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The Appraisal Fair and Mystery Auction needs YOU!

This event needs you to help raise much-needed funds. You can:

- Bring your knick-knacks, collectibles, antiques, and/or old furniture to be evaluated
- Come for lunch
- Provide a creatively wrapped gift for our mystery auction (prizes for the best!)
- Come to the auction and bid on the mystery boxes

*Saturday, November 23rd
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church Vision Statement

We are Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church, a multi-generational Christ community seeking to sing God's spirit into the world by inviting all, serving all, loving all.

Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church
604 Seven Mile Road, Hope, RI 0283
Hope, RI 02831

Worship and Church School
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00-12:00

Phone: 821-8217 • Fax: 826-7787 • E-mail: office@sovumc.org • Web site: sovumc.org

Rev. Katherine Mitchell

Musings from the Blue Couch

Dear Shepherd of the Valley Family and Friends,

On the first Sunday of November we will be celebrating Tom Senerchia's certification as a Lay Minister. I thought I would take the time to explain what that means. As you likely know when Methodism was established in the mid 1700's there were very few clergy. This is why those few pastors became circuit riders that rode from church to church over several weeks and hundreds of miles. Because the newly established churches did not have pastors it fell to the lay members of the community to lead the church in the absence of the pastor. This is why, throughout our history the role of laity in the church has always been considered of equal value and authority as clergy.

Our governing body, the General Conference, decided in 2016 that a rigorous program would be created that allowed lay people who are called to formalize their roles as leaders in the church and their larger communities. This training program is called the Certified Lay Ministry Program. As you will see below answering the call to lay certified lay ministry requires a great deal of commitment and responsibility. Each person must complete a course of study, take a psychological exam, pass an extensive criminal background and credit check and much more. They must also work under the guidance and supervision of a pastor and participate in ongoing training. As you can see, it is a huge commitment!

The certified lay minister is "called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the word, lead small groups, or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergy person."
(2016 BOD ¶268.1)

At this time the District Superintendent has assigned Tom to serve Shepherd of the Valley and the district trauma response team. Sandy Knapp, who has completed all the required work, will meet with the District Committee on Ministry in the spring and will be celebrated at our next annual conference.

Please join me in celebrating Tom's great accomplishment on November 3rd!

May you live fully and love wastefully,
Pastor Katherine

Stewardship

Supporting SOVUMC's missions and ministry at home and abroad

November is the month when we pledge our support for the missions and ministry of Shepherd of the Valley for next year. Our campaign will be a four-week program highlighting local, conference, and worldwide missions and ministry. Over the month, we will be hearing about the following:

- 11/10: Methodist Global Missions: An Honest Conversation
- 11/17: Personal witness by Jay O'Conner
- 11/24 District and New England Conference Missions with Clarice Gothberg from Open Table of Christ
- 12/1: Consecration Sunday, including a love feast with a catered dinner!

As members of our church family, you will shortly receive a letter celebrating your support of the work of our church this year, and asking for your continued support of current and new ministries in 2020. After prayerful reflection, we ask you to express your commitments on an enclosed pledge card. We also encourage you to join those members who already use the convenience of our secure EFT (Electronic Funds Program) program.

Thank you for your contributions of time, talents and gifts to Shepherd of the Valley this year. We look forward to your continued support in 2020. Together we make a difference!

Upcoming Events

Women in Spiritual Harmony (WISH)

WI WISH will be starting its Advent study on November 20th. We are doing *Home for Christmas: Tales of Hope and Second Chances* by Justin Coleman. The publisher's description is as follows:

Home for Christmas brings inspiring stories of hope and second chances into the Advent season. Author and pastor Justin Coleman matches real life stories of struggle and triumph to the Advent themes of hope, love, joy, and peace to show how the light of Christmas shines brightly even in hard times. Each chapter lifts up a scripture reflection alongside tales of men and women who reflect on the Advent themes with love and longing.

Throughout each of the four chapters... Coleman captures the stories of formerly incarcerated men and women as they find work and opportunity through Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, California. "

Until the 20th, the group will be studying the Book of Galatians. WISH meets Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 at the church. All women are welcome!

Wednesday Morning Study Group

This group will continue with its "Living the Questions" study. This series, featuring thirty acclaimed scholars, theologians, and other experts, is designed to create an environment where participants interact with each other in exploring Christianity. This group meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Hope Room. All are welcome to join at any time, regardless of your background or level of Biblical knowledge.

Wednesday Seekers Evening Study Group

The evening study group meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Hope Room. Join preeminent New Testament scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan on location in Turkey as they trace the Apostle Paul's footsteps throughout the Roman Empire. This study explores fresh insights into Paul's message of the Kingdom of God, its challenge to Roman imperial theology, and the apostle's radical relevance for today.

Church Conference

Our annual Church Conference, with District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Andrew Foster, will be on November 6th at 6:00. Please join us for this important meeting. (The Staff/Parish Relations Committee will meet with Rev. Dr. Foster at 5:15 p.m.)

Family Fun Friday

Family Fun Night will be November 15th starting at 6:00 p.m. and will be Family Night In. Join us for a meal that will be provided and fun activities and a relaxing time with parents and kids! Hope to see you there!

Lisa Marciniak

United Methodist Women (UMW)

The UMW's monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21st at 11:00 a.m. The topic is "World Thank Offering - A Light for the World to See." Please join us for discussion and fellowship. Bring a lunch; beverage and dessert are provided. All women are invited and bring friend!

Appraisal Fair and Mystery Auction

On November 23rd, we will be holding our Appraisal Fair and Mystery Auction. From 9:00 a.m. to noon, bring your knick-knacks, tchotchkes, antique furniture, etc. to be evaluated by the appraisers from Bruneau's Auction House. They'll give you some background and a sense of what it's worth. Cost is \$10 for one item, \$30 for three...a bargain for the item that could be worth hundreds!

All that excitement will make you hungry for lunch, so stop by our café for something good to eat starting at 11:30.

And finally, the mystery auction at 12:30! This will feature creatively wrapped packages (wrapping may or may not have anything to do with what's inside) that you'll bid on. Join the excitement as you find out what's inside!

This is a major fundraiser for our church, so please come out and support it, both with your presents (gifts for the mystery auction) and your presence.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

On November 26th, we will be joining Trinity Episcopal, St. Joseph's Catholic, and North Scituate Baptist churches for an ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. We will be gathering at Shepherd of the Valley at 7:00 p.m.

Buy Nothing Day

On Friday, November 29th 2019, the busiest day in the American retail calendar and the unofficial start of the international Christmas-shopping season, thousands of activists and concerned citizens in 65 countries will take a 24-hour consumer detox as part of the annual Buy Nothing Day. At locations around the state, a winter coat exchange will take place to help needy folks get ready for winter.

Have a coat or some winter gear (hats, socks, warm sweaters, boots) you are not using any more? Bring them to Church and we'll gather it all up and drop it off at the coat exchange. I have been collecting coats for a few years now and it is always an interesting experience to trot down to the State House to drop them off. Those of us with donations drop off coats and those in need "shop" on the State House lawn for warm winter gear. If you have donations but can't get to church, call me (828-5355) or email me dffaria@msn.com and I'll come pick it up.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Donna Faria

Regular Meetings and Events

Editor's Note: Our church has many meetings, classes, and fellowship opportunities that occur on a regular basis. Please check the list below for the schedules of programs or opportunities you might be interested in. If you have something you'd like included in this section, please email me at bellomb@cox.net, call me at 944-9668, or leave a note in the Circuit Rider mailbox at church.

Hannah Bell-Lombardo

- Monday Morning Prayer Group: We gather for prayer in the Hope Room at 10:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

- United Methodist Women (UMW): See information in this section on our monthly meeting.
- Knitting Ministry: The Knitting Ministry meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 in the library. Our projects include prayer shawls, baptismal shawls, preemie and chemo hats, and sweaters for World Vision. Even if you can't attend the meetings, you can always knit at home. If you have questions, please call Sue Kizlinski at 401-527-8702.
- Women in Spiritual Harmony (WISH): WISH meets Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. See the article in this section for our current study.
- Wednesday Wisdom Seekers Morning Study Group: This group meets Wednesdays at 11:00 in the Hope Room. See the article in this section for this fall's study.
- Wednesday Wisdom Seekers Evening Study Group: This group meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Hope Room. See the article in "Upcoming Events" for the fall's study course.
- Men's Fellowship Breakfasts: This group meets at the Phenix Square Restaurant at 6:00 a.m. November meetings will be on the 1st, the 15th, and the 29th. All men are welcome.
- Signing Choir: The Signing Choir practices at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays and perform the Lord's Prayer each Sunday plus another performance each month. All are welcome!
- Family Sunday: The first Sunday of each month is Family Sunday where our children serve as ushers, greeters, Communion stewards, and liturgists. If you have children who are taking part in the worship, please arrive by 9:00 a.m. so we can run through the bulletin and review our "jobs" for the day.



November is stewardship month—give generously

Electronic Funds Transfer

November is stewardship month at Shepherd of the Valley, and a good time to consider our electronic funds transfer (EFT) program. With your permission, we automatically deduct your gift to Shepherd of the Valley from your checking account on a weekly or monthly basis—your choice. You don't have to remember checks or cash, nor think about catching up if you've been away. It all happens automatically! Forms will be available for you to sign up with our stewardship drive.

If you currently use this program and are changing your gift, you will need to complete a new form. If not, you don't need to do anything. Your current gift will continue to be withdrawn as you requested.

Music Notes

The fall and winter holiday season is here! The adult choir is still looking for more singers to join in this part of the church worship ministry.

Upcoming special music events: Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical service with an extra special combined choir and a fantastic anthem; the annual Christmas season "cantata". This year the theme for that service will be meditations on Peace. The anthems for that service are guaranteed to inspire and comfort. Join us. You'll be so glad you did!!! (Check this article on, "Your Brain and Singing: Why Singing in a Choir Makes You Happier,"

<https://www.choraldirectormag.com/articles/vocal-pro/your-brain-and-singing-why-singing-in-a-choir-makes-you-happier/> You'll be happy you did!)

Steve Haunschild



Help Wanted

Appraisal Fair and Mystery Auction

The Appraisal Fair and Mystery Auction is an important fundraiser for us. We need everybody's help to make it a success. Here's what you can do:

- Contribute an item wrapped in a crazy and enticing way that gets people to bid for the Mystery Auction. The item could be a new or gently used item that you think people would love, a certificate, gift card, or gift baskets. There will be prizes for the best wrapped item. Items should be in by November 17th.
- Come to the auction and bid!!
- Help with lunch. (See Donna Faria.)
- Distribute the attached/enclosed flyer to libraries, stores, and other public places you frequent. Extras can be found on the hutch in the narthex

Food Pantry

Do you like to shop? Clip coupons? If so, have we got the job for you! The Shepherd's Pantry, our food ministry, needs someone to take over as the shopper (or shoppers—more than one are welcome!) If you can help keep our food pantry stocked and ready for those who use this important ministry, please drop Pam or PK a note.

Fellowship Hour Sign-Up

Hosting Fellowship Hour is a great time to promote fellowship in the church. You don't have to provide anything elaborate—just some goodies and coffee (and help/instructions are available for the coffee-making). Simply sign up on the list in Fellowship Hall.

Ushers

Ushering is a great way to make our members and guests feel welcome. New signup sheets are available for your use—sign up for the Sundays you're available. No need for a weekly commitment.



Office Notes

Upcoming Event?

If you have an upcoming event or are hosting coffee hour and need supplies, please check what we have in the kitchen and storage area. If something is missing, let Pam know if we need to order something at least two weeks ahead of time.

Sunday Bulletin Announcements

Just a reminder that your announcements for the Sunday bulletin must be submitted to the office not later than the Tuesday before you'd like them to appear. Call the church office (821-8217), leave a note in the church office mailbox, or email office@sovumc.org. Thank you!

Church Program Drop-offs

Are you dropping something off for Open Table, the food pantry, or another mission project or event? Please put a label on your items/boxes so we can ensure they end up in the proper place. If you put it in the clothing closet (next to the sanctuary), please leave Pam a note so she knows it's there.

New Email?

Be sure to let us know any changes in your email address so we can be sure any electronic communications reach you. Let the church office know of any email, phone, or address changes by email (office@sovumc.org) or leave a note on Pam's desk.

DECEMBER
CIRCUIT RIDER
INFORMATION DUE
NOVEMBER 10TH
(Early due to the Thanksgiving holiday)



Caring and Sharing

Thanksgiving Baskets

We are once again making Thanksgiving Dinner baskets for our neighbors and Food Pantry clients. PLEASE take a few items from the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to add to



your food shopping list (the removal of each food ticket helps us keep track of what we need to fill in). We will need large reusable bags, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, pickles, and olives to be brought in by Sunday, November 17th. See Barbara Bicknell or Theresa Squire if you'd like to donate pies, rolls, or turkeys to be brought in on Sunday, November 24th. There are also opportunities to create a whole meal for a family. Cash donations are welcome. Blessings for feeding our neighbors on this Thankful Holiday.

UMW Thanks

The UMW held its fall Rummage Sale in October. Proceeds were \$600. Thank you to everyone who contributed to help us meet our budget to support women and children in our community and around the world.

“Swing into Fall” Project Outreach Fundraiser

Thanks to all who supported the Swing Into Fall fundraiser for Project Outreach. Thanks to Pat Rodin for the wonderful gift baskets, John Lombardo for the lovely wine basket, and Jay O'Connor for a massage gift certificate for our silent auction. Everyone had a swinging time and we raised over \$4,500 for Project Outreach.

Shepherd's Pantry

Our food pantry continues needs all the basics, including boxes. We can use tuna, pasta, spaghetti sauce, cereal, fruit, soup, vegetables, and crackers. Since many of our clients have health issues, we can use healthier food options, including gluten-free and lower sodium/fat free items. Toilet paper is needed as well. Many thanks for your continued donations and cash gifts for the support to help our neighbors in need.

Shut-Ins

The Nurture-Outreach Ministry Team has a new shut-in list posted on the bulletin board next to the kitchen. Please think of these important members of our community and send them a card, or better yet, stop by for a visit. If there's anyone you know who needs a visit, let one of the team members or the church office know and we'll add them to the list.

Fellowship Hour Thank You

There is not a lot to say about how important fellowship hour after church is until you look around and see everyone visiting and connecting during this time. A special thank you goes out to all our Sunday Fellowship Hour hosts and hostesses who provide the goodies and make this time possible. All should step up to the plate and take a turn. Feel free to have a friend or family member help you out—volunteers are needed and help showing how everything is done is available.

Facebook

PK invites you to “friend” her on Facebook.

Save Your Pop-Tabs!

We are continuing to collect your pop tabs—there's a box in the kitchen for them. These tabs go toward helping with food, supplies, and utilities for the Ronald McDonald House in Providence. The House provides a home-away-from-home for families of critically ill children. Without these donations, the House would not be able to provide for the families. Thank you for the tabs and if you have any questions about donations, please contact Sue Dyl.

Blood Pressure Measurement

We are able to check blood pressures in the office. Check with Pastor Katherine.



Lay Ministry Information

The information below is from the Book of Discipline and will help you better understand the requirements and roles of a CLM. If you are interested in this important ministry please come see Pastor Katherine!

268. Certified Lay Minister—1. A certified lay minister is a certified lay servant, certified lay missionary, or equivalent as defined by his or her central conference, who is called and equipped to conduct public worship, care for the congregation, assist in program leadership, develop new and existing faith communities, preach the Word, lead small groups, or establish community outreach ministries as part of a ministry team with the supervision and support of a clergyperson. A certified lay minister is assigned by a district superintendent in accordance with ¶ 419.2.

2. The certified lay minister serves to enhance the quality of ministry much like a class leader did in early Methodism through service in the local church, circuit or cooperative parish, or by expanding team ministry in other churches and charges. As with lay ministry in early Methodism, the certified lay minister uses his or her spiritual gifts as evidence of God's grace.

3. One may be recognized by the conference committee on lay servant ministries, or equivalent structure, as a certified lay minister after he or she has:

- a) been certified as a lay servant, lay missionary, or equivalent as defined by his or her central conference;
- b) obtained written recommendation from the pastor and the church council or charge conference of the local church in which he or she holds membership;
- c) completed a track of study for certified lay ministers relevant to the candidate's assignment as defined by the General Board of Discipleship, or the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry in collaboration with the General Board of

Discipleship, and the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure;
d) received a letter of recommendation from his or her district superintendent;
e) had all requirements for certification, including appropriate screening and assessment as defined by the annual conference, reviewed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for referral to the district committee on ordained ministry for examination of persons who have applied in writing to be certified lay ministers and to make recommendation for certification (see ¶ 666.10). After the district committee on ordained ministry interviews the candidate, the district committee on ordained ministry will make a recommendation to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries for final certification by that committee.

4. Recognition as a certified lay minister may be renewed every two years by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, after the certified lay minister has:

- a*) submitted an annual report to the charge conference or church council where membership is held and to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, giving evidence of satisfactory performance as a certified lay minister;
- b*) obtained a ministry review by the committee on pastor-parish relations, church council, or charge conference from the congregation of which he or she is a member, or when under assignment, from the committee on pastor-parish relations, charge conference, or supervisory board of the ministry setting in which he or she is assigned;
- c*) completed a Lay Servant Ministries advanced course or approved continuing education event, as defined by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries or equivalent structure in the last two years;
- d*) obtained recommendation for recertification from the district superintendent;
- e*) had all requirements for recertification reviewed by the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, for referral to the district committee on ordained ministry for examination of persons who have applied in

writing to be renewed as certified lay ministers and to make recommendations for recertification (see ¶ 666.10). After the district committee on ordained ministry interviews the certified lay minister, the district committee on ordained ministry will make a recommendation to the conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries for final recertification by that committee.

5. A certified lay minister may transfer certification to another district or conference upon receipt of a letter from the previous conference committee on Lay Servant Ministries, or equivalent structure, confirming current certification and the completion date of the most recent advanced course taken. Further renewal is in accordance with ¶ 268.4.

6. A certified lay minister is not eligible for support by equitable compensation funds or pension funds that are provided for clergy. If a certified lay minister is a lay staff member of a church, circuit or cooperative parish, the local congregation is encouraged to provide compensation and withhold taxes appropriate to a layperson.

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Church Council Minutes September 23, 2019

Church Council members present included Lisa Marciniak, Rob Bower, Barbara Walz, Theresa Squire, Jerry Crosby, John Lombardo, Sandy Knapp, Tom Senerchia, and Hannah Bell-Lombardo. Also present were Pastor Katherine Mitchell and congregation member Marti Bower.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. After sharing our joys and concerns, Katherine brought us up to date on the appraisal fair. Due to inadequate signups, and in spite of requests over multiple Sundays, there were not enough volunteers to hold the holiday bazaar. We will instead have an antique appraisal fair by the

Bruneaus' Auction House from 9:00 to noon on November 23rd. Our café will be open at 11:30 serving food, and at 1:00 there will be a "Yard and Pound" auction. Everyone donates something that is either a yard long or a pound heavy, wrapped such that people will want to bid on it. (There will be prizes for the best wrapped items before the auction.) Katherine will serve as auctioneer. Other than the kitchen, this event will not require much labor. Katherine noted that we will also be looking at a fundraiser in the spring.

Katherine noted that Mike and Crystal Brown are moving to a church closer to their new Connecticut home. Sandy is transferring her membership to SOV and will be co-chairing the Church Council with Rob. She is in the process of becoming a Certified Lay Minister, and will bring administrative skills to the position. Rob nominated her as co-chair, Jerry seconded it, and she was unanimously approved. Katherine also noted that Tom has completed the Certified Lay Minister process and that a celebration of his accomplishment will be held in November.

Rob circulated the current committee membership/chairs list and asked each current committee chair to check if each of their members would like to continue their service, letting him know by the next meeting. He would also welcome suggestions of new people. The Nominations Committee will meet separately to develop the final list, which will be voted on at the Church Conference on November 6th.

We had been asked to read *Piloting Church*. Rob brought up the four reasons from the book for church failure, using the flight metaphor. They are: loss of control, engine failure, running out of fuel, and hazardous weather. He felt our most dangerous threats are running out of fuel, noting that we're not out yet but working on a half tank; and hazardous weather, in this case what's going on in our denomination.

Katherine provided an update on the "Way Forward," including actions taken within the New England Conference and the greater UMC.

We discussed engaging our community. Our website is being kept up to date, but we may need calendar support and assistance tying into social media and getting sermons posted.

A concern about the cold air sensors was brought up. Jerry will look into it. Tom will look into a concern about the defibrillator.

Church renovations are on hold. There has been a lack of attendance at trustee meetings, with new trustees needed.

John brought us up to date on the church finances. We are \$9,000 better than budget, about half because of higher general fund giving and half due to expenses running lower than budget. He noted, however, that the budget has a \$25,000 deficit. If we don't make the full amount up, we take the difference out of our mission shares. They are about \$38,000, of which \$9,500 is pastoral support (which we do pay). The Art Festival is budgeted for \$6,000 (the average net income of the last ten years) and the holiday fair for \$3,000.

Sandy noted that she is still looking for help for the Art Festival.

We need new ideas for fundraisers, and will revisit this issue at our next meeting. Some ideas brought up included how to get people to donate vs. support fundraisers, how to draw non-parishioners in, partnering with another community organization, on-line fundraising, and a talent auction.

The next meeting will be on October 28th; we will meet as needed in November. The annual Church Conference will be November 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Bell-Lombardo

Shepherd of the Valley
United Methodist Church
604 Seven Mile Road
Hope, RI 02831

Non-Profit Organization
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West Warwick, RI
PERMIT 1

DO NOT FORWARD—CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED
TIME VALUE—DO NOT DELAY

NOVEMBER, 2019 CIRCUIT RIDER

What's in the Box???



Come find out at the

Appraisal Fair and Mystery Auction

Saturday, November 23rd

Appraisal Fair 9-noon • Lunch starting 11:30 • Auction at 12:30