

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

**Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD**

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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>

Our 2023-2024 confirmation class began last month, and I would like to ask you to pray for our six confirmands: Alexa Hunter, Madison Lamoureux, Ella Ross, Daniel Slone, Makayla Tardiff, and Robert Tardiff. Before they are confirmed, they will attend Sunday worship regularly and study at the 13-session confirmation classes with the pastor. In addition, they will spend at least 30 hours serving at church activities and pass the final oral test. Finally, they will become the newest professing members at our church on September 15, 2024.



presence, your gifts, and your service” (The United Methodist Book of Worship, 93). Let us remind ourselves of our own confirmation. Let us remember when we became professing members of our church. Our church has a number of official members, but not many of us have practiced what we promised at the membership ceremony.

The confirmands and I will study the meaning of confirmation: what do we confirm? We confirm our baptism. At our baptism we were dedicated to God, being born again by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, our life is no longer ours but God’s: we cannot live as we want but as God wants.

We sometimes differentiate “active members” from “members.” Yet, I heard a colleague of mine saying, “Our church does not use those terms because all members are active members.” His church has applied a strict rule of maintaining membership. So, if its members want to keep their membership, they are responsible for faithfully participating in its ministries by their prayers, presence, gifts, and service.

Why do we confirm our baptism? In fact, our infant baptism was not our choice: You and I did not sign our baptismal application forms, nor do we even remember what happened at our baptism. If infant baptism was the decision of our parents, then confirmation is our own decision to accept and confirm our baptism. Now, the confirmands are old enough to make this important decision for their spiritual journey.

I am saying this, not because I want to apply strict rules for our ministry together, but because I want to remind us of what we have promised with God, and what we have to do as members of our church. As I often say, rights and responsibilities always go together. As Christians we have become the children of God, and by faith we have been given eternal life. On the other hand, as Christians and as members of our church, we have some things we have to do. Now, let us practice in our Christian lives what we have promised with God.

When you became a member of our church, you promised at the ceremony that you would “faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your

Sungmu Lee

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## 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 at Memorial - in the interest of safety and wellbeing of all and especially our little ones.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

1	Jean Erickson	14	Linda Harris
2	Esther Petersen	16	Brian Hunter, Sr.
3	Diane Hornaday	16	Brendan Kelsey
4	Killian Webster	17	Adrian Pizarro-
8	Bob Erickson		Slevinsky
8	Elizabeth Slone	25	Gabby Sweet
9	Gail Colon	26	Miles Borenstein
10	Jo Cragin		

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

Rhett and Mary Tew

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



Big thank you to all who supported our Pumpkin Patch and our several October events. Final report of success of the Patch will be available soon.

Won't you come out on **Saturday, November 4** 8:30 am to help put away palettes and clean up the Patch to prepare for the coming fall and winter months!!!

## NOTES FROM PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

Kay Hunter



### Joining forces with Records & History Committee

to recognize and honor our Veterans. All will have the opportunity to

order an **American flag to which will be attached the name, branch of service and years or era of service of those remembered**. The flags will be displayed on the lawn along the road the week before and after Veterans Day. To honor loved ones, please **send the information to Kay Hunter** via [the church office](#). Please provide info asap as we plan to **place the flags by Sunday, November 5**. All will be alphabetized We encourage you to take time to walk the path to see all who are being honored and remembered.

Also during worship on **Sunday, November 12**, **all veterans will be honored** with the playing of the songs from the 5 branches with the opportunity for all to sing along.

We will continue to honor our veterans during fellowship hour with a display of photos of veterans. **Please bring photos** – in uniform if possible – and provide name, branch of service and years or era of service if possible - on index cards that will be provided.

## THURSDAY, LUNCH BUNCH

is a casual get together of MUMCers every Thursday at noon (except week of First Friday Potluck Lunch). We meet in Fellowship Hall and 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, and grab a lawn chair (limited bench space available.) **There's always room for more!!! Just give us a try!!!!**



## FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK LUNCHES

continue the first Friday of each month at noon.

Next is **November 3**. As

always if you can, bring your favorite salad, casserole, dessert or snack to share. Good conversation and fellowship guaranteed!!!

Looking forward to our special



## HOLIDAY FIRST FRIDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

Friday, December 1  
12 noon

Our first holiday event!!! Come to enjoy roasted turkey and all the fixings!! Bring your favorite holiday dish to share if you can!! Enjoy a great time singing carols and sharing time together as well!!!

**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. Better to get several messages than none. Thanks for your help in keeping us all informed and able to keep all in prayer.



## HONORING OUR SAINTS

Sungmu Lee



“Historically, the Church has confessed a belief in the ‘communion of the saints,’ which includes not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we experience the communion of saints, feasting with believers’ past, present, and future. The author of Hebrews 12 reminds us that these saints, a ‘great cloud of witnesses,’ surrounds us and cheers us on.

On All Saints Day, United Methodists publicly remember and honor those who have passed away. Celebrated on the first Sunday in November, many congregations light candles, ring bells of remembrance, and call the names of those lost in the previous year as a way

If you order 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. of honoring the impact their lives have had on us (Resource United Methodist Church).”

Our church will be lifting up names of those who have passed away during the past year in celebration of All Saints Day, November 5<sup>th</sup>. **Please get names of those you would like lifted up to the church office ([avonmumc@gmail.com](mailto:avonmumc@gmail.com)) by November 1<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday)!**

May the Lord bless us with spiritual gifts as we remember our All Saints!



Immediately following 10:30 worship on **11/26** we will be decorating the sanctuary and beyond in preparation for Advent. Many hands make light work. Please stay for a few minutes to hang wreaths, garland and banners.

## NEW ALTAR CLOTH

Pat Bruinsma

Worship Committee

Our new altar cloth which was consecrated at the 8:30 by service on October 1, 2023.



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## ALTAR FLOWERS

Barbara Chase /  
Linda Arnold



Altar Flowers

A few openings remain in December on the **2023 Calendar - December 3, 17 and 31**. If you would like to order flowers for one of these days, 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.

Due to rising costs of flowers, the price for altar flowers is now \$40.

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## MAILING LIST FOR NEWSLETTER

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, for the newsletter to be mailed to your home monthly, please email the church office at [avonmumc@gmail.com](mailto:avonmumc@gmail.com).



## Greetings from the MEMORIAL GARDEN

Jeff Tremback

The Memorial Garden welcomes you, one and all. Mother Nature does not discriminate on any basis and welcomes everyone to the garden to enjoy its peacefulness and its beauty.

Time to sing that lullaby and gently put the garden to bed for the season.

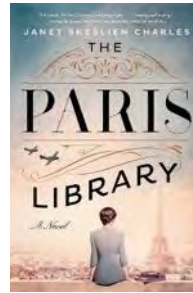
We had a successful final workday for the season. As we do every year, we prepared the garden for its winter slumber. Even the irrigation system has been prepared for the winter to prevent frozen water lines.

Good night and pleasant dreams dear garden. We are eager for your awakening again in the spring. The Garden committee is now on vacation, too. BUT we extend an open invitation to all who wish to join our ranks in 2024 and play in the dirt. We need new members to carry on our garden ministry for the future. NO experience is necessary. Any and all on-the-job training will be provided. It's fun to play in the dirt. Just ask your young children.

The garden belongs to ALL so please come to enjoy its beauty and its serenity even during the fall and winter. Please schedule some time to visit

the garden each week and mark it on your calendar. Block out some special time for yourself to relax and renew.

God bless



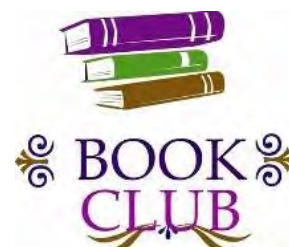
## THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

For our November discussion we will visit *The Paris Library*. Based on true story, this novel by Janet Skeslien Charles takes us from Paris in WWII to Montana than 4 decades later.

**“Paris, 1939:** Young and ambitious Odile Souchet has it all: her handsome police officer beau and a dream job at the American Library in Paris. When the Nazis march into Paris, Odile stands to lose everything she holds dear, including her beloved library. Together with her fellow librarians, Odile joins the Resistance with the best weapons she has: books. But when the war finally ends, instead of freedom, Odile tastes the bitter sting of unspeakable betrayal.

**Montana, 1983:** Lily is a lonely teenager looking for adventure in small-town Montana. Her interest is piqued by her solitary, elderly neighbor. As Lily uncovers more about her neighbor’s mysterious past, she finds that they share a love of language, the same longings, and the same intense jealousy, never suspecting that a dark secret from the past connects them. A powerful novel that explores the consequences of our choices and the relationships that make us who we are—family, friends, and favorite authors—*The Paris Library* shows that extraordinary heroism can sometimes be found in the quietest of places.” (goodreads.com) We will meet on Sunday, November 19th at 7pm. Our discussions are held in the Parlor and on Zoom (contact Heather if you need the link) and all are welcome!





# KIDS DAY AT THE PATCH

Beth Slone

A BIG thank you to all who helped make Kids Day at the Patch a special time for the children of our church and community. In particular, thanks to all who gave their time in the planning, setup, manning tables, and breakdown all much appreciated. We offered crafts, games, face painting, cookie decorating and moon bounce.

Special thanks to Hal and Linda Johansen for their much-loved hayrides, to Guy and Chris Johansen for bringing goats (including two week-old goats!) and to Brian Hunter for arranging for the Tunxis Hose FD firetruck for all of the kids to see and enjoy. The weather could not have been more perfect. Attendance was steady all day and many families stayed for a long time to enjoy and to visit with others.



# RIBS & FIDDLERS

Linda Kime

We had fun on Saturday Oct. 21 in our fellowship hall! Rainy weather didn't stop 50+ folks from enjoying a pork rib lunch with beans & biscuit on the side. AND the CT Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers group of 8 musicians entertained us for an hour with many tunes and a special guest David Chase singing a silly song about crawdads! Big thank you to kitchen workers Duncan Martin, Dave Chase, Jim Lombardi, Linda Johansen, Hal Johansen & Linda Kime.





## MEAL FOR WINSTED

Laura Gorden

On **October 7** 64 meatloaf meals were delivered to Winsted. Thank you to David Gorden, Brenda Slone, John Perotti, and my friend Jean Bergen for helping me to prepare and deliver these meals.

**December 2** 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.**



## Fellowship After Worship

Keeping it very light and simple this year. We appreciate the committee members giving us this service.

## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime

Responsibility for hosting Fellowship Hour rotates among the many committees of MUMC.

November Fellowship Hour Hosts are...

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Coordinates worship services with the pastor and music director; ensures a holy and sacred place for the service of worship; educates the congregation concerning the worship of God.

## RECORDS & HISTORY COMMITTEE

Mission is to preserve historical records of the church that future generations can know our heritage.

## MEMORIAL'S FOOD PANTRY



Please help keep our food pantry stocked by bringing non-perishable food items to 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 – **corn (we currently have plenty of peas and green beans on hand)**
- Canned fruits
- Soups/beef stew
- Tuna/salmon
- Canned meats/chicken, beef, spam
- Rice
- Beans/black, red, navy, baked
- Cereal/Instant Oatmeal
- Stuffing
- Knorr sides
- Cereal bar/protein bars/granola bars/ cracker packs
- Single serve applesauce and fruit
- Peanut butter/Jelly
- Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate
- Vegetable Oil
- Cake mix/Cookie mix
- Mayonnaise/Salad dressings
- Personal hygiene products



## THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Our church will join the Interfaith Thanksgiving service on Tuesday November 21st at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Avon (224 Lovely St).

A soup supper will be at 6pm and the interfaith service at 7pm. Watch for more information.



## REVITALIZATION

### Excerpts from “REVIVAL– Faith as Wesley Lived It” - Adam Hamilton

We lament that many of our churches are no longer growing. Part of it is demographics, since many of our churches are located in rural areas where populations are in decline. Part of it is a lack of vitality in our music, preaching, and small groups. But I'm convinced that a big part of it is that we've lost our passion to do whatever it takes to reach those who don't yet know Christ. That passion drove John Wesley and our forebears to preach on the hilltops, at the market crosses, in the cemeteries, and wherever they could get a hearing in order to share the good news of God's grace and love for all people....

.... But Wesley didn't do it alone. It was done by all who heard him preach, who felt called to revive the faith of people to Great Britain, in America, and wherever Methodism spread. These people longed to see their lives changed by God's grace. They wanted to renew the church of their day and transform the world. The revival that took place during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries happened because of the men and women who answered God's call to preach, teach, and minister to the multitudes.....

.....Christ offers us the gift of salvation - a word that is full of life and deep meaning. The gift came at great cost to him. The gift was for you and for everyone you know. I would ask: Have you opened the gift? Have you accepted God's grace? And, knowing that Christ has asked you to share the gift with others, have you told them about it? Don't wait until it's too late to share the story of God's amazing grace.

Who is God calling you to share his love with this week?



## TRUSTEES REPORT

John Fillian, Chair

**Parsonage** - We have replaced the boiler. It was leaking and due to its age, it didn't warrant a repair. Unfortunately this was not a budgeted cost so any assistance we can receive on the cost would truly be appreciated. The fence that runs along West Avon Rd and Kingsbridge Rd is in rough shape. We added additional supports to it with the intent to get a few more years out of it. Shout out to Bill and Hal for their work in trimming shrubs and trees on the property

**Church Building** - It's that time of year, The heat has been turned on in the air conditioners in nursery have been put away. (With this in mind please be aware when opening windows during the day. Temperature can drop at night. We don't need heat running with windows open.)

**Church Grounds** - Our team is approximately 90% done with the garden bed recapture. There's still additional work to be done in the front bed and pavilion area. With the activities this fall in and around this area the thought is to wait until the end of the season to wrap it up.

**Our fall cleanup is scheduled for November 4 at 8:30.** We can always use extra hands for this. Thank You

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## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions

Chris Calandriello



Our study on Saturday mornings based on the devotional book, **Amazing Grace: 366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions** continues. There are scripture references which correspond to the words that we study and discuss what they mean in our lives. We sing these hymns, but no experience is necessary in reading the Bible or music! We pray as the Holy Spirit leads us and enjoy time together in fellowship.



## MISSIONS

Linda Johansen



The Tag Sale / Bake Sale held on September 30th was quite a success, despite the rain. Our profits totaled \$737.15. Thanks to all who donated items to sell, workers who worked tirelessly to price and sell items, and bakers who produced tasty foods.

Soon, we should be hearing from our Covenant to Care case manager concerning Thanksgiving food baskets. Please be on the lookout for a Sign Up Genius email to help donate.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Greg Slone

Adjusting for carryover from last year, the current general fund balance as of the end of September was a year to date deficit of just over \$24,000. However, it is expected this deficit position will improve over the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year as folks have returned from summer vacations.

The parsonage boiler required replacement which wound up costing just under \$7,000, against an expected eight to ten thousand. The trustees are asking the congregation for a special collection to help cover a portion of the boiler replacement cost. To date, roughly \$2,000 has been raised via this effort.



## 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 11:30 am**. 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.

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT LATEST HAPPENINGS AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION!**

***avonunitedmethodist.com***

# CHURCHERY SCHOOL NEWS

Jean Baron, Director

On Thursday, October 23rd the Farmington Fire Department came to talk to our students about fire safety. They did a wonderful job demonstrating to our children how they would help them if they needed help, showing them that they shouldn't be afraid because they are our neighbors. We are very grateful for all the work our firefighters do for our community.

I was honored to be invited to the Girl Scouts Troop 66304 meeting on October 19th to be presented with reusable and sustainable coloring books and activities for the Churchery School children. Troop 66304 earned their Bronze Award with this project. They spent a lot of time thinking through the details of what would be appropriate for our age students. They did an amazing job; our students are going to enjoy what they made for them.

November is a time for being grateful for family and friends. We will come together as a Churchery School family with Thanksgiving feasts.

We hope you and your family and friends have a lovely Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

~ Jean, Susan, Jenn, Yuki, Jess and Jaclyn



Farmington Fire Department visits Churchery School



Girl Scout Troop 66304



## PAVILION DEDICATION

On Sunday, October 22, family and MUMC friends gathered for the dedication of our Pavilion which was donated to Memorial by Linda Arnold in memory of her husband, Ken Arnold.

Check out the bulletin board display in Fellowship Hall for photos and acknowledgment of all who contributed to the building of the pavilion, which will provide us with a special place for meetings, fun and fellowship.







**CONNECTICUT  
CENTRAL  
COOPERATIVE  
PARISH**

**PARISH SPONSORED EVENTS:**

**SPIRIT OF JOY ADVENT SERVICE – Sun 12/3  
2 pm First UMC, Torrington.** Musical service with musicians from churches and community. Rehearsal 12/2.

**LIVING NATIVITY – Sun 12/10 time TBD –** Telling of the story of Christmas with guides, shepherds, angels, Mary, Joseph and Wisemen singing carols that tell their story. Staged outdoors with live animals. Followed by refreshments in Fellowship Hall. Looking for participants from all churches. Leader from MUMC Kevin Sweet

**PARISH CHURCH EVENTS**

**ASBURY UMC, 90 Church Ave., Bristol**  
**PORK ROAST DINNER Sat. 11/4 1 and 5:30 pm** Come and dine with us as if you were a king or queen. Sumptuous pork and side dishes served family style will delight everyone. Apple crisp for dessert. Tickets - \$15.00: adults. \$5.00: children (12 and under) Take Out: \$15.00 **Call 860-584-0529 for tickets** Tickets must be purchased in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.

**YANKEE PEDDLAR FAIR, Fri. 11/17 5-8 pm Sat. 11/18 9am-3pm –** Pancake Breakfast 8-10 am. Apple fritters, baked goods, cemetery arrangements, cookies, handmade items, silent auction, vendors, Yankee peddler grille

**FIRST UMC, 21 Fern Drive, Torrington**  
**MEAT LOAF DINNER, SAT. 11/18 4:30-7**  
Dine in or take out. Call Deb Stafford for tickets. \$15 for adults 860-489-0698

**NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER!!!**

Date	Time	Pg.	Event
Fri. 11/3	12 pm	3	First Friday Lunch
Sat. 11/4	8:30 am	3, 8	Pumpkin Patch / Trustees Clean Up Day
Sat 11/4	1 and 5:30 pm	11	Pork Roast Dinner – Asbury UMC
Sun 11/5	8:30 & 10:30 am	4	All Saints Day Remembrance
Sun 11/12	8:30 / 10:30 am	3	Veterans Recognition
Wed 11/15	7 pm		Church Charge Conference (Parlor/Zoom)
Fri. 11/17	5-8 pm	11	Yankee Peddler Fair, Asbury UMC
Sat. 11/18	9-3 pm		
Sat 11/18	4:30-7 pm	11	Meat Loaf Dinner – First UMC Torrington
Tue. 11/21	6 pm / 7 pm	7	Thanksgiving Interfaith Service

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS -- LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER!!**

Date	Time	Pg.	Event
Fri. 12/1	12 pm	3	Holiday First Friday Lunch
Sun 12/3	2 pm	11	Spirit of Joy Advent Service–First UMC, Torrington (Parish Event)
Sun 12/10	TBD	11	Living Nativity MUMC (Parish Event)
Sun 12/24	TBD		Christmas Eve Worship





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