

Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

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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>

Try to call God the Mother, and you may feel awkward. In fact, God is beyond gender, neither male nor female, but we have traditionally called God *Heavenly Father*. I think that if God is expressed with the metaphor *father*, it must also be possible to describe God as the metaphor *mother*.



I sometimes feel God is like my father, who emphasized the discipline of his children, and other times God is like my mother, who was generous toward her children. However, each of us has different experiences of our parents. For example, those who had been abused by their fathers/mothers may not have good feelings as they call God the Father/Mother. Therefore, it is not right to say, "This is the only way to address God."

I am not saying that all of us should call God the Mother, but that we may use any metaphor based on our own experiences. I often feel the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer, like my mother, who was quiet and patient, who was gentle but strong inside, and who was not spectacular but wise. In addition, she was always with me, especially when I was in difficulties. So, I call the Holy Spirit God the Mother, while I say God the Father the Creator and God the Son the Redeemer. As we celebrate Mother's Day, I wanted to recognize the mothering God.

Because of scientific and technological advances, we live a convenient life, but we have lost a lot of precious things, as well. One of them is the intimate relationship with our parents. We used to be faithful to the Bible verses, like "Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12) or "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord" (Colossians 3:20).

I would like to remind you that you may not have much time to be with your mother. Time goes fast, and when you want to treat her well, you may not see her again in the world. It may be too late when you realize that your mom has passed away.

And if your mother has already died, recall what she said to you, and what she wanted you to do. And then, remember her instructions in your life and tell your children about her. Your mother will be resurrected through your life and your children's lives.

As we celebrate Mother's Day on May 14th, let us express our gratitude to our mothers: "Thank you, mom! I love you, and you are great!" Happy Mothers' Day!

Sungmu Lee

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CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR NEWS! Avon Mumc

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Linda Arnold | 20 Troy Shingleton |
| 1 Don Austin | 22 Donna Baily |
| 1 Greg Slone | 22 Dave Crompton |
| 2 Jan Colturi | 22 Jennifer Hunter |
| 5 Santosh Oommen | 24 Luke Slone |
| 6 Dave Corbett | 25 Ben Bruinsma |
| 7 Laura Gorden | 25 Mark Borenstein |
| 8 Anna Lee Flinn | 26 Julie Notestine |
| 9 Jennifer Smagin | 26 Ken Notestine |
| 10 Natalie Corbett | 28 Alan Kennedy |
| 19 Louis Kozikowski | 29 Brian Hunter, Jr. |

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

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

- Ben and Pat Bruinsma
 Roger and Joan Couch
 Robert and Tina Tardiff

If you would like your special day(s) added, please notify the church office at avonmumc@gmail.com.

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 |



REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE UPDATE

John Baily, Chairperson

Just over a year ago saw the beginnings of the revitalization task force. At that time the world was just coming out of the COVID crisis. Churches across the US were struggling to regain attendance and financial strength. The task force has sponsored a number of projects and events over the last year. In that time we have seen some uptick in attendance although our youth programs and finances are still struggling.

During the last year, several events were not widely publicized as we were concerned about our ability to handle crowds. We were able to invite outsiders to our recent pasta dinner and the October Trunk or Treat. This year we need your help to reach as many in the community as we can. We will be encouraging you to reach out to your friends and neighbors and invite as many as possible to our events.

We would also like to invite more participation in our events. It seems the same few are active in the task force and in most of the events. we would like to spread out the workload, including more involvement of our youth. . Come join the camaraderie that MUMC is known for.

Upcoming:

May 5 Cinco de Mayo Dinner to support MUMC's Relay For Life team

June 3 Car show on the MUMC parking lot in June . More information to come.

June 25 Kickoff off of our one service per Sunday for July and August. This service will be followed by a church-wide picnic on our property. October (day TBD) Old Fashioned

Revival at MUMC sponsored by 7 churches of our Parish.

Date TBD – Program – Preparing for Aging – Medicaid, Medicare, Trusts, Investments, assisted living, etc. etc.

As previously announced, we would like to put together a tutoring program for the local community. If you have a skill and would like to volunteer, please contact Greg Stone. Tutoring can be in a variety of topics ranging from Math and science to writing and computers.

We welcome any suggestions you may have.

AVON MEMORIAL UMC YOUTH GROUP

Jenn Lamoureux



Grades 5-12. Will be going to Sonny's Place on Saturday May 6 from 4-6pm. Sonny's Place is located at 349 Main St, Ct-190 in Somers Ct.

Sonny's Place has an arcade, batting cages, bumper boats, carousel, climbing walls, Go Karts, mini golf laser tag and many more fun activities. Siblings and friends are welcome to come.

Sonny's Place also has food and drinks. We hope to see the youth at this fun place!

Upcoming events include:

Rock Climbing/Glastonbury - Greg & Beth Slone
Basketball, games, BBQ at MUMC - Matt Chalise
Ross

Ropes Course – Picnic Lunch at Winding Trails -
Steve & Jenn Lamoureux

Activities continuing in the fall – already in the works.

FROM PASTORAL CARE:

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**.



With the warmer weather upon us, we will begin to meet in the Memorial Garden (weather permitting). 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, and grab a lawn chair (limited bench space available.) **There's always room for more!!! Just give us a try!!!!**

POT LUCK LUNCH SHARING OUR TALENTS

Friday, April 14 12 noon

What wonderful time we had enjoying a great variety of foods, fellowship, conversation and friendship. Then the opportunity to enjoy the talents of our members. We look forward to continuing this every year!!!

We had quite of a variety of talents: joke and storytelling, singing, and harmonica playing along with a great display of our creative talents which included sewing, crocheting, knitting, photographing and sewing creations.

I think ALL enjoyed all of the talents that were displayed. lunch with the opportunity to **share our talents** with all.

Just a sampling of our talents!! Check out display on bulletin board!!!



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



Looking ahead to **JUNE!!!**

**FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK LUNCH
TO HONOR OUR NONAGENARIANS
AND CENTENARIANS!!!**

Friday, June 2 – 12 noon

Please join us on Friday, June 2 when we gather to honor MUMC's nonagenarians and centenarians. We'll honor all – even those who have moved to a warmer climate!!! We'll have special entertainment and share special memories. Please join us – Bring your favorite dish to share if you can, but not required.

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

Greetings to you
from the Garden Committee,

Spring here we come! The Garden Committee has restarted its monthly meetings, as we do each year, and has even completed the spring garden cleanup. Every year at about this time, the starter's gun goes off and we start the sprint to prepare the garden for the new season. The garden belongs to ALL so please come to enjoy its beauty and its serenity. Please schedule some time to visit the garden each week and mark it on your calendar. Block out some special time to relax and recharge your soul.

The Garden Committee is still looking for new members. If you are an avid gardener or just a novice, please consider joining us in the garden. No prior training is necessary, only a desire to work with Mother Nature to make a beautiful garden for ALL to enjoy. Please contact Jeff Tremback (Garden Committee chairperson) or anyone else on the committee so we can help you get your fingernails dirty as soon as possible. I think we have more fun on this committee than any other committee at MUMC. But that is just my humble opinion. PLEASE join us.

God bless,

Jeff Tremback
Memorial Garden chairperson

MUMC TEAM FOR RELAY FOR LIFE OF FARMINGTON VALLEY

Hello MUMC family-

Many years our church has been involved in **raising monies for the American Cancer Society** so they can continue their Research (many grants right here in CT) and Patient support services: 24hr hotline for anyone who needs help, rides to treatment, hotels for families/patient near hospitals, and Prevention Education & Advocacy. MUMC will have a team for Sat. May 20, 2023 **RELAY FOR LIFE**. If you'd like to donate or join the team - below is the link [\(in blue font\)](#).

All **Survivors & Caregivers can be honored at the 4pm CELEBRATE Ceremony!** Others may attend the **more solemn REMEMBER 8:30pm ceremony in honor of those lost to cancer.** Joining our team gives you the opportunity to solicit donations from family, friends, your workplace. You can **order Luminaria bags or Memorial Torches** on website or we'll have a display in FH at Cinco dinner and coffee hour to purchase & fill-out forms. Anyone can come walk a couple laps during the event at 1690 New Britain Ave. Farmington. Food trucks and fun activities 10am-10pm!

As a RFL fundraiser we are hosting a **CINCO DE MAYO MEXICAN DINNER** with free-will offering. I know people from our community who are passionate about fighting cancer will join us. We have had **far TOO MANY lost to cancer in our congregation** over the years. However (Hallelujah) we **have lots of cancer survivors** to celebrate in our church family because of treatments available now.

PLEASE consider joining this worthwhile and exciting event. Since our inception in 2001 RFL of Farmington Valley has raised \$5.7million is the fight against cancer!! Won't you help us reach \$6 million??

https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?fr_id=104257&pg=team&team_id=2684041



**Cinco de Mayo
Dinner!!
Friday May 5th
5:00 – 6:30pm**



Memorial United Methodist Church,

Free-will donations to fight against cancer in support of our MUMC team in this year's event



Tortilla casserole, Arroz (rice) Mexicano, corn-bean salsa & chips, and Mexican chocolate desserts!



Invite family, friends, neighbors for good food, fellowship and to help fight cancer!!!

Looking ahead to June!!!!



Mark your calendars now for our first ever **CAR SHOW**
Saturday, June 3 12-4
Free Food – Free Raffle

Fun for all Ages!!! Look for more details in coming weeks!!!!



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.

May Fellowship Hour Hosts are....

MEMBERSHIP & MEMORIALS COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE encourages our congregation to share their faith in our community, reaching outside our family of faith with open arms. We ALL ARE DISCIPLES whom God has called on to spread the love of Christ. Also promotes social activities often led by other committees or groups that allow us to share fun and fellowship!

MEMORIALS & SPECIAL GIFTS COMMITTEE accepts, records and acknowledges all memorial and special gifts made to MUMC and makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding the thoughtful disposition of said monies or items.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

(Linda Kime, Membership Chair)

Our Directory is ONLINE and only accessible by the folks with emails listed inside. For several years you haven't needed to hunt for a paper copy but simply log in to: <https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com/>.

Our MUMC Friends & Family directory is constantly being updated with phone numbers, email addresses and photo changes. Go to the website yourself to edit your listing, add new picture, add birthdays and anniversaries! Also accessible on MUMC website: avonunitedmethodist.com

EVANGELISM

Membership Committee – Linda Kime

It does not include knocking on doors or standing on street corners shouting Bible verses. It is simply helping others understand that we want to share how our faith in Jesus Christ has transformed our lives. Evangelism is NOT the sole domain of the clergy. ALL of us can invite others to worship, special events & meals, or a study group. By ENCOURAGING others to come to church for the first time or to COME BACK from Zoom-only worship, we can help people grow in their faith. Many people are hurting, lonely, and wondering about their purpose. Evangelism is something Jesus Christ called us to do. We can simply comment to someone in checkout line at a store saying: "I'm so grateful for God that I am here and have a wonderful church to support me". More to come next newsletter.

Membership committee has 'Welcome Home' folders in the narthex on credenza near glass doors. Also is the visitor book on podium there. Won't you please invite those who you see in worship to sign-in and join us for Fellowship Hour? Key thing here is for them to SEE how friendly we are, but we also need to get their names & contact info so Pastor Sungmu can follow-up call/email and MUMC can share upcoming info via email. During all our events to Revitalize, those new persons attending need to FEEL the love of us and our faith in Christ. The same goes for this in getting their names & contact info. Thank you for helping this mission to be Evangelists.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS (SPR)

(Linda Kime, Co-Chair)

We are meeting monthly now in 2023 to review how our staffing is going. Things have calmed down a bit after huge staffing turnovers since last June when we were meeting weekly. We will be looking to hire a new treasurer to ease into the position as Walt retires and trains this next new MUMC staff member. Remember, SPR has a liaison for each staff and we ask that you go through this committee if you have a concern and not directly to staff member. Thank you.



SOMETHING OLD? SOMETHING NEW?

MONTHLY POTLUCK SUPPERS

MUMC will be holding our first? monthly Pot Luck Supper on **Friday, May 19 at 5:30**. We hope you will join us for the opportunity to share a meal and some great fellowship, conversation and getting to know each other better.

This will be open to the public. Please invite family, friends and neighbors to join you. If you can, bring your favorite casserole, main dish, vegetable, salad, rolls/bread or dessert to share, but it's not compulsory.

PASTOR LEE – AWAY IN MAY!!!

Please be aware that Pastor Lee will be away for a well-deserved Spiritual Renewal / Vacation from May 5th to June 4th,



For any pastoral needs, please contact Kay Hunter, Pastoral Care Committee Chair, or the office manager, Martha Hillemeir, at (860) 673-2111 or avonmumc@gmail.com.

If you should need or want contact with clergy, Kay will be able to connect you with a pastor from our Parish.



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP VISION, PURPOSE

Allen Nixon

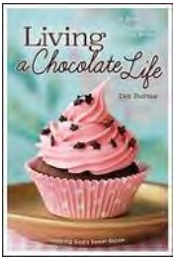
Everyone grieves differently and in their own way, and your grief will vary from day to day. There is no simple answer or definitive process for your grief, but know that you are not alone. This is the fundamental benefit of MUMC's Bereavement Support Group, knowing you are not alone and to remember 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.

**CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR
NEWS! Avon Mumc**



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

Sixteen women are meeting on Saturday mornings at 10 AM in Fellowship Hall to enjoy study and fellowship of a fun, friendly, and engaging, "Living a Chocolate Life" 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. Each session includes at least one recipe for a chocolate dessert item, a Bible verse to memorize, chocolate trivia, and suggestions for group activities.

Our study group is hoping that this is just the beginning of a women's fellowship group and invite all women to share their ideas for future studies, fun activities or road trip adventures. It would be so great to get together at least one time a month.

SEEKING GRADUATE INFORMATION

Education Committee

We would love to share information on your academic accomplishments with the congregation. If you are a recent high school graduate (or a member in your family), please send information, including the name of the high school and future plans, along with a class or similar picture (can be scanned and returned). We would also appreciate information on any recent college degrees. Please email information to Beth Slone at aliannabet@yahoo.com.

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](#)



CHURCHERY SCHOOL NEWS

Jean Baron, Director

May is a busy month for the Churchery School as we begin to wrap up another wonderful year. May 15th @ 6:00pm is our year end concert with the 4's class, please feel free to come hear these children sing, you will leave with your heart full. The last week of May we will have picnics with all of our children and their families.

I want to thank the teachers of the Churchery School for their dedication to our students. Susan Green, Yuki Sobue, Jessica Morin, Jenn Lamoureux and Amber Titus spend countless hours making sure our students receive the best experience possible. I'd like to thank Courtney Robinson our Board President and Betsy Sargent our Treasurer for the many hours of their time and their never ending support of the school.

The Churchery School ranks as one of the top preschools in the Farmington Valley and it's because of all the fine work and dedication of all those mentioned above and the many others that support the school.

The 4s class recently went on a field trip to Flamig Farm, enjoy the pictures!





CENTRAL CONNECTICUT PARISH COUNCIL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

What a special Good Friday service held at Plainville UMC that was led by the 7 pastors of the 7 churches in our Parish. Additionally several laity read scriptures and prayers including Diane Hornaday and Kay Hunter. Well attended including 16 from Memorial.

Pastors from left to right:

Sungmu Lee, Memorial UMC – Avon!!
 KunSam Cho, Asbury UMC, Bristol
 Gia Hall, Bakerville UMC
 Sun Joo Lee, First UMC, Torrington
 Stephen Volpe, Plainville UMC
 Yungyeun Lee, Prospect UMC, Bristol
 Parker Prout, Litchfield/Bantam UMC

KIDS FOR CHRIST DAY Bakerville UMC June 3 - 11 am – 1 pm

A fun day for kids of all ages – sponsored by the 7 churches of our Central Connecticut Parish.

Games, foods, crafts, storytelling and more!!!
 Invite friends to join you!!!

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT PARISH CHURCH EVENTS

Kay Hunter

Prospect UMC

Annual Renaissance Dinner Theater

Saturday, 5/6

\$30.00 7 course meal and entertainment.
 Limited seating – contact Luisa at
thegladus@comcast.net

Asbury UMC – Blessing of Animals – Sat. May 6, 10-12 - Ceremony and opening remarks will begin at 10:15 followed by individual blessings with the pastor. Bake sale benefiting local shelters along with a collection of animal items and monetary donations. Rain or shine.

First UMC Torrington – Mother’s Day Brunch, Sunday, May 14 8-12 - scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, home fries, toast, coffee, orange juice – all you can eat - \$10

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



TOILETRY PACKETS FOR UMCOR

Health/Hygiene Items needed for asylum seekers-

The United Methodist churches, in our parish, have decided to make health kits for asylum seekers arriving in New York City. Some of the UM churches in the city are directly ministering to this 40,000, or so, population. Our missions committee is actively working on this project by collecting the hygiene products most needed. This list of items was compiled by the Rev. Nikki Hutt, NYAC disaster response and missions coordinator. You can sign up for items with Sign-up Genius. An email of church updates and the Sign-up Genius link has been sent to church members and friends. All items purchased can be left in the back of the sanctuary in designated box. Thank you.

Linda Johansen, Missions

[Avon MUMC 2023: Health Kits \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

MEAL FOR WINSTED

Laura Gorden

On **April 1** - 64 meatloaf meals were delivered to Winsted. Thank you to Courtney Robinson, Jeff Tremback, Sue Yankus, Brenda Slone, John Perotti and Dave Gorden for helping to prepare and deliver these meals.

June 3 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 2 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.

The 2023 Schedule for Winsted meals is:

June 3	October 7
August 5	December 2

MEMORIAL'S FOOD PANTRY



Please help keep our food pantry stocked. The 3rd Sunday of each month please bring non-perishable food items to drop off in a cart that will be at the back of the sanctuary. At all other times food items can be dropped off in the blue bin located outside the kitchen or you can just put your food items inside the food pantry cupboard located in the upper parking lot of the church.

Most useful food pantry donations:

- Boxed milk or Powdered milk
- Pasta sauce and pasta
- Mac and cheese
- 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 dressing
- Personal hygiene products

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.



UMARMY 2023

Laura Gorden

We did not get enough participants to hold the UMARMY Pop-Up Weekend scheduled for June 23-25. However, we would still like to hold the work weekend to complete two projects in the community and to work on the gazebo project on the church grounds. We will plan to work on **Saturday June 24 starting at 9 AM** and finish the day with a shared dinner at the church. If the projects aren't completed on Saturday, we will either finish them on Sunday or schedule another Saturday work day.

REPORT OF TRUSTEES

John Fillian, Chair



Building

Bill are sexton took a vantage of Churchery School vacation to wax the floor is in the first floor bathrooms as well as the hall and has done some cleaning that he typically cannot with the students there.

Power Doors at Downstairs Entrance

We ask the congregation for some help. We're trying to minimize the use of the power doors on the first floor entrance. For those that will open and close the building at times We ask that both doors be unlocked and turn the switch on that operates the power door opener. And when closing and locking the building, the switch for the power openers be turned off, and both doors be locked. This will save unnecessary wear and tear on these doors that are expensive to purchase an expensive to maintain please reach out if you have any additional questions about this

Church grounds

A big Thank You to the ten people who assisted April 8th on the church grounds cleanup. Accomplishments included trimming bushes, raking, weeding, and repairing divots in the lawn from snow plow. We are truly blessed to have such a beautiful property. (Hal and Linda Johansen, trustees)



THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

Our title for May is *The Forest of Vanishing Stars* by Kristin Harmel. "After being stolen from her wealthy German parents and raised in the unforgiving wilderness of eastern Europe, a young woman finds herself alone in 1941 after her kidnapper dies. Her solitary existence is interrupted, however, when she happens upon a group of Jews fleeing the Nazi terror. Stunned to learn what's happening in the outside world, she vows to teach the group all she can about surviving in the forest—and in turn, they teach her some surprising lessons about opening her heart after years of isolation. But when she is betrayed and escapes into a German-occupied village, her past and present come together in a shocking collision that could change everything." [goodreads.com]

Our discussion will be held Sunday, May 21st at 7pm. Our meetings are hybrid, held both in-person (in the Parlor) and on Zoom. If you would like the Zoom link, please contact Heather. Remember, all are welcome!

BISHOP BICKERTON'S DAY WITH THE DISTRICT
MAY 8, 2023
 Meriden: First UMC
 159 East Main Street
 Meriden, CT 06450
DINNER 6:00PM - 7:00PM
BISHOP'S PRESENTATION: 7:00PM - 8:30PM

BISHOP BICKERTON AND REV. DORIS K. DALTON

COOPERATIVE PARISH DISCUSSION WITH Q&A SESSION

HOSTED BY:
The Greater Hartford Parish

NYAC Connecticut District
 "Connect with One Another, One Another, One Another"



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greg Slone

Adjusting for carryover from last year, the current general fund balance as of the end of March was roughly a surplus of \$3,000. This surplus thus far 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 previously passed a motion to invest the church reserve and endowment funds in safe, liquid assets that can produce some positive returns. 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 treasurer has implemented this investment approach.

A financial task force was established to generate ideas to address the roughly \$62,000 deficit for 2023 with approaches that will be ongoing and extend into future years. The ideas are then passed to other committees such as finance, trustees, SPR, etc., for further consideration. Any major changes within the church must ultimately be approved by the church council. To date, ideas implemented include switching various utilities to cheaper alternatives where feasible, further utilizing church building facilities (such as the STEM program being held this summer), investing endowment/reserve funds, along with other ideas. These ideas have thus far reduced the projected deficit for 2023 roughly in half with approaches that will perpetuate into future years as well.

The quarterly individual financial giving statements will be sent to each person via email going forward, which will provide further savings to address our budget deficit. If you would like to instead continue receiving a paper statement going forward, please contact the financial secretary Diane Hornaday who can accommodate your request.

To address new Connecticut retirement savings laws, the church will be offering retirement

savings options to most paid church employees (including the Churchery School). The treasurer will be providing further information to various church employees (including the Churchery School) in the near future.

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, the price for altar flowers is now \$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, **June 4 and 25** are open for a flower dedication. Please consider this and any other future dates.

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.



GOD CREATED MOTHERS

Erma Bombeck

When the Good Lord was creating mothers, He was into His sixth day of "overtime" when the angel appeared and said, "You're doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."

And God said, "Have you read the specs on this order?" She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have 180 moveable parts...all replaceable. Run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a lap that disappears when she stands up. A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair. And six pairs of hands.

The angel shook her head slowly and said, "Six pairs of hands... no way."

It's not the hands that are causing me problems," God remarked, "it's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have."

"That's on the standard model?" Asked the angel. God nodded.

"One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, 'What are you kids doing in there?' when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, 'I understand and I love you' without so much as uttering a word."



"God," said the angel touching his sleeve gently, "Get some rest... tomorrow...."

"I can't," said God. "I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick... can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger... and get a nine-year old to stand under a shower."

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed.

"But tough!" said God excitedly. "You can imagine what this mother can do or endure."

"Can it think?"

"Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise," said the Creator.

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the check. "There's a leak," she announced. "I told You that You were trying to put too much into this model."

"It's not a leak," said the Lord. "It's a tear."

"What's it for?"

"It's for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride."

"You are a genius," said the angel.

Somberly, God sad, "I didn't put it there."



Date	Time	Pg.	Event
Fri. 5/5	5-6:30 pm	6	Cinco de Mayo Supper
Sat 5/6	4-6 pm	3	MUMC Youth – Sonny's Place, Somers
Mon 5/8	6-8:30 pm	13	District Meeting with Bishop Q & A – Meriden UMC
Mon 5/15	6 pm	10	Churchery School – 4s Concert
Fri 5/19	5:30 pm	8	Pot Luck Supper
Sat 5/20	8 am- 10 pm	6	MUMC's participation in Relay For Life of Farmington Valley
Sun 5/21	7 pm	13	Other Good Book Group
Fri 6/1	12 pm	5	First Friday Pot Luck Lunch – Honoring our Nonagenarians and Centenarians!!!
Sat. 6/3	TBD	11	Central CT Cooperative Parish – Kids For Christ Day
Sat. 6/3	12-4	6	Car Show at MUMC

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT LATEST HAPPENINGS!

www.avonunitedmethodist.com

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