



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

**Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD**

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

As we celebrate Easter, we proclaim, “Jesus Christ has been resurrected. Let us rejoice!” Yet, some of you may say, “I don’t have any reason for great joy in my life.” Why do some of us rejoice and others of us do not, even if both are in similar situations? One of the main reasons is that the former has been resurrected with Christ and the latter has not. We are alive physically but sometimes dead spiritually. Thus, we should continually be raised with Christ as Paul says, “We Christians die every day and are raised with Christ every day.”



name of Jesus Christ,” but we know it will cost a lot to give up our prestige and to become equal to those who we think are “inferior” to us. We say, “Forgive others as we have been forgiven by God,” but our instinct forces us to seek revenge on them. We do not want to change.

Then, why do some of us stay in the spiritual tombs? We may enjoy being spiritually dead or at least, have become so comfortable in our burial clothes that we cling to. We do not want to change. We hear Jesus shouting, “Come out!” but we pretend not to hear him. We want to stay in the tombs with the sense of superiority, arrogance, selfishness, prejudice, and rudeness, because we are so comfortable with these burial clothes.

It is a fight between our Christian faith and our human nature. We hear

Jesus’ voice, and it is up to us whether we come out of the tombs or not. We could continue to stay in the tombs. However, if we do not encounter life, we will never know the joy of salvation. We will never know what it is like to be loved by God and to love God in return. We will never know what it is like to be forgiven and made whole, and to be at peace.

We say, “Include others who are different from us,” but we know it could be uncomfortable to share our lives with them. We say, “We are equal in the

You and I should come out of the tombs in order to have the great joy of Easter. May the Lord be with us and give us wisdom and faith so that we may be resurrected with Jesus Christ and taste the joy of salvation. Happy Easter!

Sungmu Lee

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## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

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



## 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



## REVITALIZATION!!

Kay Hunter Kevin Sweet

Success of our Corned Beef Supper reported later in newsletter. We hope this is the beginning of greater things to come. Some visitors at the supper expressed interest in our next supper as well as Easter sunrise service!!!!

Our next event will be Mission Committee's **SOUP SUPPER** followed by

## CINCO DE MAYO MEXICAN DINNER

Sunday, 5/5 5-6 pm

Mark your calendars now!!!!



We have a "Regifting" Bingo Night in the works for fall. Our wish list for activities also includes a craft show, touch a truck, and a speaker on Autism. 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!!

## KEEPING KITCHEN SUPPLIES PLENTIFUL!!

If you are working in the kitchen and should discover that we are low on a supply – whether it be napkins, coffee cups, plastic ware, or even coffee, please make note of this on the clipboard that our sexton, Bill, has placed by the kitchen phone. Just jot down the note and Bill will see to it that the supply is replenished. Thanks for your help with keeping our cupboards full. Thanks to Bill for taking care of this for us!!!!



## MISSIONS COMMITTEE SOUP SUPPER

Laura Gorden



**April 19** the Missions Committee will be hosting a soup and bread dinner in fellowship hall from 5:30 to 6:30. This will be an open invitation to the community as a free will dinner. All funds raised will be used for our mission projects throughout the year.

Projects Include: Winsted Meatloaf Meals; Covenant to Care Families: Easter Baskets, School Backpacks and Supplies, Thanksgiving Dinners, Christmas Gifts; Community Food Pantry; United Missions Action Reach-out Ministries by Youth; Project Adopt a Village in Ethiopia; Oksana Petrova missionary work in Russia; CT Foodshare; Community Fuel Banks

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## PAIRS AND SPARES 2024

Anne Fitzgerald

Last year we resumed this fun practice of having dinner at other church members' homes and will be doing the same this year. You can be part of a couple or a single. In 2023 we were two couples and one single. Each host then invited three other different people each time, one couple and a single or three singles. We met in three different homes with the host providing the entree and the others everything else.

At the first dinner, the group decides who will host next and when, then that host will invite another couple or single(s). The date decision can be made later when convenient. Repeat the third time. There is no specific time frame, just whenever it works out for the core group's schedules during 2024.

If you would like to sign up, please email me at [afitzgerald138@gmail.com](mailto:afitzgerald138@gmail.com) or call at 860-573-1216.

**CONNECTICUT DISTRICT  
GROW YOUR CHURCH  
THROUGH EVANGELISM!  
Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

West Hartford United Methodist Church  
1358 New Britain Ave., West Hartford

Are you passionate about **spreading hope, love, and faith**? Do you feel called to share the transformative power of the Gospel with others? If so, we invite you to join us for a special **Evangelism Event** that promises to ignite your spirit and equip you for outreach like never before!

We truly believe that this event will be a catalyst for **growth and collaboration**. Your attendance would contribute immensely to its success. Please see the event details below.

Open to All!!! Registration required.

8:30 am Continental Breakfast  
9 am How to Grow Through Evangelism  
12 pm Lunch  
1 pm Keynote Speaker & Concert  
featuring The New Room Choir,  
Rev. Jeremiah Paul, and more!

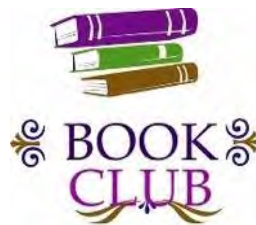
Contact Kay Hunter via [the church office](#) for registration and any further information.

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**PASTORAL COVERAGE  
PASTOR LEE'S VACATION, ETC**

Pastor Sungmu will be away for vacation, continuing education and spiritual renewal from April 2 through May 8. He and Hyeonjin will be visiting Peru, doing some hiking and even visiting Machu Picchu!

Our wonderful lay speakers will be preaching those 5 Sundays. For any spiritual needs or requests for prayer, please **contact Kay Hunter** who can contact other pastors in our cooperative parish to meet any needs.



**THE OTHER GOOD  
BOOK GROUP**

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

In April we will discuss *The Paris Bookseller* by Kerri Maher. "When bookish young American Sylvia Beach opens Shakespeare and Company on a quiet street in Paris in 1919, she has no idea that she and her new bookstore will change the course of literature itself. Shakespeare and Company is more than a bookstore and lending library: Many of the prominent writers of the Lost Generation, like Ernest Hemingway, consider it a second home. It's where some of the most important literary friendships of the twentieth century are forged--none more so than the one between Irish writer James Joyce and Sylvia herself.

When Joyce's controversial novel *Ulysses* is banned, Beach takes a massive risk and publishes it under the auspices of Shakespeare and Company. But the success and notoriety of publishing the most infamous and influential book of the century comes with steep costs. The future of her beloved store itself is threatened when *Ulysses'* success brings other publishers to woo Joyce away. Her most cherished relationships are put to the test as Paris is plunged deeper into the Depression and many expatriate friends return to America. As she faces painful personal and financial crises, Sylvia--a woman who has made it her mission to honor the life-changing impact of books--must decide what Shakespeare and Company truly means to her." [goodreads.com]



Our discussion will be held on **Sunday, April 21st at 7pm**. Our meetings are hybrid (in the Parlor and on Zoom) and all are welcome!

# CORNER BEEF AND CABBAGE SUPPER

Kevin Sweet

*We gathered on St Patrick's Day briefly  
To stock the church food pantry chiefly  
I helped avoid starvation  
With my small donation  
And got me some cabbage and corned beefy!!*

The St Patrick's Day dinner was a **great success**. We had almost **90** people attend, including more folks from outside our church than I can remember.

Thanks to all the bakers, youth, volunteers and diners, we collected **\$782** for our food pantry (100% of which goes towards the food), plus we had one couple bring a box of food as a donation. For those who remember the tower of food from the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, this one is almost double.

I recently met my new friend Kenny in Unionville (who is currently homeless) and gave him our address. The next time I saw him, he said he picked up some peanut butter and jelly. He doesn't have access to electricity, so he can't use the stuff that needs cooking, but with a loaf of bread, he was able to get himself many meals. The nature of our gift is, by definition, anonymous, so while we may not realize who we are helping, because of it, many, many people know that we care about them (even if we have never met).



**FULL HOUSE!!!!**

*St. Patrick's Day*





## PASTORAL CARE:

### FIRST FRIDAY POT LUCK LUNCH Friday, April 5

Spring is here!!! We will celebrate it by enjoying the floral decorations that have been placed in Fellowship Hall – spring is new beginnings!!!

We hope to see many folks come out to enjoy our lunch together. Always great food and fellowship!!! Invite friends both within and beyond MUMC to join you!! Bring a dish to share if you can, but there’s always plenty if you can’t.

### THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

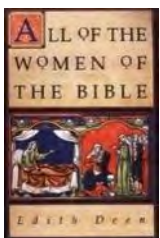


Lunch Bunch is a casual get together of MUMCers every Thursday at noon (except week of First Friday Potluck Lunch). We meet in Fellowship Hall and bring our own lunches, sometimes share some cookies. It has become such an enjoyable custom.

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 beverage. Coffee and tea are available. **There’s always room for more!!! Just give us a try!!!!**

### 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.

## MEMORIAL GARDEN

Good day to you all,

The winter is hopefully behind us. I won’t say that too loudly for fear of another late season snow storm. But it is time to start thinking and planning for the 2024 Memorial Garden. I am excited about this new garden season because some flowers, trees, and plants have already begun to grow and bloom, earlier than in past years. We will be planting our annuals in late April or maybe early May. And then, from there, the garden usually explodes with color and new green growth.

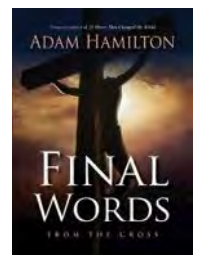


And keep an eye on the poppies which grow at the base of the flagpole. They usually bloom in early June and are big, brilliant, red flowers that are guaranteed to make your day. The Garden Committee invites everyone to visit the garden to rest, and relax, and be at peace with the world. PLEASE visit the garden on a regular schedule, or occasionally as your busy schedule will allow, to watch the garden grow over time as it goes from wonderful to even more wonderful. Bring a friend to share the experience, have a relaxing lunch, come to meditate, commune with nature, or be with a loved one who is remembered in the garden. Just come to the garden. You will never regret it.

Peace,  
Jeff Tremback  
Memorial Garden Committee chairperson

### LENTEN” BIBLE STUDY “THE WORDS AFTER THAT”

The last chapter of “Final Words from the Cross” is a “Postscript: The Words After That”, so we will be offering one more week to study that chapter. We will meet on **Wednesday, April 3 a 7 pm and Thursday, April 4 at 10:30** in the Parlor and on Zoom.



## MUMC YOUTH

MUMC's Youth and particularly confirmands have been busy.



### GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

March 10

MUMC provided special recognition of Girl Scout Sunday with a blessing of the Scouts in attendance. All current and former Girl Scouts and Girl Scout leaders stood to recite the Girl Scout Pledge and Promise. MUMC's Girl Scouts **Alexa and Makayla** served as Worship Leaders and **Makenzie** served as Acolyte. Girl Scout leaders provided our refreshments for Fellowship Hours.



### ST. PATRICK'S DAY SUPPER AT MUMC

March 17

Following the Pottery outing, four of our confirmands: Makayla Tardiff, Alexa Hunter, Robert Tardiff and Daniel Slone, Makayla Tardiff and Robert Tardiff returned to MUMC to help with preparations for our supper and then were the servers for the meal.



### PASSION PLAY

March 23

On Saturday, March 23, a group from MUMC attended the outstanding Passion Play presented annually by and at St. Luke's Catholic School in Southington. It was their 46<sup>th</sup> annual with approximately 50 performers presenting the life of Jesus from his birth to the Ascension!!!

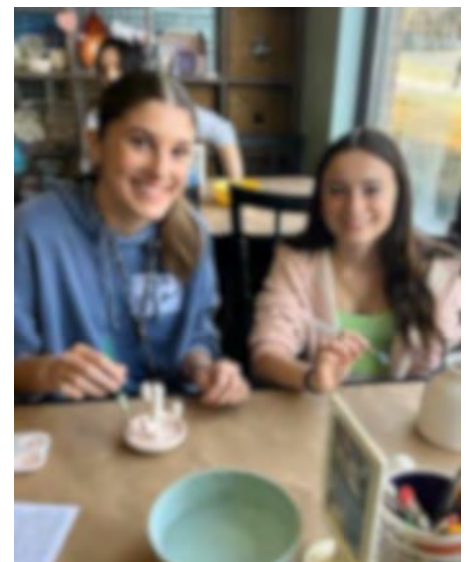
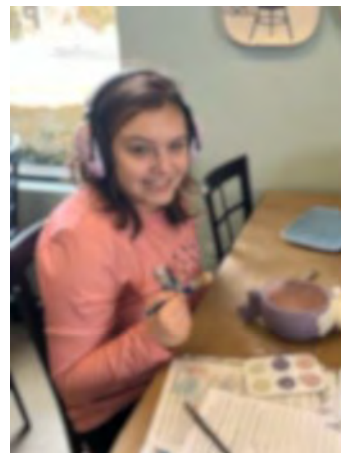
Youth in attendance were Alexa, Daniel, Julia, Daniel, Makayla and Robert, along with Kay Hunter, Linda Kime, Beth Slone and Kevin Sweet. I am sure all would agree it was an awesome experience!!!



# POTTERY PIAZZA

March 17

On Sunday, March 17 our youth and friends gathered at Pottery Piazza in Plainville to use their imaginations painting pieces of pottery. Looks like it was a creative and fun time for all. The pieces needed to be left behind to be fired. Can't wait to see the results!!!





## HEALTHY AGING PROGRAM A SUCCESS!!

Anne Fitzgerald



The Monday, March 11th evening meeting about Healthy Aging, the world's Blue Zones and Power 9 behaviors drew 18 attendees in person and on zoom. Living to 100 occurs frequently in those zones and residents practice healthy behaviors.

Presenter Amina Weiland is well qualified to counsel you regarding healthy habits. She is Resource Coordinator with the Hartford HealthCare Center for Healthy Aging where she is responsible for coordinating programs and training and providing resources for community members. She has been a certified health and wellbeing coach since 2019. Amina is also a certified dementia practitioner through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners, a certified CHOICES counselor providing health insurance information to the community, and a Live Well Chronic Conditions and Chronic Pain Self-Management Programs facilitator. She has offered to present on other topics if there is interest, free of charge. If you have a particular area of interest, please let me know.

You may also contact her directly. Feel free to use my name and/or Memorial United Methodist Church.

Amina Weiland, *Resource Coordinator*

Hartford HealthCare  
Center for Healthy Aging  
2 Northwestern Drive, Suite 500  
Bloomfield, CT 06002

P: 860.286.3236 F: 860.286.3239

C: 203-859-0406

E: [amina.weiland@hhchealth.org](mailto:amina.weiland@hhchealth.org)

W: [www.cthealthyaging.org](http://www.cthealthyaging.org)



## 2024 MUMC VACATION BIBLE CAMP

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW**  
**MON-FRI AUGUST 12-16**  
**9 am – 12 pm**

***Whenever I'm afraid, I put my trust in You. Psalm 56:3***

Surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills, Camp Firelight is the perfect location for every Camper's favorite summer activities! During each assembly session, Campers join first-time camp counselor Sam and Lu (short for Lumen), the lightning bug puppet, and learn to face their fears while trusting in God.

Our campers will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. Details and registration information will be available soon!! If you are interested in joining the fun this year as part of the staff, please contact Beth Slone at [aliannabet@yahoo.com](mailto:aliannabet@yahoo.com) or Diane Hornaday at [dhornaday@sbdglobal.net](mailto:dhornaday@sbdglobal.net).

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## MUMC COMMITTEES OPEN MEETINGS

Do you have an interest in what's happening with MUMC committees ...church council? Have ideas, questions, concerns? Please be aware that with the exception of Staff Parish Relations and Nominations Committees which require confidentiality – ALL meetings are open for anyone to attend. While all have a voice, only committee members have a vote. All input and ideas are appreciated. We would love to hear from you....

Our website calendar lists all committee meetings.



## TRUSTEES REPORT

John Fillian, President

Sliding through March without much trouble. March is inspection month. Happy to say everything looks good.

Smoke alarms, emergency lights, fire extinguishers, and elevator inspections all went well. The final walk-through will be with the fire marshal at the end of the March.

The sins of winter are coming to the surface - as they usually do in the spring with abundance of sticks and pinecones, plow divots in the grass. The usual stuff.

We made an attempt to have a yard cleanup before Easter. But due to the rain looks like it'll have to wait. But don't be surprised if you see various volunteers doing what they can do on the sunny days during the week. It looks as though the daffodils at the lower entrance are enjoying the warmth of the sun.



## MEALS FOR WINSTED

Laura Gorden

On **February 3** we delivered 64 meatloaf meals to Winsted. Thank you to Jeff Tremback, Rick Zeiser, and Carol Merritt who helped me cook the food, fill food containers, wash dishes, clean the kitchen, and deliver the meals to Winsted.

Next Winsted meal preparation is **April 6**. 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:

June 1  
August 3

October 5  
December 7

## CHURCHERY SCHOOL

Jean Baron, Director

April is a special month for our preschool children. After celebrating Easter, we look for new life everywhere. We are hoping the snow is behind us and we can spend more time outside so we can go on special hikes around the church looking for the flowers popping up, buds on the trees, birds making nests (especially in our bird house) and spend time running on the famous Churchery School hill.

The last week of April our 3's and 4's will go on a field trip to Flamig Farm, a favorite place for all of us to visit. We are hoping there will be some baby pigs to see!

The teachers are going to take a Professional Development class in April, we look forward to learning some of the new curriculum ideas for preschoolers.

We recently had conferences with our 3's and 4's parents, we received some nice compliments about our program. I feel honored to work with such a terrific team of teachers who are devoted to the Churchery School and the families we work with.

Registration is ongoing, we have a few openings in the 2's class.

Please know that you are welcome to come and visit our classes. Read a book, sing a song or make a picture at our art table with our precious children.

Happy Spring!!





## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime

Fellowship Hour in Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship continues to be a vital time of conversation and fellowship.

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 Missions Committee.

The Missions / Outreach Committee is called to fulfill Jesus' commandment to serve God's people. We do this by supporting people and programs both local and in the wider world with our prayers, gifts and service.

We coordinate and facilitate the mission ministry of the congregation; educate the congregation about outreach opportunities; support a wide variety of both local and international outreach.

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## 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 the **Pastor or Kay Hunter, chair of 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.



## 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.

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# BISHOP'S DAY *Connecticut District*



What a glorious evening gathered with United Methodists from all over the Connecticut District!!

Our time began at 4 with Bishop Bickerton meeting with the clergy and lay leaders of our Parishes. We heard about the hopes and plans for the future of the United Methodist Church. This time was followed by the Bishop's meeting with all clergy.

Then over 200 attendees were served a wonderful supper with a great variety of foods— in the Methodist tradition!!!

We were then joined my many others – even in the large Meriden church there was not an empty pew. We were treated to the singing of the New Room Parish choir and all were invited to join in the singing of the choruses of familiar hymns....

echoing off the church walls. Resulted in many goosebumps!!!

Bishop Bickerton and his staff shared with us plans and hopes for our future as United Methodist Churches. We realize that 25% of our churches in the United States have chosen to disaffiliate – but 75% remain and are looking to a strong future of ministry as United Methodists!!!

We closed the evening with all receiving communion.

Truly a wonderful, spiritual and hopeful time together!!!

Check out our Facebook page for additional photos and video.





## 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. If you would prefer to make a

monetary donation to the missions committee, notated for food pantry, I am willing to do the shopping.

Most useful food pantry donations for the winter season:

- Boxed milk or Powdered milk
- Cereal/Instant Oatmeal
- Pasta sauce and pasta
- Mac and cheese

- Soups/beef stew
- Canned fruits
- Tuna/salmon
- Canned meats/chicken, beef, spam
- Rice
- Beans/black, red, navy, baked
- Peanut butter/Jelly
- Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate
- Personal hygiene products



## 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.



Day/Date	Time	Event	Pg.
Wed 4/3	7 pm	"The Words After That" – final lesson from "Final Words"	6
Thu. 4/4	10:30 am	"The Words After That" – final lesson from "Final Words"	6
Fri. 4/5	12 pm	First Friday Potluck Lunch	6
Sat. 4/6	8:30	Winsted Meal Prep	10
Sat. 4/6	10 am	Women's Bible Study	6
Sat. 4/13	8:30-2:30	CONNECTICUT DISTRICT GROW YOUR CHURCH THROUGH EVANGELISM!	4
Sat. 4/13	10 am	Women's Bible Study	6
Fri. 4/19	5:30-6:30	Soup and Bread Supper	3
Sat. 4/20	10 am	Women's Bible Study	6
Sun 4/21	7 pm	Other Good Book Group	4
Sat. 4/27	10 am	Women's Bible Study	6
Sun 5/5	5-6 pm	Cinco de Mayo Mexican Supper	3
Sun 5/12		MOTHER'S DAY	
Mon-Fri 8/12-16	9-12	Vacation Bible Camp	9

**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**