

## Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

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Website: [avonunitedmethodist.com](http://avonunitedmethodist.com)

Church Office Hours: Tue, Wed, Fri 9 am - 2 pm

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

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>

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When you hear of forty days and forty nights, what comes to your mind? Noah and his family went into the ark to escape the great flood, and the rain fell on the earth for forty days and forty nights (Genesis 7:12). When Moses first received the Ten Commandments from God, he remained on Mountain Horeb for forty days and forty nights without eating bread nor drinking water (Deuteronomy 9:9). After being baptized, Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights (Matthew 4:2).

We also have forty days and forty nights. Before we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we will also have forty days and forty nights of preparation time. Forty days and forty nights of Lent begin with Ash Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of this month. Now, you may have a question about the length of Lent. From Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, there are forty-six days and nights!

In the early Christian Church Lent was associated with baptismal preparation. While preparing for the baptism, the candidates were expected to fast. When early Christians had the desire to keep the Lenten fast as a strict forty days, they needed forty-six days before Easter because they traditionally never fasted on Sunday. (Every Sunday for early

Christians was as in a real sense a little Easter. The day when the Lord was resurrected must always be a day of joy, thanksgiving, and victory. Therefore, fasting was most strictly forbidden on Sunday.)

Now, you have the answer. Forty-six days minus six Sundays equals forty days! When we encounter the origin of the forty days of Lent (except six Sundays), we understand how faithfully our Christian ancestors prepared for Easter. Lent is no longer associated with baptismal preparation and fasting in modern Protestantism. However, we as followers of Jesus Christ still have a responsibility to prepare earnestly for the resurrection of our Lord.

Do you want to inherit the wisdom of our Christian ancestors who balanced between piety and joy during Lent? Do you want to prepare faithfully for Easter? Come join us at our Lenten Group Study (Wednesday at 7pm and Thursday at 10:30am), at our Ash Wednesday service at 7pm, and at our Sunday worship at 8:30am and 10:30am. You will experience the spiritual presence of Jesus Christ who has given us eternal life. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

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**PLEASE JOIN US ON  
FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE**

**FOR SUNDAY SERVICES,  
SEARCH FOR Avon Mumc**

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



- |    |                        |    |                  |
|----|------------------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Steven Kelsey          | 14 | Jim Calandriello |
| 1  | Matthew Gorden         | 17 | John Baily       |
| 2  | Skyler Austin          | 19 | Scott Kennedy    |
| 3  | Nancy Macdonald        | 20 | Barbara Chase    |
| 5  | Kris Fillian           | 24 | Michael Zeiser   |
| 6  | Chaz Calandriello      | 26 | Kim Brinn        |
| 9  | Christine Carroll      | 27 | Wesley Baker     |
| 12 | Walter Parylak         | 28 | Ela Rose Ross    |
| 13 | Jodie Dario Kazlauskas | 28 | Pat Bruinsma     |

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Dave and Laura Gorden  
Pastor Joseph and Carol  
Matthew and Christin (Daley) Gorden

**PLEASE NOTE:** For newsletters and Sunday bulletins, we post only those who have requested to have themselves or their family members listed. If you would like your special day(s) added, please notify the church office at [avonmumc@gmail.com](mailto:avonmumc@gmail.com). Thank you.



## REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE TROUBLE GETTING OUT AND THOSE NEEDING A PRAYER

A card would be so appreciated.

Judy C.  
The Residence at  
Brookside  
117 Simsbury Rd.  
Avon, CT 06001

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

## STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Linda Kime, SPRC co-chair

As we begin 2023 for our congregation and employees, let us work closely together to make this a successful year for continuing smoothly to accomplish the best ministry for our church. Our employees have each been assigned SPRC liaisons who will serve as the direct communication between them and our church.

While we understand many of you have some excellent suggestions, or may know of some concerns, SPRC asks that you bring these to our committee so we can capture and relate these with our staff. It is the goal to not have our employees deal with requests from numerous people but look to their SPR liaison for direction. Of course, we welcome all compliments and gratitude be expressed to our employees!

Our SPR committee members are as follows, with liaisons noted with their contact phone number

### **Matthew Ross**

co-chair and liaison to **Sexton** Bill Rebillard

### **Linda Kime**

co-chair and liaison to **Pastor** Sungmu Lee

### **Peter Perkins**

liaison to **Treasurer** Walt Sargent

### **Julia Sweet**

liaison to **Music Director** Tamari Witkin

### **Ida Franklin**

liaison to **Office Manager** Martha Hillemeir

### **Hyacinth Ellis**, 2<sup>nd</sup> year,

excellent contributor for 2022 numerous SPR hurdles

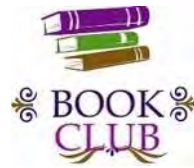
### **Pat Kelly**, 1<sup>st</sup> year committee member

### **Guy Johansen**, 1<sup>st</sup> year committee member

### **Rick Zeiser**, 1<sup>st</sup> year committee member

### **Diane Hornaday**, MUMC Lay Leader and Lay Member to Conference

SPRC has successfully constructed all new 2023 Employee Agreements which are signed, plus updated our MUMC Employee Policies & Procedures Handbook, which all five employees have signed. We have adjusted yearly wages to greatly help our budget constraints.



## THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

Heather Kelsey  
[hrmkels@aol.com](mailto:hrmkels@aol.com)  
(860) 670-1163

Our next meeting will be **held Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** when we discuss **Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger**. “New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson’s Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for thirteen-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.

Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family—which includes his Methodist minister father; his passionate, artistic mother; Juilliard-bound older sister; and wise-beyond-his-years kid brother—he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal, suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years. Told from Frank’s perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.”

[williamkentkrueger.com]

Our discussion features a hybrid format as we meet both on Zoom and in the Parlor. If you wish to participate by Zoom, please contact Heather for the link. Remember, all are welcome!

## FROM PASTORAL CARE:



### VALENTINE THEMED FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

Friday, February 3 at noon

For February First Friday Pot Luck Lunch, we'll be **celebrating Valentine's Day** a little early. Won't you join us for some delicious food, good conversation, friendship and fellowship?

Bring your favorite dish to share if you can, but as always, it is not compulsory. We always have plenty to go around. Hope to see you there!!

### SOUP SUPPER AND INTERGENERATIONAL GAME NIGHT!

Friday, February 24 6 pm

Resurrecting a much enjoyed tradition at Memorial!!! Game night!! This year we're starting out with a **soup supper**. We will be preparing and offering: Tuscan bean soup, tomato tortellini soup, potato corn chowder and chicken pot pie soup plus a variety of breads, beverages and desserts.

Come for supper and stay for games!!! 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! Invite friends and family to join you!!!

### 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 the church 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. Thanks for your help in keeping us all informed and able to keep all in prayer.

## THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is a casual get together of MUMCers **every Thursday at noon (except week of First Friday Potluck Lunch).**

We bring our own lunches, sometimes share some cookies. It has become such an **enjoyable custom**. In addition to enjoying a meal together, we share stories, memories and even discuss current affairs a bit. Always lively conversation and fellowship. Won't you join us? Just pack up your own lunch (can heat in microwave if needed). **There's always room for more!!! Just give us a try!!!!**



### 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.

**February Fellowship Hour Host is....**

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

This Committee with the leadership of Pastor Lee "nominates to the Church Charge Conference in its annual session such officers and members of the Church Council, Church Charge Conference, and committees as the law of the Church requires or as the conference or church may determine as necessary for its work. Committee members must be members of MUMC and serve a three-year term." The following list indicates who are currently serving on Nominations Committee and the year ending their term:

Diane Hornaday, Lay Leader	Jo Cragin (2023)
Linda Arnold (2025)	Laura Gorden (2024)
Chris Calandriello (2024)	Kay Hunter (2025)
David Corbett (2023)	Krista Kennedy (2023)
	Michele Matava (2024)
	Kevin Sweet (2025)

## FROM EDUCATION COMMITTEE....



We will start the Lenten Bible Study both in-person and on zoom on **February 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday at 7pm)**

**and on February 16<sup>th</sup> (Thursday at 10:30am)** (full schedule available on MUMC website calendar). We will be using the book, **“24 Hours That Changed the World,”** written by Adam Hamilton. “No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this book, we will experience and understand the significance of Jesus’ suffering and death like never before.” As we retrace the last 24 hours of Jesus in this world, we will experience his sacrificial love for us more fully.

Please pick up a book at the church office or contact Pastor Sungmu at 631-456-1713 or [sungmulee@icloud.com](mailto:sungmulee@icloud.com). Our Lay Leader Diane Hornaday, Rev. David Chase, and Pastor Sungmu Lee will lead the 7 sessions.

## VALENTINE MAKING FOR AVON HEALTH CENTER

Sunday, February 12 - Fellowship hour

All are invited to share their artistic talents in creating Valentines for Avon Health Center's residents during our fellowship hour following the 10:30 service. Valentines will be copied and delivered to the center for distribution to residents and will be sure to bring smiles to their faces.

## VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Early planning in our planning – but we've set the dates for **2023 Vacation Bible Camp** – mark your calendars for **August 14 – 18 – 9-12**. If you are interested in volunteering for VBC, please contact Beth Slone at [aliannabet@yahoo.com](mailto:aliannabet@yahoo.com)



## SUPER BOWL GRINDERS!!! Sunday, February 12

The youth of UM ARMY will be selling Super Bowl Grinders again this year as a fundraiser for our camps this summer. You can choose from 6" or 12", with selections such as the Italian Stallion, Tuna, Prosciutto, Homemade Meatball and Vege. We also have Clam Chowder and Chili. The sign-up genius for ordering is open and here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CA8AA22A6FF2-super>

You can also access on the MUMC website: [avonunitedmethodist.com](http://avonunitedmethodist.com) main menu.



## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING COLLECTION February 5

For the first time since 2020 (i.e., before Covid) the youth of the church will be participating in Tackle Hunger's Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign. Cash donations will be collected **after both services on February 5**. In 2020, our fifth year of participation, we set a record, collecting \$500 for local food charities; let's see if we can break that record in 2023. This year's collection will go to Food Share.

Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with a simple prayer from a youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation's largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.



**THERE'S MUSIC  
IN THE AIR!**  
Tamar Witkin  
MUMC Music Director

Well, now it has been officially 2023 for a month and we have started off the new year literally singing! Music has always been an important part of spiritual well being and the connecting fibre of all of us from all walks and ages of life.

Serendipity was at play when I finally decided to have one of my pianos tuned: Upon calling the Beyers of Beyer Music, where I live to inquire about piano tuners, Betsy Beyer became very chatty. She asked me if I knew anyone who could assist with Advent services for the UMC in Torrington. Before I could change my mind, I volunteered myself! By re-affirming my commitment and faith to serve others through music, I was fortunate enough to meet some very lovely people at this event including Diane, who sang in Handel's Messiah, Pastor Sun Joo Lee and Pastor Sungmu Lee, as well as having the privilege of working with Pastor Parker Prout, who is a very joyful person. When Pastor Sungmu inquired with me about a recommendation for Music Director position in Avon, again, I volunteered (before I had time to change my mind or entertain any doubts). It appears that higher purposes were at play here and I was placed on the right ship with a good, patient, and positive captain to negotiate the seas of faith.

Having met with Memorial UMC's long standing Music Director, Tony, and having listened to him navigate the Ahlborne Galanti organ, demonstrating how he has programmed various sounds, acoustics, and timbre combinations, as well as caught a glimpse of your extensive library and hearing of his accomplishments, I am deeply humbled: I appreciate the illustrious footsteps I follow and I intend to work assiduously to earn the trust and faith you all have placed in my taking over the reins of Music Director.

Music is a vital part of life and has always played an important role in my very identity. When I was born, (I was told), my father counted all my fingers and declared I would study piano when I was old enough to do so. Growing up in Vermont, I took part in both the musical life of a Arts College

campus, where my father taught art, as well as of an illustrious family of musicians whose children were my contemporaries, and whose patriarch was an organist as well as pianist.

Over the years I've worked many other jobs which were unrelated to music, but Music has always been a common thread and comfort to me amongst many trials and tribulations that life often deals....Music is also a *universal language of the heart* which people of all ages and abilities can partake in: it can bridge gaps in understanding and literally bring harmony to disparate souls who work together in producing it. Through music, we can transcend political, ideological and intellectual differences to attain a state of life which is exalted in the moments we produce these musical tones! In sadness music gives us expression we might not otherwise have; in joy music gives us a way of celebrating beyond the giggles and verbal jubilation.

Although my graduate and undergraduate degrees are in Music performance and composition, and I have performed both solo and in ensembles both at the piano and as a vocalist, I much prefer working 'behind the scenes' helping others to find their (your) voices in creating beautiful sound textures together. These very sound vibrations carry the power and beauty of prayer to a new level, and together with the work of the pastor, I determine to do my best to encourage you to sing with me and I look forward to welcoming new choir members. If you feel you can't 'hold a tune' or are unsure of your ability, don't worry - we practice together and help one another lift ourselves to greater listening, matching, blending and harmony. Did you know that singing can help prevent or at least mitigate sleep apnea? And also amongst the many benefits of singing, did you know that singing can help lower blood pressure and just the mere act of reading musical symbols and/or engaging in music practice lights up many different areas of the brain? This is scientifically documented! Those who find themselves forgetting things might trigger memories by attaching their recollection of songs to certain times in their lives! household chores can be made more pleasant with music; even hard labor is lightened with a rhythmic song and transcendent words.

Years ago I organized and founded a chorale in New Haven County, and even encouraged my husband to join, although admittedly he couldn't 'hold a tune in a bucket' . I think he got something out of working in the ensemble, listening to the voices and tones of others in his section and learning to harmonize with those in the other sections. It may have given him more confidence in his enjoyment of harmonica playing, which he does while inducing the family dog to sing along! (This is definitely a sight and sound to behold!). Charlie associates certain songs with times in his life when they were meaningful, and such songs mark time as well as life experiences. We can do the same with hymns and anthems.

The great American composer Charles Ives interwove hymns with his instrumental compositions, as did one of the founding fathers of Western music, J.S. Bach. Sometimes, after working on a hymn, it gets stuck in one's brain for a while - becoming an 'ear worm'. Dictionary definition: An **earworm**, sometimes referred to as a **brainworm**,<sup>[1]</sup> **sticky music**, **stuck song syndrome**,<sup>[2]</sup> or, most commonly after earworms, **Involuntary Musical Imagery (INMI)**,<sup>[3][4][5][6][7]</sup> is a **catchy** and/or memorable piece of music or saying that continuously occupies a person's mind even after it is no longer being played or spoken about.<sup>[8][9]</sup> Involuntary musical imagery as a label is not solely restricted to earworms; (Wikipedia).

Thank you so much for this rare chance to serve where I am, apparently sincerely appreciated! Blessings to you all...Let's make beautiful music together! You've got this!

Ms. Tamar Witkin, Your New Music Director  
(*informally, Tamari, and wife to Charles P. Sabas, AKA The Kitchen Magician - 'carpentry with style and a smile!'*) .

Current choir practice times (subject to change):

Vocal Choir - Thursdays at 4:00 pm (1 hour)  
Bell Choir - Thursdays 6:15 pm (45 mins)

## MEAL FOR WINSTED

Laura Gorden

**February 4** is the next date to serve Winsted. One person is needed to help prepare the meatloaf meal starting at 8 AM. At 9:30 AM two additional volunteers are needed to help fill 64 individual takeout food containers for delivery to Winsted. At 10:00 someone is needed to help deliver the food to Winsted and it is nice to have an additional person to wash the dishes and clean the kitchen. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THIS MISSION PROJECT.



## 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.

- July 9-15 Mixed Age (7th grade through high school plus adult leaders), Trucksville, PA
- July 16-22 Mixed Age (7<sup>th</sup> grade through high school plus adult leaders), Wethersfield, CT
- July 23-29 Mixed Age (7<sup>th</sup> grade through high school plus adult leaders), Massachusetts (town to be determined)

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.

If there is interest in a Pop-Up Weekend mission event, we need to get a date set. We will need to get other churches to join us because there is a minimum participation required of 25. I will be setting a meeting date the end of February to make further plans for this weekend mission to happen.



## PASTA SUPPER Kay Hunter



Our January 20 Pasta Supper was a great success!!! About **50 members and friends** came throughout the evening to enjoy a delicious pasta dinner prepared by **Brian Hunter, Jr. and other members of Tunxis Hose Fire Company #1** - John Driscoll, Pat Parkinson and Travis Cromack as well as several others who helped with preparation at the firehouse on Thursday night!!!

A BIG thank you to those who donated desserts - they were much appreciated. Special thanks to those who helped out with prep, serving and/or cleanup: Linda Johansen, Hal Johansen, Linda Kime, Kathryn Robinett, Anne Fitzgerald and Jeff Tremback as well as Justin Hunter and TJ Cromack.

Great fellowship and conversation as well!!!  
Again thanks to all who made this a big success!!





## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Linda Kime, chair

NYAC (New York Annual Conference) implemented a new digital reporting platform which I was asked to populate for our church STATISTICS 2022. This includes attendance, membership, and financials.

NYAC had our official membership total as over 450, even though as Membership chair I've been submitting closer to 275 each Church Conference report since 2015. Unfortunately, the SPRC reports submitted previous eight years listed inaccurate totals without referring to the Membership roll reports! Fortunately, there was a line option to list a correction, so we are more accurate now.

I have spent several weeks creating two Excel spreadsheets with over 900 entrees for each of the most recent two official Membership books recorded for MUMC. Now these documents can be viewed alphabetically or chronologically to find members when they joined or were removed and why. It was fun to see many familiar names with their history, children, many confirmation classes of over 16 joiners! If you would like to see any of this history, please contact me for a copy to view. For our 2022 Annual Church Conference I offered up 55 names to be officially voted off for members not seen in many years. I have attempted to contact them and had some success in response. This is the protocol for making our membership roll truer, and remainder of list must be voted off on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year at church conference. Names are in the 2022 Annual Conference booklet available in church office. If you have information about them, we'd appreciate feedback.

**If you are interested in becoming an official MUMC member, PLEASE contact the pastor or me and we can arrange a join date which is exciting for all of us!**

## 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).

## MUMC FAMILY and FRIENDS DIRECTORY NEEDS NEWER PHOTOS!!

It is time to update your photos in our directory to look more like we do nowadays! Especially families whose kids are much more grown up than they are in old pictures. It is so simple these days to have someone snap a quick pic with your phone. **All 'selfies' welcome!** No need to dress up – it's just for us to see when we're trying to place a face with a name. Our directory is only accessible by the folks with emails listed inside. **Go to the website yourself to edit your listing**, add new pic, add birthdays and anniversaries! Or if you'd rather it be done for you, please send photos and all info to [lmk318@aol.com](mailto:lmk318@aol.com) or text it 860-305-0526

[www.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com)

You can also easily access the directory through the MUMC website [avonunitedmethodist.com](http://avonunitedmethodist.com)

## COMMUNICATION

Kay Hunter

**BLAST E-MAILS:** In an effort to cut down on the number of e-mails that are sent to the congregation, we will be sending **one blast e-mail every Wednesday** announcing and reminding all of upcoming events and important information. If you have something you would like included in this announcement, please forward to the church office and to me no later than Wednesday morning.

**NEWSLETTERS:** Please send all newsletter articles to me and to the church office as we will be combining forces to develop and publish the newsletter. In order to publish the newsletter in a timely manner, **please try to observe the due date.** Of course there are exceptions for timely events. Thanks for your help with accomplishing this.

## FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Diane Hornaday

In previous newsletter article we advised you that the Finance Committee would no longer be offering on-line giving service through the Vanco program. We are happy to report that Hyeonjin is working with us to set up another system she is familiar with that will offer you the same service with less expense to the church. She anticipates it will be available in the next week or two. As before, you will access the program through the website. You will be notified as soon as we have this giving procedure ready for use.

On another matter, giving reports for 2022 will be available for you to pick up next Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023. Please review your report promptly and let me know if you have any questions or corrections. Always feel free to contact me about your account at 860-673-9634.



Altar Flowers

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Barbara Chase

The **2023 Calendar** for altar flowers is up and running. 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, 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, Wednesday and Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greg Slone

The 2022 annual budget had a budgeted deficit of \$40,000. As of the final Finance Report at the end of 2022, the church's general fund had a deficit of roughly \$5,000, representing a \$35,000 improvement over the budgeted deficit. This is a great blessing indeed! The \$5,000 deficit for 2022 also included the payment of the full apportionment, the final half of which has been paid for 2022.

The 2023 proposed annual budget was completed and passed by the finance committee and presented to the Church Council for consideration. A Church Council vote on the proposed 2023 annual budget will take place once Church Council has had ample time to review. The current proposed annual 2023 budget includes a deficit of \$60,000.

A major contributor to the \$60,000 proposed budgeted deficit for 2023 is a negative \$5,000 carryover from 2022. This compares to a positive \$35,000 carryover last year from 2021 for the 2022 budget (which was driven in large part by government COVID relief funds in their final year of 2021).

The church will work over the coming months to find ways to improve our income items to address the budgeted proposed deficit of \$60,000 for 2023.

### KEEPING 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.



## 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 that 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 you, 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 judgment, 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.

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Fri.	2/3	12 noon	First Friday Valentine Pot Luck Lunch
Sat.	2/4	9 am	Winsted Meal Prep and Delivery
Sun	2/5	After 8:30 and 10:30 worship	Souper Bowl – Collection for Foodshare
Sun.	2/12	11:30 am	UMARMY Grinder Delivery
Wed.	2/15	7 – 8 pm	Lenten Study led by Pastor Sungmu Lee
Thu.	2/16	10:30-11:30 pm	Lenten Study led by Pastor Sungmu Lee
Wed.	2/22	7 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Fri.	2/24	6 pm	Soup and Game Night
Wed.	3/1	7-8 pm	Lenten Study led by David Chase
Thu.	3/2	10:30-11:30 am	Lenten Study led by David Chase
Wed.	3/8	7-8 pm	Lenten Study led by David Chase
Thu.	3/9	10:30-11:30 am	Lenten Study led by David Chase
Wed.	3/15	7-8 pm	Lenten Study led by Diane Hornaday
Thu.	3/16	10:30-11:30 am	Lenten Study led by Diane Hornaday
Sat.	3/18	TBD	St. Patrick's Day – Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

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

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