

Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

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Website: 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>

Welcome to the month of April! Welcome to spring! During the winter, everything looked frozen and dead. Now, spring brings us everything alive, which reminds us of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In April this year, we Christians have meaningful days: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, and so on.



Galilee and saw Jesus there. When they saw the resurrected Jesus, their depression and sadness was transformed into joy and peace. He was risen and became the Savior of all human beings by overcoming difficulties and conquering the death.

On the first Good Friday, Jesus, the Son of God, was insulted and humiliated on the cross. Jesus, God Himself, suffered from severe pain on the cross. His pain on the cross was so great that he shouted, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me." After the humiliation and the pain, Jesus said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. When he died, his mother was crying, and his friends were weeping. There seemed no hope when Jesus, the Messiah, died helplessly on the cross.

Two days later on the first Easter, however, the disciples heard the incredible news that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. According to the two women who went to the tomb and met the angel, Jesus had risen and gone to Galilee as he previously foretold. The disciples hurriedly went to

Just as Jesus did, we Christians also encounter difficulties in our lives. Sometimes we feel that there is no hope. When we are disappointed, we may say, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me." Yet, let us remember that as Jesus did, we will overcome difficulties with the help of the Holy Spirit and with the help of our church family and friends.

The process of overcoming difficulties may be slow. Yet, let us not lose hope but do our best with Christian faith. Then, our depression, pain, and sadness will be transformed into joy with Jesus Christ, who was resurrected on the morning of Easter. And then, we will be raised to new life with Jesus Christ. Happy Easter!

Sungmu Lee

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EDITOR'S NOTE!!!

You can tell by the Directory to the left listing all of the contents of this newsletter and the 18 pages – MUMC is getting busy!!! There's a lot happening!!

Many folks have taken much time to provide the information contained in the newsletter. Please take some time, read it through cover to cover, so you can see for yourself that there's lots to know about our ministries, missions, worship, education and fellowship at Memorial.

For those who receive this via e-mail, please be aware that printed copies are always available in the narthex or in the literature rack at the downstairs entrance!!!

Praise the Lord! We are full of life at MUMC!!!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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



4 Dave Macdonald	21 Katie Morris
7 Charles P. Sabas *	22 Nate Ross
8 Nat Brinn	26 Kevin Sweet
11 Tamar Witkin	27 Eugene Yeboah
20 Alexa Hunter	

*Tamar's husband

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. Thank you.



PALM SUNDAY April 2

Please note: no 8:30 worship

9:30 – Lessons on Communion – with Pastor Lee; for all children and their parents in Fellowship Hall. To provide guidance and information to those who may be ready to receive their first communion, as well as those who have already been observing and participating in Holy Communion.

Immediately followed by- **Holy Week Workshop** choice of crafts and activities that represent and relate to the events of Holy Week. something for every age.

10:30 – Family Worship - Rev. Alpher Sylvester District Superintendent will be delivering the message.

11:30 – Fellowship Hour to include Q & A session with Rev. Sylvester. **Questions must be submitted to Pastor Lee in advance.**



MAUNDY THURSDAY April 6

6 pm. – Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall

7 pm – Worship with Communion



HOLY FRIDAY April 7

12-3 pm – Prayer Vigil – in MUMC sanctuary to honor Jesus’s last hours on the cross. Come for as long as you wish.

7 pm – Ct. Central Cooperative Parish Joint Worship Service at Plainville UMC. The 7 last words of



Jesus will be presented by the pastors from our 7 churches along with readings by layperson and musical accompaniment from each of the 7 churches. This should be a special meaningful service to experience the story of the crucifixion.

Meet at MUMC by 6:30 to carpool to Plainville UMC which is located at 56 Red Stone Hill, Plainville.

EASTER SUNDAY!! April 9 ALLELUIA – HE IS RISEN!!!!!!

6:30 am - Sunrise Service on the upper courtyard with communion, scriptures, song and the Easter fire. Come, experience the rising of the sun (son)!!!

8:30 am - Worship with Communion

9:15 am - Pot Luck Easter Sunday Breakfast. Bring your favorite breakfast item to share: pancakes, muffins, bagels, donuts, egg casseroles, ham, bacon, sausage, kielbasa, etc. Please bring ready to serve – ovens will be on for dishes that need to be kept warm during 8:30 service.

10 am - Easter Egg Hunt: All children will gather in the hallway outside of Fellowship Hall. All children are asked to bring a basket, but if they should forget, we will have containers available.

Please note: There will be NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 9.

10:30 am - Worship with Communion



FROM PASTORAL CARE:

SOUP SUPPER AND INTERGENERATIONAL GAME NIGHT

We had a fun evening enjoying some great soup and the fixin's and great conversation and fellowship.

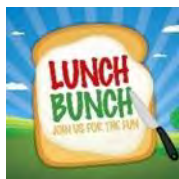


“OUR HERITAGE” FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

A great variety of international dishes was enjoyed by all at our first Heritage Pot Luck lunch held in March. We had Irish, Jamaican, German, English, Dutch, Korean and more! What a variety of cultures we represent at Memorial!!! Thanks to all who shared!!!

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!!!!**



PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO Lunch Bunch April 6 (Maundy Thursday) or April 13 (First Friday Lunch on April 14.)

POT LUCK LUNCH SHARING OUR TALENTS

Friday, April 14 12 noon



What great memories of our last Talent Day at First Friday lunch!! Whatever Lola wants, Lola gets!!!

Due to Good Friday falling on the first Friday of the month, our April "First" Friday Potluck lunch will be held on the **SECOND Friday – April 14**. As always bring a dish to share if you can, but not compulsory!!!

We'll follow lunch with the opportunity to **share our talents** with all. Play an instrument, sing a song, tell a joke or two, read some poetry and if your talents are creative or visual – please bring samples of your talent to be displayed for all to enjoy seeing. This has always been a fun time for us and we are looking forward to our first Talent Show – post Covid!!!

Please note we will NOT be holding First Friday Lunch in May!!!

Looking ahead to **JUNE!!!**

POTLUCK LUNCH TO HONOR OUR NONAGENARIANS AND CENTENARIANS!!!

Come join us as we honor MUMC's nonagenarians and centenarians. This should be a special time. Look for more details in the May newsletter.

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.



MEMORIAL GARDEN

Hello to all from the Memorial Garden,

Yes, it's time for the garden to wake up to 2023! And it's time for the Garden Committee to plan and prepare and plant and prune. Soon, we will be preparing the garden, as we do eagerly every year, for our annual spring planting. Then we will nurture our beloved garden to make it a place of beauty and rest and solitude.

We have lots of work to do and lots of opportunities for new gardeners to join our ranks and get their fingers dirty. I invite anyone who may be interested in joining the Garden Committee to talk to me or any of the committee members. No experience is necessary. We will provide any and all of the on-the-job training you may need. PLEASE join us.

Even if you just come to sit in the garden and enjoy its beauty. The garden welcomes E-V-E-R-Y-O-N-E regardless of race, creed, color, gender, orientation, age, pronouns, or party affiliation. So come to relax, be at peace, be quiet, and enjoy God's gift of Nature.

God bless, Jeff Tremback
Memorial Garden Committee chairperson

SAVE THE DATES!!!

CT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 29

West Hartford UMC
1358 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford

Lunch 12 – 1 pm followed by District Conference business – 1-2:30 pm

CONNECTICUT DISTRICT DAY With Bishop Bickerton

Monday, May 8

Meriden First UMC
159 East Main Street, Meriden

Bishop's Presentation (Q & A Session)
7-8:30 pm

(Official flyers and registration will be available soon and will be forwarded to you via e-mail.)



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.

April Fellowship Hour Host is....

MISSIONS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mission: The Missions / Outreach Committee is called to fulfill Jesus' commandment to serve God's people.

They do this by supporting people and programs both local and in the wider world with our prayers, gifts and service. The coordinate and facilitate the mission ministry of the congregation; educate the congregation about outreach opportunities and support both local and international outreach.



THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

Contact: Heather Kelsey,
hrmkels@aol.com
(860) 670-1163

Are you ready to travel the globe? If so, then join us as we go *Around the World in 80 Days*...in a manner of speaking. In April we will discuss the Jules Verne classic, inevitably comparing the book to the various film versions and the more recent television series on PBS Masterpiece. "One night in the reform club, Phileas Fogg bets his companions that he can travel across the

globe in just eighty days. Breaking the well-established routine of his daily life, he immediately sets off for Dover with his astonished valet Passepartout. Passing through exotic lands and dangerous locations, they seize whatever transportation is at hand—whether train or elephant—overcoming set-backs and always racing against the clock." [goodreads.com]

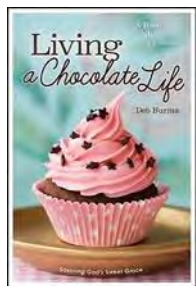
Our discussion will be held **Sunday, April 16th at 7pm**. Our meetings continue to be hybrid, held both in-person (in the Parlor) and on Zoom. If you would like the Zoom link, please contact Heather. All are welcome on our journey!



MUMC was well represented at the UMARY Gala held Saturday, March 25 at the Milford Yacht Club.

In addition to a wonderful night out celebrating with other UMARMY supporters, the Gala served as a fundraiser for UMARMY.

FROM EDUCATION COMMITTEE....



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY "LIVING A CHOCOLATE LIFE" Laura Gorden

Fun, friendly, and engaging, "Living a Chocolate Life" invites women to savor God's rich and endless supply of grace in Christ. Whether they're sampling everything from bitter nuggets of pain to sweet morsels of joy, this study reminds readers that the Holy Spirit fills them with sweet faith in the Savior and it is only He who can truly satisfy.

Written with a fun chocolate theme, each session focuses on one aspect of life as a Christian woman, encouraging readers toward introspection and personal reflection. Designed to be 45 to 60 minutes long, each session includes at least one recipe for a chocolate dessert item, a Bible verse to memorize, chocolate trivia, and suggestions for group activities.

This study group will meet on Saturday mornings at 10 AM starting on April 15. **Please notify me by April 1 if you are interested so that the study books can be ordered in time for our first meeting.**

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.



2023 VACATION BIBLE CAMP "HERO HOTLINE" August 14-18, 2023 9:00 am – 12:00 pm



Age 3 as of 8/14 (must be potty trained) to those completing Grade 4

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

In the depths of a colorful underground cave, is the beating heart of the hero community, the **Hero Hotline Headquarters** where everyone's gifts are valued and every hero has a role to play. Each day at the Hero Hotline Headquarters, superheroes of all ages and abilities answer the call and join the Professor and veteran hero, Super Meer the Meerkat, to provide expert assistance and solutions to Hero Teams everywhere.

All children are invited to participate in Vacation Bible Camp – we have no limit on number of registrations. Mark your calendars.

You can register your child (grandchild, niece, nephew, friend) by going to the following link:

avonmumc.mycokesburyvbs.com

Or through the MUMC website:

avonunitedmethodist.com

A successful **Vacation Bible Camp** requires **numerous volunteers** to lead the various activities as listed above as well as group leaders and aids, including youth. Won't you consider being part of this group? We promise the rewards outweigh the efforts!!!

Questions? Contact:

Beth Slone at aliannabet@yahoo.com or Kay Hunter via [the church office](#).

**CELEBRATING CHURCHERY
SCHOOL'S 50 YEARS**
Sunday, April 30 2-4 pm
Kay Hunter

Back in 1971 shortly after the move to our new church building in Avon, discussion began regarding the development of a nursery school at Memorial mostly to serve the families of Memorial.

Soon the needed documentation and licensing was complete and we opened Churchery School for the 1972-1973 session of school, quickly expanding to welcoming and serving the children of the community– which means we are now in our 50th year!!!

We've been thumbing through old documents, photos, etc. and hope that all will join us for a celebration of Churchery to be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday afternoon, **April 30 from 2-4 p.m.** We are attempting to contact former classmates and their families as well as former staff and board members. If you know of someone who attended Churchery any time over our 50 years, please invite them to this celebration and ask them, if possible, to bring a photo to add to our photo board!!!

**CENTRAL CONNECTICUT PARISH
COUNCIL – CHURCH EVENTS**

Kay Hunter

Prospect UMC

Annual Renaissance Dinner Theater

Saturday, 4/29 and 5/6

\$30.00 7 course meal and entertainment.

Limited seating – contact Luisa at

thegladus@comcast.net

Asbury UMC – Coffee House – postponed from March – May 20 6-9 pm – donations accepted toward restoration of their carillon...



CHURCHERY SCHOOL NEWS

Jean Baron, Director

Recently Churchery School families donated books and stuffed animals to children in need. The donations were delivered to the Hartford Library on Park St. where the things collected were handed to families they're working with. Every year we organize a collection so that our children begin to learn at a young age that they can make a difference in the world they're growing up in.

When the Churchery School staff noticed the Food Pantry was low on food, we asked our families to donate non-perishable food to fill it up. We've received many bags of food and our students helped us fill the box up a few times. This was another opportunity to have a discussion with our very young children that there are people in need and we can help them.

We are still registering for the 2023-24 school year, our 3's and 4's classes are full, we have a few openings in our 2 year old program.

If you would like to read to our students or do a project with them, please feel free to call Jean to set up a time of day. We would love to have you and we promise you will have a wonderful time!

FROM MISSIONS COMMITTEE....

MEMORIAL'S FOOD PANTRY



TOILETRY PACKETS FOR UMCOR

The New York Conference is continuing to support more than 40,000 asylum seekers who have arrived in New York City, and continue to arrive. As such, the churches in direct ministry with these new immigrants need hygiene items. Memorial United Methodist Church and the other 6 churches in our parish are working together to assemble these kits. Each church will be gathering 30 pieces of each item and on June 4th at 3 pm all people willing to assemble the kits will be meeting at Prospect UMC in Bristol. An email from Sign Up Genius will be arriving in your mailbox soon to coordinate the collection of these items. Thank you in advance.

Each kit uses a gallon Ziplock bag of travel sized items including:

Shampoo	Razor
Bar of soap	Deodorant
Nail Clippers	Wipes or hand sanitizer
Band-Aids	Toothbrush
Tylenol packet	Toothpaste
Antacid packet	Brush or comb

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.



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Please help keep our food pantry stocked. On the 3rd Sunday of each month the blue bin will be moved to the back of the sanctuary for your convenience to drop off food items. At all other times the blue bin is located outside the kitchen or you can just put your food items inside the food pantry cupboard.

Most useful food pantry donations:

- Boxed milk or Powdered milk
- Pasta sauce and pasta
(mac and cheese has not been going)
- Canned vegetables/fruits
- Single serve applesauce and fruit cups
- Soups
- Tuna
- Canned meats
- Beef Stew
- Stuffing
- Knorr sides
- Single serve rice cups
- Beans/black, red, navy, baked
- Cereal
- Instant Oatmeal
- Cereal bar/protein bars/ granola bars
- Cracker packs
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate
- Vegetable Oil
- Cake mix/Cookie mix
- Mayonnaise/Salad dressings
- Personal hygiene products

**PLEASE JOIN US ON
FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE**

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



UMARMY 2023

Laura Gorden

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE: The UMARMY Pop-Up Weekend (originally scheduled for June 2-4) **is now June 23-25.** MUMC will be the host church. All of our parish churches and the West Hartford UMC are invited to participate in this mission weekend. Individual churches will plan their work day in their own community. Each day will end with a UMARMY worship service in our sanctuary.

This is a new format that is being tried and Memorial UMC has always been supportive of UMARMY. With that in mind, please consider joining us for this weekend mission opportunity. Anyone from 6th grade through adulthood are eligible to participate. We need one adult for every three youth so please be in prayerful consideration of joining this mission experience. **Please let me know if you are interested so I can register our group by April 15.**

UMARMY also has the following mission weeks set for 2023. These are all over-night camps and require a one-week commitment.

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), West Chelmsford, MA

Kevin and Julia Sweet are attending the Wethersfield mission week. Would love to have more participants. Contact me if interested.

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 or text it 860-305-0526

www.instantchurchdirectory.com

You can also easily access the directory through the MUMC website avonunitedmethodist.com



© Can Stock Photo

WEDNESDAY E-MAIL BLAST

Kay Hunter,
Communications

In an attempt to cut down on the number of e-mails that you might receive on a weekly basis, we are attempting to send just one e-mail on Wednesday to remind and advise you of what's coming up in the next week and beyond. Of course there may be exceptions when a message warrants a special send.

Please when you receive this Wednesday e-mail, take some time to read it through to be sure you are aware of what's coming up at MUMC, especially those that are timely.

Please be sure any requested announcements are sent to Kay via [the church office](#) by Wednesday morning.

PAIRS AND SPARES FIRST GATHERING SINCE 2020

Anne Fitzgerald
afitzgerald138@gmail.com

Saturday, March 4 was the first gathering of this year's Pairs and Spares. Anne Fitzgerald hosted with lasagna, the Hunters brought appetizers and the Perottis brought dessert. Beyond the core group, Anne invited Jeff Tremback who brought the wine and the Corbetts who brought the salad. How wonderful to be back in a social setting with some of our church family. Our next gathering will be in June at the Perottis.

It's not too late to sign up and Anne will be happy to put a group together.



REPORT OF TRUSTEES

John Fillian, Chair



Building.

March is our month for inspections. And yes, our building is safe. Elevator and all life safety devices have been tested and we're good to go for the next year

Grounds.

Please join us **April 1 at 9 AM** for our **spring grounds cleanup**. This is an annual event that we attempt to do prior to Easter. I say attempt, because sometimes the weather doesn't allow it. Our back up date will be April 8. As they say "Many hands make light work".

Building usage

Please help us welcome "Club SciKidz" this summer. Club SciKidz is a STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) based school for children between the ages of 4 to 15. They will be offering four one week classes from June 26 through July 24. This will be a great opportunity for young families to see what a wonderful Church facility we have.



MEMORIAL'S TUTORING PROGRAM

A major project we have in the works is a TUTORING PROGRAM which will be open to all in the community. Covid resulted in children not attending classes in person which has resulted in a setback in the progress of their education.

Our tutoring program will not only provide a much needed service to those in our community, it will also serve as a great means to bring people from our community into our church building and hopefully into our church family. This project requires much planning and organization. It is our intention to have it up and running in September. There is no limit to the breadth of subjects we can offer. If you have a skill or subject that you would be willing to volunteer to share or if you have interest in helping to organize this tutoring program, please contact Greg Slone.

St. Patrick's Day

CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER TO MUMC!!!

The St. Patrick's Day corned beef dinner held on March 18th was very successful. We decided to hold it on Saturday (rather than Friday, the real St. Patrick's Day) to accommodate those abstaining from eating meat on Friday's during Lent. We had about 64 people, with a good number of people from outside Memorial. We had members from the Torrington, Bakerville and Bristol Methodist churches, as well as members of the public. One med student saw the sign while driving by and was hoping he would make it before it ended (he did). We had two other visitors call on Saturday for more details. They saw the article in the newspaper and wanted to know if they needed to make reservations (they didn't). I think we ended up one serving short on the corned beef, and thankfully that customer was happy with extra potatoes, carrots, cabbage and soda bread. We had a selection of gluten-free soda bread muffins, as well as ice cream sundaes for dessert (with gluten-free and gluten-full brownies). We had a freewill offering that collected \$570 and will be used for future Revitalization Committee events.

According to St. Patrick's autobiographical *Confessio*, when he was about sixteen, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain in the 5th century and taken as a slave to Ireland. He writes that he lived there for six years as an animal herder before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to spread Christianity in northern and western Ireland. In later life, he served as a bishop, but little is known about where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland. His feast day is observed on 17 March, the supposed date of his death.

EDITOR'S NOTE: BIG thank you to Kevin Sweet and his helpers Julia Sweet, Matt Ross, Nate Ross and James Kennedy.





Giving is Worship. Everything we have is a gift from God. As we give back faithfully and joyfully, the world is changed. Grace and hope become a reality: the gospel is lived out, lives are touched, people are fed, bodies are healed, communities are transformed, and relationships are reconciled. When we learn to give generously, it changes us, making us more like our generous Creator.

WAYS TO GIVE

Online and Mobile Giving

Easy and secure giving. You may give one time or set up recurring giving using a bank account or credit/debit card. You may give to multiple funds at once. "Cover the fees" option is available for donors. Donors will receive an email receipt/confirmation.

All contributions are tax deductible unless otherwise specified. Free sign-up is available to view giving history and manage account and payment information. Your information is kept confidential and secure.

- To give online, click the "GIVE ONLINE NOW" button at www.avonunitedmethodist.com/give or [click here](#) (our church's Tithe.ly link) *No sign-up/account needed for one-time Online Giving
- [Click here to watch "HOW TO GIVE" video](#) - This is how giving will look when you give on our website and mobile device using the Tithe.ly app.
- [Click here to read "Common FAQs for Donors"](#) - This document provides answers to common queries related to online and mobile giving.
- Download free [iOS](#) or [Android](#) Tithe.ly app on your mobile device (smartphone and tablet).

Check

Checks can be made payable to "Memorial UMC" and dropped off or mailed to Memorial United Methodist Church, 867 West Avon Rd., Avon, CT 06001.

Offering Plate

You may contribute using cash or check by putting it in the offering plate at the appropriate time during worship.

*If you have any technical issues using Tithely, please contact:
Hyeonjin Kim (hjkim1030@icloud.com).

Finance Committee

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Barbara Chase / Linda Arnold



Altar Flowers

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, 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.

Due to rising costs of flowers, we feel the need to raise the price for altar flowers to \$40.

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.

At this time, **April 23** is open for a flower dedication. Please consider this and any other future dates.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greg Slone

Adjusting for carryover from last year, the current general fund balance as of the end of February was roughly a surplus of \$11,000. This surplus is due in large part to many annual donations paid for the year in January and the surplus is expected to roll off over the course of the year.

The finance committee passed a motion to invest the church reserve and endowment funds in safe, liquid assets that can produce some positive returns. This was brought to the church council which also passed the motion. The investments will be managed by the treasurer under the guidance and approval of the finance committee. This has the potential to generate as much as \$10,000 per year for the church, especially if rates continue to be elevated.

The finance committee also passed a motion to move the church and parsonage electric supplier from Eversource to Constellation. The motion was passed on to the trustees committee who also passed the motion and implemented the transition. It is estimated the transition of electric supplier will save the church roughly \$5,000 annually.

A special financial task force will continue to meet to identify various ideas to best address projected budget deficits over the coming years for the church. The special financial task force had their initial meeting and will continue to have follow-up meetings. As ideas are ready, they will be passed to the finance committee for further consideration. In fact, the first idea from the task force (investing funds from the reserve and endowment funds) has now been approved by the finance committee and church council, as mentioned earlier.

MUMC SEEKING TREASURER!!!

MUMC is looking for a church member to take on the role of Treasurer. Individuals interested should be well organized, have a solid knowledge of financial accounting, bookkeeping, and budgeting, and have a basic knowledge of computer-based finance programs (e.g. banking online, spreadsheets, data entry). Responsibilities of the position include bi-weekly payroll (monthly Churchery School), bill paying, annual budgeting, monthly reporting, facilitating investments at the direction of the Finance committee, and general financial management of accounts.

Current treasurer Walt Sargent will work to train the individual on the unique elements of our church finances. Once the tasks are learned this job could be accomplished in 6-8 hours per week. If you are interested, or know a church member who is interested, please submit the name and contact information to Pastor Lee (sungmulee@icloud.com).

All interested individuals should **reach out by April 9** (Easter). Ideally it will be a great gift to the church to have a volunteer treasurer, however a paid position can be discussed if needed.



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

A card would be so appreciated.

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

Katie Morris
11 Briarwood Road
Farmington, CT 06032

Cheryl McNally
209 West Side Blvd.
Unionville, CT 06085

Lorraine Zacchio
9 Keystone Circle
Avon, CT 06001

YOUTH NCAA ELITE 8 WATCH PARTY

On Sunday, March 26, Tweens and Teens of MUMC gathered for Fellowship, Food, and Fun. We tuned in to the SDSU v. Creighton March Madness NCAA Tournament game, and also played board games, foosball, pool, and even basketball!

We all left with full bellies and hearts after a wonderful time with friends.



Looking ahead to future events!!! Be on the lookout for announcements with details:

Date	Activity/Location	Planner
Apr, TBA	Sonny's Place, Somers go-carts, etc.	Steve & Jenn Lamoureux
May, TBA	Rock Climbing - Glastonbury	Greg & Beth Slone
June, TBA	Basketball, Games, BBQ – at MUMC	Matt & Chalise Ross
Aug, TBA	Ropes Course, Picnic Lunch – Winding Trails	Steve & Jenn Lamoureux



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.

COOPERATIVE PARISHES ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT, ONE HOPE

Paragraph 206 of the 2016 Book of Discipline begins this way: "Local churches, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may enhance their witness to one another and to the world by showing forth the love of Jesus Christ through forms of mutual cooperation." A cooperative ministry is when groups of people representing two or more churches share their ministries to meet the needs of the community. A cooperative parish is an ongoing structured way to employ cooperative ministries between churches within a defined region.

The cooperative parish has a Parish Council with clergy and laity from each church in the cooperative parish to discuss, plan and make decisions regarding mission and ministry through the cooperative parish. Every church in the Cooperative Parish maintains their local church identity and participates in the Cooperative Parish Council for shared mission and ministry. Benefits of a Cooperative Parish

The Cooperative Parish provides the opportunity for all churches to engage in ministry together that they cannot do as individual churches. However, these mission and ministry opportunities are possible in a cooperative parish. Cooperative Parishes also offer the laity to have access to different and new ministry opportunities, experience the gifts and leadership of other clergy and laity across the parish, and use their gifts and calling in new contexts and settings across the parish.

Through Cooperative Parishes, the laity can be empowered and equipped to live into their unique ministries.





Date	Time	Pg.	Event
Sat. 4/1	9 am	11	Grounds cleanup – Trustees (raindate 4/8)
Sun. 4/2 PALM SUNDAY!!	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	3	Conversation on Communion for children and parents Holy Week Workshop for children and youth Worship with District Superintendent Rev Alpher Sylvester preaching Fellowship Hour – Q & A with Rev. Sylvester
Thu. 4/6	6 pm 7 pm	3	Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall Holy Thursday Services
Fri. 4/7	12-3 pm 7 pm	3	Prayer Vigil at MUMC Parish Good Friday Services - Plainville UMC
Sun 4/9 EASTER!!!	6:30 am 8:30 am 9:30 am 10 am 10:30 am	3	Sunrise Service on the Patio Alleluia!!! Easter Worship Pot Luck Easter Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt Alleluia!!! Easter Worship
Wed. 4/12	7 pm	-	Lenten Study led by Pastor Sungmu Lee
Thu. 4/13	10:30 am	-	Lenten Study led by Pastor Sungmu Lee
Fri. 4/14	12 pm	4	“First” Friday Pot Luck on the SECOND Friday Sharing Our Talents
Sat. 4/15	10 am	7	Women’s Bible Study – “Living a Chocolate Life” begins.
Sun. 4/16	7 pm	6	Other Good Book Group
Sat. 4/29	12 pm 1-2:30 pm	5	District Conference Lunch Business
Sun. 4/30	2-4 pm	8	Churchery School Celebrating 50 years
Fri. 5/5	TBD	-	Cinco de Mayo Supper
Mon 5/8	7-8:30 pm	5	District Meeting with Bishop Q & A

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT LATEST HAPPENINGS!
www.avonunitedmethodist.com

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR NEWS! Avon Mumc



**MEMORIAL UM CHURCH
867 WEST AVON ROAD
AVON, CT 06001**