

# STEEPLE TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 2012

ISSUE 2-12

## Inside this issue:

- ✚ Some Thoughts . . .  
from Rev. Dave
- ✚ Here Wee Grow!
- ✚ Troop 108
- ✚ Souper Bowl
- ✚ Prayer Chain

## Mission Statement

*As followers of Jesus Christ, our mission is to make Christian*

### *Disciples:*

*by using our spiritual gifts; by practicing the means of grace; and by living our faith.*



## ***FEBRUARY at HUMC***

- February 5**                      **Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon** *(page 6)*
- February 15**                    **New Bible Study** *(page 3)*
- February 22**                    **Ash Wednesday** *(page 3)*
- February 26**                    **Resource Center Open House** *(page 8)*

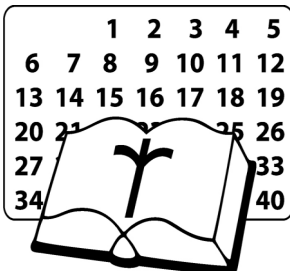
**Worship at HUMC**  
**Sundays at 10 AM**  
Join us for Sunday School



## **February Sermons**

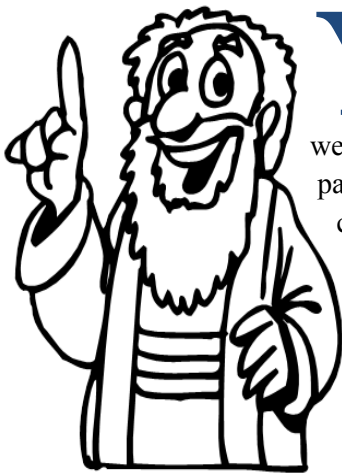
The month of February will bring a widely diverse set of sermons to our Sunday morning worship experience.

- ✚ On **February 5** we will look at the wonder of Holy Communion as we relive Jesus' words, "In Remembrance of Me."
- ✚ On **February 12** we consider our role as Christians in the upcoming elections. After all, "It's That Time Again."
- ✚ On **February 19** we will gather for a time of "Starting Over," as we experience John Wesley's Covenant Renewal service.
- ✚ And then on **February 26** we will begin our Lenten journey in a five week series entitled "Lord, Teach Us to Pray." This series will invite us to walk through Lent using Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer as our guide.



**New  
Sermon Series**

## *Some Thoughts from Me* —Rev. Dave



**Y**ou know, there are a lot of blessings to being a minister. I get to conduct weddings, baptize babies, visit parishioners in hospitals and rehab centers, and send folks on to their eternal homes through the act of burying them. I get invited into people's homes and am often the recipient of incredible acts of kindness such as cookies, cakes, um...you get the idea.

I get to hang out with the kids during Kids' Time in church. I get to work and live in a marvelous community with an incredible church family. Truly, there are many blessings to being a minister. But I've discovered that there is a downside as well. And that downside is that I am never "in the moment." I am always looking ahead; sometimes weeks, oftentimes months.

Take this last week for instance. In one meeting that I attended, we spent much of our time talking about and planning for Vacation Bible School. That's right; Vacation Bible School. It's going to be in July again this year, and it is going to be held on two separate weeks as we have done for the past two years. Under the guiding hand of Becky Michaud, our VBS program has really taken off. Two years ago she had the "crazy idea" of offering VBS on two different weeks. And what was the result? We had almost 80 kids take part during one or both weeks. Last year we almost reached the century mark. Clearly God is blessing our program. We know He is blessing these children through the program. And that is what formed the basis of our discussion; we've grown so much, the program is so popular, that we need to seriously look at the number of adults we have staffing the program.

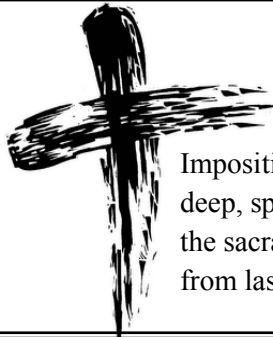
Over the past couple of years we have developed the reputation of having one of the best (if not the best) VBS programs in town. Part of what has helped make that reputation is that we do not "cap" our VBS. It is open to all, and we not only welcome walk-in registration, but encourage it. It is that trademark that not only causes us to celebrate the rapid growth, but to face a very serious

problem. If we continue to grow (or just stay level with last year) we will need more adults to teach and assist. We will have to expand the number of class groupings, as 18-20 children per class is just too big for some of what we do. Who would have thought that we would reach the point where our concern is not over having enough children, but having enough adult supervision? Thus, this plea.

We need adults to sign up. Becky has an article in this newsletter which will give you more information about what we need and the dates and stuff like that. I just want to ask you to consider getting involved. You won't have to work alone; you'll have someone to work with. The kids are amazing, and the time you spend with them you will count as a blessing (no matter how terrified the prospect may seem today). We need adults to sign up, and sign up now. We will need to make a decision by April whether we have enough adults to continue to offer walk-in enrollment, or if we will have to limit the number of children we accept. Personally, I'd hate to see that happen.

This isn't meant to be a guilt trip. Hopefully, by now, you know me well enough to know that I don't play that game. But it is a plea to get involved. This is a powerful outreach of our church. It is a powerful tool for helping to shape the lives of young people for years to come. It is a powerful blessing to those who are involved. I hope you will pray over Becky's article. I hope you will consider getting involved. And I hope you will sign up, because as the old recruiting poster says, "*We need you!*"

*Dave*



## Ash Wednesday

Lent begins this year on Wednesday, February 22. We will mark the beginning of this very important season of the Christian Church with a traditional service of the Imposition of the Ashes at 7 PM that evening. The service will provide an opportunity for deep, spiritual reflection; the imposition of the ashes, which remind us of our mortality; and the sacrament of Holy Communion. As is our tradition, the ashes that we use will be the ashes from last year's Palm Sunday celebration.

Beginning February 15 we will be offering a seven week Bible Study on Paul's letter to the Galatians. Galatians is a letter that is called by many 'the Magna Carta of Christian liberty,' and in it Paul writes urgently to a church in crisis. The church in Galatia was beset on two sides: from Judaizers claiming that Gentiles must become Jews before becoming Christians, and from Gnostic teachers who abused Christian freedoms. With an impassioned eloquence, Paul puts forth his doctrine of justification by grace alone. Lest anyone mistake this liberty as permission to ignore the moral code, Paul reasserts what he perceives as the true function of the Mosaic law in relation to God's grace manifested in Christ. Scholars agree—

## New Bible Study



declaration of these principles, reiterated in just 6 short chapters, made Christianity a world religion instead of a Jewish sect.

The sessions include:

- What Were You Thinking!
- The Heart of the Gospel
- In Favor of Grace
- What is the Law for?
- An Appeal to Friendship
- Living the Faith in the Faith Community
- Living the Gospel

The study will be offered Wednesday evenings at 7, and Thursday afternoons at 2, beginning February 15. If you don't already have the study book we are asking for a \$10 donation to cover the cost of the materials, and financial assistance is available.

After giving the sermon on January 1, I was asked to share this information via Steeple Tidings: If you are new to the Bible, you may find that reading from the first page to the last is difficult. There are five books that contain the essential teachings of the Bible.

- ✠ If this is your first time, it is recommended that you start by reading Genesis, the first book of the Bible. It gives the origin of the earth and stories of early men and women of faith.
- ✠ Then turn to Deuteronomy, the fifth book in the Bible. It expresses God's love and summarizes God's laws for His people, Israel.
- ✠ Next, turn to the fourth book in the New Testament, the Gospel of John. It introduces Jesus as God's son and shows the meaning behind his life, death and resurrection.
- ✠ The next book, Acts, follows the Gospel of John and gives a history of the early church.
- ✠ The sixth book, Romans, follows the book of Acts and is a letter from the Apostle Paul to people in the early church. It explains the needs of the human race and how God has met those needs through Jesus.

These five Bible books will give you the history and basic principles you'll need to understand the rest of the Bible. *Linda D. Borio*

## United Methodist Women — Linda Borio



**FEBRUARY 7, 2012**

**10:30 AM**

### **VALENTINE CARE PACKAGES PROGRAM**

Everyone is invited to bring a sack lunch to enjoy after we fill the care packages; the hostesses will provide some desserts and refreshments. This is our annual "Valentine Care Packages" program in which we send packages and Valentines to our college students, as well as to those in the military. We also send Valentines to those unable to get out in the snowy, icy weather.

Please see the box in the Library for donations for the "Care Packages". We've discovered the college students really appreciate "snacks". . . specifically, granola bars, snack foods, gum, etc. For those in the military, please be aware since the package may take some time to get there, chocolate in any shape or form is probably not a good idea. If you prefer, a cash donation is always appreciated which will be used toward the cost of shipping the packages.

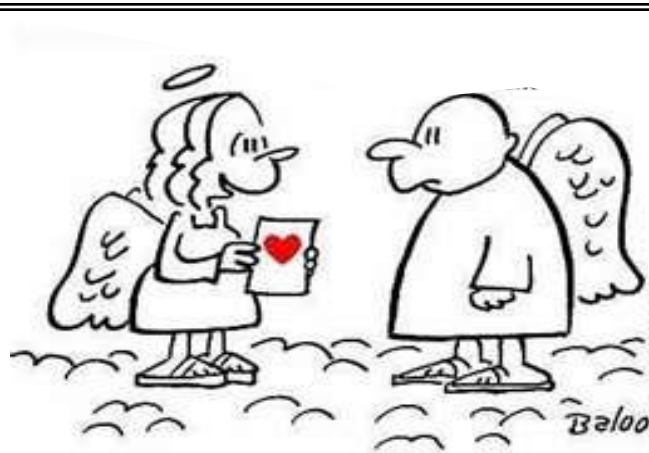
If you are aware of a college student or military person who is not already on our church list, please contact Isobel Skukowski prior to February 2 to insure that person will be sent a Valentine Care Package.

**Chair: Isobel Skukowski**

**Hostesses: Elsie Locke and Judy Locke**

*See you on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. (don't forget your sack lunch!)*

Women. . . mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 24, 2012**. The CT/WMA District will be having their Spring meeting right HERE at HUMC! The timeframe is **9-2PM** and all women are welcome. Cost is \$7 per person and includes lunch and a program on Haiti, entitled "*Messengers for Mission in the Aftermath of Disaster—Finding Hope for Haiti.*" Quickly, put this date on your calendars and invite a friend to come with you!!



"This is an authentic Valentine  
— I got it from *Saint Valentine!*"

For God so lo**V**ed the world,  
That He g**A**ve  
His on**L**y  
Begott**E**n  
So**N**  
That whosoever  
Believeth **I**n Him;  
Should **N**ot perish,  
But have **E**verlasting life.

*John 3:16*



## EARLY RESPONSE TRAINING (The UMCOR Basic ERT Course)

Early Response Training (the UMCOR Basic ERT course) is scheduled to take place from 8:30am – 5pm on March 5, 2012 at one of the Springfield United Methodist Churches. There is a \$25.00 registration fee to cover the cost of Basic ERT manual, ERT T-shirt, morning refreshments, and lunch.

2011 brought several disasters to New England, especially in Vermont. The New England Conference currently has about 100 ERTs with UMCOR badges. We are in urgent need several more ERTs to help survivors of future flood/winter storm damage. Emphasis will be put on Mud-out and debris removal tasks during this training.

Just what is an ERT? Most UMVIM teams respond to disasters in the recovery stage helping to rebuild and replace what was damaged by the disaster or removed during mud-out. Their job is to get people back into their homes. ERTs respond soon after emergency crews have completed search and rescue. ERTs

remove yard debris, do mud-out (or gutting) of all water soaked and damaged goods and structures as well as clear roofs and cover them with tarps. Once walls are bared to the studding, ERTs treat the studding and other surfaces to destroy and remove mold. Then they sanitize all surfaces to help prevent future outbreaks. Their job is to make the damaged house safe, sanitary and secure. ERTs work when the media is still present letting the world and our churches know that The United Methodist Church is there from

the beginning to the end. ERTs have to wear authorized badges or Emergency personnel will not let them in the flooded area at this early stage. The New England Conference and UMCOR will provide badges to all volunteers that take and pass this training and have had a successful background check. The New England Conference conducts and covers the cost of all ERT background checks for laity.

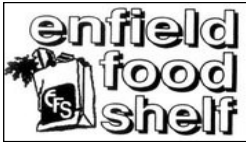
To be certified ERTs must have 8 hours of training. Proper use of tools and proper wearing attire are discussed. At the end of the session you will be tested and if you pass, you will be eligible to receive an UMCOR ERT badge providing you also pass a Safe Sanctuary Background Check. The minimum age requirement is 18. Youth who will be 18 by June 30, 2012 can take the class and receive their certification and badge.

What a wonderful opportunity to have a team of Early Responders right here at HUMC. Rev. Williams is already registered, and we hope that we will have many more from our church. To register, please contact Dave Stackpole at 603-465-7885, cell 603-244-0713, or [vimnecumc@charter.net](mailto:vimnecumc@charter.net). Please provide your name, address, phone number, mobile phone number, email address and church by email to register.. When you register, Dave will send you the information to initiate your background check. Beginning the process in advance of the class will speed up the process of issuing badges – hopefully to one week after completion of the class.

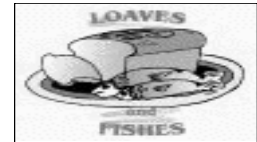


**Tapes for Shut-ins.** Did you know that we tape each service? We do! That means if you or a loved one can't make it to church on a given Sunday, you can borrow a cassette tape of the service to enjoy at your leisure. Simply see Rev. Dave, and he will be happy to get you the tape. Take your time. Listen to it as many times as you like and simply return it when you are finished.

## Communion Offering—Holly Fisher



### FEBRUARY COMMUNION OFFERING TO BENEFIT THE HUNGRY



The Outreach Committee has elected the February communion offering to go equally to the Enfield Food Shelf and Enfield Loaves and Fishes.

In addition, we will be participating in **Souper Bowl Sunday on February 5, 2012**. The youth of our church will be hosting a Souper Bowl lunch following the worship service. All are welcome - the admission is a can of soup. In addition, there will be a free will offering. Food and monies collected will go to Enfield Food Shelf and Enfield Loaves and Fishes. Through this mission, young people learn what it's like to make a difference in the world as they collect food and raise money to help the hungry. Be part of this nationwide movement that is sharing God's love with those in need.

Attend the luncheon to experience a sense of community and give generously. (Also, the food is always great!)

**Mark your calendar - Sunday, February 5, 2012.  
Bring a can of soup and a hearty appetite.**

**Join us for  
a Bowl of Soup,  
camaraderie and friendship  
in Fellowship Hall following worship  
as we celebrate the 2012 Super Bowl  
at our Souper Bowl of Caring luncheon  
February 5, 2012.**



### COFFEE HOUR

The Coffee Hour following the Sunday morning church service is an important part HUMC community. For a long time beverages and snacks magically (thanks to Pat Owens) awaited us as we headed through the library following the aroma of fresh coffee. We now need your **HELP** in continuing with this tradition. Look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall, check your calendars and **VOLUNTEER**.

The process is easy. You need to arrive at church early to make the coffee so that it can brew during the service. The directions for making the coffee are posted on the wall by the coffee makers. The church supplies the coffee, tea, sugar, cups and napkins. As the hosts, you will need to provide milk or cream, juice and light refreshments. Once the coffee hour is over, you then clean up the kitchen. And **please take home any of the leftovers that you brought including the milk and juice.**

We all enjoy this wonderful time of fellowship and appreciate its importance to the HUMC members and their visitors. Please **VOLUNTEER**.

## *Here Wee Grow!*— Phyllis Phelan



**Dr. Seuss  
and  
HWG**

**F**ebruary is on the doorstep and children at Here Wee Grow! are looking forward to learning about Dr. Seuss. This month we'll discuss the books written by Dr. Seuss and participate in activities that correspond to the book we read each day. Our older groups will be involved in measuring, graphing, rhyming and estimation activities. New vocabulary will be introduced and children will be encouraged to participate in activities to support the new vocabulary. The younger groups will also be involved in rhyming activities and new word definitions. We already enjoy math activities so we'll add graphing to those. It will be a wonderful month to learn more about math components and improve our literacy skills.

February also brings thoughts of love, family and friends with Valentine's Day not too far away. Each class will enjoy a party and as always, we'll include any family members who are available to join us. We love parties and are always eager to have family members visit us in the school setting. The **Here Wee Grow!** parent group hosted, with Barnes and Noble, a fundraiser to assist with materials for our school. We are very fortunate to have such an active and dedicated group of parents who help in so many ways. The funds collected will go for new books and manipulatives. We appreciate also the parents, grandparents and friends who joined us at the store and who supported us by purchasing items. A percentage of the money collected goes to the school. We thank Barnes and Noble for making this possible so we can improve our library by offering a variety of books to our students.

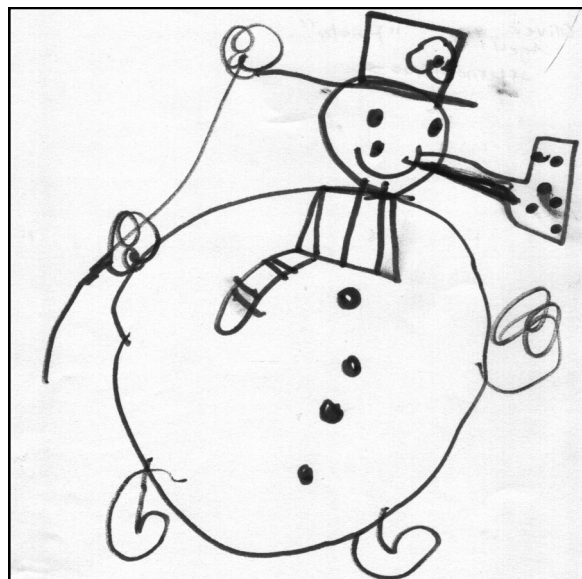
This month Here Wee Grow! added to our classes six additional students. We have four new three year olds and two additional four year old students. Of these six students, two are not so new to us because their older siblings attended HWG. It's great seeing former families return to HWG! As of this writing we have 29 three year olds and 46 four year olds in our program. It's a wonderful group!

Registration is beginning for the fall 2012-2013 school year. If you know of someone who is of age and is looking for a nationally accredited school please pass on our number, 860-749-2458. We'd love to show them our school and talk about the things we do to educate our young students.

As always, we thank you for your kind words, your gifts, your prayers and your support. Your efforts are appreciated more than you know.

*Until next time.....*

***Here Wee Grow! is proud of our "budding artists." This is a picture of Frosty by Oliver, Age 4, Afternoon HWG class. Move over Picasso!!***



## Resource Center — Colleen Williams

### Resource Center Open House February 26, 2012 following Worship

Please come to the HUMC Resource Center Open House right after church on February 26.

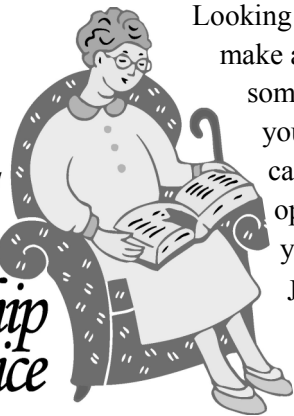
The goal of our Resource Center is to help people see that they can make a positive impact on God's creation through the thoughtful use of our world's resources. Come to the Open House, see what the Resource Center is all about, and see how you might partner with us in this important ministry.

The Resource Center is located downstairs in the old kitchen, at the east end of the hallway.



### Nursing Home Outreach Opportunities

*Nursing Home  
Worship  
Service*



Looking for a chance to make a real difference in someone's life? Then you are in luck, because we have two opportunities for you this month.

Join us on **Tuesday, February 7, at 10:30 at the Parkway**

**Nursing Home**, and then again on the **Tuesday, February 28, at 11:00 at Evergreen Nursing and Rehab Center** as we offer a brief time of worship for the residents.

The services will last approximately one half hour and include old favorite hymns, prayers, scripture, a very brief message, and the sacrament of Holy Communion. We are always in need of folks to assist in the singing (no solos, don't worry) and to just generally greet the residents who come to the service. It's fun. It's easy. And it really does make a difference.

*Hope to see you there!*

### February Birthdays

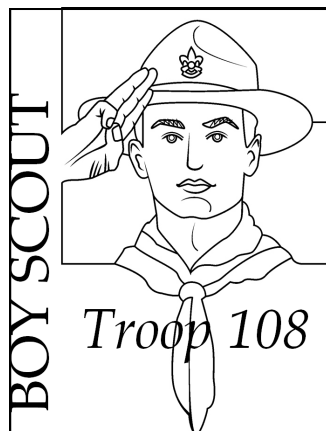


*Happy Birthday!*

1	Lety Sim
4	Don Niemann
5	Pete Frew
10	Betty Mientus
13	Peg Steinert
15	Christian Fracasso
19	Charlotte Stenlake
22	Kerry Fracasso
25	Eleanor Weisel

**We would be happy to include your name on our birthday list. Simply call the church office at 860-749-7098 to be included.**

## *Greetings from Troop 108 — Scott Vujs*



January and February have been busy months for Troop 108.

Planning has started to celebrate Troop 108's 74th year of existence and chartered membership with HUMC. An organizational committee meeting to start detailing some of our Anniversary Events in 2013 was held.

We are planning on doing some similar events that were done at the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration in 1988 as well as add a few new ones. All in all it sounds like a great program being planned for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

January was another great month for the Troop. We started the month with a uniform inspection to ensure our uniforms were all set for Scout Sunday. Several scouts during the month advanced in rank towards Eagle Scout, several more completed Merit Badges in over 140 available topics, and

others completed requirements towards advancement.

And speaking of Scout Sunday, Troop 108 will participate in HUMC's Sunday Service on January 29, 2012 followed by our Court of Honor and Banquet immediately after the church service. We look forward each year to this event with the members of the HUMC Family!

Troop 108 continues to host Webelos scouts from various packs from Enfield as they visit our Troop to get ready to crossover into Boy Scouts. It still appears to be a very good recruiting season among the town's Cub Scout Packs.

January's campout was at Otis Ridge Ski Mountain. Many scouts participated in skiing or snowboarding events and camped out overnight at the mountain. Besides having fun, the scouts were able to complete requirements for the Snow Sports Merit badge!

February's campout will be a CSI-themed event. Scouts will work with Connecticut State Police, State of Connecticut Prosecutor's Office, and State of Connecticut Crime Lab Officials to complete requirements for the Fingerprinting and Crime Prevention Merit Badges. We will camp out at the Connecticut Air National Guard Base in East Granby, CT, courtesy of the CT ANG.

Also, mark your calendars for Troop 108's annual Pasta Supper Fundraiser on Saturday March 3, 2012 at the HUMC Fellowship Hall. More information to follow next month.

***Troop 108 thanks the HUMC for its continued support of our troop!***



### **To that wonderful volunteer production staff...**

Heartfelt thanks to the gracious, considerate production staff whose nimble fingers made short work of our January issue of Steeple Tidings . . .

**Pat Owens and Nancy Dyer,**

with special thanks to **Don Niemann** for all his support and help.

**Where would we be without volunteers???**



## CALLING ALL HANDS



It's that time again to start planning for **Music and Arts Vacation Bible School!** We are starting off full force in volunteer recruitment. After having over 100 children between all three weeks last year. We need more hands! This year's dates are **Monday, July 2 through Friday, July 6, 8 AM to 12 PM** and **July 16 through July 20, 8 AM to 12 PM.** The **Evening Potluck All Ages Vacation Bible School** is **July 10, 11, 12, 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM.**

I am looking for help in all areas: Adult classes, snack, registration, Bible story, games, crafts, music, set-up, clean-up, group leaders, assistants in rooms and pre-work. There is a spot for everyone!! Tell your friends, neighbors, family, everyone! Spread the word! Whether you can give all the time...a week...a few days...a day...there is a need for you! Please fill out the form below and give it to Becky Michaud.

We have been told by many families that this is the **BEST PROGRAM IN TOWN, AND, OF COURSE, WE CAN EXPECT THEM THIS YEAR.** Let's keep that true and have the hands to support it.

We will be having our first planning-organizing meeting in March. If you have any questions, please see, email ([buffy11884@aol.com](mailto:buffy11884@aol.com)) or call (860-749-4936).

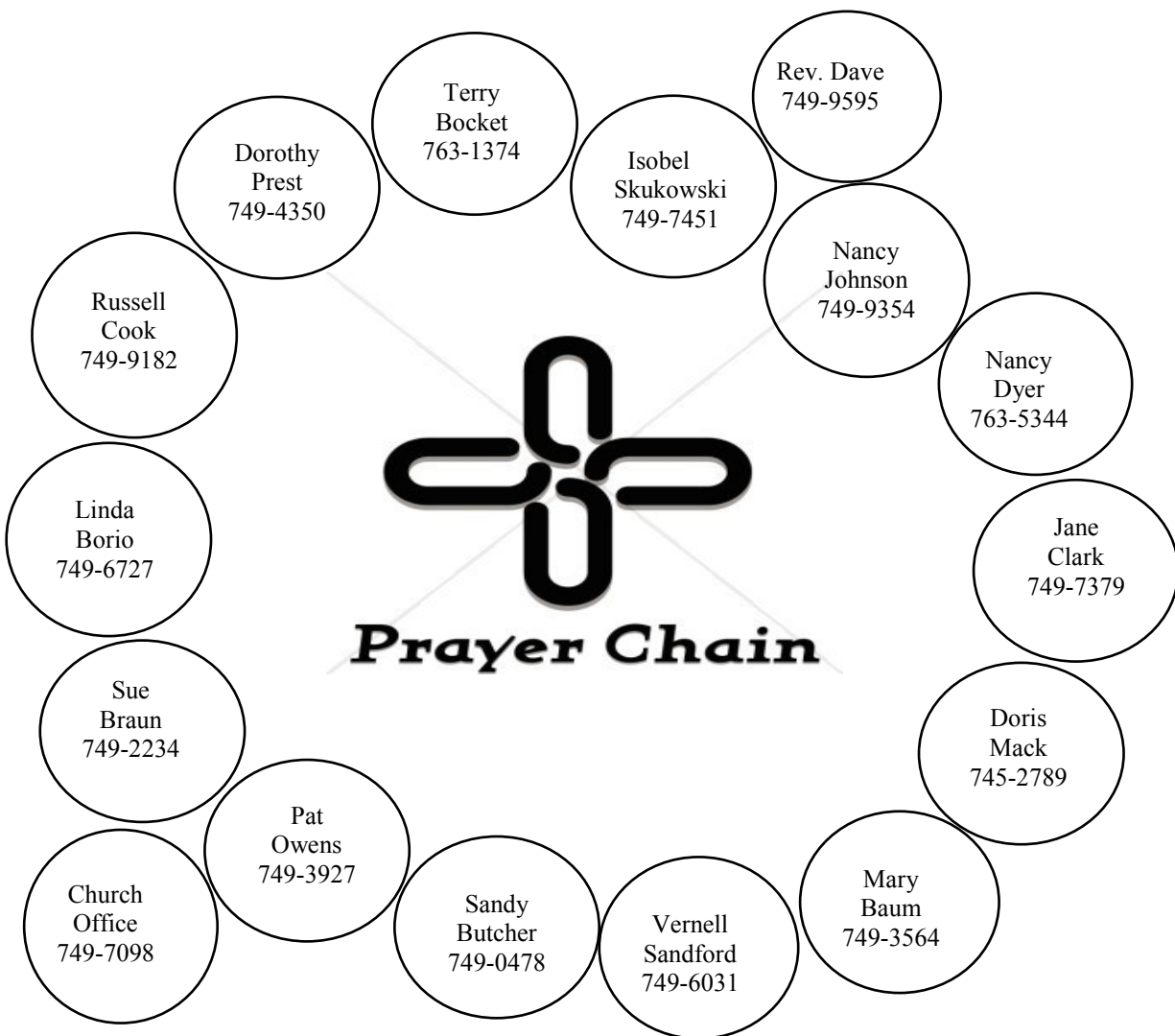
I can help on: \_\_\_\_\_  
(DATES)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



**Please keep the following in your prayers**

John Allen, Gerald Benard, James Burkhardt, Jane Clark,  
Berta Clawson, Molly Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Betty Mientus,  
Rev. Dale Neuffer, Mary Nickerson, Barbara Sackett, Peg Smith,  
Peg Steintert, Ron Uricchio, Janet Wyatt,  
David Weatherby, Art and Millie Witkoske

**Pray also for these Members**

Babs Baker, Redstone Rehab Facility, 135 Benton Dr, E.Longmeadow, MA  
Asa and Hildegard Waller, Suffield House, 1 Canal Road, Suffield, CT  
Bertha Somero, Parkway Healthcare, 1157 Enfield Street, Enfield, CT

*If you have a name to add or notice a name that is missing,  
please contact Isobel Skukowski or the church office.*





