



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)

A Sacred Space... As a seminarian I used to wake up early each day to allow for time to say my prayers in the chapel before breakfast. Up at 5:30am, down to the chapel at 6:30am and on to breakfast at 7:00am. I believe the room used to be a utility closet in the basement of the seminary. But now it was decorated with a couple of pictures of Jesus and Mary, a bible, and a well-worn red oriental rug that looked as if it were weaved during the time of Ali Baba himself.

My time of prayer consisted of reading from my prayer book which took all of 10 minutes. The remainder of my time was spent in conversation with the Lord. Sometimes I would confess that I needed His forgiveness. Sometimes I would pray for folks who asked me to pray for them. Sometimes I sat there at that early hour too tired to think, let alone pray. Sometimes God and I engaged in heart to heart conversations about whether or not the priesthood was the life for me.

No matter the conversation with God or the lack of it, God was there even when I was physically present and my mind was someplace else. God was present in that small utility room turned chapel. It wasn't a pretty room but it provided us as seminarians with a private place to pray; to be alone with the Lord. It provided us a distraction free and holy environment that was set apart for conversation with God. And God was present.

Sometimes God's voice was loud and clear. Sometimes I needed to be patient and wait for God to answer me. But in all the time I made my way to the chapel for early morning prayer, God was there waiting for me to arrive. God waited for me to open the doors of my heart, my mind and my soul in order to engage me in conversation. God was there and God waited, patiently and expectantly.

It has been some forty years since I sat in that chapel. The college seminary I attended has since been purchased by Boston College to be used as dormitories. I often think of what happened to the chapel. Was it returned to a utility closet? Whatever its fate, God used that small room for us to communicate, like Jesus used to find a "Deserted place" to do the same.

One can make the argument that God is everywhere and one place to pray is as good as another. St. Paul invites us to "Pray at all times and in *all* places". This is true, but sacred places are hard to find. They shield us from the world. They provide an intimate and quiet respite from the hustle and bustle of our busy lives. They help us to focus on our relationship with God. They are set apart to remind us that we are set apart to be holy vessels for God. And as God filled the tiny chapel at St. John's seminary college, so God desires to fill our hearts.

God desires to set us apart for the work he has set aside for us to do. Chapels remind us that God wishes to be intimate with us in a private way and reminds others that prayer and quiet time with the Lord is special and not to be interrupted. Regretfully, have we become so accustomed to be accessible to others by way of e-mail, mobile phones, the internet, text messaging, Twitter, Facebook, etc., that we have forgotten our need to be alone with the Lord.

So where do you go to be away from the phone, the internet, and others when all you want to do is be alone with the Lord? Where is your chapel, your "Deserted place"?

Pastor Joseph

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

14	A Celebration of Life with Christ for Tom Robinson
5	A Thank you from Joan Robinson
11	AA - A Longstanding Outreach Program of MUMC
6	Altar Flowers
2	Anniversaries of the month
10	Bereavement Support Group
2	Birthdays of the Month
13	Christian Education
11	Coffee Hour
4	Emergency Contacts
12	Finance
4	Finance Committee – Monthly
9	Food Pantry Box
6	From Laura Gorden
1	From Pastor Joseph
10	Holy Bears
9	Household Info Update (Membership)
9	Instant Church Directory and Newsletters on Website
9	Mailing List for Newsletter
5	Making MUMC "Peanut Free"
10	Meal for Winsted
6	Membership Chair (Directory)
12	Memorial Garden
14	Memorial Garden Cleanup
11	Memorial Garden Form
5	Missions
12	Mother-Daughter Tea
13	MUMC Egg Hunt
8	MUMC Monthly Calendar
2	One More Step "Back to Normal" (Ushers Needed)
4	Pastoral Care
5	Pastor's Daily Devotions
13	Potluck Easter Breakfast
9	Remember Those Who Have Trouble Getting Out
3	Reset-Reboost
7	Safety – May
6	Share God's Good News
6	Spring Clean up
13	Sr. High Easter Basket Project
7	St. Patrick's Day at MUMC
3	Staff Parish Announces Appointment of New Pastor
11	Stephen Ministry
6	Sunday Flowers

Continued

10	The Other Good Book Group
8	Trustee News
5	Vacation Bible Camp at MUMC
12	You are missed

MAY 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.

1	Linda Arnold	21	Virginia CapalboRusso
1	Don Austin	22	Donna Baily
1	Greg Slone	22	Dave Crompton
2	Jan Colturi	22	Jennifer Hunter
5	Santosh Oommen	24	Luke Slone
6	Dave Corbett	25	Ben Bruinsma
7	Laura Gorden	25	Mark Borenstein
8	Anna Lee Flinn	26	Julie Notestine
9	Jennifer Smagin	26	Ken Notestine
10	Natalie Corbett	28	Alan Kennedy
19	Louis Kozikowski	29	Brian Hunter, Jr.
20	Troy Shingleton		

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Ben and Pat Bruinsma
 Roger and Joan Couch
 Rob and Tina Tardiff



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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.

RESET-REBOOST

[John Baily]

As indicated in last month's newsletter, Church Council is actively looking for ways to reinvigorate and grow MUMC. COVID was a negative for churches across the country. Within person worship curtailed or shut down, members have drifted away or become comfortable watching from home.



We would like volunteers for a task force with a short life to actively brainstorm ways to re-energize MUMC. These may be activities we have had in prior years or activities you have seen in other churches or just things you think would draw interest. We suggest many or most of these activities center on our church and its magnificent property to draw people in. Activities that make MUMC a key player in the surrounding communities are desirable. We started to do this last year with the pumpkin patch with activities like the children's day and the flea market.

We would like this task force to be diverse to include all ages as well as those active or inactive in the church. For a variety of reasons our teens need volunteer hours for things like college applications. These activities could be a way to help them.

Things [not all inclusive] on the possible list are:

- Woman's exercise class
- Bring back monthly church dinners
- Bring men's breakfast back to the church and organize a separate women's breakfast or lunch
- Walking or biking groups
- Food trucks in the church parking lot
- Cookout(s) including waffle ball, croquets, volleyball, four square.

Obviously, we cannot do everything at once. This task force would both identify priorities and gauge interest of the congregation and possibly the community.

A member has already donated some funds to cover initial activities. We are confident additional contributions will come if we can generate enthusiasm.

To volunteer, email the church office.

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PASTORAL CARE
[Ruthellen Corbett]

Is it spring yet? "April is the cruellest month," said TS Eliot. But May is coming and things to consider.

Our dear friend Lou Kozikowski turns 100 on May 19th. His long and inspiring life will be celebrated on Saturday, May 21st, from 2:00pm-4:00pm at Village Gate. ALL MUMC family is invited to come and make merry. Below is the invitation. If you cannot come to the party, send a card to wish him Happy Birthday.

After 11 years of serving as Chair of Pastoral Care, it is time to step down. It was a privilege and pleasure to lead a loyal and loving committee. I am very pleased to announce that Kay Hunter is stepping up; Pastoral Care is in good hands.



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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

MARCH 2022

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Difference
Total Budget Income:	\$ 127,529.00	\$ 79,791.00	\$ 47,738.00
Total Budget Expense:	\$ 82,212.16	\$ 90,486.00	- \$ 8,273.84
Net to Date	\$ 45,316.84		
Income – Expense			

ONE MORE STEP "BACK TO NORMAL"

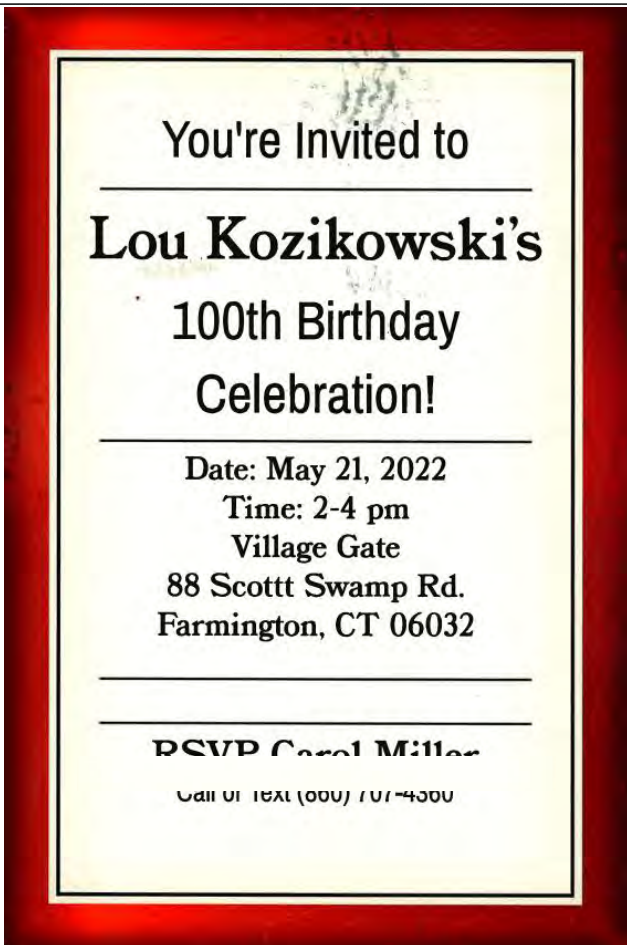
[Chalise Ross] Liturgical Arts

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.

"Positive anything is better

than negative nothing."

Elbert Hubbard



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May 2022

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



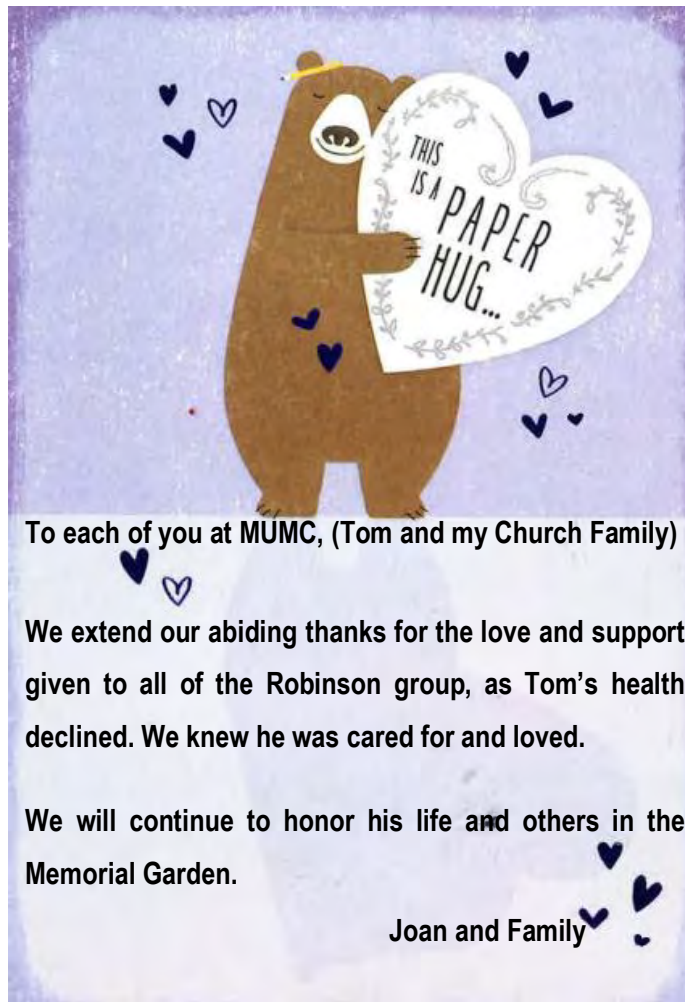
Just a reminder that Pastor Joseph’s daily devotions appear on the home page of our website. Also, if you would like to be able to revisit a favorite, the devotions from the past year can be accessed on the main menu – PASTOR JOSEPH’S DEVOTIONS. Enjoy!

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A THANK YOU FROM THE ROBINSON’S



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.



MISSIONS

[Linda Johansen]

The special collection for Ukraine is currently at \$4,292. Thank you everyone for your contributions. The entire amount will go directly to those in need through the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

May 2022

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, 07/10/22



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](#).

“Failure is success

if we learn from it.”

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.

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.



Expect NOTHING.

Appreciate EVERYTHING.

May 2022

Changing The Way We Think About Mental Health

[Brian Baldwin]

When we think about cancer, heart disease, or diabetes, we don't wait years to treat them.

We start before Stage 4—we begin with prevention. When people are in the first stage of those diseases and are beginning to show signs or symptoms like a persistent cough, high blood pressure, or high blood sugar, we try immediately to reverse these symptoms. We don't ignore them. In fact, we develop a plan of action to reverse and sometimes stop the progression of the disease. So why don't we do the same for individuals who are dealing with potentially serious mental illness?

This is what we should be doing when people have serious mental illnesses, too. When they first begin to experience symptoms such as loss of sleep, feeling tired for no reason, feeling low, feeling anxious, or hearing voices, we should act.

The early symptoms might not ever become serious. Like a cough, they often go away on their own, and are nothing to fear. But when they do not go away, it typically takes ten years from the time they first appear until someone gets a correct diagnosis and proper treatment.

This means that by ignoring them, we lose ten years in which we could intervene in order to change people's lives for the better. During most of these years most people still have supports that allow them to succeed - home, family, friends, school, and work. So people can often recover quickly, and live full and productive lives.

Early Identification And Intervention

Catching mental health conditions early is known as Early Identification and Intervention. However, many times people may not realize that their symptoms are being caused by a mental health condition or feel ashamed to pursue help because of the stigma associated with mental illness. It's up to all of us to know the signs and take action so that mental illnesses can be caught early and treated, and we can live up to our full potential.

Contact your primary health provider for confidential screening if you experience mental health conditions including anxiety, depression, mood disorders or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Use your screening results to start a conversation with your primary health provider, or a trusted friend or family member and begin to plan a course of action for addressing your mental health.

Remember, mental health conditions are not only common, but they are also treatable. There is a wide variety of treatment options for mental illnesses. It may take some time for a person to find the right treatment or combination of treatments that works best for them. But when they do, the results can be truly amazing and life changing.

For more information about what you should know and what you can do at each stage, contact your primary health provider.

ST. PATRICK DAY'S LUNCH AT MUMC



MUMC TRUSTEES NEWS

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

Sexton Bill Rebillard is now concentrating his attention on the parsonage, recently completing spring cleanup, fertilizing liming, and mowing, added to his schedule along with normal cleaning of the Church and Churchery School. He also has taken up more worn second floor hallway tiles and replaced them, waxed the new areas, and has painted another Education Wing classroom during April break. He also shadowed our three fire and elevator inspection companies to make sure they did their jobs thoroughly. His next plan is to wax the entire sanctuary after Choir removes the bell tables, then later complete painting in the education wing office.

Dave and Hal organized an early church cleanup this year ahead of Easter to improve the overall appearance of the property. The winter plowing stakes were removed by Hal and Linda, and they also began to address plow-damaged sod replacement. Church members helped Linda and Johnny with weeding and pruning of east side and south side shrubbery.

Bill supervised the annual inspections of church fire extinguishers, fire and smoke alarms, sprinkler heads, kitchen range hood, and the elevator which has been completed and are now good through March of 2023.

Johnny is in the process of designing and fabricating two classroom window units to provide security while accommodating intake and outlets of A/C units to be placed in the downstairs south facing classrooms in early May. These A/C units, along with Playground equipment replacement and office upgrade, are purchased with a state grant awarded to our Churchery School and will pay for all costs associated with the installation. **Bruce recommended that we verify** that the Education Wing has at least 20 Amp service and fortunately it does.

The Trustees' Memorials and Gifts Subcommittee will be meeting with **Records and History** in May 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.

Marsha is receiving Building Use Request forms on a regular basis, often just prior to an event. Please be sure to reserve space at least one month in advance so Virginia can add it to the monthly on-line calendar for easy reference.

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. KlausLarsen still has a couple of follow-up areas to address, and its 25 year Warranty will be honored as these details are worked out.

Mark is bringing aboard a local contractor this spring who will evaluate the original main church roof system. 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. We are in discussions with a possible donor for the \$1800-\$2000 unit.

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.

Our Memorial Garden Subcommittee conducted its own spring cleanup on Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23. Jeff and his crew did some early work to beautify the area for the interment of members ashes in March and a more thorough improvement of the garden followed in late April

Churchery School still requires separate entrance and exit for student and parent arrival and departure as the BA.2 omicron variants spread. Although masks are no longer required, some teachers, children, and parents still mask up. 6-foot distances will also be maintained. It is notable that the MUMC Churchery School is the only program in the Valley that has never closed during the two-year Pandemic.

MUMC MONTHLY CALENDAR

MAY 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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	3	4

Free Printable Calendars from lypecalendar.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.

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.

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 IN THE UPPER TIER PARKING LOT

There is an on-going need for food in our community. The food pantry is being used daily and we are so pleased to see that there are those in need and we could be of some help to them. Please continue donating if you can and help spread the word. Some suggestions for foods that are being taken regularly are canned vegetables, canned soups, canned fruit, rice, cereal, jars of sauce, boxes of pasta, pop tarts and popcorn.

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



May 2022

MEAL FOR WINSTED

[Laura Gorden]

On April 2nd we delivered 64 meatloaf meals to Winsted. Thank you to Jeff Tremback, Carol Merritt and Brenda Slone for helping to prepare the food and filling individual food containers. Thank you to Dave Gorden for helping me deliver the meals to Winsted and thank you to Jo Cragin and Ruthellen Corbett for washing the dishes and cleaning the kitchen.

June 4th is the next date to serve Winsted. I need one person to help me prepare the meatloaf meal starting at 8 AM. At 9:30 AM I need 2 additional volunteers to help fill 64 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] hmkels@aol.com, (860) 678-1314

Following up on our April reading of Jane Eyre, we will discuss When the Ground is Hard by Malla Nunn in May. "Adele Joubert loves being one of the popular girls at Keziah Christian Academy. She knows the upcoming semester at school is going to be great with her best friend Delia at her side.

Then Delia dumps her for a new girl with more money, and Adele is forced to share a room with Lottie, the school pariah, who doesn't pray and defies teachers' orders. But as they share a copy of Jane Eyre, Lottie's gruff exterior and honesty grow on Adele, and Lottie learns to be a little sweeter. Together, they take on bullies and protect each other from the vindictive and prejudiced teachers. Then a boy goes missing on campus and Adele and Lottie must rely on each other to solve the mystery and maybe learn the true meaning of friendship." [goodreads.com]

Our discussion will be held on Sunday, May 15th at 7:30 pm (time change for this month only.) We meet in the Parlor and on Zoom and all are welcome!

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BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP VISION, PURPOSE

[Allen Nixon]

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.

"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"!

May 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.

1. 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.
2. The chairperson will:
 - a) explain the interment process;
 - b) provide the Memorial Garden Remembrance form;
 - c) coordinate and schedule the interment and service with the pastor and the family;
 - d) order and facilitate delivery of a bronze nameplate.
3. A completed Memorial Garden Remembrance form is required for all interments.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

May 2022

MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEA

“A Picture’s Worth a Thousand Words”

Saturday, May 7th 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 narthex.

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. You may also contact Kay Hunter with this information.

Please **bring a photo of your mom** to display for all to see. We are also hoping to provide some entertainment for all. Please **consider singing a song, playing your instrument, recite a favorite poem, etc.** Share with us all!!!!

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

FINANCE

[Greg Slone]

Budget income net of budget expense year to date through the end of March was at roughly \$45,000, with annual snow removal and maintenance running somewhat over budget. The 2022 annual budget is still projecting a measurable budget deficit for 2022. Thus, there will be a need for the church to prayerfully look to revitalize and grow in the remainder of 2022.

Diane was able to happily report that she has thankfully found a volunteer to perform an annual church audit. That audit process will begin later in the month of May.

In other items, the finance committee approved the Churchery school to apply for a credit card. The finance committee also approved the payment of the first quarter of the annual apportionment during the month of April.

“Every day may not be good... but there’s something good in every day.”

Alice Morse Earle

MEMORIAL GARDEN

[Jeff Tremback] Memorial Garden Committee chairperson

Spring is here again!! What a blessing. And we are ready to open our garden for all to enjoy. Our first garden cleanup took place on two days, Friday, 4/22 and Saturday 4/23 to accommodate the schedules of all our members. With an eye on our future, we cleaned the garden, prepared for spring planting, raised the flags, and began to plan for new garden projects. But with an eye on our past, sadly, this year we lost two of our most beloved members, Jill Rendell and Tom Robinson. We miss them so much, but we know that they are smiling down on us as we enter this new season of rebirth. During the month of April, we celebrated the life of Tom Robinson in our sanctuary and then interred his cremains in the garden. Jill Rendell's celebration of life was conducted back in March. So now we need to look to our future and bring new members into our fold. The garden committee is ready to welcome new members who have the gardening spirit and who are very comfortable with getting their fingers dirty. Please come to join us. Ask any of the garden committee members for information. Come grow with us, quite literally.



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

PLEASE JOIN US ON FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE FOR SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:30am, SEARCH FOR Avon Mumc

SR. HIGH EASTER BASKET PROJECT

Every year, beginning in 2006, the Senior High Sunday School Class has prepared Easter Baskets for Covenant to Care. Even in 2021, when the social worker was reluctant to accept baskets due to the Covid pandemic, the class prepared three baskets for a family from Winsted. This year, the Confirmation and junior high classes, were invited to assist, for a total of ten students, preparing 19 Easter baskets on Palm Sunday. Several of the class teachers were also on hand to help in the assembly-line process.

Each of the students was responsible for providing an age and gender appropriate gift for one or two of the recipients; this year's recipients ranged in age from 1 to 14. Along with craft and school supplies, and, of course, candy, each basket includes a Bible, Bible storybook, or Bible study guide, depending on the age of the recipient. And by the time our students reach graduation, almost all of them has mastered the fine art of curling ribbon!



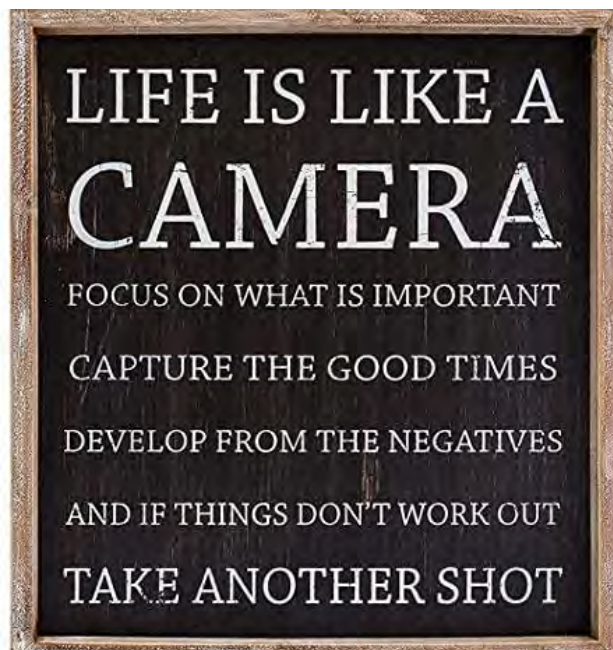
POTLUCK EASTER BREAKFAST

Thank You!!

How wonderful it was to gather for Easter Breakfast between our two services on Easter morning!!! As usual, we ended up with an abundance of a great variety of foods for all to enjoy!! Thanks to all who brought items to share and add to our table. Special thanks to those who assisted with setup, serving, brewing coffee and cleanup!!! Linda Johansen, Hal Johansen, Jeff Tremback, Sue Yankus and Ruthellen Corbett. I apologize for anyone I may have missed. From the first moment of prep, to the final cleanup of crumbs – the fellowship we shared added to the glorious day!!!

MUMC EGG HUNT

This year six students participated in the annual Easter Egg Hunt between the services on Easter Sunday. One student showed up to help hide the eggs and five came to find them. A bag of eggs was also given to a child who came to church with grandparents after the hunt was over. We thank the adults who lent a hand with the hiding process and with collecting the extra eggs after the hunt. The non-food contents will be recycled for next year and the candy and snacks will show up for Fellowship hour.



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MEMORIAL GARDEN CLEANUP AT MUMC

CONTINUED

