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**Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life**

Church Office: (860) 673-2111 Office Fax: (860) 673-5777 Church Email: [avonmumc@gmail.com](mailto:avonmumc@gmail.com) Website: [avonunitedmethodist.com](http://avonunitedmethodist.com)

Current Worship Schedule: Sundays: Summer Worship Service: 9:30am

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/>

Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee, PhD, Parsonage Phone: (860) 507-6081, Cell Phone: (631) 456-1713, Email: [sungmulee@icloud.com](mailto:sungmulee@icloud.com)

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A month has passed since Hyeonjin and I moved in Avon! I am so thankful for God's guidance and your warm welcome. I am still the new pastor at our church, and it will take time to get to know each other. First, I would like you to know that I am available to meet with you in my office or at your place. I often emphasize that the pastor should be available to the congregation. Our God came to this world to live with us, and I would like to imitate what our God Jesus Christ did in this world.

I have served as pastor in a cross-racial and cross-cultural setting: I am an Asian American, and the congregation that I have served is composed of White Americans, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and so on. Therefore, it is nothing new for me. Yet, I realize that I am the first non-European descendent pastor at our church who speaks English as a second language.

So, this could be pretty new to many of you, and it may be natural for some of you to ask, "Anything good come out of Korea?" Yes, some things good can come out of Korea! BTS (방탄소년단 in Korean), the famous K-pop group who visited the White House a couple of months ago and gave a speech about "Stop Asian Hate." They are from Korea. If I invite them into our church, will they come? I don't think so. Yet, I can translate the Korean lyrics of their songs into English even if they may have already been translated.

The movie, "Parasite," which won the academy award for best picture two years ago. It was made in Korea. And the blockbuster Netflix drama, "Squid Game." It also came from Korea. How about Pastor Sungmu? He is from Korea, too.

If anyone asks, "Can Anything good come out of Korea?" you may answer "Come and see!" I am confident that you and I will do ministry effectively in love and harmony and together make a difference at our church, our society, and our world. You and I have different cultural backgrounds but something great in common. That is, we have Jesus Christ as our Savior. In addition, we have one another who are willing to dedicate ourselves to God, God's church, and God's people. What else do we need?

Let us do ministry together with great joy. We have Jesus and one another. Enjoy the rest of summer and be well!

Sungmu Lee

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**AUGUST 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 list, please contact the church office.

5	Charles Pickens	24	Rick Mellon
7	Jake Sweet	26	Emily Brinn
8	Roger Couch	27	Julie (Dario) Zehren
12	Hope Storrs	28	Bruce Corbett
16	Joe Fillian	28	Michael Gorden
18	Sam Kazlauskas	30	Chris Calandriello
20	Jarrett Baker	30	Bobbie Williams
20	Wesley Stevens	31	Brody Zehren

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

“Happy Anniversary” to the following people who are celebrating anniversaries this month.

Michael & Jennifer (Smagin) Gorden

Brian and Kay Hunter

Walt & Sandy Sargent

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

**THANK YOU FROM THE ZEISERS**

Thank you for the caring support from all of my brothers and sisters in Christ at MUMC during Lisa’s long journey with her illness. It meant the world to me. To know that you were praying for her as well as Mike, Caroline and me.

*“If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change”*

*Wayne Dyer*

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT LATEST HAPPENINGS! [www.avonunitedmethodist.com](http://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**

## FEEDBACK ON WORSHIP

[Chalise Ross, Liturgical Arts Chair]

Thank you to those of you who took time to talk to members of the committee, email me and/or Pastor Lee, or attend the Liturgical Arts meeting with feedback on our recent services. You have been heard. The committee met and reviewed both the praises and concerns we have heard.

While change is inevitable with a new music director and pastor, we realize that the abrupt shift to contemporary music was a shock to many of you. Our end goal is a blended service that follows the Methodist Book of Worship and incorporates some contemporary music.

When Elizabeth was hired, she was told that our church wanted to bring more contemporary music to our services. Given the timing of her starting, she did not have a lot of guidance her first few weeks, so we got to experience a different form of worship that is powerful to some and was the focus of her previous employment. As Pastor, Rev. Lee has joined us, he has been able to provide her more guidance on Methodist traditions, and together we will continue to work toward a worship that is meaningful to all. Our focus is on God and praising him with our hearts, minds, and voices.

Some of the prioritized changes were implemented on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> and more adjustments were made on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Please be patient as we all work together to make MUMC worship something powerful for all!

Please see below a summary of feedback and items that the committee is discussing. If you would like to provide further thoughts or reflections, contact me or Pastor Lee ([sungmulee@icloud.com](mailto:sungmulee@icloud.com))

- Pastor Lee will process to the altar with the “worship leader” after the prelude and open worship with a greeting.
- Music will include traditional hymns and contemporary praise songs.
- Praise song time will be shortened
- When hymns are used, they will be listed in the bulletin with page numbers.
- No mic for known hymns
- Closing benediction song will be sung before the postlude. (We go now in peace...)
- We will remove the offering plate at the front of the sanctuary, and reposition the one in the back.
- We will do a version of a hymn in August. Favorite hymns will be collected in a basket in the back of the sanctuary starting the first Sunday in August.

Continued .....

- Requests for praise song music so those who read music can better follow along.
- Bulletin wording and formatting
- Sound system limitations and purchasing new elements
- Historical background of hymns displayed

We will meet again in August to discuss startup of choirs.

Again, thank you all for your understanding, patience, and prayer during this time of transition. We have a strong congregation and I know we can get through this and be better for it.

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## FINANCE

[Greg Slone]

The church’s general fund is very close to being in a deficit position, where the general fund expenses are higher than the general fund income. This means the initial positive position the budget was in earlier in the year due to larger contributions in January has now rolled off.

Thus, over the coming handful of months, we are asking committees to closely watch their spending on items from the budget in the general account. If items can be delayed or aren’t absolutely necessary, we are asking committees to postpone those items for now.

Note, this does not impact funding for items that have designated funds outside the general fund, for example this wouldn’t necessarily impact the revitalization project which have its own dedicated fund.

The finance committee is also planning to delay discretionary spending (such as apportionments) a couple months to see if the financial position of the year-to-date budget improves with additional giving when folks return from summer school breaks and vacations.

Please prayerfully consider the financial position of the general fund in your giving over the near term.



**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

**JUNE 2022**

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Difference
Total Budget Income:	\$ 189,054.08	\$ 159,582.00	\$ 29,472.08
Total Budget Expense:	\$ 175,459.79	\$ 180,972.00	- \$ 5,512.21
<b>Net to Date Income – Expense</b>	<b>\$ 13,594.29</b>		

**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 Lee and consider either ministry in our church.

**MAKING MUMC “PEANUT FREE”**

In the interest of safety and wellbeing of all and especially 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 meetings or events at Memorial. While we cannot guarantee MUMC will be totally peanut free, every effort that can be made to support a peanut free environment for all will be much appreciated.



**MEAL FOR WINSTED**

[Laura Gorden]

**August 6<sup>th</sup>** 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. At 10:00 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. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP WITH 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. Other items needed include: soups, tuna fish, canned meats, cereal, coffee, tea, canned vegetables, canned fruit, personal hygiene products, toilet tissue, paper towels.**

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 August 6<sup>th</sup>.



## 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](http://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, Linda Arnold will be glad to reserve a week for you.

[ cell: (860) 463-2597]

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

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.



## GROWING OUR CHURCH

[Linda Kime, membership chair]

The Membership committee is NOT responsible for growing our church, but we take care of our membership data & directory (which continue to show declining number of members). And this committee does offer some social opportunities for the congregation to enjoy and invite folks to join in with you. And we help spread the word on all events going on in the church. Communication committee is part of Membership committee: publicizing ads, promoting sign usage, maintaining MUMC website & our Facebook page. Membership even provided shopping totes and cell phone wallets to put our name & logo out there. While you're in the check-out line at Stop & Shop tell the person next to you (point to tote) how much you like MUMC.

But it is our whole church family who are responsible for going out in our community and bringing in new members. We can do this by literally inviting others to attend worship on one of our social events or dinners. We can do this by talking frequently about MUMC and how much you enjoy being part of this loving community. We can do this by sharing your Christian faith with others and asking others about their faith. We can proudly share the missions work we do that helps others. To make this growth happen, the church family needs to uphold their vows for PRESENCE, prayers, gifts and service! Please come back to regularly worshipping together, working together and having good times together! And then don't forget to bring someone along!!

## SHARE GOD'S GOOD NEWS

[Worship Committee]

Volunteers are needed to serve as liturgists at the 9:30am 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](#).

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!!

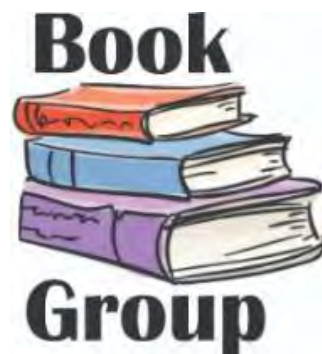
### RALLY DAY!!! SEPTEMBERFEST!!! OPEN HOUSE!!!

Whatever we name it, on **Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** all are invited to gather for worship at 9:30 followed by a barbecue, along with games, music and ice cream sundaes to follow!! A great opportunity for all to share fun, fellowship and conversation – a true homecoming – as well as the opportunity to invite friends and family and those in our community to join us in our Christian worship and fellowship. More details will be forthcoming!! We hope to see you ALL – along with friends and neighbors – on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>!!!!

## THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

On Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> we will take turns “reviewing” a book or two of our own choosing. Whatever you have read - whether it's one book or several - come tell us what you thought. In addition to sharing titles we will start putting together a calendar for our 2022-2023 discussions so if you have ideas for titles please bring them along.



“Don't let yesterday use too much of today.”

Cherokee Proverb

## REVITALIZATION

[John Baily]

With a nationwide slide in church attendance, at least partially, due to COVID, churches across the country are focusing on revitalization or whatever they call it. MUMC is actively considering how we can reverse this Trend. The revitalization Task force has been active. This is a work in progress, but this is an update. Pastor Lee is actively involved in our efforts, In fact, with Pastor Joseph's approval, he attended one of our meetings before he was officially here.

On September, 11<sup>th</sup> we are looking to have a barbecue from 11:00am to 1:00pm, on our grounds, after a special church service. There will be ice cream as dessert. We will welcome members and nonmembers alike. Since this is September 11<sup>th</sup>, there will also be something remembering that day. Plans are still in progress but there will be widespread advertising. BRING A FRIEND!!

The pumpkin Patch will again be open from September 24<sup>th</sup>, when our pumpkins are scheduled to be delivered, to October 31<sup>st</sup>. We will again need as many of you as possible to help with all aspects of the patch. This is an excellent opportunity to meet others in the church and to spread the knowledge of MUMC to our customers.

We are again in the process of planning special activities each Saturday. Stay tuned.

On Sunday October 30<sup>th</sup>, we are planning a Pumpkin Patch closing celebration. Pumpkin soup, pumpkin bread etc will be served. We are planning to welcome Kids in costume for Trick or treat.

November will see our First Friday luncheon which will be a Roast Turkey menu with pot luck.

January or February - Brian Hunter, Jr. head chef at the Unionville Fire Department, has volunteered to do a spaghetti dinner in Fellowship Hall. More information to follow.

As I said in church recently, we need everyone's help. We need to spread the word of these activities and invite everyone. We will also your help in putting these events on. In the meantime, keep those suggestions for revitalization opportunities coming



## VACATION BIBLE CAMP AT MUMC

August 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

9:00am – 12:00pm

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

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



There's still time to register your child, grandchild, niece, nephew or child of friends for our Vacation Bible Camp. We're excited about the theme - Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor. 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 on the church website, [avonunitedmethodist.com](http://avonunitedmethodist.com) and click on VACATION BIBLE CAMP on the menu. Questions?

Contact Beth Slone at [aliannabet@yahoo.com](mailto:aliannabet@yahoo.com)

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## NOTES FROM PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

[Kay Hunter]

Return of First Friday Pot Luck We held our first First Friday Potluck Lunch in over two years in July with a picnic theme and 24 in attendance. We will meet again on Friday, August 5 at noon and hope you all will join us. As always if you can bring your 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. Good conversation and fellowship guaranteed!!!

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.

## HEAT - PET SAFETY

[Brian Baldwin]



### LIMIT EXERCISE ON HOT DAYS

Limit your pet's walks and outdoor time on hot and humid days. Adjust the intensity and duration of their exercise dependent on the temperature. On very hot days, limit exercise to early morning or evening hours. Pets with white fur can be more susceptible to sun damage and short-nosed pets (pugs, bulldogs, boxers) can experience breathing difficulty. And remember, asphalt gets very hot and can damage our pet's paws so choose a grassy or dirt path, if possible.

### PROVIDE AMPLE SHADE AND WATER

Any time your pet is outside, make sure he or she has access to shade to protect them from the sun. Have accessible plenty of fresh, cold water to prevent dehydration. In heat waves, add ice to water when possible.

### DOGGIE POOLS, SPRINKLERS, COOLING VESTS, AND MORE...

It's amazing the products you can purchase for your pet! If your dog enjoys baths and swims, try investing in a kiddie (err, doggie) pool, dog sprinkler, or even a cooling vest. The possibilities are endless!

### WATCH FOR SIGNS OF HEATSTROKE

Extreme temperatures can cause heatstroke. Some signs of heatstroke are heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure, and unconsciousness. Animals are at particular risk for heatstroke if they are very old, very young, overweight, not conditioned to prolonged exercise, or have heart or respiratory disease.

If you suspect your pet is suffering from heatstroke, move them immediately into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to her head, neck, and chest or run cool (not cold) water over them and seek veterinary care immediately.

## Be Thankful

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire,  
If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something  
For it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times.  
During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations  
Because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge  
Because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes  
They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary  
Because it means you've made a difference.

It is easy to be thankful for the good things.  
A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

GRATITUDE can turn a negative into a positive.  
Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become your blessings.

Author Unknown

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## 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, the den, and did a full house cleaning before the new pastor arrived. **Linda Kime** also worked on parsonage preparation, deep cleaning all the carpets on the main floor. Bill also waxed the entire sanctuary, completed painting in the education wing area, and shampooed the Fellowship Hall carpet. He also mulched the lower gardens, improved the drainage in the playground, and repainted all the handicapped and fire zone areas.
- **Kevin from Morin Paving** surveyed the 11 deep cracks and holes that have accumulated over the past several years in our parking lots, and we have contracted with Morin for a price of \$1900 to repair all within the next two months.
- **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** continues planning 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.**
- **Our new AED** is on order and delayed until at least August.
- **Chairman Jeff Tremback's Memorial Garden members** continue to maintain the appearance of this beautiful area. **Noel Rendell** led a crew recently to add mulch that **Hal Johansen** delivered from Dunning. Due to the high heat, Service of Remembrance was held in the sanctuary on Jul 24<sup>th</sup>, 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.5 Omicron variants spread. Other protocols will be enacted as needed when outbreaks arise.

- **Thomas Baily and Nate Ross** have taken the lead in **refurbishing and upgrading the basketball court** on the west parking lot of the church as their confirmation project.
- **The Girl Scouts** finished work on the Fellowship Hall Courtyard and have repainted the benches, which get quite a lot of use from church members and **our Wednesday and Saturday AA groups**. They did a beautiful job painting and etching sayings on each bench.
- **Cerruto Flooring once again will strip and wax** 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 returned 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.
- **Pastor Lee** requested that we investigate the possibility of replacing our main road church signage with possibly two signs, one at each entrance. The Town of Avon, however, allows only one detached sign per business, sited well off the roadway, which we already have in place.
- Our **office copier budget** is overextended because of heavy printing use in the April-June time period, running \$300 over budget this past quarter. Unfortunately, limitations on copier use, especially color, must be put into place, to reduce this budget area.

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## THANK YOU!

[Tony Rauche]

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all those who put together the great brunch, Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate my retirement as Director of Music & Organist. It was a wonderful event, and I appreciated the good food, all the many friends gathered together, and the wonderful spirit that was in the air. In particular, I would like to thank Linda Kime, Linda Arnold, Martin Kibbe, Choir members, and others who added special touches to the occasion. I would also like to thank those who have sent cards and emails with their kind words for my time at MUMC, as well as for my future retirement. I am sure we will see each other in the future. Until then, I send you my best wishes. God's blessings on the entire MUMC family of believers and friends!



**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

**Lorraine Z.**  
9 Keystone Circle  
Avon, CT 06001

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**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](mailto:avonmumc@gmail.com) with "NEWSLETTER" in the subject line.

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**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](mailto:avonmumc@gmail.com) with "household info update" in the subject line.

**INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY AND NEWSLETTERS ON WEBSITE**

[Kay Hunter] Website Admin.

Our Church Directory can easily be accessed on the MUMC website [avonunitedmethodist.com](http://avonunitedmethodist.com) – accessible by members only. 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 appears. 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 login you will use your email address that's in our directory.

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**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**



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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, 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 Sunday 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 2022 – AUG 2023
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

## 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 7:00am, 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.

## “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”!***



## 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 remains (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 remains interred in the Memorial United Methodist Church (MUMC) Memorial Garden.

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

## 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

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

**JUN 23 MASS CONN FUSION**  
Rudyard Kipling, Motown and R&B

**JUN 30 THE FUTURE HEAVIES**  
40, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s Hits

**JUL 7 NIGHTSHIFT**  
Swampy Cajun, 60s, 70s, 80s Hits

**JUL 14 LOGOMOTION**  
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 show!

**AUG 25 JESTER JIM**  
Family Show Beatboxing, Juggling, Comedy

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

Partnerships with:  
FARMINGTON MOTOR SPORTS  
Thomaston Savings Bank  
Collinsville Bank  
Hartford HealthCare  
ion BANK  
Priority Urgent Care

Facebook: @farmingtoncommunityservices

## STAFF PARISH HAS BEEN VERY BUSY!!

[Linda Kime, SPR co-chair]

Since the 3rd week of January 2022 SPR was told that PJ would be retiring. We began emailing and zooming about our new Pastor appointment, doing the paperwork, asking many questions, learning the protocol from our DS Rev Sylvester. This was way before the congregation was informed. We were thankfully given the gift of Pastor Sungmu Lee. Many churches are without a pastor so it's good our DS told us to act fast! There was a 2-week delay on PJ getting moved out, but Pastor Lee & his wife Hyeongin remained patient, finally moving to Avon July 5th. We are confident Pastor Lee will be a wonderful pastor for us and hope you will extend your kindness as he gets to know us and as we become familiar with his style of 'ministering'.

Mid-March while we were still working on pastor appointment, SPR started our search for a music director since Tony would also be retiring by June end. This involved designing job description, deciding salary range, job advertising, interviewing and decision making. We had only 3 applicants after several months. SPR chose Elizabeth Knox, an experienced church leader, musically talented, and strong Christian, who happens to be a neighbor in Unionville. Chalise (Lit. Arts chair), Pastor Lee & Elizabeth met via zoom mid-June discussing ideas. Lay speakers were with Elizabeth the 2 last Sundays of June. Elizabeth has a broad skill set and we are excited to get to know her and her husband Karl, who is also sharing his musical talent with us.

Many suggestions from congregation about worship service format and music are being implemented and more to still iron out. Liturgical Arts had a planning meeting July 14<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Lee & Elizabeth have recently been able to talk in-person now that Pastor Lee moved into his office. I pray we can practice patience and openness while this transition process is unfolding. Your comments were appreciated. Change is hard, but SPR is very optimistic that our 2 newest staff will bless us with their service to MUMC and our Lord.

SPR also planned and hosted 2 retirement parties in June!! Pastor Joseph's celebration was a catered luncheon on June 12<sup>th</sup> with menu chosen by SPR and sponsored by Ahern Funeral Home as a thank you for PJ's services for them. He and Carol expected their moving van to show up 2 days later, not June 28<sup>th</sup>!! On June 26<sup>th</sup> SPR hosted a brunch for Tony. We decorated FH and provided Thai food, breakfast casseroles & his favorite ice cream flavors! Anne Fitzgerald provided an oral history printing about Tony and the choir sang him a personalized tune! Bob Marshal provided a slide show for each of the retirees during the parties highlighting their years at MUMC and each was provided a thumb drive copy.

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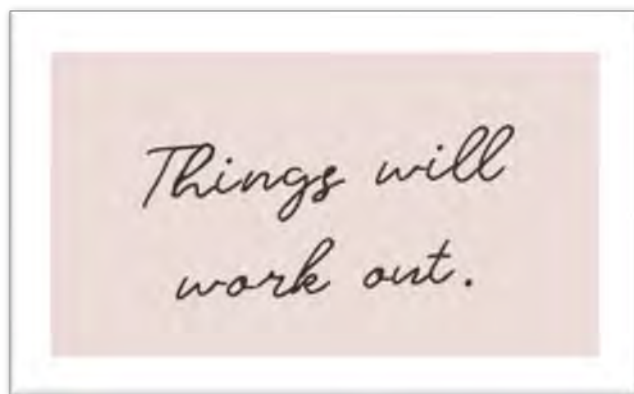
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Currently SPR is working on a revised Employee Handbook, new Job Contracts and updated Job descriptions. We hope to meet in August to get these created and implemented soon after.

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## MUMC MONTHLY CALENDAR

The MUMC monthly calendar is available on the MUMC Church website [avonunitedmethodist.com](http://avonunitedmethodist.com). To access it easily, scroll to the bottom of the website home page and click on VIEW ALL. You can easily download and print a copy that includes times and locations by clicking on the printer icon at the upper right. But please remember to check the website for calendar updates and/or changes.



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## CHURCH DIRECTORY

[Linda Kime, membership chair]

The online Members & Friends Directory is continually being updated with new contact info, some new photos, and unfortunately some removals of folks we've lost. When someone moves away their new address is kept in directory for 6 months, then they will be put in dormant state (won't be seen in directory). Folks who have not been for 12 months involved in any way with MUMC, will move to dormant. However dormant contact info is still visible to directory administrators so can be obtained by contacting church office manager. If it's much older information, given a little time Virginia can access a different database on another computer. To access our current directory, you can go right to [instantchurchdirectory.com](http://instantchurchdirectory.com) or thru our 'Members Only' section of MUMC website. See Kay's instructions on page 9.

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**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT LATEST HAPPENINGS! [www.avonunitedmethodist.com](http://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**

## We Say Goodbye to Gail Colon Anne Fitzgerald Records & History

On July 10<sup>th</sup> we wished Gail Colon goodbye and good wishes as she relocated from Farmington Woods to what has been her snowbird home on Florida's west coast in



North Fort Myers. Gail has a long history with us, and I wanted to share it with you all. This article is taken from her oral history interview on July 6, 2011. We ran the original article in October 2021 for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of our sanctuary and I thought it was appropriate to run an edited version of it again on the occasion of her leaving us.

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## Anne Fitzgerald, Records & History

She was born Gail Esther Eaton on November 9, 1938 in Bristol, CT and is now 83. After high school she attended Bryant College in Providence then worked at Pratt & Whitney until she married Don Colon in 1960 and they moved to Avon. Having been brought up Methodist, she attended the old stone church on School Street in Unionville with Rev. Dick Yerrington. She officially joined on May 21, 1961, transferring from Prospect Methodist in Bristol. That's 61 years ago!



While the congregation was still in the old stone church in Unionville, Gail taught Sunday school and remembers having to teach in Union School because the church had run out of room. Ultimately the parsonage immediately next door was torn down and the parish hall was built. The Town of Farmington now uses the parish hall for alternative high school. Gail was also on the committee to find a new parsonage; we ended up purchasing a home on West District Road in Unionville but sold that in the 1980s and purchased the current one on Kingsbridge in Avon.



Continued .....

A special memory is the Mother Daughter Wedding Fashion Show at which two of her daughters got to see her in her wedding dress.

All three of Gail's daughters are on Florida's east coast, but she gets to see them often. When in Connecticut her oldest daughter Jill lives in a little cottage at the Plainville Campground with her three precious little grand dogs! In Florida she rents a condo in Schooner Bay in North Fort Myers, a great place with a pool, party rooms and a barbecue area. It's located on the Caloosahatchee River where they can see dolphins and an occasional manatee.

She attends Grace United Methodist Church in Cape Coral. It's a huge church with four services and three ministers. The band is on the altar and the music jolts the congregation when it starts playing. The 10:30 service has about 500-600 attendees.

Gail says her greatest claim to fame in Connecticut is introducing her high school friend Penny White to Rev. Dick Yerrington. Penny's comment was "What, me date a minister?!"

Continued .....



Contact [the church office](#) for Gail Colon's new contact info.

COME ONE, COME ALL!



KIDS FOR CHRIST FAMILY FUN DAY!

Saturday, August 20th

10am – 2pm

Bakerville United Methodist Church  
1087 Litchfield Tnpk, New Hartford

GAMES, CRAFTS, MUSIC,  
SNACKS AND MORE!

**\*\*FREE\*\***

For all children and their families!

Sponsored by the Northwest & Central Ct. Parishes  
of the United Methodist Church

