

Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Church Office: (860) 673-2111 Office Fax: (860) 673-5777 Email: avonmumc@gmail.com Website: avonunitedmethodist.com

Current Worship Schedule: Sundays: 8:30am Service with Holy Communion and 10:30am Family Worship

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm Church Sexton Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am – 12:30pm

YOUTUBE Link to Sunday Worship Service: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AvonMUMC>

FACEBOOK Link to Sunday Worship Service: <https://www.facebook.com/avon.mumc/>

Rev. Joseph Piccirillo, Pastor (203) 545-3277 (Mobile Phone)
pastorjosephmumc@gmail.com (860) 507-6081 (Parsonage)

VALENTINE'S DAY



Valentine's Day... a time for us to remember our loved ones in a special way with cards, chocolates, flowers and maybe a romantic dinner. February 14th gives us permission to be extravagant with our affections.

What a blessing to feel the fire of love. When it consumes us and compels us to celebrate with our beloved. But Living and time begin to erase the energy that gives life to our love. Grief, illness and age whittle away at our affections, and we surrender ourselves to memories... What is used to be like.

Except for Christ Jesus, whose eternal presence with us has the capacity to warm, invigorate, and inspire even the most distant feelings. Like the water changed to wine, Christ Jesus has the capacity to take what is ordinary and change it into something extraordinary.

With a simple taste, the chief steward is amazed. The celebration continues. Life, love and unity are restored.

What a blessing to feel the fire of love. The deep abiding love that endures the years, age and life's circumstances. To whom shall we go for this revival?

Let us follow the advice of Mary and "Do whatever He, "Christ" tells you." Fill the jars of your heart and allow the King of our souls to change that which is ordinary into something extraordinary. And celebrate the gift of love this Valentine's day with those God places in your path.

Peace and God's blessings to be with you.

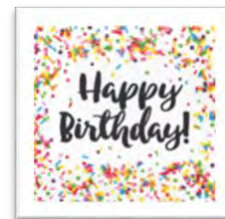
Pastor Joseph

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

“Happy Birthday!” to the following people who are celebrating birthdays this month.



1	Steven Kelsey	14	Jim Calandriello
1	Matthew Gorden	17	John Baily
2	Skyler Austin	19	Scott Kennedy
3	Michelle Davis	20	Barbara Chase
3	Nancy Macdonald	24	Michael Zeiser
5	Kris Fillian	26	Kim Brinn
6	Chaz Calandriello	27	Wesley Baker
9	Christine Carroll	28	Ella Rose Ross
12	Walter Parylak	28	Pat Bruinsma
13	Jodie Dario		

A card, note, e-mail, phone call or spoken “Happy Birthday!” is another way of showing we care.

If YOU would like to be put on the birthday and/or anniversary list, please contact the church office.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



Dave and Laura Gorden
Pastor Joseph and Carol
Matthew and Christin (Daley) Gorden

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CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR NEWS! *Avon Mumc*

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February 2022

FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

[Diane Hornaday] 860-673-9634

It's that time of year when I am closing out the books for one year and opening them for the next. Things might look a little different to you this year but actually nothing has changed.



First, your Finance Committee is still working on the budget. It is not too late to let me know what your giving intention for 2022 is. Most people are notifying me by email or phone and I enter your information in the accounting computer. I am assigning the same number to people they have had in years past. In one of my economy measures I am using blank envelopes we have received from Cokesbury in the past. I have put your number on your set; however, I did not put dates on them. If you use the dated envelopes to help you know what you have given, please take a calendar and write the dates in yourself. I don't need the date or the year, just your name or number, to credit the correct donor.

Second, you will be receiving your donation report by the end of January. Please review it as soon as you can. You may notice that your gifts will indicate they are a pledge. This is because I didn't want to change the name of the account for the General Funds. If the totals are different from your records, please notify me as soon as possible. It is easier for me to discover where I have entered wrong figures before I get too far into the next year.

If you have any questions about any of this, you may call me at 860-673-9634.

2022 GIVING AND CONSECRATION SUNDAY

[John Bailly]

Last month I reported on 2021 giving and our anticipated 2022 Consecration Sunday. That Sunday was postponed and is now scheduled for Sunday January 30, 2022.



On Sunday the 23RD, Pat Kelly gave an excellent sermon on the Bible and giving. As previously reported, due to uncertainties surrounding COVID, the finance committee is still guessing what our outlook is for 2022. At our January finance meeting we passed a budget showing a potential deficit for 2022 of between \$13,000 and \$30,000. Diane Hornaday tells us that several indications of giving have been received since then that have narrowed the gap. Our charge conference has not yet been scheduled so there is still time for you to let Diane Hornaday know of your anticipated giving for 2022.

ONE MORE STEP "BACK TO NORMAL"

[Chalise Ross] Liturgical Arts

As our services adjust back to normal, we will begin having ushers during the service. We are looking for volunteers to welcome members and visitors one Sunday a month. We also need an usher coordinator to help create the schedule. Please contact Chalise Ross or Pastor Joseph and consider either ministry in our church.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

[Ruthellen Corbett] Pastoral Care Chair

A few months ago a committee member could not reach an elderly person and became concerned. Eventually she did but spoke about possible problems in the future.



Pastoral Care also talked about what might happen if someone had a medical problem or accident on site and we didn't know whom to contact. We needed a list of older members (and others too) and their emergency contacts. We started with our own members and have gradually added others. This record is kept in the church office and also in Pastor Joseph's office. Inside the Pastor's Office, hanging to the left of the door there is a bright red folder with the list. If you would like to be added to the list or get more information, contact Anne Fitzgerald afitzgerald138@gmail.com We are a family and want to care for each other. Stay safe.

PASTORAL CARE

[Ruthellen Corbett]

Pastoral Care is alive and well.

We were busy in December filling our "goodie bags" for our partners and others in our congregation. We also delivered poinsettias after Christmas.



Aside from these activities our contacts with folks are basically phone calls and notes. Folks who are house bound or Covid isolating are pleased to stay in touch with us. Our meeting in January was virtual due to Omicron, and we play that month by month.

Stay warm and healthy everyone.

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Just a reminder that Pastor Joseph's daily devotions appear on the home page of our website. Also, if you would like to be able to revisit a favorite, the devotions from the past year can be accessed on the main menu – PASTOR JOSEPH'S DEVOTIONS. Enjoy!

SUNDAY FLOWERS

[Barbara Chase]

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUNDAY FLOWERS

Choose a week for your arrangement by using our online Sign-Up-Genius form with its easy-to-follow directions.

Just go to the church website, avonunitedmethodist.com, and choose **ALTAR FLOWERS** in the left-hand column. This will connect you to the Sign-Up-Genius **Church Flowers** order form with its easy-to-follow directions.

If you would rather not use the Sign-Up-Genius, contact Linda Arnold via [the church office](#).

Dates still available: 03/06/2022 , 03/13/2022, 03/27/2022



SHARE GOD'S GOOD NEWS

Worship Committee



Volunteers are needed to serve as liturgists at the 10:30am Sunday service. This is a great chance to serve MUMC with a minimal time commitment. No experience or expertise is needed. You will receive the reading a couple days before the service. On the day of the service, arrive about 15 minutes prior to the service. At the end of the service your commitment is complete. Commit for one Sunday or to serve 3 to 4 times over a one-year period - whatever works for your schedule.

To volunteer contact [the church office](#).

MAKING MUMC "PEANUT FREE"



As we begin to offer Fellowship Hour and hopefully other social activities, we would like to remind everyone that in the interest of safety and well-being of our little ones, we are attempting to make MUMC a "peanut free" building. Please keep this in mind when you are bringing something for yourself or to share at future meetings or events at Memorial. While we cannot guarantee MUMC will be totally peanut free, every effort that can be made to support this effort will be much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

[Linda Kime] Membership Directory



As Membership chair, I want us to take advantage of simply logging in to our church directory at your convenience. Please try to follow the steps below to gain access to our FRIENDS & FAMILY DIRECTORY.

Go to: www.instantchurchdirectory.com

Select "Church Member Sign-in". Click on '1st time register' and create an 8-digit password per instructions. Next time all you'll have to do is type in your email and password to access directory anytime. You can also download the App for instant access by following instructions to the right or click on the App Access from the opening page of Instant Church Directory Website.

VALENTINE MAKING FOR AVON HEALTH CENTER AND APPLE REHAB

While COVID continues to prevent us from visiting our local convalescent homes, our Sunday School and Churchery School children will be preparing Valentines for distribution to the residents and staff at Avon Health Center and Apple Rehab the week before Valentine's Day. A template has been sent to church families so they can prepare at home. Also, time during Sunday School will be allotted for the preparation of these cards. Look for Valentines on the entrance doors to welcome you to worship on 2/13!!

Sponsored by Christian Education Committee

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MUMC TRUSTEES NEWS

[Mark Borenstein, Dave Crompton, John Fillian, Laura Gorden, Linda Johansen, Hal Johansen, Marsha Kennedy, Bruce Merritt, John Perotti]



- **Sexton Bill Rebillard has been busy** helping out on weekends pretreating, shoveling and salting sidewalks, even working Christmas morning to clean the sanctuary, along with his weekly cleaning the main church, doing repairs, setups for weekly meetings and activities, and afternoon cleaning of the Churchery School.
- **Please avoid the winter plowing stakes main church parking lot** which, along with barrels and stakes in the Memorial Garden area, prevent damage to the plantings and shrubbery. As you may have noticed, because of more frequent ice storms, our plowing service has also begun to pre-treat the lots to reduce slipperiness.
- **Trustees' 2022 Trustee Budget Proposal** was finalized in January and reflects a decrease in capital improvements and maintenance to accommodate an expected 25%-50% increase in natural gas and electric prices.
- The **Memorials and Special Gifts subcommittee** will hold a special meeting to discuss a large donation from Barbara Knibbs, a fifth-generation member of the church, to be used to enhance our historical understanding of MUMC over the past 200 years.
- **KlausLarsen Roofing completed the Education Wing roof replacement, along with two additional sections in the back of the church** in late December. Trustees have also replaced water-damaged ceiling tiles in the second-floor hallway.
- A local contractor will evaluate our entire roof system this spring because Brotherhood Insurance requires that our new church **roofing be inspected by a licensed contractor and a report forwarded to them.**
- **The church complex lost heat** on a cold January Sunday recently when the main control on the furnace failed. HiPoint arrived on the scene to replace the unit, with Sexton Bill supervising so that he could re-engage each of the four circulators one by one without their gaskets springing leaks. All went well and heat was ready for the start of staff and Churchery School work days.

Continued

- **Trustees are appreciative that extra patrols** behind the church by the third shift of the Avon Police Department continue through the winter months.
- The lower entry doors of the church have been found unlocked recently and we remind all **church personnel and committees to walk the entire building before leaving to ensure that outside doors' panic bars are in the locked position.**
- **Churchery School has once again tightened protocols** for student and parent entry and exit due to the surge in omicron coronavirus cases.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE TROUBLE GETTING OUT & THOSE NEEDING A PRAYER



A card would be so appreciated.

Katie M
11 Briarwood Road
Farmington, CT 06032

Cheryl M
209 West Side Blvd.
Unionville, CT 06085

Muriel K
22 C Rita Drive
Bristol, CT 06010

Lorraine Z
9 Keystone Circle
Avon, CT 06001

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MEMORIAL GARDEN

[Jeff Tremback] Memorial Garden Chairperson



We still need some new garden members. We will accept all people who wish to join the Garden Committee, but we especially invite those who are not yet senior citizens. We now have a very mature membership and would like to add some new, youthful energy to our group. Thank you. And God Bless.

CURRENT COVID POLICIES AT MUMC



As we continue to battle COVID, we want to update some of our COVID policies. We are reimplementing a mask mandate while in church and asking everyone to sign-in as you arrive. We don't need your telephone or email, as long as it is on file in the church directory. Also, if you test positive, please contact Pastor Joseph ASAP to let him know. He will relay to Kevin Sweet what service you attended (but not your name) and Kevin will contact all other attendees to inform them. Hence the need to reinstate the attendance book.

As a reminder, the CDC recommends people who are exposed + not boosted + more than 6 months from their second dose (or more than 2 months since the J&J) should quarantine for 5 days, followed by strict mask use for 5 days. If you are exposed + boosted, you do not need to quarantine, but should wear a mask for 10 days. Either way, best practice would also include a test at day 5 after the exposure. People with COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days and if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours), follow that by 5 days of wearing a mask.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1227-isolation-quarantine-guidance.html>

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

DECEMBER 2021

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Difference
Total Budget Income:	\$ 379,515.64	\$ 348,228.00	\$ 31,287.64
Total Budget Expense:	\$ 334,842.70	\$ 348,298.00	- \$ 13,455.30

Net to Date \$ 44,672.94
Income – Expense

WINTER DRIVING

[Brian Baldwin]

The Basics

Slow down. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. In 2019, there were an estimated 182,000 police-reported crashes that occurred in wintry conditions. Increase your following distance enough so that you'll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.



Don't crowd a snow plow or travel beside the truck. Snow plows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the road frequently. If you find yourself behind a snow plow, stay far enough behind it and use caution if you pass the plow.

What to Do in an Emergency

If you are stopped or stalled in wintry weather, stay focused on yourself and your passengers, your car, and your surroundings.

- Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself.
- Let your car be seen. Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light on.
- Be mindful of carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of any snow and run your car only sporadically — just long enough to stay warm. Don't run your car for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.

Tires

As the outside temperature drops, so does tire inflation pressure. Make sure each tire is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure, which is in your owner's manual and on a label located on the driver's side door frame. Do not inflate your tires to the pressure listed on the tire itself. That number is the maximum pressure the tire can hold, not the recommended pressure for your vehicle.

An inspection is not just about checking tire pressure and age. Remember to check:

- for any damage or conditions that may need attention.
- the tread and sidewalls for any cuts, punctures, bulges, scrapes, cracks, or bumps. The tread should be at least 2/32 of an inch or greater on all tires; and your spare tire. If you find tire damage, take your vehicle to a tire service professional.

MAILING LIST FOR NEWSLETTER



If you would like to be added to the mailing list, for the newsletter to be mailed to your home monthly, please email the church office at avonmumc@gmail.com with "NEWSLETTER" in the subject line.

HOUSEHOLD INFO UPDATE

[Linda Kime] Membership Committee

In order to update our Church membership files we'd like to ask everyone to send to the church office all birthdays for their household, including birth year (which needs to be included for the program to accept the date). We can include these special dates in the monthly newsletter and directory, without birth year. Also, we'd like you to include wedding anniversaries for the monthly newsletter! We are a church family and want to celebrate these special dates with one another!

Please send updated information to avonmumc@gmail.com with "household info update" in the subject line.

MUMC MONTHLY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

The MUMC monthly calendar is available on the MUMC Church website. Please be sure to look on the MUMC church website for calendar updates and/or changes.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES AT MUMC

Taking great precautions, we continue to hold Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 9:30. Masks are required to be worn at all times, our spacious Sunday School rooms provide the opportunity for social distancing, and each child has access to sanitizer as well as their own materials and supplies without having to share with others.

While we respect every family's concerns regarding keeping safe, we would love to have your children with us on Sunday mornings as we grasp the opportunity to teach them about the Bible, the stories of Jesus and Christian living.

Sponsored by Christian Education Committee

FROM KEVIN SWEET AND FAMILY

Several years ago, the church was getting rid of an extra Wurlitzer piano, and we took it home. We are now looking to pass it along. It comes with free delivery. Please contact Kevin for more details.



INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY AND NEWSLETTERS ON WEBSITE

[Kay Hunter] Website Admin.

While our monthly **newsletters** have been accessible on our MUMC website, we can now also access the **Instant Church Directory** which consists of members and friends of MUMC. In order to maintain privacy of this information, it is accessible only to those who have registered on the site and been approved by the website administrator. This will prevent those from outside of our church family being able to access any of your personal information.

On the website, go to the main menu on the left, guide your cursor to **Members Only** which will make **MEMBERS ONLY** appear to the right, slide further to the right which will make **Members & Friends Directory** and **Newsletter** appear. Click on your choice. If you have not yet registered, you will be requested to do so and once approved, you will be able to continually sign in by clicking on either of those titles and providing your password. For Directory access, click on the link to Instant Church Directory which takes you to their site. To log-in you will use your email address that's in our directory and a password you create with this site.

Hope you find these features of our website helpful.

UMARMY 2022

[Laura Gorden]

Group Registration for UMARMY 2022 is due by February 1, 2022. We will be going back to a more traditional UMARMY week with the option to stay overnight at the Wethersfield UMC or return home after dinner and worship. I am currently seeking any youth who have completed 6th grade and all grades/ages above who would like to participate. We also need adult leaders (2 for each team). Our mission week will be June 26- 2022 through July 2, 2022.

Anyone who is interested in attending, please let me know by phone, e-mail, or see me in church.

February 2022

FOOD PANTRY BOX AT MUMC

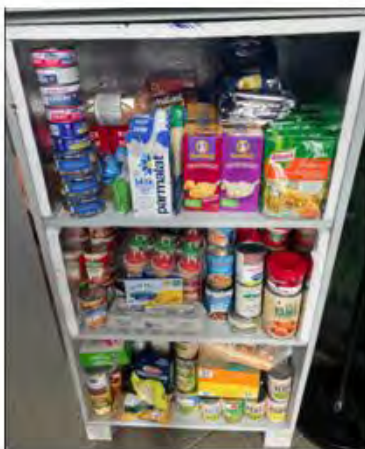
Thank you to those that have already donated to the food pantry box in the glass foyer at MUMC. Please continue donating if you can and help spread the word. There is an on-going need for food in our community.

Once a month food is also brought to the Winsted UMC Community and when the MUMC 1st floor bin for Winsted UMC is low, food is taken from the glass foyer box to share with the Winsted UMC Community.

Thank you!

Thank you!

Thank you!



THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

[Heather Kelsey] (860) 678-1314 hmkels@aol.com

Join us on Sunday, February 20th at 7pm when we will discuss *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. "Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes



later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders, or does she intervene? Ruth hesitates before performing CPR and, as a result, is charged with a serious crime. Kennedy McQuarrie, a white public defender, takes her case but gives unexpected advice: Kennedy insists that mentioning race in the courtroom is not a winning strategy. Conflicted by Kennedy's counsel, Ruth tries to keep life as normal as possible for her family—especially her teenage son—as the case becomes a media sensation. As the trial moves forward, Ruth and Kennedy must gain each other's trust, and come to see that what they've been taught their whole lives about others—and themselves—might be wrong." [\[goodreads.com\]](https://www.goodreads.com)

Our discussion will be held in the Parlor and on zoom (weather permitting). If you need the link just let me know. Remember, all are welcome!

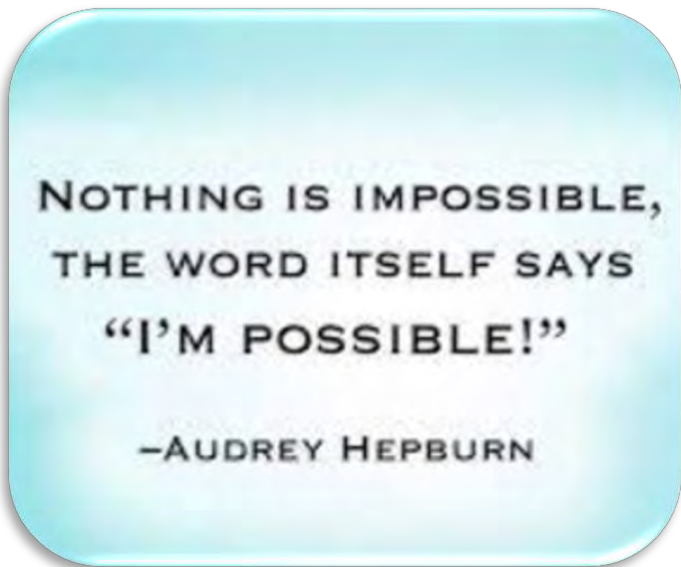
MEAL FOR WINSTED

[Laura Gorden]

February 5th is the next date we will be serving a meal for the Winsted community. I need one person to help me prepare the meatloaf meal starting at 8:00 AM. At 9:30 AM I need 2 additional volunteers to help fill 60 individual takeout food containers for delivery to Winsted. Social distancing, cleanup and sanitizing guidelines will be followed while working on this mission project.

The Winsted UMC food pantry is always in need of non-perishable food items and/or money contributions. You can drop off food items at MUMC in the blue bin located near the fellowship hall and kitchen door.

NOTE: The Winsted UMC will be using the Mason Hall at 27 Wheeler Street, Winsted, CT to distribute the meatloaf meals and food pantry items.



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BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP VISION, PURPOSE

Everyone grieves differently and in their own way, and your grief will vary from day to day. There is no simple answer nor definitive process for your grief, but know you are not alone. This is the fundamental benefit of MUMC's Bereavement Support Group, knowing you are not alone and to remember Christ is always with us.



This Support Group provides a safe place to share each other's experiences, concerns and emotions that may be causing pain. Talking with the group about one's experiences with grief and listening to what others have experienced affords a great benefit to understand and process our personal grief.

Your time with the Bereavement Support Group is a time specifically set aside for you to process your grief, away from distractions and the day-to-day frustrations and interruptions we all experience. Here you may cry, remain silent, and express your emotions without fear of judgement, as the members of this group understand what you are going through.

At the end of each session, Pastor Joseph will lead us in prayer, to remind us Christ is always with us, and His grace supports us.

The Bereavement Support Group meets the third Wednesday of every month from 9:30am to 11:00am in the parlor and also on Zoom, Pastor Joseph provides the ZOOM meeting ID several days prior to the meeting. For the time being, masks are required by all and we thank you for your cooperation.

COFFEE HOUR

[Linda Kime]

We have had Coffee Hour back in swing down in Fellowship Hall after 10:30am worship. Keeping it very light and simple this year. We appreciate the committee members giving us this service. See schedule below and on the kitchen main fridge.

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2021 – AUG 2022

SEPTEMBER – FINANCE

OCTOBER – STAFF PARISH RELATIONS

NOVEMBER – HISTORICAL RECORDS/LIT. ARTS

DECEMBER – TRUSTEES

JANUARY – MEMORIAL GARDEN

FEBRUARY – NOMINATIONS

MARCH – PASTORAL CARE

APRIL – MISSIONS

MAY – MEMBERSHIP/MEMORIALS

JUNE – EDUCATION

JULY – CONTINUES TO BE VOLUNTEER ONLY

AUGUST - CONTINUES TO BE VOLUNTEER ONLY

NEW BATCH OF "HOLY" BEARS AND CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL IS HERE

**Our MUMC, "Holy" Bears and
Creatures Great and Small, Care!**

*DO YOU HAVE AN ILL OR UNHAPPY CHILD OR
SPECIAL PERSON OF ANY AGE? WOULD THEY
SMILE IF THEY RECEIVED A LITTLE BEAR
OR OTHER FRIEND?*

*We have a new collection that could be
given away to help ease the pain or sorrow. These little bears and
other creatures will be among the congregation of our church.
They will hear the words read, prayers prayed, songs sung and the
sermons preached. It can be given to someone with the blessings of
worship, the love of God and the joy of
our congregation.*

**LOOK FOR THESE SPECIAL BEARS OR
CREATURES IN OUR SANCTUARY AND
IF YOU HAVE A NEED TO CHEER SOMEONE UP, TAKE ONE
BRING IT TO YOUR SEAT IN CHURCH. PRAY WITH IT AND TAKE IT
TO THAT NEEDY PERSON. YOU WILL BE HAPPY THAT YOU
CHEERED SOMEONE UP WITH OUR
"HOLY" BEARS AND "CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL"!**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

[From Muriel Kelly]

A very special Thank you
for my many birthday cards +
kind messages to help me celebrate
my 98th birthday.
To be remembered by my church
family since 1968 meant so much!
Russ + I cherished all of the many
Friends we made there. MUMC
means so much to me.

God bless you all, and
much love.

Muriel Kelly

February 2022

MEMORIAL GARDEN

[Jeff Tremback]

Below are the interment instructions for the Memorial Garden.



Memorial Garden Remembrance

Requested by:

Name _____ Street Address _____

City, State _____ Zip-code _____ Telephone _____

Remembrance Type Desired:

_____ Place loved one's cremains (ashes) in the Memorial Garden.
Provides for bronze nameplate

_____ Memorialize loved one whose remains are elsewhere.
Provides for bronze nameplate

_____ I wish to pre-arrange for my own remembrance in the Memorial Garden.
Provides for bronze nameplate

_____ I wish to offer a gift to the Memorial Garden:
In memory of _____
In the amount of _____

Bronze Nameplate Information: Use additional forms for multiple requests. Please print information in CAPITAL LETTERS, maximum 20, including spaces.

Name: (First) _____ (Middle Name or Initial) _____ (Last) _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Death _____

The remembrance donation of \$500 provides for the bronze nameplate as well as the perpetual care of the Memorial Garden.

Please follow these instructions if you wish to have cremains interred in the Memorial United Methodist Church (MUMC) Memorial Garden.

- Contact the Memorial Garden chairperson to begin the process. Call the church office to get the chairperson's phone number. The MUMC office phone is: 860-673-2111.
- The chairperson will:
 - explain the interment process;
 - provide the Memorial Garden Remembrance form;
 - coordinate and schedule the interment and service with the pastor and the family;
 - order and facilitate delivery of a bronze nameplate.
- A completed Memorial Garden Remembrance form is required for all interments.
- Please request at the crematory that the cremains be pulverized to a fine consistency. This process is common and produces cremains which are easier to inter or spread on top of the ground.
- The Pastor of MUMC or clergy member of your choice may say some prayers and/or speak briefly. Then the cremains will be respectfully interred by the family and/or friends and/or Memorial Garden chairperson. Some people keep a small amount of the cremains to place in a small urn as a keepsake. It is also an option to spread the cremains on top of the ground in the garden area rather than inter them in the ground.
- No indication or marker will be placed at the site of the cremains to identify where the cremains are located. A bronze nameplate (to be mounted on a plaque in the garden) with an asterisk after the name signifies that cremains are located somewhere in the garden.
- Cremains alone, without any type of container, may be interred in our Memorial Garden. Cremains cannot be interred in our garden if they are placed in any type of container before being placed in the ground.

CHURCHERY SCHOOL COLLECTS FOR THOSE IN NEED

[Valley Press]

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Churchery School collects for those in need

AVON — About eight months ago, the Memorial United Methodist Church on the border of Avon and Farmington created a small food pantry for people to take what they need. As part of an annual lesson on giving back to — and taking care of — the community, preschoolers at the Churchery School, which is located in the church building, stocked the pantry in December.

"A lot of people in need," Jean Dixon, the school's director, said. "In years past, classes have gathered gently used luggage for foster children and have put together coat and toy drives. We try to pass on to our children that we are all very lucky in how we live and we need to give back." After stocking the pantry, several children said they had taken the lesson to heart. "There's some people who don't have food," Clarice said, adding it makes him "happy" to help people in need.

— Ted Glazner

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PASTOR JOSEPH



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

Ecclesiastes 3:1

After prayerful consideration, Carol and I will be turning the page to a new chapter of our lives as I have tendered my intention to retire beginning July 1, 2022.

Ordained in 1985 and received into the United Methodist Church in 1993, I have been so blessed to be in ministry alongside the saints of God, caring for souls from the newly baptized to those received to God's eternal glory and everyone in between; Preaching, Administering the Sacraments, Confirmation, and Marriage all to the Glory of God.

A new chapter awaits, spending time with Grandchildren, Family, Travel, and the opportunity to enjoy worship sitting next to my wife, instead of in front of her, are some of the things we look forward to enjoying as we begin this new chapter together.

The Staff Parish team has been apprised of our decision and they will be working with our District Superintendent in the near future to assess the needs of the church and the qualities of a pastor that would best serve the future mission and ministry of Memorial.

With our love, prayers, gratitude to God for you and your love these past eight years...

Joseph and Carol.

FROM THE BENCH

[Tony Rauche]

“Going, Going, Gone!” We hear that phrase in many contexts, and church life is no exception. For a while, actually since 1988, I have said, “I’m going to church to practice. . .to play . . .for a funeral. . .for a wedding. . .” and here we are in 2022 and I decided that I should be “Gone,” after almost 34 years! Wow, I cannot believe you have tolerated me for that long! I will be retiring from MUMC by early June of this year, and while some have known, I wanted everyone to know this news. I had been thinking about this for the last couple of years and I believe that it is time for a new person or persons with fresh, new ideas to work among you and renew this great music program.



It was actually in 1987 that Doug Jackson asked me to come and be the organist at MUMC. At that time, I was doing sub work that had become fairly steady for me and I was happy about that. But when Doug approached me again the following year, I decided to audition for the position, and that was the beginning. Then when Doug and Bev Jackson retired and moved away, I took over conducting both the Singers and the Ringers and assumed the title of Director of Music in 2000.



My tenure at MUMC has had numerous riches in the music we have performed for worship services and concerts, but I count my greatest riches in the friends I have made among many of you, and among those who have gone on before us. For all the wonderful music you have heard in a public environment, I want you to know that our rehearsals have been filled with equally special moments. One can never underestimate when the spark from the Spirit will strike—and then it is very special! And truth be told, we have had a lot of fun, too!



So, if you have any requests, now is the time to voice them and we will see what happens. I know I will write again, but I do thank you so very much for the honor of being with you, making music with you, and sharing your spiritual journeys.



On another note, much more important, is our shared concern for safety during this surge in the COVID pandemic. It took the Pastor getting sick to spur us on to wearing masks again and



Continued

keeping them on while we are in the building. As you have seen, the choir wears special masks designed for singing, and we needed everyone else to wear a mask because of all the droplets and spray—sorry—that are propelled into the air when a person sings! Trust me, it’s not pretty. At the moment, some choir members, and other members of the congregation, are not comfortable coming into the building, and that is completely understandable. That is why I suspended all the choir rehearsals and singing during worship for the time being during this current surge. We must continue to take simple, clear steps to be safe—hand washing, distancing, and masks! I am grateful for Bob Kelly’s support in helping to make our safety a priority. A comforting historical note: when the plague, the Black Death, hit Europe, the University of Cambridge closed for two years. They sent Isaac Newton home and he made out just fine, and so will we!

AA / A Longstanding Outreach Program of MUMC

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) was founded in America in 1935 by Bill Wilson (Bill W.) and Robert Smith (Dr. Bob). Two centuries earlier, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, established Methodist penitent bands in England, which organized on Saturday nights, the evening on which members of these small groups were most tempted to frequent alehouses. The hymns and teaching provided during these meetings addressed the issues the members faced, thus the connection between these bands and the current practices of AA.



Memorial United Methodist Church has always supported AA, and currently two groups meet weekly in our Fellowship Hall, Wednesday and Saturday nights at 8:00 PM. In addition, other Avon locations for AA meetings are available, one at the Avon Center Congregational Church each morning at 7:00 AM, and also Tuesday evenings at 8:00 PM at the West Avon Congregational Church on Country Club Road. If you know of anyone who would benefit from participating in any of these meetings, please have them contact any of the three churches mentioned. AA is truly a lifesaving program that has stood the test of time.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT LATEST HAPPENINGS! www.avonunitedmethodist.com

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR NEWS! [Avon Mumc](#)

PLEASE JOIN US ON FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE FOR SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:30am, SEARCH FOR [Avon Mumc](#)

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