



Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

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Church Office Hours: Tue – Fri 9 am – 2 pm

Church Sexton Hours: Mon – Fri 6:30am – 10:30am

Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:30am Worship Service with Communion

9:30am Sunday School for all ages

10:30am Family Worship Service

On line worship:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/avon.mumc/>

Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/user/AvonMUMC>

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I was surprised to see the calendar in my room. It has been getting thinner and thinner, and finally it has only one sheet. It is hard to believe that we are in the last month of 2022. Every “last” provides us with the potentiality of another beginning. I hope that you have a valuable plan for another beginning this last month of 2022.

In fact, we are already in the beginning according to the Church calendar. As you may know, the Church calendar begins with Advent and ends with Christ the King Sunday. In other words, we Christians begin a new year by waiting or preparing for Jesus Christ. Isaiah prophesied the coming of the Messiah, and John the Baptist prepared the way for him. We are also waiting and preparing for Jesus Christ in Advent. It is sometimes joyous and sometimes tedious to wait for someone.

When my wife Hyeonjin and I dated, we were supposed to meet in a train station in Seoul, Korea. I waited for an hour, but she did not show up. No cell phones existed at that time, and I had to go home and called her.

I said, “Did you forget our date? Why did you not come to *Choong Jung* Station?” She responded, “I went to the place where we were supposed to meet. I waited for you. Why did you not come to *Choong*

Moo Station?” I said, “Wait a minute. Did you say *Choong Moo*?” She said, “Yes, I waited for you at *Choong Moo* station.” At that moment, we realized that we were waiting for each other at different places! We were confused. *Choong Moo* and *Choong Jung* sound very much the same.

We Christians wait for Jesus Christ in Advent. While waiting for him, we should not be confused with different places. So, we need to keep in mind to which place Jesus will come. If Jesus comes to Avon station and we wait for him at Hartford station, we cannot meet him this Christmas.

Jesus was born in a manger. Thus, it is a simple theory that in order to meet the baby Jesus we should be in a stable with humble hearts. Nevertheless, if we Christians try to meet the baby Jesus in a luxurious room in a mansion, we will not see him this coming Christmas.

Jesus was born in a humble manger. Let us make our hearts humble and prepare a small manger for the baby Jesus. Then, Jesus will be born in our hearts this coming Christmas. When we have confidence that Jesus will come to us, it will be joyous to wait for him this Advent. Have a joyful Advent!

Sungmu Lee

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**PLEASE JOIN US ON FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE
FOR SUNDAY SERVICES,
SEARCH FOR Avon Mumc**

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



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

1	Sally Parylak	14	Kay Hunter
2	Leslie Arnold	16	Xavier Corbett
2	Beth Sweet	17	Kathryn Robinett
4	Michele Matava	24	Carol Merritt
7	Abby Brinn	24	Noel Rendell
7	Maureen Fillian	29	Krista Kennedy

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

Harold & Pam Palmer
Bruce & Ruthellen Corbett
Scott & Krista Kennedy
Bruce & Carol Merritt

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

A card would be so appreciated.

Katie M. 11 Briarwood Rd. Farmington, CT 06032	Cheryl M. 209 West Side Blvd. Unionville, CT 06085
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Lorraine Z.
9 Keystone Circle
Avon, CT 06001

MUMC TRUSTEE NEWS

December 2022

Mark Borenstein, Dave Crompton, Johnny Fillian, Linda Johansen, Hal Johansen, Marsha Booth Kennedy, Bruce Merritt, John Perotti

- **Sexton Bill Rebillard** finished his Fall work on the parsonage: fertilizing and reseeding the lawn, power washing the deck, and trimming the west side bushes, while **Trustee Mark** did a thorough cleaning of the gutters. McDermott LLC has been contracted to install and outlet under the sink so both the dishwasher and purifier can operate simultaneously. **Bill** also rewired the Fellowship Hall, Thornburg, and Sanctuary thermostats, which can now be monitored and controlled by the **Sexton, Pastor, and new Trustee Chair** on their mobile devices. **Bill** also consulted with **Bruce Corbett**, then repaired the major cracks in the ramp with Quikrete to clean out and fill the gaps in the expansion joints and painted over them with concrete paint. **Mark** also completed the annual **Trustee Parsonage Review**, and everything is in fine shape.
- After **Trustee Hal** pursued the issue, **Morin Paving** was on site in late October to repair eleven different areas of the parking lots.
- **Working with Office manager Marcia, Trustee Marsha** now is accepting **Building Use Request forms** online to be processed more quickly and efficiently. Please get your requests to her well in advance of a meeting or event, preferring at least one month's notice.
- **Chairman Jeff Tremback's Memorial Garden members** worked on the weekend of Oct. 29th to clean the area and get it ready for the Winter months. **Trustees and Pumpkin Patch people** worked on the weekend of Nov. 7th to clean the church grounds and **Trustee Dave** staked out the property for plowing.
- **Churchery School will continue indefinitely to use separate entrance and exit** for student and parent arrival and

departure, a mode of entry and exit favored by the State.

- **Trustee Bruce, working with McDermott Electric**, arranged for the installation of **new choir lighting** behind Elizabeth's piano on the left side of the sanctuary to facilitate Choir's ability to read their music in that darkened area both at rehearsals and at Sunday performances.
- Working with **Don Austin and Kevin Sweet, Trustee Mark** and **Trustee John Fillian** mounted new speakers (which will be controlled from a new soundboard) in the Sanctuary to greatly improve the listening experience of both live and online church attendees. **Trustee Bruce** is also will be working with Don and Kevin to install a rotating camera in the balcony area so the **Bell Choir** can be filmed live while performing there, as well as being able to sweep the sanctuary from above.
- **Trustees are working with Records and History and David Gorden** to design a historical display on the west wall of Thornburg. The TV monitor will be moved to the east wall.
- **The main sanctuary door** received an expensive (\$1000) new hydraulic door hinge to replace the original defective and no-longer-usable device.
- **A large new Gazebo** has been offered to the church as a memorial gift from a long-time church member and will be discussed at the December 5th Trustees meeting.
- Sexton Bill had a first opportunity to use our **new Fisher salt spreader** on Nov. 15th. This gift from Churchery Board will save the Church thousands in commercial ice mitigation.
- **The Fall 2022 MUMC Church Improvement Update**

Parking Lot Surface Repairs (\$1900)

Hal Johanssen supervising... *funded by the Parking Lot Fund*

Fisher Salt/Sander (\$1500)... *funded by Churchery School...*

Bill Rebillard supervising and operating

3 Honeywell Programmable WiFi-controlled Thermostats (\$390) ... *funded by a long-time church member couple*

Bill Rebillard installing and monitoring

Additional Gifts include:

Commercial Carpet Cleaner (\$575) ... *gift of long-time church members*

Lifeline AED- (\$1500)- *gift of Memorials Committee*

Tree Removal and landscaping (\$2,800)- *gift of Memorials Committee*

Sanctuary Soundboard, and Speakers (\$5,000)- *anonymous donor*

FROM THE CHURCHERY SCHOOL:

The Churchery School is registering for the 2023-2024 school year for present, former and MUMC families. We will open registration to the public on December 5th. Please see Jean if you are interested in registering for our 2,3, or 4 year old classes. Church members receive a discount.

You are cordially invited to our

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 12 6 pm

Come listen to the voices our 4-year -old angels , then join us in F.H. for a reception!

Merry Christmas to all & our best wishes for a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

Jean, Susan, Yuki, Jess & Amber

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING **DECEMBER 11 3:00-4:00 p.m.**

We will be singing the carols that Christians have loved for centuries as well as some of the newer pieces being written. The sing will be followed by cookies & punch in the Fellowship Hall!

Bring your family!! Bring your friends! Make this a part of your Christmas Celebration this year!

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Over the past few months, our church has taken many steps forward. We've returned to Normal and continue to push forward growing our congregation and our service to God. The Worship Committee (formerly Liturgical Arts), heard feedback from members who wanted to return to using the rail for communion. We discussed as a committee, and we decided that it is not in our best interest at this time. We considered not only health concerns as we enter the winter months, but also the physical strain of kneeling at the rail.

We want you to know that you have been heard, and we will discuss the topic again in the spring when (hopefully) the health concerns are reduced. As always, we welcome your thoughts and ideas!

Chalise Ross, Worship Committee Chair

FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Last Sunday ,after church, one of our members mentioned to me that her company will match her giving to the church. If your place of employment has the Matching Gift Program, it would be very much appreciated if you take advantage of it to help MUMC.

Thank you, Diane Hornaday.

MAC 'N' CHEESE

For your winter palate:
from Laura Gorden

1 – 1 lb. package macaroni
1/3 cup butter
1/4 cup flour
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 quart milk
1 lb. cheese (Cheddar, Swiss, Gruyere)
shredded (I used Cheddar & Swiss)
½ cup bread crumbs (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cook macaroni half the time required on package directions. Meanwhile, in a 2-quart saucepan, melt 1/3 cup butter. Stir in flour and salt until smooth. Gradually stir in milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Reduce heat. Add cheese, stirring until melted. Drain macaroni; stir into sauce. Transfer to 13x9 inch baking dish. Top with bread crumbs, if desired. Bake uncovered for 35-40 minutes or until golden brown. Note: to prepare as a gluten free dish, use GF macaroni and GF flour.

PUMPKIN PATCH THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of you who worked on the patch. Weather it was setting up, tearing down, baking Pumpkin Bread, sitting in the patch, tending goats, working with the kids , dressing in a costume at trunk or treat, all contributed to an excellent year. Pumpkin sales of \$18993 were second only to 2021. Bread sales of \$3302 were only \$78 less than the record set , also in 2021. The total net profit for MUMC was \$9627. This adds to the church revenue budget. In case you were wondering, the Patch started in 2005.

In addition to helping our congregation get out in the fall crisp air, the Patch represents a great outreach to the community. Many customers indicate they come to MUMC every year for Pumpkins. The Patch gives us an opportunity to tell customers about our church and its activities.

OUR FRIEND, GRACE!

Our dear 101 year old Grace F. moved to Florida some months ago to be with one of her three daughters, Mary Montgomery's sister. She now has her own place and sends her best Christmas wishes/ How about if we all send her our Merry Christsmas wishes too? You may write to her here:

Grace F.
The Legacy at Highwoods Preserve
18600 Highwoods Preserve Parkway
Tampa, FL 33647



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS Barbara Chase

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.

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 Tuesday through Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm.

UMARMY 2023

Laura Gorden

The following mission weeks have been set for 2023. These are all over-night camps. If interested in knowing more, please contact me.

January 2-9 Young Adult (one-year out of high school and older), Milford, CT

July 9-15 Mixed Age (7th grade through high school plus adult leaders), Trucksville, PA

July 16-22 Mixed Age (7th grade through high school plus adult leaders), Wethersfield, CT

July 23-29 Mixed Age (7th grade through high school plus adult leaders), Massachusetts (town to be determined)

No news on weekend pop-up missions at this time.

To date I have only heard from Kevin and Julia Sweet who are attending the Wethersfield mission week. Would love to have more participants. Contact me if interested.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of the latest Finance Report at the end of October, the church's general fund had a deficit of roughly \$13,000 year to date. This number got a boost of just under \$10,000 from the great work done in the Pumpkin Patch, however the general fund may still wind up in a deficit position at year's end. The finance committee is asking the various church committees to closely watch their spending on items from the budget in the general account over the remainder of this year. 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 has its own dedicated fund. Please prayerfully consider the financial position of the general fund in your giving over the near term.

The finance secretary Diane Hornaday updated the finance committee recently that the audit is progressing nicely and should wrap up in the coming weeks. Thank you to all those participating in the church and Churchery school financial audit.

The finance committee asks that you prayerfully consider your giving for the upcoming year and if you are able to increase your giving intentions for 2023. Finance secretary Diane Hornaday sent out intention forms in early November for 2023

Please return your intention forms to Diane as soon as possible so the finance committee can build a budget for 2023.

Especially given the current struggling economy and rising energy costs, we all understand if there is some uncertainty in giving for 2023. This is why the church is using intention forms this year instead of pledges. If things change and you are unable to continue giving consistent with intentions, feel free to simply contact our finance secretary Diane at any time and let her know that. The finance committee doesn't see individual giving intentions and instead only has that knowledge at an aggregate level, only Diane would know of your intentions change individually. Thus, we do ask you to prayerfully give the church your best estimate of intentions for 2023. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and God bless!

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT LATEST HAPPENINGS!

www.avonunitedmethodist.com

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR NEWS! Avon Mumc

BIBLE PRESENTATION TO 2ND GRADERS

On Sunday, November 6 Bibles were presented to our second graders by Pastor Lee. We hope they will cherish them, but also put them to good use reading the great stories that they contain.

Bibles were presented to Enzo Dadona, Elizabeth Wustrau, and Claesen Wycoff.



NOVEMBER FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK LUNCH HONORED FIRST FRIDAY “SAINTS”

Our November First Friday Potluck Lunch was celebrated in a special way as we honored & remembered our “First Friday” saints. Our program included a 30-minute slide show of photos from our First Friday lunches which included these special folks who have passed. BIG thank you to Bob Marshall for putting together the presentation which we also ran Fellowship Hour on All Saints Sunday. We also sang “I Sing a Song to the Saints of God” and a rousing rendition of “When the Saints Go Marching In”, with tambourines and other noisemakers to truly celebrate the lives of these special people!

THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

The cooler weather has moved us inside, but meeting in Fellowship Hall allows us to enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea with our lunch. Always lively conversation and fellowship. Won't you join us? Just pack up your own lunch (can heat in microwave if needed). We gather every Thursday at noon – except the week of First Friday Potluck. Hope to see you with us soon!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! RESURRECTION OF GAME NIGHT!

Friday, February 24 6 pm

Covid prevented us from safely holding our annual game night for a couple of years, but we are now looking forward to once again sponsoring our traditional game night. Come for supper and stay for games!!! We'll be providing a variety of homemade soups, etc. Please bring your favorite board games! This has been a wonderful intergenerational activity in the past and we look forward to doing it again. Please join us!

SPECIAL ORNAMENTS FOR FELLOWSHIP HALL CHRISTMAS TREE

Many years ago, we asked church families to donate an ornament to our Fellowship Hall tree, and many of you enjoy checking out those that have been around for a long time commemorating many long-term members – some of which have passed.

We would like to do this again this year – asking all families or individuals to bring a special ornament for our tree. Please bring at any time and place on the tree. Please be sure your name is on the ornament for all to see. Looking forward to seeing the new ornaments on our church family tree.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR YOUR MUMC FAMILY

Wanting to share your Christmas best wishes with your Memorial family? We invite all to bring a Christmas Card to post on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to wish Merry Christmas to all!!! Stick pins will be available. Just post any time!!!

JESUS BIRTHDAY PARTY

There will be **NO** Sunday School on Christmas Day, or New Year's Day.

Please join us after worship on Christmas Day as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday with special birthday cupcakes!

REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE

The efforts of the Revitalization Task Force continue. Hopefully you have had a chance to attend or help with one of the events the task force has sponsored.

Things like Trunk Fest and the following family dinner are great fun. They also are great for building the fellowship of our congregation.

The task force will continue planning for next year. There will also be a series of smaller events planned for the winter months. Watch for the announcements. If you have suggestions for future activities or would like to get involved, please let anyone on the task force know or call me, John Baily at 860-674-8637.

If we are to rebuild MUMC, we need you to reach out to friends, neighbors and the community. Invite and/or bring them to our events, including services. We also need to welcome visitors to our services. Make visitors feel welcome. MUMC is known as a very welcoming church. Please help us to live up to that reputation.

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 or 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 10 am to 11:30am. 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.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime



Fellowship Hour is back in full 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.

December host is Board of Trustees.

HOLIDAY SAFETY

from The Safety Committee, Brian Baldwin

The holiday season is always a special time of year. It is also a time when busy people become vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. We can never be too careful, too prepared, or too aware.

Driving

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

Shopping

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit

-Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.

-Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Children

- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.

At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
 - When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
 - Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
 - Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
 - Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
 - If you use lights on your Christmas tree ensure the wiring is not damaged or frayed. Frayed or damaged wiring can cause a fire.
 - Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.
- Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season!

MAKING MUMC "PEANUT FREE"

While we cannot guarantee MUMC will be totally peanut free, we would appreciate your help in making every effort to support a peanut free environment when you are bringing something for yourself or to share at meetings or events at Memorial -in the interest of safety and wellbeing of all and especially our little ones.



WON'T YOU BE A WORSHIP LEADER?

Worship Committee



Volunteers are needed to serve as worship leaders for both 8:30 and 10:30 Sunday services. 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](#).

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 (needed for computer entry). 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.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Most useful food pantry donations:
Thank you!

Boxed milk or Powdered milk
Cereal bar/ protein bars/ granola bars
Pasta sauce and pasta
Cracker packs
Peanut butter
Soups
Tuna
Vegetable Oil
Cake mix
Knorr sides
Cookie mix
Single serve rice cups
Mayo
Beans / black, red navy, baked
Salad dressings
Cereal
Instant Oatmeal
Canned vegetables
Jelly
Canned fruits
Coffee / tea
Single serve applesauce & fruit cups
Hot Chocolate
Beef Stew
Canned meats
Stuffing
Plus:
Personal hygiene products

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS!

Sun	12/11	3pm	Carol Sing Sanctuary
Mon	12/12	6 pm	Churchery School Christmas Concert
Sat	12/24	5pm 11pm	Christmas Eve Service with Children's Pageant Christmas Eve Service
Sun	12/25	10:30 am	Christmas Day (one service only) followed by Fellowship Hour – Jesus Birthday Party! (No Sunday School)