



Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

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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>

The postponed General Conference was held and concluded last month. Not all delegates agreed with the more inclusive stance, but the United Methodist Church had made historical decisions/changes, especially for its stance on human sexuality. General Conference delegates eliminated the 52-year-old indication against homosexuality from the Book of Discipline: “The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” No more discrimination against LGBTQ sisters and brothers in the United Methodist Church!



Some of us have raised questions: “The Bible is against homosexuality. How can we accept homosexuals? Are we denying the Bible?” If you have been in the Bible Study at our church, you must have heard me saying, “We Christians should not read the Bible literally but spiritually.”

It is true that the Bible is filled with condemnations against homosexuality: Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, 1Corinthians 6:9-11, 1Timothy 1:10, and so on. In addition, the Bible is against divorce, too: Matthew 5:31-32, Matthew 19:8-9, Luke 16:18. How about slavery in the Bible? There are more

than 30 Bible verses that support slavery or at least, do not condemn the slave system. And polygamy? Abraham and Jacob practiced polygamy.

The Bible “[permits] no woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she is to keep silent” (1Timothy 2:12). Actually, those who were against the women’s ordination quoted that Bible verse. There are a lot of forbidden foods in the Bible: pork, bacon, ostrich, ham, sausages, emu, eel, shark, crab, clams, oyster, mussels, lobster, scallops, and crawfish. The Bible emphasizes the tithes in Malachi 3:7a-9. God says, “You are robbing me!” You say, “How are we robbing you?” God answers, “In your tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me.”

If I had a logic of condemning homosexuality because the Bible says so, it would be in serious self-contradiction. I officiate in a wedding for the divorcees, disagree with slavery, and eat the forbidden foods. I do not even ask my wife to obey me. I ask female preachers to give sermons while I am away. I do not force you to give the tithes. And I do not sell everything I possess to give to the poor.

(Continued on Page 2)

Again, we should not read the Bible literally but spiritually. We should not read the Bible selectively. There are so many laws that the Bible says, and Jesus gave us the new commandments: “Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.”

There are so many things in the Bible that were true at that time but not anymore. You and I should not take the advantage of the Bible in order to support our insistence. We Christians should be able to distinguish God’s timeless will from the culture in which the Bible was written.

Then, who decides which Bible verses are God’s unchanging will and which ones are cultural things? It is not your pastor, not the bishop, but yourself. My role as a pastor is not to give you the answer but to help you to find your own answers. You will go to heaven by your faith alone. If your Christian conscience tells you to accept others as they are, you may follow it, and vice versa.

When I encounter difficult questions to answer, I imagine Jesus is with me and ask him, “Jesus, what would you do or say about this?” And I try to listen to him and do whatever he says to me. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16).

More questions would be raised: What is the next step? What does Memorial UMC need to do? I will write more after the NY Annual Conference which will be held on June 7th – 9th. Stay in tune and pray for our denomination and its future.

Sungmu Lee

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JUNE BIRTHDAYS



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

Jarrett Baker	Lea Johnson
Tina Tardiff	Mandy Roberts
James Kennedy	Heather Kelsey
Courtney Robinson	Dawn Giese
Becca Hallock	Jeff Tremback
Ruthellen Corbett	Christin Daley
Jeff Notestine	Nicole Gregory
Ashley Arnold Rau	Mollie Baker
Maribel Corbett	

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

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

Paul and Jean Anderson
Mark & Courtney Borenstein
John and Bev Perotti
Nat and Kim Brinn

If you would like your special day(s) added to newsletter and/or bulletin insert, please notify the church office at avonmumc@gmail.com.

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
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Bob E.
11 Litchfield Rd.
Unionville, CT 06085

REVITALIZATION UPCOMING EVENTS....



2nd Annual
CAR SHOW
Saturday, June 8
12-4
(Rain date: 6/15)

Please help us spread the word!! Would love to have a great display of cars!!

Invite friends, family and neighbors to join you to enjoy viewing the cars and welcoming participants. Enjoy hot dogs, chips and beverages on the upper courtyard. Donate your dollars and receive raffle tickets for the opportunity to win prizes donated by local merchants.

Seeking "raffle" prizes – please contact Kay Hunter via [the church office](#) if you would like to donate a basket, gift card etc.

Rain date will be Saturday, June 15.



CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, June 23
following 9:30 am
worship

Bring a dish to share and enjoy good food, fellowship and friendship on the upper church patio and on the grounds around the pavilion. Games for kids!!! Hot dogs, beverages and ice cream sundaes will be provided!!!

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!!



**FIRST FRIDAY
POT LUCK LUNCH**
Friday, June 7 12 pm

It's strawberry season!!! Come join us for some special Strawberry Desserts!!! Bring a main dish, salad, rolls, snack to share if you can, but there's always plenty if you can't.

Always great food and fellowship!!! Invite friends both within and beyond MUMC to join you!!

**Worship
Schedule**

**SUMMER
WORSHIP
TIMES**

Sunday, June 9th will be last day of Sunday School.

Sunday, June 16th will be the first Sunday of our summer schedule of one service at 9:30.

A celebration of confirmation will be held on September 15th at the 9:30 service.

We will return to two services at 8:30 and 10:30 on Sunday, September 22nd.



**MEAL FOR
WINSTED**
Laura Gorden

June 1 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.

**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!!!!**

PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Almighty God,

My Church is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a Church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and Faith, and a Church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same qualities.

There, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my Church to be.

Bless my journey Lord God, that I might build the Church

Through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen



WOMEN OF FAITH & FUN AT MEMORIAL

With much interest in developing a women’s program at MUMC, several met to share a lunch and social time and to discuss what types of things we would like to do. We hope to include all types of activities of interest to all.

We have decided we would like to partner with Missions Committee supporting their and additional activities. This might include some sewing for “Days for Girls” and other relevant projects. Sewing projects will be overseen by Linda Johansen (who has at least six sewing machines we can use.) Much interest in visiting museums, theater. Laura Gorden will be organizing these activities and our first is already on the calendar (see below).

LUNCH AT THE JOHANSEN’S

June 22 at 12 noon

All women of the church are invited to Linda and Hal Johansen’s, 48 River Road, Unionville, for lunch. Sandwich fixings, potato chips, beverages, and dessert will be provided. (If you follow a strict diet we suggest bringing your required food). Wear your comfortable shoes. Their driveway has plenty of parking. Any questions call Linda Johansen 860-673-6477.

After lunch we will proceed to....

“AMERICAN MURAL PROJECT”

Laura Gorden

A field trip to view the “American Mural Project” is being planned for **June 22 at 2PM in Winsted, CT**. Admission for a guided group tour of 10+ is **\$8/each** if paid in one transaction two weeks in advance.

Art: See the one-of-a-kind, massive three-dimensional artwork – 120 feet long and five stories high.

Make: Imagine your contribution to the world and create a project inspired by the mural.

People: Learn about the mural’s tribute to American workers – see and hear their inspiring stories.

Field trips provide an overview of Founder and Artistic Creator Ellen Griesedieck’s inspiration for the mural – the largest indoor collaborative artwork in the world, involving more than 15,000 people across the country. You will learn about the mural’s tribute to American workers, the people depicted in the mural and their stories, and why the subjects were chosen.

Please let me know of your interest to visit this amazing art project by **June 2** so that I can register our group at the \$8 ticket price. We must have at least 10 participants to receive that rate.

Certainly you can choose to join either or both of these back to back opportunities!!! Opportunity for great fellowship!!!



SEEKING GRADUATE INFORMATION

Education Committee

We would love to celebrate your academic accomplishments and share 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.

MUMC High School graduates will be honored with a reception following out 9:30 service on **June 16**. We hope they and their families will join us.



THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

In June we will discuss *Getting Out of Saigon* by Ralph White. "In April 1975, Ralph White was asked by his boss to transfer from the Bangkok branch of the Chase Manhattan Bank to the Saigon Branch. He was tasked with closing the branch if and when it appeared that Saigon would fall to the North Vietnamese army and ensure the safety of the senior Vietnamese employees. But when he arrived, he realized the situation in Saigon was far more perilous than he had imagined. The senior staff members there urged him to evacuate the entire staff of the branch and their families, which was far more than he was authorized to do. Quickly he realized that no one would be safe when the city fell, and it was no longer a question of whether to evacuate but how. *Getting Out of Saigon* is an "edge-of-your-seat" (*Oprah Daily*) story of a city on the eve of destruction and the colorful characters who respond differently to impending doom. It's a remarkable account of one man's quest to save innocent lives not because he was ordered but because it was the right thing to do." [simonandschuster.com]



Our discussion will be held **Sunday, June 16th at 7:00pm** in the Parlor. All are welcome!

HONORING OUR FATHERS



We are inviting all to honor and remember their fathers by bringing photos for a display in Fellowship Hall during Fellowship Hour. Index cards will be available for you to identify your dads by name as well as to enter your name.

We hope you will all take advantage of this opportunity so we can all enjoy this display.



MEMORIAL GARDEN

Hello Garden Lovers,

The garden is beautiful, as always, and ready for 2024. The annuals have been planted and new mulch has been applied. Now, everyone must to come to the garden and enjoy its splendor. Please don't miss out on an opportunity to be in tune with nature.

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



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.

2024 MUMC 2024 CONNECTICUT DISTRICT CONFERENCE

—STRONGER TOGETHER—



On Saturday, May 4, 2024, Linda Johansen, Linda Kime Diane Hornaday and Kay Hunter headed off to Trinity Church in Windsor to attend our annual District Conference. We enjoyed fellowship time with both our continental breakfast and lunch.

We were blessed to be treated to a talk and some great insight and ideas regarding growing our churches' participation presented by renowned Guest Speaker Dr. Leonard Sweet. An important message was to give people a job and be sure they know their churches need them.

Of course there was much more. We heard updates on CT District news and current events and participated in election of Trustees and District Leadership. We also witnessed the of lay servants including our own Linda Johansen.

We once again closed the day with some great music led by Pastor Jeremiah Paul of Hamden Plains UMC. I'm sure we would all agree it was a worthwhile and uplifting day.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
MON-FRI AUGUST 12-16**

9 am – 12:15 pm

Age 3 as of 8/12 (must be potty trained)
to those completing Grade 4

\$25 per child; max. \$60 per family

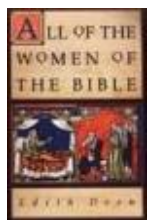
***Whenever I'm afraid
I put my trust in You.
Psalm 56:3***

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.

All children are invited to participate in Vacation Bible Camp – we have no limit on number of registrations – but early registrations help us in planning and organization.

To register your child (grandchild, niece, nephew, friend) and to view more information go to our website avonunitedmethodist.com and look for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL in the menu.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women of the Bible
Chris Calandriello

Women's Bible study continues on **Saturday mornings 10-11:30 am** in June. We will meet every Saturday except June 22 in the Parlor and on Zoom!!! Finishing up with 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!!!

We will take a break for the rest of the summer and return to our Women's Bible Study in September.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS....

CONDOLENCES...

To Susan Campbell and family, on the unexpected passing of her husband James Campbell, May 18.



WELCOME!!!

Lillian Alice, born April 26. And congratulations to parents Ben and Anna Lee (Tremback) Flinn.

Congrats also to Sister Madeline, and grandparents Jeff Tremback and Lee McGivney



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Mandy R. and Jason S. on their wedding in Spartanburg, South Carolina on May 4. Mandy is the daughter of the late Kay Roberts.



THANK YOU NOTE!!



A Thank You note was received from Katie Morris's daughter – and signed with a thank you from Katie.

Kathryn & friends –

Thank-you all so very much for all that you do for my mom...the visits, gifts, snacks, cards..., You all make her feel so special! The birthday parade, flowers, signs & balloons brought her to happy tears!!

Very fondly,
Robin Keating and family



CINCO DE MAYO DINNER

Sunday, May 5



Cinco de Mayo supper at MUMC was a big success. Great food, great fellowship and generous donations resulted in \$654 which was quickly spent to fill our 24/7 Community Food Pantry.

Thanks to all who cooked, helped with set up, serving and of course cleanup. We had several people from our community and even visitors from as far away as Granby who had seen our sign!!!





OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS

Barbara Chase / Linda Arnold

You can 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](mailto:linda.arnold@avonunitedmethodist.com). She will be glad to reserve a week for you.

The price for altar flowers is \$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 11 am to 4 pm.

At this time, **June 9 through August 11** are open for flower dedications. Please consider this and any other future dates.

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.

SEWING PEACE, PART OF PEDALS FOR PROGRESS

Anne Fitzgerald
860-673-1216

afitzgerald138@gmail.com

Normally I announce our bicycle and sewing machine collections for Pedals for Progress, but this time it's a little bit different..



I collect sewing machines year round then transfer the machines to P4P when it is convenient for a meetup. This time I will be delivering them on June 29 to the East Hartford Rotary Club's P4P collection. For those who might not know about P4P, it is a nonprofit in High Bridge, NJ that ships bikes and sewing machines to third world countries to provide transportation with the bikes and a revenue stream for women and their families with the sewing machines.

If you or anyone you know has sewing machines only to donate, please email or call me with any questions and/or to arrange for transfer. P4P asks for a \$20 donation per item (cash or check made out to Pedals for Progress) to go toward the average \$55 per item shipping fee. We will still have our usual dual collection in September 2025.





UMARMY GOLF/DINNER @ LYMAN ORCHARDS

Laura Gorden

On May 17 UMARMY held a fund raiser that included a golf/dinner outing at Lyman Orchards. Golf foursomes were formed and the teams played best ball. Steven & Tim Kelsey, Kevin Sweet and Craig Matava participated in golf for the day. In the evening there was a buffet dinner and silent auction. Michele Matava, Julia Sweet, Dave & Laura Gorden joined those that golfed and many other UMARMY friends for a most enjoyable evening. Dave even won two of the auction items (tickets to the Hartford Yard Goats and a Taste of Milford).

Steven & Tim Kelsey who teamed with Matt Hubbard and Jamie Watt (all young men that Dave and I have watched grow-up through UMARMY) won the golf outing with a score of 57. Craig Matava's foursome had a score of 62. I think Kevin Sweet and Pastor Roy Grubbs probably just played pranks on each other throughout the golf course.



THE PAVILION THE FINISHING TOUCHES

It's hard to see Mark Borenstein in this photo as he's up in the rafters of the pavilion putting the final touches on the electrical hookup which will provide lighting in the pavilion – with assistant Kevin Sweet.

Benches have been built and installed in the four corners of the pavilion by John Fillian.

Pavilion is ready for your visit!!!



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. The need continues to grow!!!!



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



CHURCHERY SCHOOL

Jean Baron, Director

Churchery School's 4 year olds presented the annual Spring conference in our sanctuary on Monday, May 13 to the delight of parents, grandparents, siblings and many others. They sang a great variety of songs and played two songs on the bells including America the Beautiful.

That week they paid a visit to our Thursday Lunch Bunch and shared a few of their concert songs to the delight of all in attendance!!!

Churchery families also recently collected donations and stuffed MUMC's Food Pantry.





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.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime

Worship

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.

June Fellowship Hour Host is Education Committee.

Education Committee organizes, supervises and oversees the total program of Christian education in the local church at all age levels and oversees special programming including the library, Christmas pageant, children's workshops and other activities.

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

Day/Date	Time	Event	Pg.
Fri-Sun 6/7-9		New York Annual Conference	
Fri 6/7	12 noon	First Friday Lunch	4
Sat. 6/5	12-4 pm	Car Show (rain date: 6/12)	3
Sun. 6/16	10:30 am	Graduate Recognition	5
Sat 6/22	12 noon 2 pm	Women of Faith and Fun Lunch and AMP Tour in Winsted	5
Sun 6/23	10:0 am	Church Family Picnic	5
Mon-Fri 8/12-16	9-12	Vacation Bible Camp	7

Happy
FATHER'S
Day ♥

MEMORIAL UM CHURCH
867 WEST AVON ROAD
AVON, CT 06001