

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 6:30am – 10:30am

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)

The Great Preparation

We prepare ourselves for special events in our lives... We prepare ourselves for the day when our children will want to go to college and so we set aside some savings to help them along. We prepare ourselves for the day when we retire and able to enjoy the leisure life, or so we hope. We prepare ourselves for more immediate things, for work, school, meetings, dinner, and all the while we know what we need to do and make plans to do it.

In this the Christian season of Lent we prepare ourselves for the great event of Easter. We decorate the church in purple, the color of sorrow that reminds us of the passion of Christ. We sing hymns that remind us of the cost of Christ’s love for us. We become more attentive to the needs of others, and our spiritual needs, attending bible studies or being more deliberate about our time for prayer.

And to what end? First, it reminds us that we are on a journey, and we need God’s help along the way. Secondly, and primarily, it prepares us for our meeting with Jesus, when we stand in God’s presence with rejoicing. This brings us to Easter. The day the Christian church celebrates the resurrection of our savior, Jesus the Christ. I can only imagine what it will be like to join the Lord and to praise him, the Lamb upon the throne. The book of Revelation reminds us that all will bow before the throne of God and Kings will lay their crowns of gold before him and praise him saying, “You are worthy, our Lord and God to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” *Rev. 4:10-11*

And so Lent prepares us for Easter, the promise of new life, and Easter allows us to practice rejoicing and celebrating the gift of new life to the Glory of God. We rejoice and celebrate when our favorite team wins. We rejoice and celebrate when our children get married... We rejoice and celebrate when a baby is born. Let us rejoice and celebrate the eternal gift of new life... which is given through Christ Jesus, by His life, death, and resurrection. Let us celebrate EASTER!



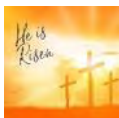
We invite you to join us for services on Palm Sunday, April 10th at 8:30am, and 10:30am our Family Worship Service as we celebrate the Passion of Christ and the Procession of Palms by our Church School children.



Maundy Thursday, April 14th at 7pm in our sanctuary. The remembrance of the Lord’s Last Supper.



Good Friday, April 15th at 7pm in our sanctuary. The remembrance of Christ’s death on the cross.



Easter Sunday, April 17th at 6:30am our sunrise service in the portico of the church, and 8:30am, and 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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



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.

4	Dave Macdonald	22	Nate Ross
8	Nate Brinn	26	Kevin Sweet
20	Alexa Hunter	27	Eugene Yeboah
21	Katie Morris		



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.

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CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR NEWS! *Avon Mumc*

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April 2022

**STAFF PARISH ANNOUNCES
APPOINTMENT OF NEW PASTOR**

With the upcoming retirement of Pastor Joseph, the Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that we have met with our District Superintendent and can report our Bishop's appointment of Rev Dr. Sungmu Lee to lead our congregation effective July 1. Rev Lee has served three churches in our Conference since 1998, currently serving First & Wesley UMC in West Haven, CT. Rev Lee is married, his spouse is Hyeonjin Kim.



Rev Lee holds degrees from Drew University (PhD, MDiv) in New Jersey, Methodist Theological Seminary (MTh) in Seoul, Korea; and Dankook University (BE) in Seoul. He has taught "Introduction to Preaching" at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and "Introduction to Preaching and Worship" at New York Theological Seminary. He has served for the Ecumenical Group for Eucharistic Sharing with the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Rev Lee's scholastic/research interests lie in the area of liturgical enculturation. He has published several scholarly articles that demonstrate the great potential for each Church to experience God more effectively through its own ways. It is his hope that the fruits of his work will open the gates not only for Korean Christians but also for other ethnic Christian groups to connect Christian faith with their own cultures, create unique theologies for their own churches, and practice the faith in their life.

Rev Lee looks forward to his appointment in Avon, and we look forward to working together to grow and move our ministry forward.

PASTORAL CARE
[Ruthellen Corbett]



- March brought Pastoral Care back to a more normal schedule. We met in person for our March meeting. Hooray!
- Twenty MUMC members celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a delicious, corned beef and cabbage luncheon. Yum!
- MUMC family celebrated the life of Jill Rendell on March 26th. After the heart-warming Memorial Service, Pastoral Care members provided a lovely reception. Fellowship Hall was a sea of pink: napkins, plates, punch, and frosted cookies. Jill loved pink. Thank you all for your dedication and contributions.
- March was the month for Pastoral Care to host Coffee Hour after Sunday services. Delicious as usual.
- April 9th is the Memorial Service and reception for Tom Robinson.
- Pastoral Care members are always available to help church family members. Don't ever hesitate to call.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

JANUARY 2022

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Difference
Total Budget Income:	\$ 111,843.96	\$ 53,194.00	\$ 58,649.96
Total Budget Expense:	\$ 56,931.07	\$ 60,324.00	- \$ 3,392.30

Net to Date **\$ 54,912.89**
Income – Expense

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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.

UMARMY "POP-UP" CAMP AT AVON MEMORIAL UMC

[Laura Gorden]

Friday, April 29, 2022 (5:00pm) – Sunday, May 1, 2022 (6:30pm)

UMARMY is offering a weekend mission experience and using MUMC as a base camp. Anyone who is in seventh grade through high school and all adults are able to participate. This weekend commitment is the perfect time to participate and find out what UMARMY is all about. If you are interested in participating, please let me know. Gina Grubbs, the NE Regional Director, is hoping to have enough adults participate from MUMC to fill the leadership roles (kitchens, sites, safety, tools, group leaders and team leaders). Everyone will go home at the end of the scheduled day and return at 7 AM. A grab and go breakfast will be available each morning. Participants will bring a packed lunch. Dinners and snacks will be provided by UMARMY or through donations from attending churches.

FINANCE

[Greg Slone]

The February 2022 year-to-date balance of income to expense is about \$55,000. However, much of this was due to annual contributions paid in January along with rollover from 2021. A deficit for the year is still expected, which we as a church will work prayerfully to address throughout the year.

Notable expense items larger than expected thus far this year include snow removal (due in large part to the higher than usual amount of ice this winter) and a heating repair and maintenance item. Budget income is progressing roughly as expected thus far this year.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP AT MUMC

August 15th -19th, 2022 - 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Age 3 as of 8/15 (must be potty trained) to those completing Grade 4

\$20 per child; max. \$50 per family

Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book.



Help kids take up the gauntlet this summer and accept the challenge to "armor up" and be strong by remaining with God and sharing God's love in a world that needs it more than ever. Through the sharing of storytelling, crafts, music, games and even snacks the children will learn the Bible story specific to each day.

All children are invited to participate in Vacation Bible Camp – we have no limit on number of registrations.

To register your child (grandchild, niece, nephew, friend) and to view more information go to

2020.cokesburyvbs.com/avonmumc2021

A successful Vacation Bible Camp requires numerous volunteers to lead the various activities as listed above as well as group leaders and aids including youth. Won't you consider being part of this group? We promise the rewards outweigh the efforts!!! Questions? Contact Kay Hunter via [the church office](#).

PASTOR'S DAILY DEVOTIONS ON MUMC WEBSITE



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!

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CHURCH COUNCIL

[John Baily]

It's spring! Finally! The bears are out, and colorful birds are arriving. It's time for MUMC to come back together after two long years of COVID. Not long ago the Wall Street Journal had an article that attendance and giving in churches across the USA had experienced a 40% decline over these two years. I suspect we have done better on giving than the national decline, but we certainly have experienced declines in most of our gatherings.



At our last council meeting, we agreed it is time to begin returning to church services and our other events. MUMC has always been noted for its friendliness and doing things together. The Covid wasn't all bad news. Just like many other organizations, we realized the benefits of on-line worship through ZOOM and YouTube thanks to the efforts of PJ, Kevin and Julia Sweet and Don Austin. However, as business is realizing, much of what makes us different is our many groups. As you know, we are encouraging in person meetings, with appropriate precautions, while making zoom available for those who are not comfortable with in person meetings.

Council has begun to explore how we can best get back to normal while beginning to grow the church and its programs. We expect the Pumpkin Patch and the related Saturday events that we began in 2021 will return bigger and better. If you are interested in getting involved just talk to Kevin Sweet, me or one of the many others who have been involved.

Each committee has been asked to come to our April meeting with ideas of how to stimulate growth [yes, just like Spring]. Nothing is final, but look for more church-wide dinners, outreach to those of you who we haven't seen for awhile, advertising in local papers [look for our advertisement of Easter Services], and special youth events. If you have ideas to contribute to the effort, please see PJ or any of the committee chairs.

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.



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: 06/19/22, 06/26/22, 07/03/22, 07/17/22



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](#).

***"When what we are
is what we want to be,
that's happiness."
Malcolm Forbes***

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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.

SPRING CLEAN UP 2022

Dave Crompton [Trustees]

We are going to try something different this Spring, let's do a little work right after church services. On **April 10th**, wear work clothes to church that day. Following services, volunteer some time to help clean up around our beautiful building. Please bring a few of your own gardening tools to supplement what we have on hand. Hopefully there will be a great turn out of both adults and youth which will make our efforts a truly church wide event.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you ordered Altar Flowers for a Sunday Service and are not able to pick up on Sunday, they will be available for pickup in the MUMC office during the office hours of Monday through Friday 9:00am-2:00pm.



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SPRING IS HERE – CLEANING SAFETY TIPS

[Brian Baldwin]

After a long winter, dust and dirt can collect in your home like snowdrifts – making spring cleaning a must.

Before tackling this annual chore, though, you should be aware of the hazards that may await you: handling household chemicals, lifting heavy objects, navigating around clutter, walking on wet surfaces, and reaching or climbing – to name a few.

Here are tips for keeping spring cleaning safe.

- **Declutter before cleaning:** Before you start cleaning, clear any clutter that you could trip over.
- **Go mild:** Limit the use of harsh cleaning or disinfectant products such as bleach and ammonia, and never mix the two – doing so can create toxic fumes.
- **Read the label:** Each cleaning or disinfectant product should have a label describing proper use of it and safety precautions to follow during use. Take a minute to read the label and follow the instructions.
- **Ventilation is your friend:** When using cleaning or disinfectant products, open windows or a door, and run a fan to help air circulate.
- **Consider a mask:** If you have allergies or breathing issues, wear a mask to prevent allergic reactions and irritation.
- **Glove up:** It's a good idea to wear rubber gloves when using some household cleaners. The gloves can help prevent reactions (e.g., rashes, skin redness) from exposure.
- **Get a mop:** When you're cleaning floors, avoid working on your hands and knees, which could cause sprains and strains. Use a mop instead, including when you're cleaning a bathtub.
- **Avoid wet floors:** Wet floors are a danger zone for slips and falls. Allow freshly cleaned floors to dry before walking on them.
- **Safely store cleaning products:** Keep them in a clean, cool, dry space where children and pets can't get to them.
- **Stay safe on step stools:** Using a step stool? Be careful! Always place it on a level surface before using, and choose one with a handle or railing so you can maintain three points of contact (two feet and one hand) for optimal safety. One hand can be free for cleaning tasks. Make sure the stool's steps are large enough to properly fit your feet, and face the stool when climbing up or down. Set up the stool close to where you're cleaning, and never attempt to move it while standing on it.
- **Lift with caution:** When lifting or moving furniture and other heavy objects, ask for help. Bend with your knees – not your back – and use your leg muscles to avoid a back injury.
- **Stay hydrated:** Spring cleaning is great exercise, so drink plenty of water and take rest breaks.

MUMC TRUSTEES NEWS

[Mark Borenstein, Dave Crompton, John Fillian, Linda Johansen, Hal Johansen, Marsha B. Kennedy, Beata Korponay, Bruce Merritt, John Perotti]

- **Sexton Bill Rebillard has concluded** weekday and weekend mornings pretreating, shoveling, and salting sidewalks. He now directs his attention to the parsonage, with spring cleanup, fertilizing and mowing on the schedule along with normal cleaning of the Church and Churchery School. Recently he has taken up more worn second floor hallway tiles and replaced them, waxed the new areas, and will paint Education Wing classrooms during April and June breaks.
- **The winter plowing stakes** have been removed and **plow-damaged sod replacement** has begun. The need to heavily salt and de-ice our lots has added considerable cost to our snow/ice removal budget but was necessary for the safety of church members and visitors.
- **Trustees' annual inspections** of church fire extinguishers, fire and smoke alarms, sprinkler heads, kitchen range hood, and the elevator has been completed and are now good through March 2023.
- **The Trustees' Memorials and Gifts Subcommittee** will be meeting with **Records and History** in April to discuss the best way to use fifth-generation church Barbara Knibbs' donation of a 1926 church pew and sum of money to enhance our historical understanding of MUMC over the past 200 years. Based on this joint committees' final recommendation, Trustees will decide how best to move forward on this initiative.
- **KlausLarsen Roofing completed the Education Wing roof replacement, along with two additional sections in the back of the church.** The certification for these roofs was forwarded to our insurance company as required.
- A local contractor will evaluate the original main church 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. Any necessary repairs of these 17-year-old roofs will have to be made to maintain our insurance with Brotherhood.
- **Our AED has become unreliable** and is so old that parts are no longer available. Brian, our safety committee chair, has recommended a particular model, and we have contacted the company to order a new one.
- **The main church Septic System** was pumped out in March and a plugged filter was also replaced. The tank and fields are now good for approximately another two years.

Continued

Continued

- **The Trustees' All-Church Cleanup** will do a pre-Easter Sunday Cleanup after worship on Sunday, April 10, and spring seeding, foliage area weeding, and mulching will be completed at a later date. The Girl Scout Troop we sponsor will take care of cleaning the Fellowship Hall courtyard. Our Memorial Garden Subcommittee will be conducting its own spring cleanup on Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23. Please consider lending one or more of the above groups a hand when the time comes.
- We have had much success throughout the Winter with church entryway security because **all church personnel and committee leaders** are walking the entire building before leaving to ensure that outside doors' panic bars are in the locked position.
- **Churchery School will maintain protocols** for student and parent entry as the BA.2 omicron coronavirus spreads, in coordination with the Farmington Valley health District and the Town of Avon. Although masks are no longer required, some teachers, children, and parents still mask up. Separate entrance-and-exit and 6-foot distances will also be maintained.

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

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

MARCH 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	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	29	30	31	1	2

Free Printable Calendars from typecalendar.com

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.



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.

FOOD PANTRY BOX AT MUMC MOVED BACK IN THE PARKING LOT

Thank you to those that have already donated to the food pantry bin in the upper tier parking lot of 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 upper tier parking lot bin to share with the Winsted UMC Community.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU



April 2022

MEAL FOR WINSTED

[Laura Gorden]

On February 5th we delivered 64 meatloaf meals to Winsted. We also delivered non-perishable food items.

Thank you to Courtney Robinson, Jeff Tremback and Sue Yankus for helping to prepare the food. Thank you to John and Bev Perotti for joining us to fill individual food containers and for washing the dishes and cleaning the kitchen while Jeff, Sue, Dave and Laura Gorden delivered the food to Winsted.

April 2nd is the next date to serve Winsted. I need one person to help me prepare the meatloaf meal starting at 8:00am. At 9:30am 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.

Food pantry items and/or money contributions are always needed. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off in the blue bin located near the kitchen at MUMC. Checks can be mailed to Winsted UMC, Mason Hall, 27 Wheeler Street, Winsted, CT 06098.

THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

It's time for a classic! Our April discussion will focus on *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë. "Orphaned as a child, Jane has felt an outcast her whole young life. Her courage is tested once again when she arrives at Thornfield Hall, where she has been hired by the brooding, proud Edward Rochester to care for his ward Adèle. Jane finds herself drawn to his troubled yet kind spirit. She falls in love. Hard. But there is a terrifying secret inside the gloomy, forbidding Thornfield Hall. Is Rochester hiding from Jane? Will Jane be left heartbroken and exiled once again?" [goodreads.com] We will meet on Sunday, April 24th (moving out a week so as not to conflict with Easter) at 7pm in the Parlor and on Zoom. If you prefer to join us by Zoom and need the link, please contact Heather. Happy Reading and remember that all are welcome!



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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.

"HOLY" BEARS & CREATURES GREAT & 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"!

April 2022
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

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.

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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

A Steady Reminder of God’s Presence

The time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me.

Mark and I had been married 26 years. Our sons were 18 and 20. We loved being parents, but with our younger son graduating high school, we eagerly anticipated the empty nest and had more time for each other. When our younger son started college in the fall, Mark began having stomach issues and back pain, which would linger for a few days and then disappear, only to reappear later. He also developed a cough.

When his doctor ordered an MRI, the results were devastating. Stage IV pancreatic cancer was already in his liver and both lungs. Mark was only 53. Our lives were turned upside down. I suddenly found myself trying to provide emotional support to Mark and our sons during the worst experience any of us had ever endured. I wanted to keep myself together to focus on caring for Mark, but I was emotionally drained—full of sadness and terrified of the future. I had always been a “take responsibility for everything myself” kind of person. However, I knew I couldn’t do this alone.

I talked to my pastor about it, and she suggested matching me with a Stephen Minister. I agreed, and less than two weeks after Mark was diagnosed, my Stephen Minister came for the first of her weekly visits. It’s difficult to convey how vital this Stephen Ministry relationship was for me. Our pastor was wonderful, and we had an amazing amount of support from many other people, but the time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me.

The consistency of our Stephen Ministry relationship was crucial in helping me cope. My Stephen Minister let me know that, while she was very concerned for Mark, her role was to be my support—to listen and help me process what I was feeling and going through, without giving advice or telling me what to do. Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God’s presence, helping me know I was never alone. Although Mark and I chose to talk publicly about his condition, my Stephen Ministry relationship was completely confidential. I knew I could share anything with her, and that’s where it would stay.

Mark’s illness progressed rapidly—ten weeks of treatment, followed by six weeks of hospice, and then his passing. My needs changed as I went from being a wife to being a caregiver to being a grieving widow and dealing with everything that the loss of a spouse entails. Through it all, my Stephen Minister’s love and support continued. She was there for me at every stage of my journey. It was never easy, but my Stephen Minister

Continued

helped me through the most challenging moments of my life. The compassionate, consistent, and confidential support of my Stephen Minister was so crucial in helping me cope—and then begin to heal. I can’t say enough about how much I appreciate my church’s Stephen Ministry.

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry used in over 12,000 congregations across the United States, Canada, and 29 other countries.

With Stephen Ministry, congregations can equip a team of lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, divorce, major illness, loneliness, financial stress, and other life difficulties.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry and watch videos about the difference Stephen Ministers are making in people’s lives, visit stephenministries.org/stories.

To explore the role of Stephen Minister, or if you know someone who needs a Stephen Minister, reach out to Diane Hornaday, and/or call one of our Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator’s: Barbara Vasquenza (women) 860-712-2710 or Mike Motyl (men) (860) 559-3724 for more information.

YOU ARE MISSED!!!!

As church attendance numbers have faded across the nation and on-line services have become very convenient, it’s important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can’t serve from your sofa.

You can’t have community of faith from your sofa.

You can’t experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren’t consumers. We’re contributors. We don’t watch. We engage.

We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The **church needs you and you need the church**. Especially with Holy Week approaching we hope we will see you soon in worship!! You are missed!!!

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

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR NEWS! Avon Mumc

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April 2022

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH AT MUMC

Pastoral Care Committee

As St. Patrick's Day landed on our usual Thursday for Bring Your Own Lunch Bunch, we decided it was time to try a prepared lunch for all. We had 25 in attendance and the meal and fellowship were wonderful. Thanks to all who helped out with preparation and cleanup. Special thanks to Diane Hornaday and Kay Hunter, our cooks, to Jo Cragin and her friend Bonnie Faraclas for providing Irish soda bread, and to Laura Gorden for her special green frosted chocolate brownies.

We are looking forward to doing something like this again soon.

CONTINUED



MISSIONS

[Linda Johansen]

Our committee continues to collect for Ukraine, a United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Advance project. If you would like to donate, please make check out to MUMC and write Advance # 14053A on the memo line. Every penny of your donation gets sent to UMCOR, which then gets transferred to the UMC of Ukraine's bank account. There is already a system in place to receive these donations and properly disperse funds. Peace to all who struggle.

April 2022

MEMORIAL GARDEN

[Jeff Tremback]

Winter is closing one door and spring is opening another. One of my favorite times of year! So now it is time for the garden committee to re-open the garden for everyone to enjoy.

Our committee meetings will be on the 4th Tuesday of each month starting on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 5:00pm in the garden (weather permitting and in the parlor if the weather does not cooperate).

We will decide on a date for our annual spring workday. On this day we will do some general garden cleanup/maintenance, put up the US and Methodist flags, set up the hoses, check the sprinkler system, and a few other things. The garden committee is eager and ready to get back to dirty fingernails. In 2022, we will also seek some new, young members for our committee. We need fresh blood because our committee is very mature at this time. And I want to reiterate that the Memorial Garden is for EVERYONE to enjoy, not just our church membership. The garden is a place of refuge where we can talk to God and to Mother Nature. Please come to enjoy the garden.

GIRL SCOUT RECOGNITION AT MEMORIAL

The Girl Scout Promise:

On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country, To help people at all times. And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

You will note that there are four parts to the promise, the first being their commitment to serve God. On Sunday, March 6th, local Girl Scouts attended our 10:30 worship service and were honored and recognized for their service. As a group they recited the Girl Scout Law and Promise. This participation also helped them to earn their Faith badges. MUMC's four Girl Scouts participated in the service: Alexa H, Ella R, Julia S and Makayla T. We also took a moment to recognize the many in the congregation who had served as Girl Scouts. Thanks to all Girl Scouts for their service.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

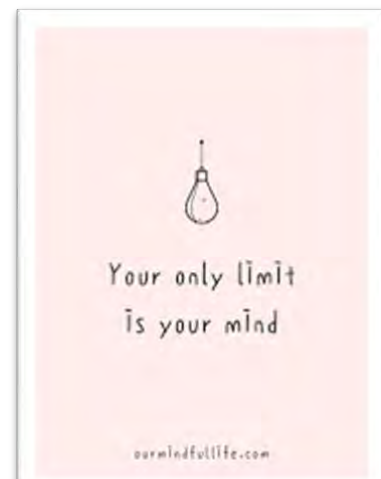
Special Events for Children and Youth

We have special plans for Sunday School on Palm Sunday.

Lessons on Communion: On Palm Sunday, April 10th, at 9:30am, all children and their parents are invited to join Pastor Joseph in Fellowship Hall for Lessons on Communion. We hope this will provide guidance and information to those who may be ready to receive their first communion, as well as those who have already been observing and participating in Holy Communion. We schedule these Lessons at this time in order to provide the perfect opportunity for our children to receive their first communion with church family on Maundy Thursday or Easter Sunday. For all children, this time with Pastor Joseph will expand their understanding of Holy Communion.

Holy Week Workshop: Please join us on Palm Sunday, April 10th immediately following Lessons on Communion for a choice of crafts and activities that represent and relate to the events of Holy Week. There will be something for every age. Hope to see you there.

Easter Egg Hunt: Easter Sunday Breakfast will be April 17th at 9:15am followed by the Easter Egg Hunt at about 10:00am. All children will gather in the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall, be divided into groups (toddler to kindergarten, grades 1-3 and grades 4-6) and proceed outside for the hunt. In case of inclement weather, the hunt will be held in the Education wing. All children are asked to bring a basket, but if they should forget, we will have containers available. We also ask that the plastic eggs be emptied and returned to a bin in the hallway – to recycle for next year. Hope to see you all there! Please note: There will be **NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday**, April 17th.



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April 2022

Potluck Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 17, 2022, 9:15am-10:15am

Bring your favorite breakfast item to share and join us for a potluck breakfast on Easter morning, April 17 from 9:15 to 10:15. It can be a breakfast casserole, quiche, bacon, ham, sausage, coffee cake, donuts, bagels, muffins or any other favorite. Please bring it ready to serve. If attending 8:30 worship, drop off on your way to worship. If attending 10:30 worship, just bring when you attend breakfast at 9:15. Ovens will be warm to keep items warm during 8:30 worship. All dishes should be picked up and removed after breakfast or after 10:30 worship.

Membership Committee is sponsoring this event, but we NEED a few folks who are attending 10:30 worship to come early (8:15) to monitor the arrival of food items and get things ready as well as a few folks who will be attending 8:30 worship to stay after breakfast has been completed to do some cleaning up. Please contact Linda Kime or Kay Hunter if you are willing to help with this prep or cleanup. Thank you!!!

Beverages will be provided. Let's make this a great time of fellowship for all!!!

Mother-Daughter Tea:

"A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words"

Saturday, May 7, 2022 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Contact: Kay Hunter

Whether or not you are a mother of daughters or even a mother, this is a wonderful opportunity to honor our mothers. Mark your calendars today and invite friends and family to be part of this special afternoon for all women and girls. Invite someone from Memorial to attend with you as your mother or daughter! Invite sisters and friends to join you. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table in the downstairs foyer.

Please sign up to bring a ready to serve plate of your favorite finger sandwiches or finger desserts to share. Also, if you are attending with a group, please provide names and total number, so we can reserve and arrange seating. Bring a photo of your mom to display for all to see.

Dig out your favorite hat and spring attire and join us for an afternoon of friendship and fellowship.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE WITH CHRIST FOR TOM ROBINSON

SAVE THE DATE



- 04/10/22 **PALM SUNDAY**
8:30am in person.
- 04/10/22 **PALM SUNDAY**
10:30am in person & LIVE Service
- 04/14/22 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7:00pm in person & LIVE Service
- 04/15/22 **GOOD FRIDAY**
7:00pm in person & LIVE Service
- 04/17/22 **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**
6:30am in person.
- 04/17/22 **EASTER SUNDAY**
8:30am in person.
- 04/17/22 **EASTER SUNDAY**
10:30am in person & LIVE Service

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