

Simsbury United Methodist Church

The Messenger

Summer 2018

Open hearts, open minds, open doors

A Message from Pastor Gene

To the Simsbury United Methodist Church:

We've finally arrived in Simsbury after many months of waiting, thinking, wondering, and praying. We're mostly unpacked, able to navigate at least Hopmeadow Street without the use of GPS, and finding our way to the basics around the area. We've seen fireworks, heard the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, eaten (too much) ice cream, and gotten our library cards. We've been welcomed by the neighbors (some human, some more...bear) and have eaten at Antonio's. We are settling in nicely, and we have you all to thank.

Becoming a part of a church means joining a community within a community, and the thing that has stood out to both Erin and me in this time of transition for us all has been your extreme generosity in making us feel welcome. From the hard work that has been done to make our parsonage a beautiful and comfortable home, to the people who have stopped by to bring us food and toys for the kids, to the amazing welcome baskets that we found upon our arrival, we have never moved into a community that has made us feel so at home so quickly. Simsbury as a town has matched the welcome that the church itself has shown, largely due to your efforts. When we went to the hardware store for the inevitable "stuff we forgot" list, the woman behind the counter had heard we were coming and was cheerful in her welcome of us. The librarian who gave our kids their first library cards also was expecting us, thanks to you. Your amazing welcome basket was such an inspired and thoughtful way to welcome us not only as your pastor and his family, but as members of the community, of Simsbury itself.

All of this work to make us feel so welcome has required great investments of time, which can sometimes be the hardest thing to give. It takes time to make a house a home, time to put together gift baskets, time to let the community know that a new family is on its way and time to come out on a hot Sunday morning to worship, meet new people, and hear what the new pastor has to say. We are extremely grateful for all the time that has been put into all of these projects for us and that is put in weekly in church. This willingness to spend your time on and for others is something that I pray will continue as we walk this journey together.

Corinthians 10.2 reminds us that we will "be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God." This passage has resonated with Erin and me the last few weeks as we've been settling into our new home and community here with you in Simsbury. We have felt that generosity, and can only hope to begin to return it in the months and years to come. Our family thanks you for everything that you have done to make us feel welcome and we all look forward to working together to extend that spirit of community to those around us in church, in Simsbury, and in whatever other communities God calls us to join.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Gene, Erin, Isaac, and Amelia (and Neko, Damian, Tatu, Batman and the chickens)

Important Dates

July 25: Youth kayak/paddleboard event (see p. 10)

July 26: Welcome event #1 for the Ott's (see p. 6)

July 27: Deadline to submit items to office for annual planning meeting

July 28: Kits for Kids (see p. 10)

July 29: Pastor Peter's last Sunday at SUMC; farewell for Pastor Peter, after the 9:30 service

August 1: Office closed for annual planning

August 2: Welcome event #2 for Ott's (see p. 6); Youth bike ride (see p. 10)

August 12: Last day of summer Sunday School

August 16: Deadline to submit items for the Sept. newsletter

August 18: Welcome event #3 for Ott's (see p. 6)

August 19: Last day to donate to backpack drive

Reimagine Church Update

Last year SUMC embarked upon a **multi-year journey to Reimagine Church**. With the church-wide book read of *The Great Spiritual Migration*, over 75 people from our faith community discussed the past, present and potential future of what church might look like as we continuously reform our practices to meet the current context of the world we live in today. Encouraged by Pastor Woody and supported by the Church Council, a small team, interested in what reimagining church might look like, was formed.

The goal of the Reimagine Church team is to **support SUMC in creating an environment that fosters transformation while honoring our SUMC, Methodist & Christian heritage**. We know it will be important to preserve the core message of the Gospel while stimulating new ways to meet the needs of our current reality. During our regular meetings the team has learned about ways to Reimagine Church, grow in our spiritual leadership, and support our future.

We discovered our small team represents many theological perspectives and a broad spectrum in our understanding of what church means. We realize our diversity represents a microcosm of the larger SUMC community. We have shared our hopes, doubts and beliefs with each other in ways that are meaningful, and as a result, we have grown in our appreciation and Christian love for each other. **We hope that the same appreciation and love we have for each other and the same hope we have for a church that can positively impact our world will spread throughout SUMC.**

Transformation takes time as well as broad participation from everyone involved. However, after the Lenten sermon series, it made sense to pause further engagement with the broader SUMC community until the completion of the transition from Pastor Woody to Pastor Gene. Last night the Reimagine Church team met for the first time with Pastor Gene. **He expressed his excitement to join our journey and offered his personal perspective for our consideration.**

Here is where we stand at this point. The work ahead of us lies in answering these three important questions:

1. What are we about?

In other words, what is important at SUMC? What do we stand for? We've explored simple, high impact ways other churches have communicated their purpose, e.g. "Receive Love, Give Love, Repeat" and "Invite, Transform, Send". The benefit of articulating similar values for SUMC is to make us accessible and known to people who might not otherwise have an interest in being a part of a church.

2. What is going on around us?

It will be important to gain an understanding of the communities surrounding SUMC as well as unmet needs that we are called to serve with our Christian love.

3. What are we going to do about it?

After matching our SUMC gifts, talents and passions with the community needs, we can discern what God would have us do about it.

With Pastor Gene's enthusiastic involvement, the team is poised to move ahead. **Stay tuned for more updates and the chance to become involved in answering these three important questions.**

Blessings, Deb Clifford, Bruce Hale, Jen Acheson, Jan Bennett, Lori Garcia, Lori Burrous, Susan Samuel, Sharon Carley, Robin Stine, Peter Gailey, Pastor Peter, and Pastor Gene

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Rudy and Joanne Maurer** on the birth of their grandson, Vincent Mario Iezzoni, on July 16 in Houston, TX, weighing 8 pounds, 8 ounces! Parents are Lauren (Maurer) and TJ Iezzoni.

Listen to Our Hearts

A farewell message from Pastor Peter

In 1999, singer/songwriter Steven Curtis Chapman released a contemporary praise song entitled, "Listen to Our Hearts." Like many great writers, he attempts to express a sentiment for which he finds words inadequate. Here are some of the lyrics:

*Lord, You know all our hopes
Lord, you know all our fears
And words cannot express the love we feel
But we long for You to hear*

*So listen to our hearts
Hear our spirits sing
A song of praise that flows
From those You have redeemed
We will use the words we know
To tell You what an awesome God You are
But words are not enough
To tell You of our love
So listen to our hearts.*



If I were gifted enough to write a song to my friends at SUMC, it would strive to capture some of these same thoughts and feelings. Friends, thank you for sharing your lives with me. Thank you for trusting me enough to share your hopes and fears, your joys and sorrows, your dreams and aspirations. Thank you for inviting me to be a part of personal and powerful moments in your lives. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as one of your pastors.

As we have begun to take our leave of you, Carrie has been quick to say to friends and family, "We're not moving to Alcatraz!" Too true... we only will be three hours away, and look forward to returning to Connecticut whenever we are able. And we look forward to staying connected with you in every way possible. Finally, whenever you make it out to Block Island, walk up the hill from the ferry landing to Harbor Church (pictured above - which you can see from Old Harbor); the door is literally always open, and we'll leave the light on for you! Listen to our hearts...

Blessings!

Pastor Peter & Carrie Preiser

Farewell Celebration for Pastor Peter

While we are all sad to see Pastor Peter leave us, we are thrilled for him and Carrie and the great opportunity for them to serve in ministry together at their own church – on Block Island!

Pastor Peter's last day with SUMC will be in early August, but we will say farewell with sweet treats and fellowship in Wesley Hall on **Sunday, July 29, after the 9:30 a.m. service.**

Please contact Jennifer Acheson ASAP if you would like to contribute toward a cash gift for Pastor Peter, like we did for Pastor Woody. Her cell is 860.916.4831 and her mailing address is 117 Hollow Brook Road, Windsor, CT 06095. Any cash gifts received after Saturday, July 28, will be forwarded to Pastor Peter.

Meet Your New SUMC Musicians!

With Dorothy's decision to focus on the CAYA music team this fall as the Contemporary Music Director, we decided to reorganize the music team, and are pleased to welcome **Bridget Scarlato** as our new Music Director and **Kari Miller** as our Organist. Bridget will be leading the chancel choir and bell choir as well as the children's music program. Kari will be our organist/pianist and will accompany the choir. With the Dorothy, Bridget and Kari, SUMC will be able to boast that we have the best music team in Simsbury!

Meet Bridget:

I am excited to begin working at SUMC as your new Music Director. Not only am I excited by the vibrant energy and passion that is evident in this faith community, but as a former Simsbury resident I am thrilled to be returning to what is truly, in my opinion, one of the most beautiful towns in Connecticut.

I thought you might like to know a bit about me before I arrive, so here is a little background. I was raised in New York and I have been working in sacred music in Connecticut for just over ten years. I received my Masters of Music in Vocal Performance from The Hartt School, and undergraduate degrees in Vocal Performance and Music Education from Westminster College. I play a little organ and piano, and do a lot of conducting. I also teach at Manchester Community College and play organ and sing at a few Catholic Churches in the area. I am certified Level 1 through HMA (Handbell Musicians of America), and am a member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and the American Guild of Organists.

My husband, Stephen, and I have three young children: Asher, Tabitha, and Julian. When not doing something involving music (Stephen is a musician, too!), we are usually doing a project with our homeschooled kids, or out hiking.

I hope to see many of you in choir or bell rehearsal soon!

Meet Kari:

Kari Miller began her musical life with piano lessons at the age of five. Organ lessons came some years later, and she held her first church position and gave her first organ recital while still a teenager, in her native state of Washington. She pursued her advanced musical training as a pianist, attending The Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with Mieczyslaw Horszowski and Eleanor Sokoloff, and Indiana University, where she earned a Masters and DM in piano performance under the tutelage of Michel Block and Alfonso Montecino. She was a prizewinner in the 1985 Johann Sebastian Bach International Piano Competition.

Kari's broad musical experience includes appearances as soloist with orchestra, chamber concerts with her late husband, cellist Fritz Magg, and many solo piano and organ recitals. She served as Director of Music and organist at Central Baptist Church in Hartford from 2007-2016; during her tenure there she presented a monthly noontime organ series, *Midday Music*, to general acclaim. Kari is an active member of the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, serving as Dean from 2014-2017 and frequently appearing on the chapter's annual *Pipescreams* concerts and other area events. During the past year she served as Interim Director of Music at South Church (UCC/Baptist) in New Britain, renowned for its high-quality music program.

Kari's life as a church musician has included directing choirs and bell choirs and organizing programs of all kinds, but it is organ-playing that she finds most satisfying, so she is very much looking forward to settling down at the console here at SUMC. She resides in Winsted, where, when not practicing the piano or organ, she tends a large perennial garden and enjoys her three Siamese cats.

Kari Miller began on July 15 and Bridget Scarlato will begin on August 1.

Covenant to Care Backpack Drive

The vacation months are upon us but it is time to support our annual summer drive assisting children in need start their school year off with a bright new backpack! Covenant to Care for Children (CCC) is thrilled that SUMC will once again help provide these much needed back to school backpacks. Last year we were able to supply over 50. Let's raise the bar this year and try to supply CCC with 60!



LL Bean is having its summer sale on backpacks now thru August 19! Use Promo Code KIDS25 to get 25% Deluxe Book Packs. As always, comparable brand backpacks are also appreciated. We are also happy to shop for you; simply write "CCC backpack" in the check memo line, or on an envelope when giving cash, and drop it in the plate on any Sunday morning. A collection box for the backpacks will be located in Wesley Hall beginning in August or you may drop them by the LLI office anytime. The collection deadline is **Sunday, August 19**. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

~ Joanne Maurer

SUMC Garden Club

The church grounds need some TLC and we need some help to make that happen. It is a big job, but many hands would make it doable. Right now, we could use anyone willing to spend an hour (or more) weeding. Once it is not so hot, we can plant new flowers and move some plants around.

If you can volunteer to come over and water – even once a week would help – please contact Mary Gridley at gridleymary@gmail.com or Debbie Dunn at dunnds@comcast.net. Or, you may sign up at the kiosk in Wesley Hall. And, a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped beautify the garden by the kitchen and LLI!

Annual Calendar Planning



On **Wednesday, August 1**, the office will be closed for the annual staff planning day. The staff looks ahead to the church program year (September–June) to update the church calendar with major events as well as ongoing group meetings.

If you have updates for your group/committee/event, please email Michelle in the office at churchoffice@simsburyumc.org by **Friday, July 27**, so your meeting or event gets updated on the calendar before our planning day. Please be sure to include dates/times/room or location being requested. Many thanks!

Christmas in July?

Calling all crafters: We need your help! In December, SUMC will once again host a Christmas workshop for children to buy Christmas presents for their loved ones. We would appreciate any homemade crafts, such as jewelry, Christmas ornaments, stationery, pillows, etc. There's plenty of time to craft through the lazy days of summer! For more information, please contact Heather Kaliden. Thank you!

September Newsletter Deadline

Please email items for the September 2018 issue of the newsletter to hryan@snet.net by **August 16**. This issue is mailed to the entire congregation, which adds days to the production time, so please submit items promptly to ensure that your message gets out!

Circles

The **Susanna Circle** is taking the summer off and will meet again on Tuesday, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor. All are welcome. For information please contact Rolene Johnson at halandrolene@gmail.com or 860.658.0634.

The **Rachel Circle**, **Rebekah Circle**, and **Prayers and Squares Quilters** will resume meetings in the fall.

Prayers and Condolences

Our condolences are extended to the family and friends of **Lucy and Phil Mugford**, following the death of Lucy's mother, **Emelia Szkoda**, June 8 at St. Francis Hospital at the age of 94.

Our condolences are extended to the family and friends of **Melissa and Jay Fearington**, following the death of Melissa's mother, **Celia Featherstone**, on July 15 in Mathhews, NC, where she resided. The memorial service was July 20 at the First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA. Melissa has been there since the end of June and will return in a few weeks once she helps transition her father.

Our condolences are extended to former SUMC church members **Don Amorosi** and **Kara Amorosi** on the death of their son, **Archer Amorosi**, on July 13 in Chanhassen, Minnesota. The funeral was held on July 18 at Westwood Community Church, Excelsior, MN. Please keep, Don, Kara, and daughters Addison, Avery, and Ashbey in your prayers at this difficult time.

Huge Thank You from the Trustees

As chair of the SUMC Trustees I wanted to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the numerous volunteers that gave up their evenings and some weekends to prepare the parsonage and church office for our new pastor and his family.

A lot of work was done in the few weeks we had, from painting every room in the house and the garage, cleaning up the landscape, installing a new kitchen floor, and refinishing the hardwood throughout the house, to name just some of the work that was done. I especially want to thank Cassandra Garcia for her role in coordinating the volunteers that painted a majority of the parsonage. We could not have completed as much as we did without her guidance. I also want to thank Don Baker for redoing the pastor's office with new paint, filing cabinets, and furniture. Super job. We should all be very proud as a church community to have banded together to make sure our new pastor and his family would be comfortable and happy in their new surroundings. What better way to show what a terrific and caring place that is Simsbury United Methodist Church.

~ *Rudy Maurer, Trustees Chair*

We Welcome the Ott's!

Please join us at one of three casual gatherings to "meet & greet" Pastor Ott, Erin, Isaac, and Amelia.

- Thursday, July 26th 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 2nd 10:00 a.m.- noon
- Saturday, August 18th 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Keep an eye on the announcements in the Sunday bulletins and weekly e-blasts for locations and other information. All are welcome! Come to one or come to all three! It's a wonderful opportunity to chat with our new pastor and his family in an informal setting. Contact Robin Stine (stinex4@gmail.com or 860.471.4522) with any questions.

Ice Cream Social A Success!

A wonderful thank you for everyone who came out and enjoyed an almost perfect summer evening with GREAT music from the CAYA Worship Team, fellowship, and lots of yummy ice cream sundaes with homemade hot fudge! SUMC has a wonderful sweet tooth because we raised just shy of \$1000! Just think of all the medical supplies that will buy! But we still need more so please see below for our medical drive which is underway!



We also surprised Jolly and Kurt Lux, our travel hosts from Guiding Light Orphans (GLO), with our special song “Mirembe”. Jolly was so excited that we had learned her native language that she jumped up to sing with us! It was truly a good time by all and special thanks to CAYA for supporting our team with their beautiful music.

~Michelle Ebert

Uganda Medical Supplies Drive Is Underway!

Your donations will help the team treat those in need during their medical mission in Sep/Oct. They will also stock the “pharmacy” shelves at the Guiding Light Orphans clinic, in addition to the medications we will purchase “in country.” The collection of over-the-counter supplies is underway and continues through the summer. Please, only new, unopened/unused medications that are not expired or expiring within six months can be accepted. Generic and store-brand products are fine. Monetary donations are always welcome; simply write “Uganda Medical” in the memo line, or on the envelope if giving cash, and drop it in the plate or mail it to the office. Please call Michelle in the church office at 860.651.3356 with any questions.

Medical supplies to help the men, women, and children of Uganda:

- Multivitamins (adult, child, prenatal, infant) – no “gummy” vitamins ~ they melt!
- Ibuprofen (Advil)
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
- Aspirin
- Eye drops (Visine)
- Iron tablets
- Pedialyte powder packs
- Stool softener and laxative tablets
- Benadryl tablets
- Pepcid (or similar)
- Antifungal/anti-inflammatory skin cream

Uganda Mission Team Needs One More Person!

We were ready to announce that we had a full team of 10, but one person is unable to travel! A replacement is needed by JULY 30 when we do our FINAL ticketing! Please contact Michelle in the office ASAP at 860.651.3356 if you have interest or know someone that does! We still have an amazing team coming together! Out of 9 people right now, we have 7 repeat travelers! What an amazing testament to the work that we do to have that many people willing to travel with us so many times. It is truly a blessing. We welcomed 2 NEW travelers to the roster as well, and they fit right in like they’ve been a part of the “family” all along. Our travelers range in age from mid-teens to mid 70’s, and this is also the first group with the largest concentration of medical experience ever, so we are ready for the new clinic that is waiting for us! We also have a diverse faith team with 4 Jewish members from Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation, Temple Sinai Newington, and P’nai Or West Hartford, 4 Methodist members from SUMC and Asbury UMC in Terryville, and 1 Unaffiliated. Here is our 2018 team and the number of times they have traveled: Judy Bergman (2), Brian Denski (6), Michelle Ebert ~Team Leader (5), Matt Jamieson (2), Dr. Adam Perrin (2), Josh Rozovsky (2), Katie Schaffrick (3), Najla Serano (1st), and Rusty Shaw (1st). We leave in just over 8 weeks and the excitement is already building within our team and in Uganda as they anticipate our arrival!

Winsted United Methodist Church Food Pantry

School is out and this means that many children in Winsted will not be having breakfast or lunch during the summer.

The small but amazing congregation at WUMC has been providing food for 50 families for many years. How do they do it? By donations from caring Christians like us and others who make monthly visits with carloads of food to fill the pantry shelves. Please consider taking advantage of sales at local grocery stores that offer BOGO or go to Walmart, where the store brand of cereal costs \$1.48 or less. Peanut butter and jelly are also cheaper there.

Lunch items may include cans of pasta, tuna fish, and chicken; boxes of mac & cheese; and nutritious snacks. Whatever you donate will be greatly appreciated. Just drop your donation in the BLUE box in Wesley Hall. I make monthly deliveries to WUMC. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please mail it to: WUMC, P.O. Box 380, Winsted, CT 06098-1515, attention Issy Skilton, Church Secretary/Food Pantry.

~ Blessings, Barbara Vasquenza

Words from Stephen Ministry

Sunset is usually a quiet tranquil time, when the day's activities wind down. Many take time to be outside to enjoy the inspirational beauty of the sunset. The most beautiful sunsets are those where the setting sun's rays have to work their way through clouds. The interaction of light and clouds produces magnificent hues and scenes that are spectacular and breathtaking. A cloudless sunset does not duplicate this beauty.

Our lives are much the same. Working through difficulties often brings out the real beauty in a person. Whether it is clouds or trials, God can use something that we usually think of as negative to produce awesome results.

Stephen Ministers are available to walk alongside those working through difficult times in their lives. Whether it is an illness, a job loss, grief, loneliness or some other trouble, a Stephen Minister can help. With God's guidance, we can help create beautiful sunsets through clouds in our care receivers lives.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from having a Stephen Minister, speak to the pastor or contact Barbara Vasquenza, referrals coordinator, at bjv1208@att.net or 860.677.4750.

~ submitted by Judy Sturgis

GYPN: Gene's Your Pastor Now

As we transition from saying farewell to Pastor Woody and welcoming Pastor Gene, we will sometimes need to remind ourselves that "Gene Is Our Pastor Now." We have all been accustomed to relying on Woody these past ten years, and it will take some time to shift our thinking to sharing our blessings and challenges with Gene. However, while we should no longer call Woody for pastoral care, that doesn't mean that we can't maintain a friendship with him. He has shared his and Florence's new address – and I'm sure he'd welcome a card or letter.

Woody and Florence Eddins
10224 Cabery Road
Ellicott City, MD 21042

~ Jennifer Acheson, SPR Chair

Adult Spiritual Growth

New Summer Class

Rita House will be coordinating a DVD study of parts of the Old Testament from the Great Courses. The DVDs, which are 30 minutes long, begin with Genesis and end with the death of Moses. Following the DVD, a study guide will be used to guide a thirty-minute discussion. No reading is required and each week can be attended independent of other weeks. The class resumed on July 8 at 10:45 am in the Annex. If you have any questions or would like to join the group, please contact Rita at house.rita325@gmail.com.

Inspiration by the Sea – Our 2nd Annual Women’s Retreat

Last fall, a group of SUMC Women spent “a time apart” for 24 hours at Mercy-by-the-Sea Conference Center in Madison. Participants worshipped and explored sacred creative expression through art, music, and writing. This event was a rousing success, and the Adult Spiritual Growth Committee is excited to announce that we will return to Mercy-by-the-Sea this fall **on October 5 and 6**.

Why go on a retreat? It can be hard to hear God’s voice above the cacophony of everyday life. The word “retreat” means “a place of privacy or safety: a refuge. It is truly a gift to spend 24 hours away from the hustle and bustle of our daily obligations. Like last year’s trip, we will enjoy the sea lapping at the shore and the opportunity to participate in reflective and creative activities. This year we will incorporate more unstructured time, with worship and creativity stations that participants can use at their leisure. Group breakout sessions will also be offered. Temporary tattoos, while not mandatory, will be strongly encouraged!

This event will run from Friday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. until Saturday at 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$120 double or \$150 single, which includes all materials, three meals, simple but lovely accommodations, and access to the center’s beautiful indoor and outdoor facilities. If cost is an obstacle to your attendance, please contact the church office or the pastor for information on possible scholarships. Be sure to register early, as space is limited! If you have questions, call Lori Garcia at 860.614.9140.

Church School News

I love how God is constantly providing teachable moments with my children on our daily summer errands. The other day Cameron and I set out to a local fish store to shop for a new fish and tank. As we walked up and down the aisles of the store looking at all the fish, I couldn’t help but be reminded how amazing God is with his creation. In this case, fish! We saw so many different shapes and colors of fish. From blue, yellow, black, and iridescent colors, to oblong to round fish. Fish with whiskers and fish with no whiskers. The variety and detail of each of the fish was truly amazing! It was a great reminder that everything in creation – from fish to animals, flowers, plants, and even people – is all created with a unique design and purpose to be appreciated and used for His glory! I hope next time you’re out exploring this summer you will take a moment share with your children the beauty and unique design of creation and our Creator.



Enjoy the rest of your summer. Please see Pastor Peter’s article on the next page about some summer youth activities. Summer Sunday School for children ages 3-10 continues through August 12. We’re gearing up for a new Church School season in September. Rally Day is September 9! Please contact me to volunteer or if you have questions!

~ Blessings, Jody

Junior and Senior High School Youth Activities at SUMC

Please contact Pastor Peter at the church office or at 860.970.5695 with any questions about the junior/senior high programming.

Upcoming Activities for Youth

Grab a friend and let Pastor Peter know you'll be coming!

Kits for Kids Youth Service Project Kits for Kids is a homegrown charity that started 13 years ago. The primary goal was to help stressed children in foster care and medical facilities, but providing them with everyday essential supplies. In the first year, we assembled a mere three kits – our goal for 2018 to assemble 2,500 kits.

Some of the items in a comfort kit: soaps or body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, face cloths, winter hats, mittens/gloves, pajamas, stuffed animals, dolls, crayons/coloring books, bouncy balls, small blankets, books, deodorant, lip balm, make-up, lotion, socks, journals/pens. Kits for Kids' current mission is to help children wherever the need is. Items and check donations (payable to Kits for Kids) may be left in the box in Wesley Hall

A Kits for Kids project will be held at SUMC on Saturday, July 28, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Wesley Hall. Please contact Pastor Peter for more information or to let him know you can join.

Whiffle Ball Game for Families & Teens: Sunday, July 22, following the 9:30 service.

Kayak & Paddleboard Paddle Party: Wednesday, July 25, from 12:30–2:30 p.m.

Greenway Trail Bike Ride & Lunch Stop: Thursday, August 2, 10:00 a.m. Drop off and pick up at Route 10/Route 315 parking lot. Ride north to Red Riding Hood's Basket Café in Southwick at a leisurely pace and back by 1:00 pm.

In the Rear View Mirror

Just a bit of what the youth have been up to this summer...

ASP Mission Trip (Appalachian Service Project). Seventeen SUMC youth and adult chaperones participated in the trip to Appalachia June 30 through July 7. It was an incredible week of helping others by working to improve their homes with much-needed repairs. Thanks for supporting them with gifts and prayers.

During the month of July, SUMC youth activities included a hike at Penwood forest, tubing on the Farmington River, and a service project at Hands on Hartford.



Stay Tuned for Fall Programming

More to come this fall! Thank you to Pastor Peter for working so hard to schedule and lead so many events for our youth!

Summer Worship at SUMC

Summer worship hours began on July 1 – which was also Pastor Gene’s first day of preaching at SUMC!

Through September 2, Sunday services are held at 8:00 a.m. (communion) and at 9:30 a.m. (Sunday School for children age 10 and under).

We will resume our three-service Sunday schedule (8:00 a.m. communion, 9:00 a.m. CAYA, and 10:30 a.m. traditional worship) on Rally Day, September 9. Church school also resumes on the 9th.

**This newsletter is published 10 times a year by
The Simsbury United Methodist Church
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