

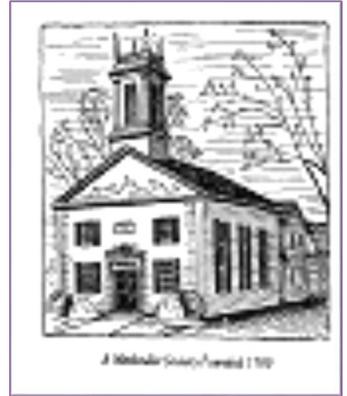
# Circuit Writer

Jesse Lee United Methodist Church

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## Church Calendar

Aug. 11, 11:15 Church Council

Shredding-Sept. 28 9-12:00



### *A Message from Reverend Jim Stinson*

It was a Thursday morning and time to leave for an ongoing effort to help Damasen, the father of the family from Africa, sponsored by EastonActs, of which Jesse Lee UMC is an active participant). Specifically Suzanne Herlihy and I are working with him on English as a Second Language (ESL). She works with him on Monday mornings and I do so on Thursdays. This particular day marked the first Thursday since school was out for the summer. All six children were therefore home when I arrived. All of them were very interested in what was going on between their father and me. So much so, that within minutes five of the six children were sitting around the table with us. Fortunately I had Flash Cards with me, which had words, simple sentences, and pictures on them, which are a good tool for teaching ESL. It was clear the children wanted to be included. Damasen seemed to welcome their participation. The Flash Cards quickly became a deck of cards which were shuffled and dealt out to everyone face down. In turn each one turned over one of their Cards and read it aloud.

The children quickly identified the words on their cards. Damasen, on the other hand, identified them more slowly and hesitantly. If I had a camera with me, I would have taken a picture. It would have been one of my favorites. The children, quickly noticed his hesitancy, and began prodding him. I put my fingers to my lips, motioning to let their Dad answer on his own. But it was to no avail. They wanted him to know the answer (and I suspect wanted to show off their knowledge).

All perfectly natural, and likely a little thing. For me however it was a big thing. It was a microcosm of what I suspect Jesus meant when he spoke of the kingdom of God being present on earth. Here were children, moved by their father's need doing what they could to help him. Here was family helping family.

### *Jesse Lee Birthdays*



Jonathon Berg-June 4  
Charlotte Tramosch-June 6  
Bob Sabia-June 13  
Grace McKeon-June 14  
Lois Halzack-June 19  
Kara Davis-June 20  
Abby LePage-June 24  
Carol Halzack Charest-June 25  
Suzanne Herlihy-June 26  
Bruce LePage-July 6  
Lauren Herlihy Flash-July 15  
Derek Smith-July 21  
Norman Nagy-July 28  
Norman Smith-July 28  
Shirley Fredericks-Aug. 18  
Ryan Kenny-Aug. 23  
Michelle Wendt-Aug. 25

How much sooner and more often would we see and experience the kingdom of God if we acted like a family and offered whatever we had or knew to someone who needed it?

*And a little child shall lead them.*

In a messy world, seemingly with more questions than answers, maybe we would be better off if we acted more like children - giving freely and willingly, without judgment to one another.



*“When all Americans are treated as equal, no matter who they are or whom they love, we are all more free”* Barak Obama

*“This world would be a whole lot better if we just made an effort to be less horrible to each other”* Ellen Page

*“Love your neighbor as yourself”* Mark 12:31

*“Somebody, your father or mine, should have told us that not many people have ever died of love, but multitudes have perished and are perishing every hour for the lack of it”* James Baldwin

## **Homes for the Brave**

Thank you to Michelle Wendt for organizing dinner for the veterans at Homes for the Brave. Thanks also to Jesse Lee members you made it a wonderful event:

Amy McKeon  
Kathy Sabia  
Joelle Johnston  
Andree Halcott  
Patti Gelineau  
Jim Stinson



## Upcoming Events

### Fall Retreat--"Seeking Wisdom (Exploring Divine Mystery)

A weekend experience for men and women led by Rev. Caroly R. Gibson

When: Sept. 27-29, 2019 Fri. 7:00 PM ó Sunday after lunch

Where: Wisdom House 229 East Litchfield Rd. Litchfield, CT

Cost: \$245 (includes 5 meals, room, program and materials)

Registration-Mail registration (form is available on the church bulletin board) with \$150 deposit to Rev. Caroly Gibson 145 Hilltop Dr. Trumbull, CT 06611. Balance is due by Sept. 1

For more info: 203 380-1260 [cgibsonumc@peoplepc.com](mailto:cgibsonumc@peoplepc.com)

### Super Summer Tag Sale

Easton Senior Center 650 Morehouse Rd. Easton

June 24-July 25 8:00 am to 3:00 pm (weekdays) July 26 8-12:00

Something for everyone! Clothing, housewares, electronics, furniture, baby items, toys

Donations of new or gently used items will also be accepted

For more info: 203 268-1145

### Annual Shredding Event

Jesse Lee United Methodist Church 25 Flat Rock Rd. Easton

Saturday Sept. 28 9:00 am-12:00 pm

For more info: 203 372-8250

### Disaster Preparedness Forum

Preparing yourself, your church, and your community for a disaster

Prospect United Methodist Church in Bristol Sept. 28

For more info: 860 690-1853 [Jillmwilson@comcast.net](mailto:Jillmwilson@comcast.net)

### Tent of Abraham Book Discussion

Book discussion of *Sacred Ground* by Eboo Patel and light supper

Anyone interested in interfaith dialog and developing relationships with other faith communities is encouraged to attend

CCGB office 1718 Capitol Ave. Bridgeport

Thursday Aug. 15 6-8:00 pm

RSVP required [cassshaw@ccgb.org](mailto:cassshaw@ccgb.org)



*Jesse Lee UMC doesn't go on vacation.*

*Please keep your pledges current this summer.*



## Recent Congregational Prayer Requests



Bruce, Carla Jaffe  
Dwight Smith  
Blaine Smith  
Dean Smith  
Ann Martin  
Barbara Hamman  
Shirley Fredericks  
Bob Caterson  
Luella Ostrofsky  
Charlene McLean

Jeanne Stonaha  
Nancy Galasso  
Church members helping Betty Bratz  
Congolese Family  
Bill & Tracy  
Son of a friend of Michelle's interviewing for a job  
Pastors beginning new assignments  
Family of Jim Riling's cousin Alan Edwards  
Joanne Kant's daughter Lisa

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### Fun Summertime Activities for Church Children

1. God Made a Beautiful World ó With a journal in your hand walk around your home, your yard, the store, church, the playground. Beginning with the letter ó find something that starts with that letter, write it down and thank God for it. When you are done you will have a creative alphabet memory book of God's Goodness.
2. Make a card to send to one of the Jesse Lee members who is not able to attend church. Or cut a bouquet of flowers from your garden and deliver it in person.
3. Have a lemonade stand and donate the proceeds to a local charity
4. Thank You God for my Family-draw pictures or find photos of everyone in your family and glue them on to a craft stick to make a puppet family to play with
5. Write Thank You notes & make delicious Chocolate Chip Cookies and give them to the mailman, fire fighters, policemen, garbage collectors or anyone else in the community
6. Make a creation book ó 1 page for each day of creation. Children do one page a day: Ex. land and water page ó glue on sand for land and blue cellophane for water; -sea creatures page ó collage fish picture or create underwater scene; animal page ó cut and paste animal picturesí ..etcí ..

## June 2, 2019 Church Council Meeting Summary

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- Celebrations-Joanne's son defended his dissertation, Suzanne and John celebrated their 37 wedding anniversary and Rev. Jim is expecting another grandchild
- Pastor's Report-Annual Conference will be next week and "The Way Forward" will be the major topic. Daycare is doing well. Our Rainbow sign is too small. Suzanne will look for a larger sign or flag
- Trustee Report-The tenant in the parsonage is eager to sign a new lease. Michelle and Jim are working on a revised lease. The parsonage has an air conditioning issue; John will contact Gault. Jim R. will be speaking with Kurt Stowell regarding a railing for the driveway and walk. Michelle will be coordinating delivery of soil for the driveway.
- Financial Report-Laura prepared a finance report which was distributed. Laura is working with Andree to get her on Quick Books as an administrator. Jim R. will look into cost of our copy machine.
- Old Business-John and Michelle are working on how to allocate the costs of electricity used by Day Care.
- New Business-There is a need for some minor painting at the parsonage. Patty G. has reserved Sept. 28 for the annual shredding event. Children's Sunday is tentatively scheduled for June 16. The Herlihy's have a children's book they would like to give to the children. It was submitted to Rev. Jim for his approval. We would like to invite the Congolese Family to visit. Michelle will check with Covenant Church about borrowing their van for June 23. The feasibility of continuing with the annual Turkey dinner was discussed. At this point the feeling is that we have sufficient help for the event if we can count on support from the Boy Scout troop.

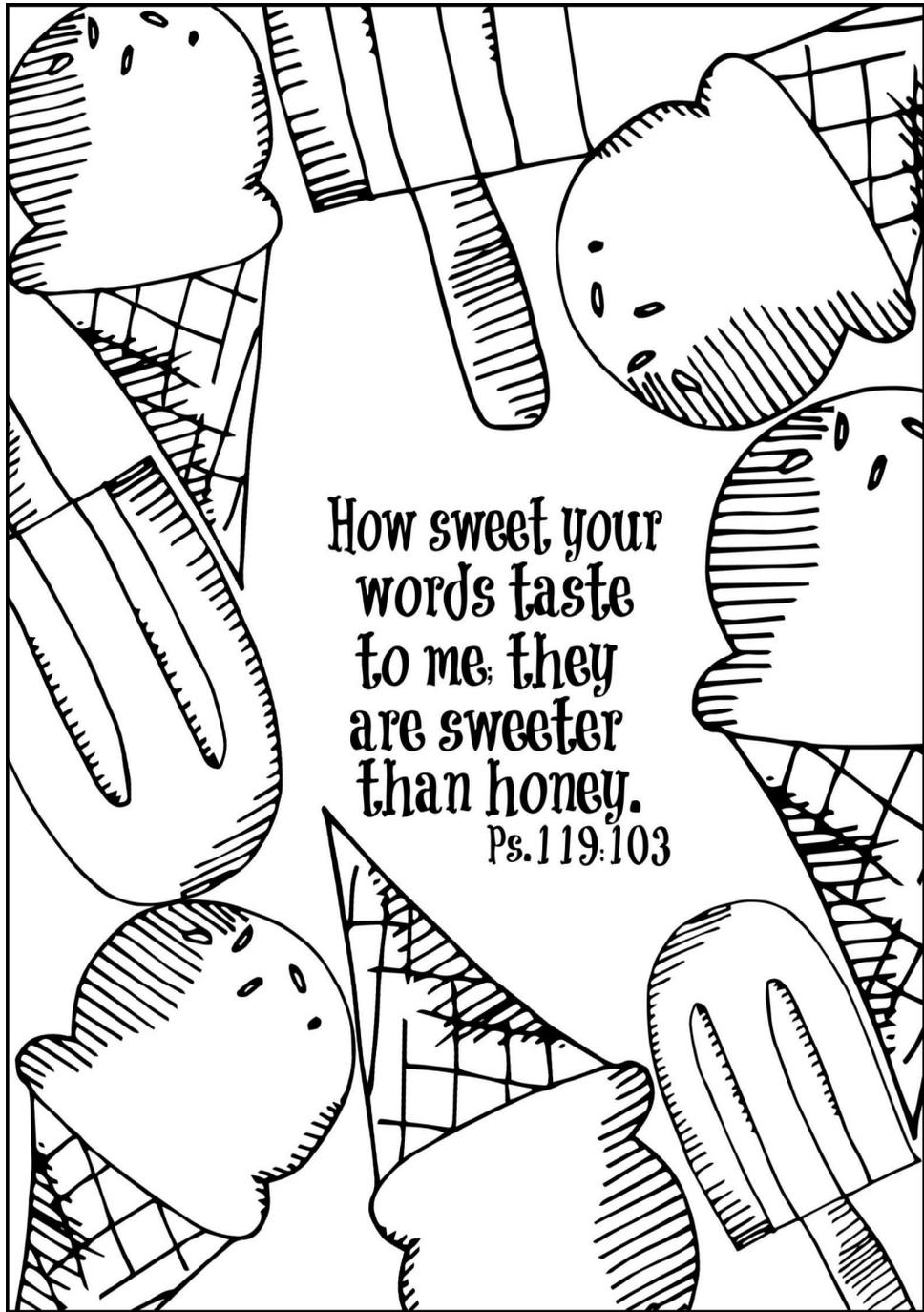
## July 14 Church Council Meeting

A brief meeting was held today. The church received a very generous \$25000 unrestricted donation which will be deposited into the Trustee General fund. The funds can be used as needed for projects or the operation of the church. Potential projects include updating office computers, hand railings and storage space for the Boy Scout troop. We discussed the potential role for a book keeper for the church. Shelley Stewart is at capacity for the Daycare and is considering expansion into more of the basement. She will hire her brother in law to paint and clean the hallway outside the Daycare and address any lingering lead issues. We will begin charging her \$50/month for electricity while we determine a more accurate assessment. Suzanne brought in a rainbow flag and Jim will install it. She raised that this flag addresses just one of a number of concerns of being a fully inclusive church and do we need to express these other concerns.



### Green Village Initiative

12 youth are enrolled in an 8 week leadership development program for urban farming and food justice. Volunteers are needed to make and deliver lunches to the crew. What a wonderful opportunity to help your children understand issues of food insecurity in our nearby towns. Sign up at [www.mealtrain.com/trains/20wrr8](http://www.mealtrain.com/trains/20wrr8)



How sweet your  
words taste  
to me: they  
are sweeter  
than honey.  
Ps. 119:103