



Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD

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Church Office: (860) 673-2111
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Church Email: avonmumc@gmail.com
Website: avonunitedmethodist.com

Sunday Worship Schedule:
8:30am Worship Service with Communion
9:30am Sunday School for all ages
10:30am Family Worship Service

Church Office Hours: Tue, Wed, Fri 11 am - 4 pm
Sexton Hours; Mon-Sat 6-8 am Mon-Thu 1-2 pm
(estimate) on call as needed via cell (860) 960-3360

On line worship:
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/avon.mumc/>
Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/user/AvonMUMC>

Welcome to February! One month has already passed since we took the first step into the new year. We are now getting familiar with the number 2024.

Some people say, "I wish I had more than twenty-four hours a day. I need additional hours: I am so busy doing so many things." If you agree with them and would like additional hours in your life, I have good news for you. You may have guessed what I am talking about. Yes, we will have additional twenty-four hours in February of 2024.

If you still do not know what I mean, then take a look at the calendar. Now, you have got it. This year is a leap year, and we have twenty-nine days in February. Therefore, we will have additional twenty-four hours this year! If you were born on February 29, you will be happier than others this year. You would often celebrate your birthday on February 28 or March 1. Yet, this year you can celebrate your birthday on the exact day. Happy birthday!

We are happy to have an additional day which usually happens every four years. If we were to have additional days more frequently, then how



happy would we be? Here is a person who reminds us that every day is an additional day. Paul says, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh lives by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:19a-20).

As Paul says, we Christians symbolically die with Christ at our baptism, and we are then born into new life. Each one of us is anointed at baptism and marked as God's own forever. Our lives are not ours but God's. Now, we are living by the grace of God. Therefore, every day we are living is an additional day. How happy we are in having everyday as an additional day!

As we have an additional day this February, let us remind ourselves that every day is an additional day given to us by the Lord. If we believe so, isn't it natural to praise and thank the Lord through our lives?

Sungmu Lee

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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



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

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

Dave and Laura Gorden
Matthew & Christin (Daley) Gorden

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



SUPER BOWL GRINDERS!!!

Sunday, February 11
Kevin Sweet

The youth of UM ARMY will be selling Super Bowl Grinders again this year as a fundraiser for our camps this summer. You can choose from 6” or 12”, with selections such as the Italian Stallion, Tuna, Prosciutto, Homemade Meatball and Vege. We also have Clam Chowder and Chili. The sign-up genius for ordering is open and here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CA8AA22A6FF2-47499155-super>. You can also access on the MUMC website: avonunitedmethodist.com main menu.

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE TROUBLE GETTING OUT



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



FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The giving reports are completed and ready for you to pick up in the narthex. Any that are remaining will be mailed following the last Sunday of the month. Please review your statement on receipt so if you have any questions or corrections we can take care of that before we get too far into 2024.

I have prepared envelopes only for those who have made intentions for weekly or monthly giving. If you are not among that group but would like to have some envelopes please let me know. I have enough to let everyone have however many they would like to have.

If you plan to let me know what your intention for 2024 is but have not yet contacted me it is never too late. It is always helpful to the Finance Committee to have an idea of what we can anticipate.

Finally, we know that circumstances can change. Your church appreciates your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness - the many and various ways you support the ministries and missions of MUMC.

Diane Hornaday, Financial Secretary
860-673-9634

MUMC MISSIONS AT WORK

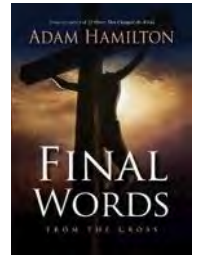
Laura Gorden, Committee Chair

Thanks to the congregation's support of our fundraising events throughout the year, the Missions Committee was able to give a year end donation to the following:

- Farmington Fuel Bank
- Avon Fuel Bank
- Food Packaging Project

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

We will start the Lenten Bible Study both in-person and on zoom on February 7th (Wednesday at 7pm) and on February 8th (Thursday at 10:30am), using the book, "Final Words from the Cross" written by Adam Hamilton. You may come either on Wednesday or Thursday.



"This book examines Christ's dying hours and his final words as seen and heard through the eyes and ears of those who stood near the cross. Moving through each chapter you will begin to understand and respond to Jesus' final words at the cross while learning about those who were eyewitnesses to the crucifixion. The final chapter moves beyond the cross to Jesus' words to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and to those who were witnesses to the Resurrection."

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



TRUSTEES REPORT

John Fillian, President

Trustees is starting the year off with the same team we had last year. And this team agreed to take on the same tasks they had last year. Rolling into this year should be a simple transition.

The trustees are looking forward to taking on the needed tasks and working for the MUMC family. Please reach out if there's anything we can help you with. A reminder there is a clipboard in the mailbox cabinet for issues around the church that need to be addressed. Please jot down a quick note if something is needed and we will address to the best of our ability.

Thank you for your support, and may God bless us with a good year.

FROM PASTORAL CARE:

FIRST FRIDAY VALENTINE POT LUCK LUNCH

Friday, February 2 - 12 noon

Please join us for our monthly Pot Luck Lunch. Always great fellowship and conversation!! Bring your favorite main dish, side dish, salad, snack or dessert to share if you can – but it's not required!! Hope to see you there!!!

THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH



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.

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!!!!**

KEEP US INFORMED FOR PASTORAL CARE

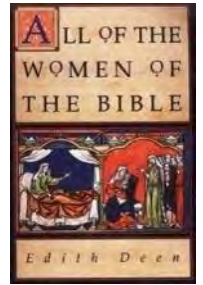
Just a reminder that if you should hear of someone from the congregation who is ill or has another need for pastoral care, please **notify the church office** who will share the info with the **Pastor and Pastoral Care Committee**.

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Women of the Bible Chris Calandriello

Women's Bible study continues on Saturday mornings 10-11:30 am in the Parlor and now on Zoom!!! Studying Women of the Bible, based on the book, **All the Women of the Bible**, by Edith Deen. Bring or have your Bible on hand to participate!!! Come when you can.



CHURCHERY SCHOOL

Jean Baron, Director

The Churchery School returned after the Christmas break ready to start 2024 with a lot of learning and play! We celebrated Martin Luther King Day talking about how we are more alike than different. Our egg experiment shows exactly that; we had a brown egg and a white egg that look different on the outside but when you look inside they are the same. Dr King wanted us all to be kind to each other no matter what the color of our skin is.

We are still registering for the 2024-2025 school year with a few openings in all of the classes. We wish you a healthy, safe, WARM New Year!



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



Tuesday, February 13
Serving 5:30-6:30

Come and enjoy a variety of pancakes, sausage, bacon applesauce, juice, coffee and tea. Free will donations will be accepted and will benefit MUMC's 24/7 food pantry that serves our communities.

Please join us and support this cause.

All youth (and parents) are invited to serve – preparing, cooking, serving and enjoying fellowship together!!!!



MEAL FOR WINSTED

Laura Gorden

On **December 2** we delivered 64 meatloaf meals to Winsted. Thank you to all who helped cook the food, fill food containers, wash dishes, clean the kitchen, and deliver the meals to Winsted.

Next Winstead meal preparation is **February 3**. Always looking for people to help me with this mission project. Would love to have the youth help me some time.

The 2024 Schedule for Winsted meals is:

February 3
April 6
June 1
August 3
October 5
December 7

LOOKING FOR FAMILY BIBLES

Anne Fitzgerald



Do you have an interest in family history and genealogy? Are you “the family genealogist?”

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are actively looking for family bibles that include genealogical information such as marriages, births, baptisms and deaths. Preserving this genealogical information can enable women to join the DAR who might otherwise remain stuck behind a brick wall. Bible records often are the only evidence of parent-child relationships and other vital records in the 19th century. Even in towns that were diligent about collecting vital records, inevitably some people got missed. This is one of the most valuable ways that you can help women join the DAR — women who might be in your own immediate and extended family. Bibles in foreign languages are welcomed and will be translated.

As a member of the local Abigail Phelps DAR Chapter in Simsbury, I photographed my own maternal family bible dating back to 1876 and submitted it. If you would like to participate in this effort, please catch me at church, call me at 860-673-1216 or email me at afitzgerald138@gmail.com and I will arrange to photograph your bible for submission. Future DAR members will be incredibly grateful!

In addition to the DAR, the Godfrey Memorial Library, an independent, non-profit library specializing in genealogy, family history, and local history in Middletown, is also interested in family bible information. The staff can help you research your ancestors, on site or online. www.godfrey.org. I am happy to submit your bible information to them as well or teach you how to do it. There is also a genealogy library in Simsbury, the Simsbury Free Library, 749 Hopmeadow St. <https://simsburyfreelibrary.org/>.

REVITALIZATION!!

Kay Hunter Kevin Sweet

Revitalization! Rebirth! Regrowth! Rejuvenation! Revival! Whatever we want to call it, it's our attempt to recover from the effects Covid had on ministries. Also we are among many churches and congregations who have been experiencing a decrease in membership and participation. We will continue our efforts to change that. We would like to thank John Baily for his leadership for the past 1 ½ years in this effort. We hope we can fill your shoes.

It will be our goal to have at least one event at MUMC each month to encourage you all to come and participate, as well as invite friends and neighbors to join you. We will publicize and invite our communities to join us.

Our upcoming events include:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Tuesday
2/13 – serving 5:30-6:30

St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner, Friday,
3/15 – 5 pm

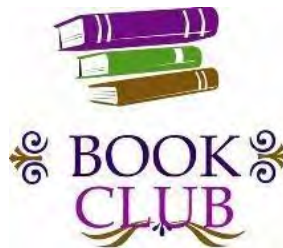
Easter Sunday Breakfast, Sunday 3/31 –
Between services

Cinco de Mayo Mexican Dinner – Sunday, 5/5

Our wish list for activities also includes a craft show, touch a truck, car show and speakers on Autism and Aging Healthy Center. We certainly welcome any ideas for events and will be seeking volunteers for each of the events. Look for the table in the narthex for information on upcoming events as well as the opportunity to sign up to be a part of events.

We sincerely hope you will all join us in our efforts to reach out to the unchurched in our communities and bring them to MUMC so they can experience the fellowship, friendship, worship and most especially to develop relationships with God and Jesus. That's our ultimate goal!!

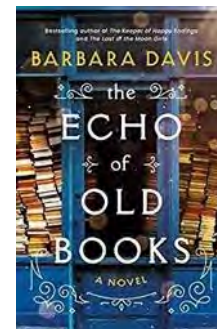
Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 at 7 pm in the Parlor or on Zoom. All are welcome to join us to share ideas and to get involved with our regrowth, revitalization, rejuvenation, etc.!!!



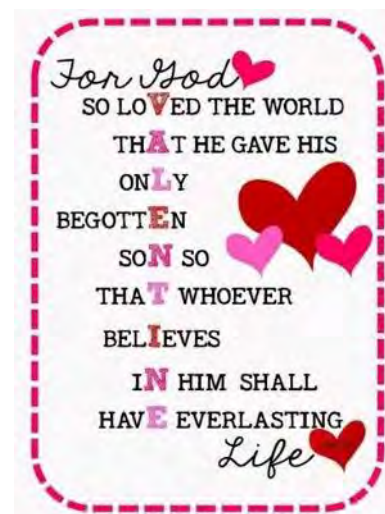
THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

At our February meeting we will discuss *The Echo of Old Books* by Barbara Davis. “Rare-book dealer Ashlyn Greer’s affinity for books extends beyond the intoxicating scent of old paper, ink, and leather. She can feel the echoes of the books’ previous owners—an emotional fingerprint only she can read. When Ashlyn discovers a pair of beautifully bound volumes that appear to have never been published, her gift quickly becomes an obsession. Not only is each inscribed with a startling incrimination, but the authors, Hemi and Belle, tell conflicting sides of a tragic romance. With no trace of how these mysterious books came into the world, Ashlyn is caught up in a decades-old literary mystery...Determined to learn the truth behind the doomed lovers’ tale, she reads on, following a trail of broken promises and seemingly unforgivable betrayals. The more Ashlyn learns about Hemi and Belle, the nearer she comes to bringing closure to their love story—and to the unfinished chapters of her own life.” (goodreads.com)



Our discussion will be held in person and on Zoom on Sunday, February 18th at 7pm. We meet in the Parlor and all are welcome!





FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime

Fellowship Hour is back in full swing down in Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship.

Responsibility for hosting Fellowship Hour rotates among the many committees of MUMC. Keeping it very light and simple this year. We appreciate the committee members giving us this service.

February Fellowship Hour Host is...Committee on Nominations & Leadership Development.

Nominates to the Church Charge Conference in its annual session such officers and members of the Church Council, Church Charge Conference, and committees as the law of the Church requires or as the conference or church may determine as necessary for its work. Committee members must be members of MUMC and serve a three-year term.

CONNECTICUT CENTRAL PARISH COUNCIL

Kay Hunter

Our Parish Council again this year is offering the opportunity to be part of an **early morning devotion throughout lent**. Monday thru Friday at 7 am you can join Zoom to experience daily devotions offered by clergy and lay members of our six churches. Response to last year's was very positive. We hope you will take advantage of this experience. It involves prayer, a short message and then an opportunity for sharing. The zoom

devotion will also be available for all to view and benefit from later each day.

The zoom ID is 962 333 2699

Also mark your calendars now for **GOOD FRIDAY worship, Friday, March 29**, for a service presented by clergy and laity from our 6 churches with scriptures and messages regarding the last 7 words of Christ. Location to be determined.



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.



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.



Alan Schultz, President
Pedals for Progress, www.p4p.org
PO Box 312, High Bridge, NJ 08829
908-399-8217, alan@p4p.org

pedals for progress, M
Putting used bikes to good use

November 29, 2023

Memorial United Methodist Church
867 W. Avon Road
Avon, CT 06001

Dear Anne and the Memorial United Methodist Church,

As we reflect on the culmination of our fall collection season, I wanted to extend our deepest appreciation to you and the Memorial United Methodist Church for sponsoring a fall collection with us and bringing in 163 bikes and 82 sewing machines! Your dedication to Pedals for Progress and our mission has made a significant impact, and we are profoundly grateful.

Your commitment to hosting a collection site has not only facilitated the gathering of bicycles and sewing machines but has also played a crucial role in advancing our overarching goal of providing individuals in developing nations with tools of personal empowerment. Your efforts directly contribute to the establishment of economic stability and sustainability, embodying the essence of our mission.

The success of our fall collections, including shipments to Guatemala, Albania, Uganda, Sierra Leone, and Togo, would not be possible without your efforts. Your involvement is instrumental in propelling Pedals for Progress forward, allowing us to extend our reach and make a positive difference in communities worldwide.

On behalf of our partner programs abroad, I'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support. Your generosity and commitment to our cause inspire us to continue striving for meaningful impact. We look forward to the prospect of future collaborations and the shared journey toward empowerment and positive change. I hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

S

Alan Schultz
President



Fri. 2/2	12 noon	First Friday Valentine Pot Luck Lunch
Sat. 2/3	9 am	Winsted Meal Prep and Delivery
Wed. 2/7	7 pm	Lenten Study – Chapter 1 led by Sungmu Lee
Thu. 2/8	10:30 am	Lenten Study – Chapter 1 led by Sungmu Lee
Sun. 2/11	11:30 am	Super Bowl Grinder Delivery
Tue. 2/13	5:30-6:30 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wed. 2/14	7 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Thu. 2/15	12 pm	Lunch Bunch
Wed. 2/21	7 pm	Lenten Study – Chapter 2 led by David Chase
Wed. 2/22	10:30 am	Lenten Study – Chapter 2 led by David Chase
Wed. 2/28	7 pm	Lenten Study – Chapter 3 led by David Chase
Wed. 2/29	10:30 am	Lenten Study – Chapter 3 led by David Chase
Wed. 3/6	7 pm	Lenten Study – Chapter 4 led by Diane Hornaday
Wed. 3/7	10:30 am	Lenten Study - Chapter 4 led by Diane Hornaday
Wed. 3/13	7 pm	Lenten Study – Chapter 5 led by Diane Hornaday
Wed. 3/14	10:30 am	Lenten Study – Chapter 5 led by Diane Hornaday
Fri. 3/15	5 pm	St. Patrick’s Day – Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
Wed. 3/20	7 pm	Lenten Study – Chapter 6 led by Sungmu Lee
Wed. 3/21	10:30 am	Lenten Study – Chapter 6 led by Sungmu Lee
Sun. 3/24	9:30 am	Palm Sunday Holy Week Workshop
Thu. 3/28	7 pm	Holy Thursday Services
Fri. 3/29	7 pm	Parish Good Friday Services location TBD
Sun 3/31	6:30 am 8:30 am 9:30 am 10 am 10:30 am	Sunrise Service on the Patio Alleluia!!! Easter Worship Pot Luck Easter Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt Alleluia!!! Easter Worship
<i>EASTER!!!!</i>		

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

avonunitedmethodist.com



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