



**THE CRISIS IN DARFUR NEXT SUNDAY:** Our church & *Gishrei Shalom Jewish Congregation* are co-sponsoring this important educational event **NEXT Sunday, 4:00pm**, in Memorial Hall, featuring Christopher Doucet. The editor of *The Hartford Catholic Worker* will offer an historical context to the genocide in Darfur & an update on the current situation there. All are welcome & encouraged to attend.

**SIGN PETITIONS TODAY!** Sign a petition TODAY in Memorial Hall to **end modern-day slavery**. Signatures will be presented to government officials to demonstrate the voice of the people regarding human trafficking & modern-day slavery. For more information, visit [www.theamazingchange.com](http://www.theamazingchange.com).

**WE RECOMMEND** the movies, *Amazing Grace* (opening this Friday) & *Freedom Writers*. See them!

**LENTEN NOONDAY SERVICES** begin THIS week. These special 30-minute Lenten services are offered at 12:00N every Wednesday through April 4 in our Chapel (except THIS week: Meetinghouse), led by one of our clergy staff. Lenten luncheons follow each one in Memorial Hall for just \$3. ALL welcome!

**PROGRESSIVE DINNER:** There are only 20 seats at this fabulous meal to benefit *Red Cloud Indian School*. It's Saturday, 3/3, 6pm. Tickets are \$30/person. For tickets, call Paul Vivian (860-621-8729).

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** is Friday, 3/9, 12:00N, *St. Thomas Church* Hall, Bristol Street. Lunch & program = \$8. For tickets, call Doris Smith by 3/2 (860-426-9205).

**WINTER ART CAMP THIS WEEK:** Award-winning artist & teacher, John Baker, offers an *Art Camp* this week (2/19 - 2/23) for kids (with lessons in painting, drawing, clay, collage, mixed media & illustration) in our new *Peace Café*. Sessions are 2 hours (grades 1-3 = 9:30-11:30am & grades 4-7 = 1:30-3:30pm). Learn about art from around the world & help friends create artwork for our new *Peace Café*. Cost: \$150 (includes all materials). **Last call!** Register today! Contact Crystal Sullivan (203-536-5642 or at KenCrySS@sbcglobal.net).

**A QUIET CANDLELIGHT PRAYER SERVICE** in the style of Taize is held **EVERY Tuesday, 6:30-7:00pm**, in our Chapel. All welcome & encouraged to attend for quiet, reflective worship.

**STEVE & FRIENDS CONCERT,** featuring church member, Steve Casillas, will be held at *St. Mary's Church*, Newington, CT, NEXT Sunday, 2/25, 3:30 pm. A light reception will follow. All welcome!

**PUZZLE SWAP NEXT SUNDAY,** 2/25, all day in Memorial Hall. Bring in & take home puzzles for adults & children (children's puzzles not more than 100 pieces). For info, contact Lois Hall (860-828-4219).

**SUMMER CAMP:** Our *United Church of Christ* runs a wonderful summer camp experience for children & teens at *Silver Lake Conference Center* in Sharon, CT. Brochure & registration is now available on-line at [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org) (click on "Silver Lake"). We also have some scholarship assistance available. See Karlene Archambeault or Carole Lantz.

**FOR YOUR CALENDAR:** *Mad Agnes* in concert, *Peace Café*, 7:30pm, Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>!

**USHERS NEEDED** for 1 Sunday/month at 9:30am? It's a great way to meet more people AND serve your church. Training & substitutes provided! Please sign-up next to Gordon's office.

**INFANT/TODDLER NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED DURING ALL SERVICES:** Adults & teens needed! Please call Beth Winne (621-6159).

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY:** Our next work day is **SATURDAY, 3/17** (& monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday). Sign-up TODAY next to Gordon's office! Men, women & teens (16 & over) welcome. If you can't join us to work, please consider providing fuel for the volunteers, **SNACKS**, morning break food for 15-20 people. Call Michael Halloran, (860/426-1304) for more info or to sign-up. Thanks!

**NEW COVENANT TO CARE NEEDS:** Kitchen table & chairs, mattresses (full & twin), bedsheets, pillows, bedroom sets for adult & a 5-year old. **ALSO needed** (as always): Placement packs for all ages, including: **Infant & Toddler** (baby blankets, pacifiers, bottles, onesies, washcloths, wipes, sippy cups, diapers, toothbrushes, baby rattles/teethers, infant formula, baby food, baby cereal); **Preschool** (toiletries, wipes, color books/crayons, hand/body lotion, combs/brush, stuffed animals, small toy, books, small packaged snacks); **School Age** (backpacks, markers, deodorant & other toiletries, pens/pencils, books, clothes, etc.). Items may be left in our *Mission Hope Chest* in the Narthex. For more info, call Kim Rees (860-621-7768). THANKS!

## **Today's Scripture Lesson**

**JAMES 2:14-18** <sup>14</sup>What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, *Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill*, and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup>So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. <sup>18</sup>But someone will say, *You have faith and I have works*. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I, by my works, will show you my faith.

## **Today's Anthem Text**

*Phos Hilaron*

In Memory of Doris Collins Monroe

O gracious light, pure brightness of the eternal creator of heaven; O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed. Now as we come to the rising of the sun, and our eyes behold your morning light, we sing your praises, mighty God, One in Trinity. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Christ of God, O Giver of life; and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen, Amen.

-UCC Book of Worship

## **SMALL GROUPS**

*All small groups are open to everyone, whether or not you've ever attended before.*

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**SPIRITED WOMEN: A WOMEN'S RETREAT** with Rev. Linda Fernandes-Bailey, happens **March 9-11** at *Wisdom House* in Litchfield. It's a special opportunity for women to come together to listen to one another's stories, pray, worship, & claim the Spirited woman that you are! Cost is \$181 for weekend program, lodging & meals. **Sign-up today** next to Gordon's office; **just 3 spaces left!**

**CRUISIN' CONGOS: Family fun day in NYC!** Choose either *The Bronx Zoo* or *The New York Botanical Gardens* on **Saturday, June 23**. Leave municipal lot next to church at **8:00am** & leave NYC for home at **4:00pm**. The cost is \$25 for bus & tip. Admission costs & lunch are on your own. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Send full payment to Fred Nyren (276 Carriage Dr., Southington, CT 06489). Questions? Call Meredith Mann (860-628-8982). ALSO: Save **Oct. 3-4** for our *Adirondack Foliage Adventure* with lots of wonderful, fun activities. More details coming soon!

**R.E.S.T., OUR SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB** (short for *Reading for Enrichment & Spiritual Transformation*) is led by Rev. Linda Fernandes-Bailey & meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, **7:30 – 8:30pm, room #207**. For **TONIGHT**, read *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* by Immaculee Ilibagize. For **March 19**, read *God's Politics* by Jim Wallis. You're invited to read any or all books & attend any or all monthly sessions.

**QUILTS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED GROUP** meets **every other WEDNESDAY, 10:00AM**, room #207, to sew quilts to comfort children in need. No need to sew; you may cut, piece or tie. **Next meetings: February 14 & 28 and March 14 & 28**. For more info, call Carole Lantz.

**PARENTS & TOTS GROUPS** meet **Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00AM**, in Fellowship Hall (under Meetinghouse). For info, call Lisa Christensen (860-276-0235). Fun for kids; fellowship for parents!

**PRAYER CIRCLE: EVERY TUESDAY, 7:00PM, Church Parlor**. Join us anytime! Leave prayer requests & addresses (card will be sent) in the folder next to Church Office marked, "**Prayer Requests.**"

**SEEDS OF HOPE GROUP** works in & through our church & community to foster awareness, communication, educational opportunities & action regarding our role as compassionate Christians living in a small, small world, who take seriously Jesus' statement: *Whatever you do to even the least of your brothers & sisters, you do it to me*. The group sponsors forums, speakers, film & book discussions & more, promoting peace, justice, environmental concerns & more. **ALL WELCOME!**

**Next meeting: Sunday, March 4, 7:30pm, room #204.**

**OUR ADDICTION ASSISTANCE NETWORK** is for individuals/families needing confidential assistance with problem drinking, drug use, gambling, etc. Contact Steve & JoAnn Ray (203-591-1291).

## **THE CLOTHESLINE PROJECT**

*The Clothesline Project* is on display in *Peace Café* for 1 week, **through NEXT Sunday**, including 2 public viewings on Tuesday & Thursday, 6:00-8:00pm. It is an exhibit of shirts decorated by women

affected by domestic violence. The decorated shirts, hung on a clothesline, may be viewed as testimony to the huge problem of violence against women. They were all created by victims of domestic violence as a way of helping them express their feelings & find healing. **Don't miss this opportunity!**

**Parents: Please note that this is a graphic display, so parental discretion is advised.**

*The Clothesline Project* helps heal & bears witness to the survivors & victims of domestic violence, as well as to the loved ones of those who have died because of it. It also seeks to educate the general public regarding the magnitude of the problem of violence against women. It was started in Massachusetts in 1990 by *The Cape Cod Women's Agenda*, & was inspired by a Cape Cod artist, Rachel Carey-Harper. Currently there are over 100 local chapters of *The Clothesline Project* in 26 states & 3 foreign countries (England, Canada & Tanzania), & there are more than 10,000 shirts for display with all the local chapters. To create a national display of all the shirts already made, we would need to erect a clothesline as long as 67 football fields. Normally during a display of *The Clothesline Project*, a whistle blows every 15 minutes to symbolize another woman's murder from domestic violence; a bell chimes every minute as another woman is raped; & a gong sounds every 10 seconds as a woman is battered.

**Did you know** that 1 out of every 3 girls is sexually abused before reaching the age of 18?

**Did you know** that between 7/1/05 & 6/30/06, 18 domestic violence shelters in Connecticut provided services to 54,641 victims of domestic violence?

**Did you know** that 51,000 women were murdered in the U.S. by men who supposedly loved them during the same period that the Vietnam War was waging, which killed 58,000 U.S. soldiers?

**Did you know** that our church has a relationship with *Prudence Crandall Home*, a shelter for victims of domestic violence in New Britain. Among other assistance, our Missions Committee shops for & delivers a supply of perishable groceries each & every week.

There is no charge to view the display in Peace Café, but to help raise funds *The Clothesline Project* sells logo T-shirts, buttons & bumper stickers, in addition to the general donation box. You'll also find an information table in the display area with educational brochures & lists of local services available to victims of domestic violence.

In the display, **WHITE** shirts are for women who have died from violence because they were women; **YELLOW** or **BEIGE** shirts are for women who have been battered or assaulted because they are women; **RED**, **PINK** or **ORANGE** shirts are for women who have been raped or sexually assaulted; **BLUE** or **GREEN** shirts are for women survivors of incest or childhood sexual abuse; & **PURPLE** or **LAVENDER** shirts are for women who were attacked because they are lesbian.

## **Ten Amazing Facts about *Amazing Grace***

- The words were written by a reformed British slave trader turned Anglican minister, John Newton, who wrote it to accompany a New Year's Day church service in 1773.
- *Amazing Grace* is the most covered song in history. Over 3200 different recordings exist.

- The tune we now associate with *Amazing Grace* wasn't matched to the words until 1835 in William Walker's Southern Harmony. Until then it was set to a variety of tunes.
- The final stanza—*When we've been there ten thousand years*—was added by Edwin Othello Excell in 1909 and was taken from another hymn.
- *Amazing Grace* is considered to be the anthem of the Cherokee Nation because the song was sung on the Trail of Tears during 1838-39.
- The first gospel recording of *Amazing Grace* was made in 1926 by Rev. H. R. Tomlin.
- Most of the recordings of *Amazing Grace* have been made since Judy Collins had a surprise pop hit with the song in 1971.
- A survey of British teenagers in the mid-1970s found that the majority thought that *Amazing Grace* was a love song about a girl named Grace.
- The popular bagpipe version recorded by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards was based on the hit version by Judy Collins and was only added to an album as an afterthought. Later released as a single, it became a huge international hit.
- *Amazing Grace* was sung at the funerals of Richard Nixon, Sonny Bono, Barry Goldwater, Joe DiMaggio and John Kennedy Jr.

## **IMPORTANT STATISTICS**

**27 Million:** Number of people in modern-day slavery across the world

Sourced by the [UN](#), [New York Times](#), [Amnesty International](#), [The Christian Science Monitor](#), and [Free The Slaves](#), among others.

**800,000:** Number of persons trafficked across international borders each year

Sourced by the [US State Department](#), [International Justice Mission](#), and [Antislavery.org](#), among others.

**17,500:** Number of foreign nationals who are trafficked into the U.S. every year

Sourced by the [US House Of Representatives](#), and the [Polaris Project](#), among others.

**91:** Number of cities in the United States with reported cases of trafficking

Sourced by [Georgia State Representative Jack Kingston](#), [Freetheslaves.net](#), and [Polaris Project](#), among others.

**50:** Percent of all victims are children

Sourced by the [US House of Representatives Committee on International Relations](#), the [US Department of State](#), among others.

**\$50 Million:** US Government budget for efforts against human trafficking

Sourced by the [US State Department](#).

**\$19 Billion:** US Government budget for efforts against drug trafficking

Sourced by the [White House Drug Policy website](#).

**300,000:** Estimated number of child soldiers involved in over 30 areas of conflict worldwide, some younger than 10 years old. Sourced by [UNICEF](#), the [BBC](#), and [Amnesty International](#), among others.