceptance or judgment? Do we act like the rest of the world or do we stand out as believers in Jesus Christ?

Can people recognize that you belong to the family of Jesus Christ without you having to say anything? I do hope so. I really hope my sign is clear and readable. Heck, people can even get a laugh, if they want! But when they walk away, it is my hope and prayer that they would know that they've encountered a Christian, and that my sign of love is clear and authentic. What about your sign?

*Peace,*  
Pastor Rhonda

## Lectionary Readings for the Month of August 2018

### **August 5 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)**

2Samuel 11:26-12, 13; Psalm 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

Liturgist: Beverley Nepaul

### **August 12 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)**

2Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; Mark 6:35, 41-51

Liturgist: John Brubaker

### **August 19 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)**

1Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

Liturgist: Guetty Antiste

### **August 26– 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Color: Green)**

1Kings 8:1, 6, 1011, 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:66-69

Liturgist: Beth Ann Loveland-Sennett

## **COMMUNITY BREAKFAST SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2018 • 8:30 AM**



The monthly Community Breakfast will take place on Sunday, August 12, 2018, starting at 8:30 am. We thank everyone who has volunteered at previous breakfasts. If you would like to support us by volunteering your services please email [adbount86@gmail.com](mailto:adbount86@gmail.com).

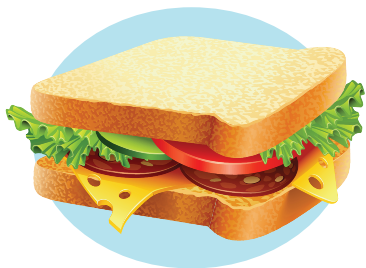
**UMC of Hartford** serves breakfast on the **2nd Sunday** of each month. The prayer is that people of the neighborhood will know that they are loved by God and cared for by the UMC of Hartford community.

*Matthew 25:35* "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in."

### **THIRD MEN'S MONTHLY PRAYER BREAKFAST TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 19**

Since June a group of the men of our church have been meeting on the third Sunday of the month from 8:00 am to 9:30 am. The sharing and spirit of brotherhood have been truly inspirational. All men are invited to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to break bread with your brothers in Christ and take part in heartfelt prayer and lively discussion on Sunday, August 19.

### **NEXT SANDWICH MAKING SATURDAY FOR THE HOUSE OF BREAD - SATURDAY, SEPT. 8**



Sandwich making will take place at the Parish Center at the Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle, 872 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford from 8:00 am to 10:00 am.

Volunteers are asked to bring a few pounds of meat, cheese, cans of tuna or chicken. The bread will be donated by Big Y.

After we assemble the sandwiches, we will serve them for lunch at the House of Bread at 27 Chestnut St., Hartford from 10:45 am until 1:00 pm.



# 2018 "BRINGING HOPE & RELEASING DESTINY" TOUR

Don't Miss This Dynamic and Uplifting Performance Filled With Hopes and Dreams Brought to You by Amazing Young Performers From Uganda Who Love to Share Their Passion of Lively Singing Creative African Dance and Drums!

Coming from the toughest of situations, children's lives are being restored and transformed at the Kampala Children's Centre, the home of Destiny Africa. There's a new song in their hearts and they are bringing it on tour!

The performance will include singing, dancing and stories of transformed lives and an opportunity to donate. A selection of African crafts and other merchandise will be available. All money raised will go to further the work of the Kampala Children's Centre in order to rescue and save more precious children.

**We are on a journey, please join us!**



For further information and a full list of tour dates:

[www.destinyafrica.org](http://www.destinyafrica.org)

Destiny Africa Children's Choir & the Kampala Children's Centre NDE USA 501(c)(3)26-4062303

Venue **UMC of Hartford**  
**571 Farmington Avenue**  
**Hartford, CT**

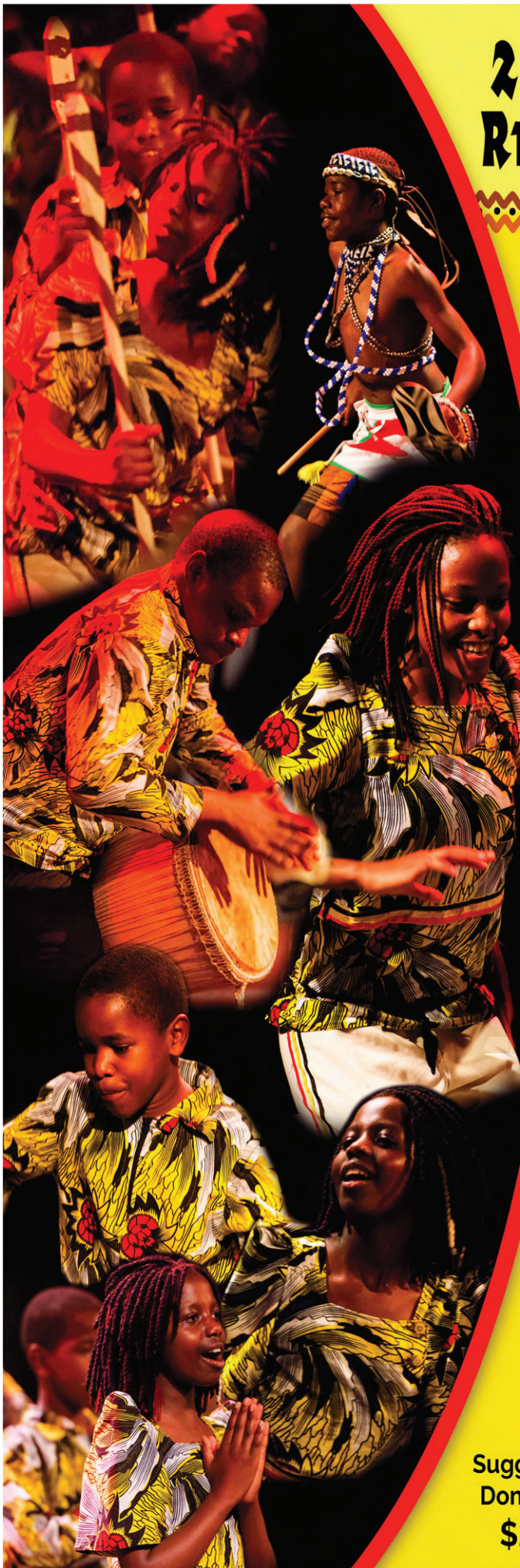
Date & Time

**August 12, 2018**  
**12:00-2:00 PM**

For more info contact:

**Marcia: 203.726.0200**  
**Mensimah: 860.944.6218**  
**Church Office: 860.523.5132**

Suggested Donation:  
**\$20**





## MOMENT OF GRACE 7-6-18

After Annual Conference this year I got into a conversation with my across the street neighbor, Amy, about my experience there. I don't recall just what we talked about but at the end she gave me a book that she had self-published, Seasons of the Rose, about receiving messages from God. Strange things had been happening around her house, like a picture falling off the wall, clocks stopping when the electricity was on, lights glowing when the electricity was off. These strange events she took to be messages from God, exactly what God wanted she wasn't sure. She also learned about the village of Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina where people were receiving messages from the Virgin Mary. All this created in her a spiritual awakening. She became much more serious about her Catholicism, attending Mass every day, praying the rosary frequently and engaging in deep prayer for other people.

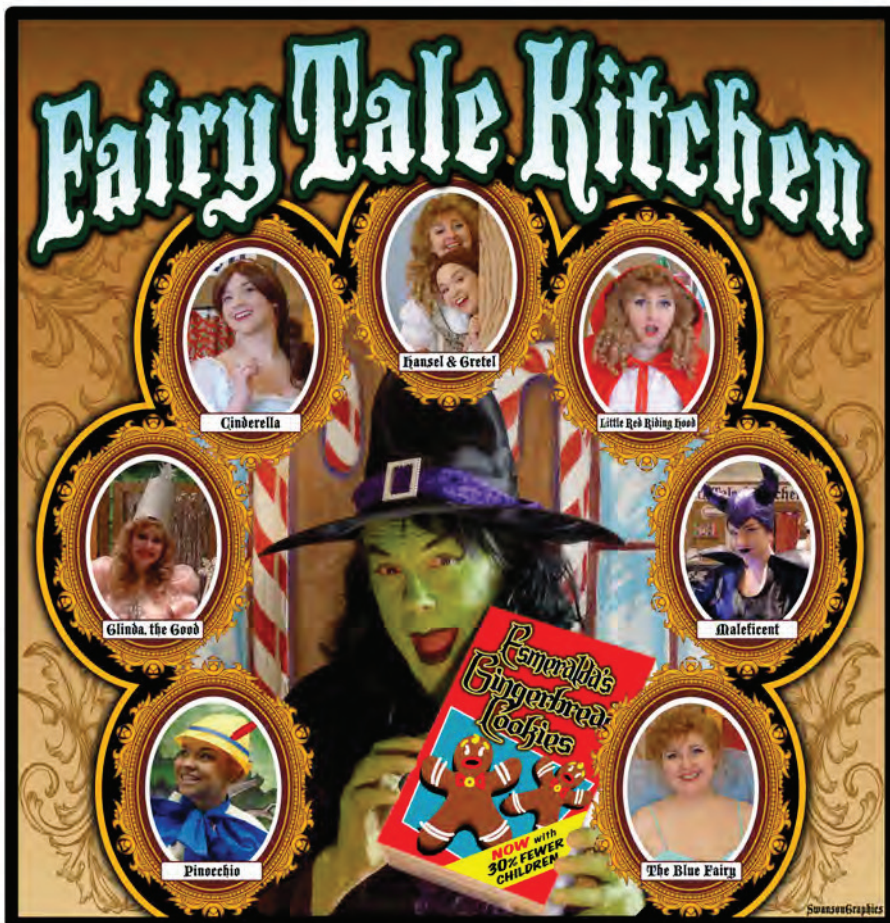
I was impressed, but after reading her book I felt a little bit of a grump: "I'm a spiritual person, how come I don't get no signs from God!" Maybe I've just not been listening, nor have my eyes been open I thought. So, the next time I took my morning walk around the block I looked for signs from God. Sure enough, halfway down the block I noticed a sign in my neighbor's lawn "Hate has no home here!" it said. Around the corner another neighbor had planted a veggie and flower garden along his side yard and right in the middle, protecting the garden, was a statue of Mary (or maybe it was St. Francis). I had seen the garden before, but never noticed the statue. Finally, at the corner Pizza house was a sign "No Loitering!"

Were these signs from God? Who knows, but what I thought after returning home was this: instead of "Hate has no home here" how 'bout if the church put a sign out its front door saying, "Love has a home here!" And because one of the themes at Annual Conference was "Get out the door, reach out to your neighbors", lets put a "no loitering" sign in our pews!

Just saying!

Yours in Christ, Steve Derby

## COMING IN SEPTEMBER, STARRING DEANNA & JOHN SWANSON...



**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

**An Original Interactive  
Children's Operetta**

**Performed by**

**Lollipop Opera**  
A Taste of Opera for Young Listeners

**Saturday  
September 15  
2:00 pm**

**United Methodist Church  
of Hartford**

571 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT

Adults & children over 12 - \$10.00

Children under 12 - \$5.00

For tickets/info contact Steve Derby at  
(860) 670-2777 or [stvederby@earthlink.net](mailto:stvederby@earthlink.net)

Tickets online at

[www.umcofhartford.org/lollipopopera](http://www.umcofhartford.org/lollipopopera)  
(indicate number & type of tickets in 'notes' box)

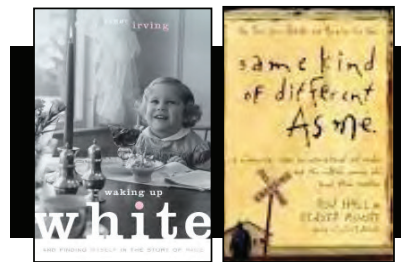
**There will be a reception after the show.  
Come meet the cast.**

## SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

Looking for some compelling books to fill out your summer reading? Consider these:

- *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving
- *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall & Denver Moore

In the fall, Pastor Barbara Marks of Middletown UMC and Pastor Rhonda will facilitate a small group discussion. More information to follow (location, date, and time).



## PLEASE HELP US TO CONTINUE PROVIDING “THE UPPER ROOM”

The **UPPER ROOM** magazine, free copies of which are available on the table near the church office, costs our congregation \$500 each year (approximately \$42 each month). We need assistance in deferring these costs. Please consider putting a donation in the collection plate of whatever you can afford toward the cost of this wonderful publication. Note “Upper Room” on either the memo section of your check or on the envelope of your cash, and be sure to take a copy of the magazine home with you. It is filled with truly inspiring daily devotionals. *Thank you!*

## JULY - AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS

### ANNIVERSARIES

#### JULY (omitted from last month's Epistle)

30 - Sal Pinna

#### AUGUST

8 - Angel Villegas (Connor) (c)    13 - Carol Williams    25 - Christine Atkinson  
 12 - Pastor Rhonda Taylor    21 - John Boyce, Jr.    27 - Thomas Sennett

#### AUGUST

Beth Ann & Tom Sennett - 8/7  
 Katherine Lahti & Frank Caso - 8/8  
 Heather & Tony Muirhead - 8/8  
 Robert & Jocelyn Cudjoe - 8/23/13  
 Christine & Silbert Welsh - 8/25  
 Kate & Chad Mikkelson - 8/31/03

## AUGUST 12 - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PASTOR RHONDA TAYLOR!



## NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST MEN ANNUAL RETREAT

### “HEARTS ON FIRE FOR GOD”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018

Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605

9:00am to 4:00pm

Guest Speaker: Rev. John T. Simmons, Jr., Pastor, Brooks Memorial UMC

#### WORKSHOPS

Young Men's Ministry Training

Guidelines to Effective Men's Ministry

Living Prayer Center Bible Study Ministry

**REGISTER & SIGN UP FOR A WORKSHOP TODAY!**

**DONATION \$25**

For more information please contact Bro. Graham Greaves

Phone: (718) 578-8161 Email: narboardhossgreaves@hotmail.com