

Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Church Office: (860) 673-2111 Office Fax: (860) 673-5777 Church 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. Sungmu Lee, Pastor, PhD (860) 507-6081 (Parsonage), (631) 456-1713 (Cell #), sungmulee@icloud.com (Email)

Nice to meet you through the Good News Newsletter!

I am Sungmu Lee, the new pastor at our church. Here is a little background information. I am married with no children: No joys from children but no worries, either! My wife Hyeonjin and I grew up in South Korea, went to the same Sunday school of our home (Methodist) church, and got married at the church.

We came to the USA in December 1992. I received my PhD in the field of Liturgical Studies from Drew University, New Jersey and taught “Introduction to Preaching and Christian Worship” at New York Theological Seminary and New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Hyeonjin earned two Masters: MA from New York University, majoring in Studio Art, and MFA from The School of Visual Arts, New York, majoring in Photography and Related Media.

You may want to know how I want to be addressed. My preference is whatever you feel comfortable. So, you may call me “Sungmu,” “Pastor Sungmu,” “Pastor Lee,” “Dr. Lee,” “Rev. Lee,” or “Hey (!?!).”

This is my fourth appointment and hopefully, the last appointment before retirement. I am grateful to God for sending me to our church to do ministry with you and thankful to Pastor Joseph Piccirillo for his ministry. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude for the warm welcome that you have showed me and Hyeonjin.

I am here to serve you, and I urge you to serve one another. This is the way of doing ministry together in the name of Jesus Christ, who said, “I came not to be served but to serve.” I sometimes compare ministry to marriage. We are now in a honeymoon period. Therefore, we will rarely have any conflict for a while. However, when honeymoon is over, we may have a conflict or two! That is when we remember to ask the Holy Spirit to help us to overcome difficulties.

It is up to you and me to make our church grow in number and spirit. It is up to us to make this opportunity a good luck or not. I did not bring a magic lamp. I cannot do it by myself, and you cannot do it by yourself. However, you and I together can make a miracle happen to our church as we serve one another, respect one another, and understand one another. May God bless you, your family, and our future ministry together! Amen.

Sungmu Lee

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

11	AA - A Longstanding Outreach Program of MUMC
7	Altar Flowers
2	Anniversaries of the month
11	Bereavement Support Group
2	Birthdays of the Month
11	Coffee Hour
5	College/Advanced Degrees
3	Emergency Contacts
3	Finance Committee – Monthly
2	From Louis Kozikowski
10	Food Pantry Box
7	From Laura Gorden
1	Rev. Sungmu Lee, Pastor, PhD
18	From the Bench
13	Holy Bears
4	Honoring our Graduates
10	Household Info Update (Membership)
10	Instant Church Directory and Newsletters on Website
12	July Confirmation at MUMC
10	Mailing List for Newsletter
6	Making MUMC “Peanut Free”
6	Meal for Winsted
15	Members who have moved recently
7	Membership Chair (Directory)
13	Memorial Garden
12	Memorial Garden Form
11	Memorial Garden Service of Remembrance
6	MUMC Confirmation
9	MUMC Monthly Calendar
8	Notes from Pastoral Care Committee
3	One More Step “Back to Normal” (Ushers Needed)
3	Pastoral Care
5	Pastor’s Daily Devotions
10	Remember Those Who Have Trouble Getting Out
7	Revitalization
8	Safety – July
6	Share God’s Good News
14	Simsbury Concerts
16	Stephen Ministry
6	Sunday Flowers
7	The Other Good Book Group
17	Tony Rauche’s History
9	Trustee News
8	Vacation Bible Camp at MUMC

JULY 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.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 Harold Palmer | 13 Julianna Sweet |
| 2 Caroline Zeiser | 22 Bob Marshall |
| 3 Chris Pizarro-Slevinsky | 23 Nicholas Graham |
| 4 Bruce Merritt | 23 Tony Rauche |
| 4 Walt Sargent | 24 Robert Tardiff |
| 9 Mitchell Perkins | 24 Jackson Gorden |
| 10 Jeremy Notestine | 24 Makayla Tardiff |
| 12 Larry Gregory | 29 Joan Couch |
| 13 Siji Oommen | 31 Grace Forsythe |

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Julie & John Zehren



THANK YOU

Thank you to MUMC members for a wonderful and exhilarating day for my birthday.



Louis Kozikowski

“The wisest mind has something yet to learn.”

▪ George Santayana

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 SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICE AT 9:30am, SEARCH FOR Avon Mumc



“Faith is taking the first steps even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”

▪ *Martin Luther King Jr.*

“Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day.”

▪ *Alice Morse Earle*

“No one is perfect. That’s why pencils have erasers.”

▪ *Unknown*

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EMERGENCY CONTACTS

[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:

MAY 2022

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Difference
Total Budget Income:	\$ 163,335.38	\$ 132,985.00	\$ 296.320.38
Total Budget Expense:	\$ 151,661.99	\$ 150,810.00	- \$ 851.99

Net to Date \$ 11,673.39
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.

*“Be the reason someone smiles.
Be the reason someone feels
loved and believes in the
goodness in people.”*

- *Roy T. Bennett*

HONORING OUR GRADUATES!!!

[Education Committee]

Congratulations to all of our high school and college graduates and those receiving advanced degrees. We are very proud of your accomplishments.

Emmett graduated from Avon High School. He will be attending Keene State College in the fall, studying Environmental Science and playing baseball for the KCS Owls. Emmett is the son of Courtney Robinson and Mark Borenstein and grandson of Joan Robinson.



William Ellis graduated from Watkinson School and will be attending Cornell University to study Civil Engineering. William is the son of Hyacinth Ellis and grandson of Gloria and Errol West.

Leslie graduated from Farmington High School and will be attending the University of Hartford. Leslie is the granddaughter of Linda Arnold and son of Everett Arnold.



HONORING OUR GRADUATES!!!

(Education Committee)

CONTINUED

Olivia graduated from Farmington High School and will be attending Providence College to study marketing. Olivia is the daughter of Betsy Sargent and granddaughter of Walt and Sandy Sargent.



COLLEGE / ADVANCED DEGREES:

Owen, graduated from Columbia University, NYC, in 2020 but due to Covid the classes of 2020 and 2021 did not have a graduation ceremony. This year, however, Columbia held a makeup ceremony for both classes so This September, Owen starts on his Ph D. program in Library and Information Science, at the University of Illinois.



Owen is the grandson of Allen Nixon and the son of Cheryl Nixon Monroe.

Celebrating Leslie and William at Fellowship Hour June 19th



Emily received her master's degree in Human Development and Education from Harvard University. She is the daughter of Nat and Kim Brinn.

Pat Kelly presenting books to graduates on June 19th



Abby received her master's degree in Information and Library Science from Simmons University. She is the daughter of Nat and Kim Brinn.

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.



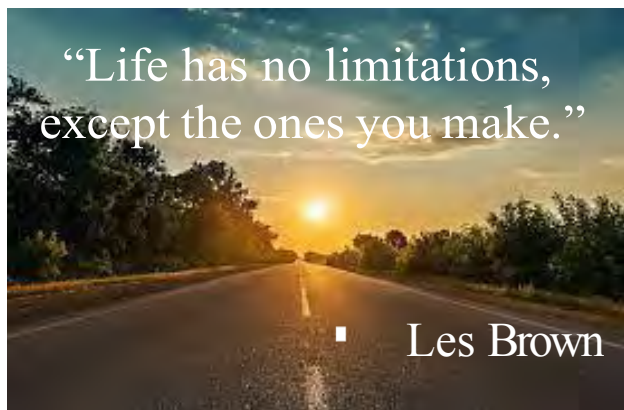
MEAL FOR WINSTED

[Laura Gorden] (860) 214-8292 llgorden295@gmail.com

On **June 4th** we delivered 64 meatloaf meals to Winsted. Thank you to Courtney Robinson for helping me mix the meatloaf, to John Slevinsky and Ann Wesley for helping to cook the food and fill individual food containers, to John Perotti for helping fill food containers and helping me to deliver the meals and food pantry items to Winsted, and to Guy Johansen for washing the dishes and cleaning the kitchen.

August 6 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 64 individual takeout food containers for delivery to Winsted. At 10:00am, I need someone to help deliver the food and food pantry items to Winsted and an additional person to wash the dishes and clean the kitchen. 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. Items of special request for the summer are salad dressings, mayonnaise, and canned or powdered milk. Checks can be mailed to Winsted UMC, Mason Hall, 27 Wheeler Street, Winsted, CT 06098. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off in the blue bin located near the kitchen at MUMC. I will be taking food pantry items to Winsted on July 9th.



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](#). She will be glad to reserve a week for you.

Dates still available: 07/10/2022 , 08/07/2022 , 08/14/2022



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](#).

“Take the risk or lose the chance.”

▪ *Sylvester Stallone*

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CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR NEWS! Avon Mumc

PLEASE JOIN US ON FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE FOR SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICE AT 9:30am, SEARCH FOR Avon Mumc

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

[Linda Kime] Membership Directory

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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.

REVITALIZATION

[John Baily]

The revitalization task force met on zoom to review the responses to the questionnaire. Our incoming pastor, Rev. Lee, participated in the meeting. We received over 45 responses plus quite a few comments. The attached notes the top ten responses.

Notable is that 4 of the top noted responses all relate to our youth. There are members who have volunteered to lead Children's church, nursery care and children's choirs. However, we need to work on bringing youth back to MUMC. We are committed to exploring hiring a youth minister, possibly part time, or possibly jointly with another Methodist church or possibly. This could be a current college student or couple looking to intern to get experience, a recent divinity graduate or a Christian interested in youth ministry. Any input from the congregation is welcomed.

Churchwide celebrations are in the planning stage.

John Perotti agreed to lead a Septemberfest celebration.

The Pumpkin Patch team will sponsor an Octoberfest to celebrate another successful Pumpkin patch

We will explore with our new music director, the possibility of a bringing back the Advent choir concert and dinner in December.

You will hear more during the coming months. Our objective to keep this effort alive over the summer months. Our next meeting is July 13.

ALTAR FLOWERS

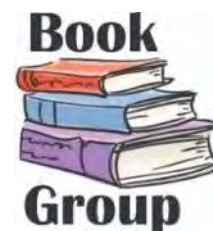
If you ordered Altar Flowers for a Sunday Service and are not able to pick up on Sunday, they will be available for pickup in the MUMC office during the office hours of Monday through Friday 9:00am-2:00pm.



THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

Up for discussion on Sunday, July 17th is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. "The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect... Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins." [\[goodreads.com\]](https://www.goodreads.com) Our discussion will be held at 7 pm in the Parlor and on zoom (contact Heather if you need the link) and all are welcome!



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 SUMMER

SUNDAY SERVICE AT 9:30am, SEARCH FOR Avon Mumc

VACATION BIBLE CAMP AT MUMC

August 15-19, 2022 9am – 12pm
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. 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 Beth Slone at aliannabet@yahoo.com

NOTES FROM PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Return of First Friday Pot Luck JULY 1st:

First Friday Potluck Lunches starting on **July 1st at noon** in Fellowship Hall. We will Celebrate America's Birthday by cooking and serving hot dogs, and ask all to bring their favorite salad, casserole, dessert or snack to share. Weather permitting, we will have outdoor courtyard seating available for those who may be more comfortable there.

Thursday Lunch Bunch:

Except for the week we will be holding First Friday Potluck Lunch, we are continuing with our Thursday Lunch Bunch gatherings – Thursdays at noon - in the Memorial Garden when weather allows – and otherwise in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome – just bring your own lunch (and chair if in the garden) and we guarantee you lively conversation and fellowship. It is especially wonderful to enjoy lunch in the Garden.

Keep us informed:

Just a reminder that if you should hear of someone from the congregation who is ill or has another need for pastoral care, please notify Virginia in the office who will share the info with the Pastor and Pastoral Care Committee. Too often we all think someone else has passed on this information especially to the Pastor and that is not always the case. Better to get several messages than none. Thanks for your help in keeping us all informed and able to keep all in prayer.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HYDRATION

[Brian Baldwin]

Last month we kicked off the summer season reminding us of the importance of hydration.



Drinking enough water each day is crucial for many reasons: to **regulate body temperature, keep joints lubricated, prevent infections, deliver nutrients to cells, and keep organs functioning properly**. Being well-hydrated also improves sleep quality, cognition, and mood.

Experts recommend drinking roughly 11 cups of water per day for the average woman and 16 for men. And not all of those cups have to come from plain water; for example, some can come from water flavored with fruit or vegetables (lemons, berries, or orange or cucumber slices), or from coffee or tea.

It's best to stay away from sugar-sweetened beverages when trying to stay hydrated. , says Walter Willett, professor of epidemiology and nutrition at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. In a September 28, 2017 CNN article, Willett said that Americans are “conditioned to expect high levels of sweetness in everything.... You might say we are malhydrated, because we drink so much soda and fruit juice and other sugar-sweetened beverages, and by that I mean we drink beverages that harm our health. Even energy drinks and vitamin waters, most are loaded with sugar and not worth the use.”

Healthy Drinks

In the beginning, there was water—abundant, refreshing, providing everything the body needs to replenish the fluids it loses. Humans relied on it as the only beverage for millions of years. Milk was introduced with the advent of agriculture and the domestication of animals. Then came beer and wine and coffee and tea, all consumed for taste and pleasure as much as for the fluids they provide. The newcomers—sugary beverages including soda, sports drinks, and energy drinks—offer hydration but with a hefty dose of unnecessary calories that the body may have a hard time regulating. Alternatively, “diet” drinks offer sweetness without the calories, but does that make them a healthy choice?

With so many options, it's easy to be confused about which beverages are best for our health.

- Water is the best choice for quenching your thirst. Coffee and tea, without added sweeteners, are healthy choices, too.
- Some beverages should be limited or consumed in moderation, including fruit juice, milk, and those made with low-calorie sweeteners, like diet drinks.
- It's generally best to avoid sugary drinks like soda, sports beverages, and energy drinks during the hot summer season.

MUMC TRUSTEES NEWS

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

- **Sexton Bill Rebillard** continues working on the parsonage mowing and trimming. He also painted the hallway ceiling and did a full house cleaning before the new pastor arrived. At church, Bill will wax the entire sanctuary in July, now that the Choir has moved the bell tables into the choir loft. He also will complete painting in the education wing office and shampooing the Fellowship Hall carpet, and he recently sprayed weed killer in the parking lots so he can repaint all the handicapped and fire zone areas.
- **Kevin from Morin Paving** was on campus in mid-May to survey the 11 deep cracks and holes that have accumulated over the past several years. He has given us a price of \$1900 to repair all, with at least two-three months wait before Morin can get to our church.
- **The A/C units in the lower south classrooms** of the Education Wing are in place now and can be used for Vacation Bible Camp in August.
- **Bob Marshall's Records and History Committee** will meet this summer to develop a plan to use fifth-generation church member Barbara Knibbs' donation of a 1926 church pew and sum of money to enhance our historical understanding of MUMC over the past 200 years. Ideas for a rotating display of artifacts alongside a video presentation on the west wall of Thornburg Parlor were discussed. David Gorden has graciously agreed to provide a design idea for this wall display.
- **Marsha continues to receive Building Use Request forms** even during the summer months. For one-time events, please reserve space at least one month in advance so Virginia can add it to the monthly on-line calendar for easy reference. **All committees should submit their full year 2022-2023 monthly meeting schedule to Marsha and Virginia by the end of August so a yearly calendar can be planned.**
- **Mark worked at the parsonage** to get it ready for the new pastor, who took up residence on June 28th. Overall, the parsonage is in excellent shape and a real credit to the church.
- **Our new AED** is on order and will be in place in late June, thanks to money made available from the **Memorials and Special Gifts** Undesignated Gifts account. Brian Baldwin, our church **Safety Committee** chair, has recommended the Lifeline View model, which Bill will install when it arrives. A plaque recognizing this gift will be added following the installation.

- **Chairman Jeff Tremback's Memorial Garden members** have chosen their summer individual weekly maintenance schedules to maintain the appearance of this beautiful area. Please join Jeff and fellow church members for the annual Service of Remembrance in the Garden on July 24th, officiated by Rev. Lee.
- **Churchery School will still require separate entrance and exit** for student and parent arrival and departure in the fall of 2022 as BA.2 omicron variants spread. Other protocols will be enacted as needed when outbreaks arise.
- **Thomas Baily**, a June confirmand, has taken the lead in **refurbishing and upgrading the basketball court** on the west parking lot of the church as his confirmation project, a worthy undertaking, as this court actually gets quite a bit of use from church members and surrounding neighbors from time to time.
- **The Girl Scouts** finished work on the Fellowship Hall Courtyard and are repainting the benches, which get quite a lot of use from church members and **our Wednesday and Saturday AA groups.**
- **Cerruto Flooring will once again be stripping and waxing** the entire downstairs area, including the lower floor hallway, foyer, and kitchen, in late August. Since Bill will take care of the Fellowship Hall carpet shampooing, we can add in the kitchen this year.
- **Johnny met in June at the church with KlausLarsen Roofing's general manager** to point out the need to improve the flashing design on the new roof on the north side of the church. Klaus will be back in mid-July to replace the lead flashing with copper counterflashing to tighten up that side, which gets the worst of the weather in all types of storms. Johnny himself solved the same problem with the office area roofs some years ago.

MUMC MONTHLY CALENDAR

JULY 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	29
30	31					

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



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, and His grace supports 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.

The Bereavement Support Group meets the third Wednesday of every month, except July and August, from 9:30am to 11:00am. The meeting is held in the parlor and also on Zoom; the Zoom meeting ID and password will be sent to Group members several days prior to the meeting.

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 SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, July 24th

All are invited to join us on Sunday, July 24th, immediately following 9:30am worship, in a procession to the Memorial Garden for the brief Service of Remembrance. This service is held annually in honor of all who have been remembered in the garden. The service will be followed by a reception hosted by the Memorial Garden Committee. Seating will be provided, but you are also welcome to drop off your own lawn chairs at the Memorial Garden before the beginning of the 9:30am worship service.

In case of inclement weather, the service will be held in the sanctuary with reception in Fellowship Hall.

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 8:00pm. In addition, other Avon locations for AA meetings are available, one at the Avon Center Congregational Church each morning at 7:00pm, and also Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm 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 SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICE AT 9:30am, SEARCH FOR Avon Mumc

JULY CONFIRMATION AT MUMC



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.

“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”!

“It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

▪ **Nelson Mandela**

“It’s a possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting.”

▪ **Paulo Coelho**

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MEMORIAL GARDEN

[Jeff Tremback] Memorial Garden Committee chairperson

The Memorial Garden committee is taking their summer break. We will resume regular meetings in September.



Please, come one, come all to the garden during the summer to enjoy the beauty and peacefulness of Mother Nature. The garden welcomes you and greets you with open arms. Take some time to be in the garden and be at peace with the world.

We continue to search for new members for our Memorial Garden committee. You do not need to have any garden experience to join our ranks. We can provide the necessary on the job training. All you need is a love of gardening. You can contact any of the committee members including me.

Thank you and have a wonderful and peaceful summer.

SUMMER CONCERT

Please join your church family members in having an enjoyable evening at these Summer concerts!! Bring your chairs, picnic, blankets and don't forget to invite your family & friends!

Farmington "F" Hill Schedule here.

2022 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Presented by Farmington Community Services

JUN 23 MASS-CONN-FUSION
Bluesy music, Motown and R&B

JUN 30 THE FUTURE HEAVIES
60s, 70s, 80s Hits

JUL 7 NIGHTSHIFT
60s, 70s, 80s Hits

JUL 14 LOCOMOTION
Hits for All Ages

JUL 21 RAVE ON
50s & 60s Rock n Roll

JUL 28 CENTERLINE BAND
Rock & Roll, Country, Blues

AUG 4 WILLIE & JAN BAND
50s, 60s, 70s Folk & Country

AUG 11 WEDNESDAY BOWLING LEAGUE
50s & 60 Hits

AUG 18 BALL IN THE HOUSE
R&B, Soul, Pop Acapella

AUG 21 POSTPONED PALOOZA
Save this date for rescheduled shows!

AUG 25 JESTER JIM
Telly Show, Beatboxing, Juggling, Comedy

THURSDAY NIGHTS JUN 23-AUG 25 6:30-8:30 PM TOWN HALL COMPLEX MONTEITH DRIVE, FARMINGTON

FOR DETAILS CALL: 860-675-2390 www.farmington-ct.org

Sponsors: Farmington Motor Sports, Thomaston Savings Bank, Collinsville Bank, Hartford HealthCare, ion BANK, Priority Urgent Care

SIMSBURY CONCERTS

Let's get a group together to enjoys 1 or more of these performances!! Invite a friend or 2!! Bring your family!! Let's keep this MUMC outing a tradition. Contact Linda Kime lmk318@aol.com, 860-305-0526 so we can figure out how to find each other. It might be fun to reserve a concert table package if we have 8 of us interested!!

The Hartford Symphony Orchestra Is Thrilled To Announce The Programming Of The Talcott Mountain Music Festival, Scheduled July 1 Through July 29, At Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center In Simsbury, CT. Five Concert Table Packages, Grass Passes, And Lawn Seats Are On Sale Now!

"Pack your picnic and meet us at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center," said Steve Collins, HSO President & CEO. "Music Director Carolyn Kuan, Assistant Conductor Adam Boyles, and I are absolutely thrilled to invite you to share five unforgettable nights with us under the stars in Simsbury for the 2022 Talcott Mountain Music Festival."

All concerts begin at 7:30 pm. Gates open at 6 pm.

2022 TALCOTT MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL

July 1, 2022:

Celebrate America!

conducted by Carolyn Kuan

Rain date: July 2, 2022



Summer officially begins with Connecticut's favorite Independence Day Celebration! Conducted by HSO Music Director Carolyn Kuan, this program features all your favorite patriotic songs. Stay for the fireworks following the concert!

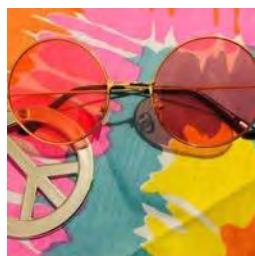
[Learn more and buy tickets to Celebrate America!](#)

July 8, 2022:

Summer of '69,

conducted by Adam Boyles

Rain or Shine!



Head back in time to celebrate an amazing event in rock history-Woodstock! With the music of Crosby, Stills & Nash, The Who, Janis Joplin, Joe Cocker, Santana, Jimi Hendrix, The Band, you will be transported to a summer night in 1969.

[Learn more or buy tickets to Summer of '69.](#)

CONTINUED

July 15, 2022:

Paul Simon Songbook, conducted by

Adam Boyles

Rain or Shine!



Join us for an evening of music from the legendary songbook of Paul Simon. From Simon and Garfunkel to his solo albums, experience Simon's hits including "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "Me and Julio Down By The Schoolyard," "The Sound of Silence," and "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover."

Concert Sponsor: CarePartners of Connecticut

[Learn more or buy tickets to the Paul Simon Songbook!](#)

July 22, 2022:

Michael Cavanaugh:

The Music of Billy Joel,

conducted by Adam Boyles

Rain or Shine!



Hand-picked by Billy Joel to star in the hit Broadway musical *Movin' Out*, Michael Cavanaugh joins the HSO for an evening featuring hits like "My Life," "Movin' Out," "Just the Way You Are," "River of Dreams," and more in this tribute concert to the one and only Billy Joel!

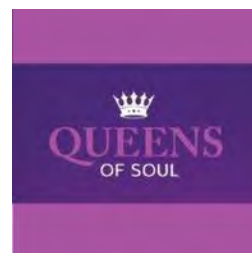
[Learn more or buy tickets to The Music of Billy Joel!](#)

July 29, 2022:

Queens of Soul,

conducted by Tong Chen

Rain date: July 30, 2022



The summer music continues with an evening featuring vocalists singing the hits made famous by the reigning divas of soul and R&B: Aretha Franklin, Tina Turner, Patti LaBelle, Gladys Knight, Nina Simone, Whitney Houston, Jennifer Hudson, Adele and more!

[Learn more or buy tickets to Queens of Soul!](#)

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July 2022

MEMBERS WHO HAVE MOVED RECENTLY!

[Linda Kime]

All new addresses can be found in Instant Church Directory

Joe J. (Date: Thu, Apr 14, 2022)

Please be advised that we have permanently moved to 2019 E Del Webb Blvd, Sun City Center, FL 33573. We will no longer be members of Avon MUMC. Please remove us from all future mailings and e-mails. We have enjoyed being members of MUMC. Hopefully we will find another church nearby that will make us feel as comfortable as we experienced at Avon MUMC. Thank you, Joseph And Paulette Janucik

Gail Colon has joined us in person at church the past few Sundays. It has been so nice to see her after 2 years while she was staying safe from Covid and keeping warm in FL! However, she announced selling her condo here in Farmington Woods and will permanently living in her North Ft. Myers FL home.

Jane Good

Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022

We are moving out of Connecticut to be closer to our daughter in Massachusetts.

We're closing on our new home on 7/15, have been scrambling to get our CT home on the market, and have received an offer we're likely going to take. So we'll now be frantically packing, purging and getting ready to move.

It's been my pleasure getting to know some of you just a bit. I'm sorry I've been absent from activities and church. It's been a hard adjustment for me with the loss of my son so quickly, and I'm not feeling very sociable.

God bless all of you, and thank you for your kindness. The MUMC family is wonderful. Jane Good

Korponay Beata

Date: Fri, Apr 1, 2022 at 4:09 PM,

I'm going to have to step down from committees as the family is going to be moving to Florida. We're putting the house on the market at the end of April. I'm so sorry to be leaving but excited to move onto a warmer climate. I will still be working in the Northeast and have a room with my mother in Newtown CT when traveling north to cover my territory. It's the right time for us to sell and purchase a home in the south.

Mandy Roberts has settled in SC with her fiancé Jason Schmidt. They were in the middle of the big move during the memorial "It's O'Kay Classic" golf tournament where many of us shared a good time and enjoyed catching up with Cari, and Ben's family (his & Megan's son Benjamin was there, and now they have a new daughter Sloane Kay!)

Most of us are aware of **Bobbie Williams'** move to NC to be

near her son. We thank God for her recent recovery from illness/surgery. I'm sure Bobbie would love to receive more cards from us.

Becca Hallock-Wolff is moving back east to live on Syman Says Farm in Salem CT where her daughter Liz and son-in-law Aaron raise goats and other critters. How wonderful Becca will get to spend more time with her 4 grandchildren, and we'll get to see her more often and MUMC!

Attached is a letter from **Linda K** about her unexpected move to Virginia:

7/15/22, Linda

Dear Linda,

I have been trying to write this letter for a long time. COVID really impacted my life after my fall. I would watch the services on line but it's not the same.

After coming home from my surgery and some rehab so I could walk with a walker, I was quite pleased. Melonie was my care giver as other friends and family were afraid of bringing COVID to me. It was a lot of pressure on Melonie.

In December last year, my children made the decision to bring me to Virginia because I was walking with a cane and they were afraid I would explore winter. They know me well.

It was my understanding I would return to my house in late March-early April. This did not happen as the market was beginning to change and my son felt we needed to get the Avon house sold now. It sold in six days.

I already had most of my furniture and some special things in Virginia in a rental house my son owns. We made a 2 1/2 day trip to pack what he we could but so much was left behind for auction. I was very sad about it.

Ruthellen had been keeping in contact with me and I truly ~~appreciated~~ appreciated it. I truly miss the church and it's members, especially, not being able to say "Good-bye".

I hope you will send my farewell and wishes for health, happiness and God's love.

Thank you for all you do for the church and God's family

Love to all
Linda

Linda Keith

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Five Ways to Be a Better Listener

Five Ways to Be a Better Listener

Listening is one of the most powerful tools in any caregiver's toolbox. It's a skill all of us can continually sharpen, which enables us to provide better care for people who are hurting. Here are five tips you can use to improve the effectiveness of your listening when caring for someone going through a difficult time.

1. Be Intentional

Listening is not a passive activity. It's an intentional process of engaging with what the other person is saying. To listen well, you must enter into the conversation committed to listening rather than debating, instructing, or attempting to fix the situation. Deliberately set aside your instinct to share your own thoughts so you can focus on what the person in front of you is sharing. By committing to listening up front, you guard against less helpful ways of relating creeping into your conversation.

2. Be Attentive

Once you've committed to listening, work to listen actively and attentively. Strive to understand, not just hear. Pay attention to what the person says, yes, but also pay attention to what they don't say—their body language, their tone of voice, their facial expression, the words they choose. Listen for the feelings behind their words.

Also, do your best to eliminate distractions that might draw your attention away from the other person—keep your phone on silent, put the appointment you have later in the day out of your mind, maybe even move the conversation to a quieter or less busy area. In other words, remove any barriers—whether internal or external—that might prevent you from focusing on listening. That way, you can truly be attentive.

3. Be Responsive

Letting the person you're talking to know that you're attentively listening is key to helping them feel cared for and encouraging them to continue sharing. The best way to do this is to be responsive to what they say. Some easy ways to communicate your attentive listening are maintaining eye contact, using nonverbal cues like nodding, and offering brief responses like "Mm-hmm."

Asking questions is another great technique to use. So is reflecting what the person says—expressing in your own words your understanding of what they've just told you. For example, if someone says, "I can't believe they would do that to me!" you might respond, "It sounds like you're very upset with them." Short responses like these show that you're truly engaged in the conversation.

4. Be Non-Judgmental

Nothing shuts down a hurting person's sharing faster than feeling judged, so take care to avoid coming across as judgmental. Relate in an open, accepting manner and watch out for any behaviors or words that could inadvertently communicate judgment—facial expressions that suggest shock or disagreement, gasping, crossing your arms, or asking questions that begin with "Why?"

As much as possible, avoid knee-jerk reactions and stay calm and encouraging. The more composed and non-judgmental you are in your responses, the safer the other person will feel.

5. Be Trustworthy

It's rare for any of us to express our deepest thoughts and feelings without assurance that what we say will stay between us and the person we're talking with. Letting a hurting person know that you'll keep what they share with you in confidence establishes a foundation of trust that facilitates sharing. You might briefly mention at the beginning and end of the conversation that you won't share anything the other person tells you. You don't have to overstate it—just a short reminder can be a real comfort.

Holding what the person says in confidence honors the trust placed in you, and as a result, that individual is likely to see you as a safe person to talk to. This keeps the door open for additional caring conversations in the future.

Consistently putting these five tips into practice will have a big impact on the effectiveness of your listening. As you continue to hone your listening skills, people you relate to will come away from conversations with you feeling heard, understood, and cared for.

Stephen Ministers use listening to support others in a time of need. If you like to use listening skills and enjoy caring for others, God might call you to serve as a Stephen Minister. Your first step is to learn more about getting involved.

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 Coordinators: Barbara Vasquezna (women) (860) 712-2710 or Mike Motyl (men) (860) 559-3724 for more information.

Tony Rauche's History
[Anne Fitzgerald]

After 34 years, it is sad to say goodbye to someone who has been a constant. Some of you may know I used to do oral history interviews then would write articles about the interviewee. I did talk to Tony on October 30, 2015 and am now giving you all the opportunity to get to know someone many of us never used to see until Covid. He was always in the choir loft and didn't make it down to coffee hour until after many had already left. With our goodbye party for him on June 26, it seemed about time to tell you about him, with updated thoughts since 2015.

Anthony Theodore Rauche was born on July 23, 1950 and is currently 71 years old. He and his older sister Terry grew up in an all Italian American family in Ravena, NY 12 miles south of Albany, in the Roman Catholic faith. As a young boy he showed interest in the piano and the family also sang. When he was in the 6th grade, Tony's dad bought him an upright piano and he took lessons from a neighbor. In 8th grade he and two others played the organ in his church and by 12th grade he was playing the organ at the neighborhood Methodist church.



Tony attended the New England Conservatory in Boston for his Bachelors as well as two Masters Degrees in piano and music theory. In 1975 he began working at Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford where he taught Music Theory and also played contemporary music. He left in 1980 to attend the University of Illinois for his PhD in ethnomusicology and returned to Hartt in 1982. In 2015 he moved from Hartt to Hillyer College (a two-year Associates in Arts degree program designed to help students move on for their Bachelors degree), eventually becoming the chair of the Humanities Department overseeing courses in history, art history, philosophy, speech, music , theatre and communications. He also taught courses in the interdisciplinary program that included Native American Cultures, Immigrant Cultures in the US, and was part of the design and teaching team for Ethnic Roots and Urban Arts, a course that focused on African American and Puerto Rican arts and artists in Hartford.

In 1988, Music Director-at-the-time Doug Jackson, also a Hartt School of Music teacher, asked Tony to come to Memorial as organist. When Doug retired in 2001, Tony retained his position as organist and took over as Music Director.

Of course, since 1988 Tony has worked with nine different pastors in his 34 years with us:

<i>1983-1990</i>	<i>Dennis R. Winkleblack</i>
<i>1990-1994</i>	<i>Richard A. Thornburg</i>
<i>1994-1995</i>	<i>Thomas F. Beveridge</i>
<i>1994-1995</i>	<i>Mel Kawakami</i>
<i>1995 -1999</i>	<i>Robert MacDonald</i>
<i>1999-2009</i>	<i>James R. Hoffman</i>
<i>2009-2011</i>	<i>Florence Eddins</i>
<i>2011-2014</i>	<i>Tony Mecca</i>
<i>2014-2022</i>	<i>Joseph Piccirillo</i>

He commented that the congregation was much bigger in 1988 with a larger choir and more music activity. He recalls that as the church lived its life of ups and downs, the music always held us together, that it's the people that keep the church going, no matter what. There is a deep-rooted tradition of hymn singing in this congregation, and that has been some of Tony's most rewarding work here.

The bell choir has also been a wonderful enhancement to the music program throughout the years, always opening the annual Advent Concert (and Christmas eve) ringing as they processed to their places at the front of the congregation. He mentioned its budget alone, for the bells and choir chimes, tables, tablecloths, gloves, polish and music was \$25,000—a big investment for the church that has embraced bell ringing as part of worship. Tony remembered the spring Bell Festivals that brought together the ringing choirs of several churches of the Farmington Valley, and MUMC was proud to join in that, hosting the concert when asked. It was too bad that was discontinued, along with the gala Spring Choral Concert that had flourished in years gone by.

Former Church Secretary Joanne Morrical, who relocated but still keeps connected to us from Iowa, donated the five octave set of chimes, a welcomed addition to the five octaves of bells. The ability to read music, at least one clef, is required to play bells and chimes, but there is lots of support from current members!

Memorable pieces the choir has performed are *Requiem*, by John Rutter, and earlier, Doug Jackson conducted Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ*. The choir performed several works by Paul Winter that brought a lively spirit to worship, and anthems by many contemporary composers, especially Craig Courtney. The library of both choral and bell music is now in very good condition with a recently updated catalog.

Families now have to deal with the competition of children's sports on Sunday mornings, which not only prevents families from attending as a unit, but has also restricted adults being able to participate in choir due to the commitment required for regular weekly rehearsals as well as for Sunday morning warm-ups.

Tony mentioned how much the congregation likes to actually see the choir. From this building's opening in 1971, the choir has always been upstairs, but over the years would sing downstairs on Communion Sunday. With Covid and no choir for two years, the decision was made to keep it downstairs at all times, and Tony plays only the piano now. Once the choirs did return, they needed extra room for safety concerns, and they, too, are both downstairs for the time being. The organ is waiting patiently.

As I sat in Tony's home and looked around, I realized we as a congregation knew very little about him except for the University, so I asked him to tell me about the African masks and Korean and Indonesian items I was seeing on the walls and tables. Some masks are gifts from friends, some were purchased in Korea and Mongolia, and some were discovered at Marshall's!

He told me that while he came to Hartt to teach music theory, he had been initially interested in Native American music. That proved to be the beginning of his interest in South Indian music, followed by Korean music. Interest in other musics of the world was so strong it led him to his doctorate and study in ethnomusicology, first with field work in northern New Mexico, but then returning to his roots with research in Italian

American music in the city of Hartford, and that became the topic for his dissertation.

His association with Korean music has been very rewarding. He first studied traditional Korean music in 2005, during the three-week seminar at the National Gugak (traditional music) Center. His former student and now colleague, Dr. Ju-Yong Ha, introduced him to numerous musicians and family which initiated travel throughout Korea, which included a trip to Mongolia. After other trips there for conferences and to see friends, in 2008 Tony was invited to teach at Kyungpook National University in Daegu during their summer international session.

Many gifts were exchanged among new friends and fellow musicians, a particular richness all its own. In January 2016, Tony travelled to Manila, Philippines, for a conference, with a return through Seoul to visit friends. You can imagine the food that has been part of all these trips—or maybe some would surprise you! In particular, Tony was treated to a great meal at a restaurant that serves the famous fugu (boge) poison fish and eel. He also attests to the deliciousness of homemade jellyfish salad.

Speaking of restaurants, Tony finds Ichiban in the West End of Hartford serves very good Korean food, as does Seoul BBQ just past West Farms Mall in New Britain. He mentioned Koreans always serve side dishes with the meal.

Korean musicians visit frequently and are always welcomed to stay at this home. Some performed at his classes at the time. They are especially happy to have Tony's Italian cooking. These days, Korean foods are prepared by Ju-Yong Ha who has taken over Tony's university teaching with great success.

One final note of interest, Tony is a Certified Cake Decorator and auctioned off a number of them at the Goods and Services Auctions we used to have.

I've tried to cover what Tony did not mention in his final article in the June newsletter. Reading both of them will give you an excellent idea of the wonderful person we have been blessed to have among our midst for these last 34 years.

Tony, whatever comes next for you, may it bring you as much joy and fulfillment as you have brought to MUMC, and may the Lord's peace always be with you.