



Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD

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Website: avonunitedmethodist.com

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

Summer Office Hours: Wed & Fri 9 am-2 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>

Our Lay Delegate, Diane Hornaday, and I attended the New York Annual Conference sessions last month. On the first day, when I heard the General Conference delegation report, I felt that it was the time to move on. Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton shared that there had been the attitudes of anti-bishop, anti-district superintendent, anti-pastor, and anti-United Methodist Church during the past four years. But now is the time to love rather than to fight.



A couple of months ago during the Confirmation class, we studied the difference between “unity” and “uniformity” in doing ministry together. Unity respects each other’s differences while uniformity seeks for the sameness. We are all different because God created us that way, but we become one in Jesus Christ, who died and was resurrected for all of us. As we respect each other’s differences, we are united as God’s children. This is the unity in diversity and the diversity in unity. On the other hand, if I say, “I am the pastor here. All of you should think like me and follow my decision,” then I become the one

who seeks the uniformity. We Christians should value “unity” and not “uniformity.”

I would like to highlight a couple of important decisions made by the General Conference this year. The first is about disaffiliations: the delegates at the General Conference deleted paragraph 2553 in our Book of Discipline, which means no more disaffiliation process. I was surprised to know this decision, in that I believed the process of disaffiliation would resume after this year’s General Conference. I heard from this decision that the United Methodist Church had been generous toward those churches that wanted to leave the denomination based on the issue of human sexuality, and now we are moving forward as a church that embraces theological diversity.

The second is about same-gender weddings. Each pastor is now allowed to officiate in same-gender weddings. Yet, this does not mean that each pastor and each church are required to permit same-gender weddings. The decision is up to the pastor and the local congregation.

(Cont’d on Page 2)

JULY, 2024

In order to prevent the pastor and the congregation from being in disagreement, bishops promised that they would “make appointments based on gifts, graces, experience, commitments, and theological alignment between congregations and clergy.”

“Clergy and congregations are now entrusted to make these decisions gracefully, considering their ministry context based on their beliefs and attitudes regarding ministry with and by LGBTQ persons” (The Letter of the Northeastern College of Bishops on June 11, 2024). This decision represents unity in diversity and diversity in unity; and not uniformity.

We may speak different languages because of the place of our birth or because we are of different generations, but we become one in Christ. We may disagree on politics or social issues, and we may disagree on the Bible or theology or on what hymns we like or dislike, but we are united in Christ. Let us remember that we are one family, God’s family, by virtue of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

NOTE IMPORTANT CHANGES...



CONTACT INFO FOR PASTOR SUNGMU

The parsonage landline phone will no longer be active as of July 1st.

Pastor Sungmu can be reached at his cell phone (631-456-1713) or by email.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Starting last week of June thru Sept 6th the church office will be open Wednesday and Friday 9 am - 2 pm.

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JULY BIRTHDAYS



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

- Harold Palmer
- Caroline Zeiser
- Chris Pizarro-Slevinsky
- Bruce Merritt
- Walt Sargent
- Jamie Smithers
- Mitchell Perkins
- Jeremy Notestine
- Larry Gregory
- Siji Oommen
- Julianna Sweet
- Bob Marshall
- Nicholas Graham
- Tony Rauche
- Jackson Gorden
- Makayla Tardiff
- Robert Tardiff
- Joan Couch

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

Bob E.
11 Litchfield Rd.
Unionville, CT 06085



FIRST FRIDAY POT LUCK LUNCH Friday, July 5 12 pm

Come join us for a special Independence Day Picnic Lunch. Hot dogs and the fixin’s will be provided. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share if you can’t, but there’s always plenty if you can’t. Ice cream sundaes will be provided!!

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

TALCOTT MOUNTAIN “CELEBRATE” CONCERT Friday, July 5 (rain date 7/6)



An MUMC tradition!!! Hartford Symphony Orchestra Concert and Fireworks! Bring your own lawn chairs and/or blankets and picnic supper (also concessions available). Meet up with fellows MUMCers to enjoy your meal and the concert!!! All ages. Get your tickets on line or buy at the gate. [2024 Celebrate America! | Hartford Symphony Orchestra](#)



SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

Summer Worship is held at 9:30 throughout the summer. As the sign in front says, we have **JC** and **AC**!!! Come, worship in cool comfort.

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.



SUMMER FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime

Fellowship hour has a monthly schedule for various committees to host September through June.

The months of July and August are NOT assigned and we depend on volunteers to provide a little snack and iced water, lemonade (mix in cabinet). If you do not partake in providing snacks during the rest of the year, please consider doing your part to continue this fun time for everyone.

I would be happy to help you, or grab a friend to volunteer with you. It's easy in summer - no coffee, very light food! Contact Linda Kime 860-305-0526, lmk318@aol.com



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 in May 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. Much interest in visiting museums, theater.

We hope you can join us for our first event.....

WOMEN OF FAITH & FUN "AMERICAN MURAL PROJECT"

Laura Gorden

A field trip to view the "American Mural Project" is being planned for July 13 at 2PM. A group has been registered but it is not too late to join us. Admission is \$12 (\$10 for seniors).

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 if you are interested in joining our group. We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:15; leaving for Winsted promptly at 1:20 pm.



SEEKING SPECIAL SUMMER MUSIC

For the summer months, we are looking for volunteers to provide special music during 9:30 worship. This opportunity is for both young and old. If interested, please e-mail our music director, Tamari Witkin at the email address below along with your instrument and/or voice type (i.e. bass, soprano) and any music you enjoy playing.

Available dates are: 7/14, 8/18, 8/25

middleseamusic11@gmail.com

Choral and Bell Choir rehearsals resume on Thursday August 22nd, 5:00 pm Choral Rehearsal; 6:15-7:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal.



THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

July's title is *Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea. "In 1943, Irene Woodward abandons an abusive fiancé in New York to enlist with the Red Cross and head to Europe. She makes fast friends in training with Dorothy Dunford, a towering Midwesterner with a ferocious wit. Together they are part of an elite group of women, nicknamed Donut Dollies, who command military buses called Clubmobiles at the front line, providing camaraderie and a taste of home that may be the only solace before troops head into battle.



After D-Day, these two intrepid friends join the Allied soldiers streaming into France. Their time in Europe will see them embroiled in danger, from the Battle of the Bulge to the liberation of Buchenwald. Through her friendship with Dorothy, and a love affair with a gallant American fighter pilot named Hans, Irene learns to trust again. Her most fervent hope, which becomes more precarious by the day, is for all three of them to survive the war intact." [goodreads.com]

Our discussion will be held Sunday, July 21st at 7:00pm in the Parlor. Our August meeting will be our annual "Reader's Choice". You are invited to come share a title or two that you've read on your own. We will also be putting together our reading calendar for the upcoming year. As always, all are welcome!



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.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP



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

avonmumc.org/vbs



UMARMY WORSHIP

Julia Sweet

United Mission Action Reach-Out Ministry for Youth (U.M. ARMY) is

a Christ centered mission trip for people of all ages 13+ that helps them dive deeper into their faith all while helping others at the same time. The camp is one week long, running from Sunday to Saturday, but our work week, when we are on our sites, is from Monday to Friday. We have worship twice a day, 7am and 7pm Monday through Friday, with only 1 service on Sunday at 7pm and 1 on Saturday, 7am. We want to invite our congregation to see what a UM ARMY service is, and we are inviting you to come to our **Friday night service July 26 at 7 pm at the West Hartford UMC**. Contact Julia Sweet via [the contact form](#) if you want to go or have any other questions. She wants to get a head count of who is going.



MUMC LIBRARY

Kay Hunter
Education Committee

It was many years ago when I began the task of cataloging and organizing all of the books in the MUMC library. Then a couple of years ago Anne Fitzgerald, although not a member of Education Committee, volunteered to work with me to accomplish this – and the rest of history. We worked as a team with Anne downloading books from the shelves for me to use the internet to attempt to find DDS information for each, then I turned books back over to Anne to label and place on the appropriate shelf.

We discovered there are over 1,000 books in our library – all topics, for all ages! We will be sending database of all books soon – you can browse through, sort by topic of interest, author, adult or youth, etc. Please feel free to check out books using the sheet available on the lectern in the library!!!

We will hold a “grand opening” in September!!!

IN REMEMBRANCE.....

Jean Anderson

1929 - 2024

We are saddened by the passing of Jean. MUMC was blessed with Jean’s presence for 50 years. We will remember her fondly.



Our prayers remain with her husband of 66 years, Paul, and her family.

MUMC’S NEW WEBSITE

Kay Hunter



As a member of Communications at MUMC, Hyeonjin Kim has been using her talents and many, many hours to develop a new website for us. Not only will this minimize the annual cost for the website, but you will find it full of information that we can access in our ministries - also much information that can attract visitors to the website to inform and encourage them to join our ministries.

In order to be sure it contains up to date information we need your help – if you schedule a meeting or event change the date, time or details or cancel a meeting or event it is essential that you contact webmaster Hyeonjin at hjkim1030@icloud.com

We’re very excited and thankful to Hyeonjin for the great deal of work that went into bringing this new website to fruition!!!!

Be on the lookout for the exciting premiere!!!



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!!!!**



MEAL FOR WINSTED Laura Gorden

On June 1 64 meatloaf meals were delivered to Wined. Thank you to Daniel Gorden, Duncan Martin, Brenda and Daniel Slone, Kevin Sweet and Makayla Tardiff for helping me to prepare and deliver these meals.

August 3 is the next date to serve Winsted. One person is needed to help prepare the meatloaf meal starting at 8 am. At 9:30 am 2 additional volunteers are needed to help fill 64 individual takeout food containers for delivery to Winsted. At 10:00 someone is needed to help deliver the food to Winsted and it is a nice to have an additional person to wash the dishes and clean the kitchen. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP WITH THIS MISSION PROJECT.

The 2024 Schedule for Winsted meals is:
August 3
October 4
December 7

MEMORIAL GARDEN



Hello Garden Lovers,

The Garden Committee is taking its summer vacation from regular monthly meetings. We are, however, busy as usual lovingly caring for the garden all summer long. We are maintaining the garden for each and every one of you to enjoy at your leisure. The garden is such a beautiful gift for us all.

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.

Please, please come to the garden. You will be rewarded with an experience inspired by Nature and by God.

Peace,
Jeff Tremback
Memorial Garden Committee chairperson





2nd Annual CAR SHOW Saturday, June 8

Our second annual car show was a big success. Lots of cars, happy participants and visitors. Although no charge for admission or for food, donations for food and raffle prizes netted \$458, recipient still TBD.

Such a success that we are already scheduling our 3rd for next June.



CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

Sunday, June 23

Fun day together sharing a picnic lunch on the upper courtyard and pavilion. Hot dogs provided and a great variety of side dishes brought b those attending, finished off with ice cream sundaes. Although a bit warm and humid, the gentle breeze God provided kept us all comfortable to stick around and enjoy relaxation and conversation.

Thanks to our cooks – John Slevinsky and Duncan Martin and to all who helped with setup and cleanup – Linda Kime, Linda Johansen, Hal Johansen, Vicki Kuziak, Tad Kuziak, Kevin Sweet, Kay Hunter and Bill Rebillard.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!!

Education Committee



Alex Baily graduated from Farmington High School. He was in band for all 4 years. He will be attending Trinity College in Hartford in the fall looking to major in mechanical engineering. He is working at Lake Compounce over the summer. Alex is the son of Steven Baily and Julie Scull and grandson of John and Donna Baily/



Julia Sweet graduated from Farmington High School with plans to join the AmeriCorps for a year and continuing her education at Ithaca College, New York in 2025; majoring in History and Education. Julia is the daughter of Kevin and Beth Sweet.



Charles Anthony Calandriello (AKA Chaz) graduated from Plainville High School. He is currently working with an electrician through a local construction company. Chaz will be exploring some trade school options as he loves to work with his hands. Parents Jim and Chris are very proud of him.



Marilyn & Bill Love (grandparents), Gabby Sweet (older sister), me, Beth & Kevin Sweet (parents), Jake Sweet (older brother).

Kayla Baron graduated from Assumption University with a degree in Human Services and Rehabilitation Studies. She will be attending UCONN for her Masters in Special Education beginning in June. Kayla is the granddaughter of Andy and Jean Baron.



Jake Sweet graduated from UMASS Amherst with a B.S. in Economics and Computer Science and is staying at UMASS Amherst to get his Masters in Computer Science. Jake is the son of Kevin and Beth Sweet.



Alexander Ellis graduated from Cornell University with a degree in Engineering - data systems engineer.

Currently looking for a job. Alexander is the son of Lenworth and Hyacinth Ellis, grandson of Errol and Gloria West.



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 contact **Pastor Sungmu** 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.

GIRL SCOUTS THANK MUMC

At their final meeting of the year in June, Girl Scout Troop 66304 who meets at MUMC September through June every other Thursday, showed their appreciation. They cleaned up the courtyard adjacent to Fellowship Hall including putting the benches in place. Also decorated the center window with an expression of their thanks and left a table full of a variety of craft items and books for anyone from MUMC to help themselves to.



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.

SEWING PEACE COLLECTION RESULTS

Anne Fitzgerald

In anticipation of the East Hartford Rotary Club's Pedals for Progress bicycle and sewing machine collection on June 29th, I did my own Sewing Peace collection here in the Farmington Valley. I feel it was a



success with a total number of 24 machines, one bike and \$1,065. I thank John Perotti, John Fillian and Hal Johansen for their help with some of the physical work and those of you who donated monetarily.

I am looking forward to our usual odd year collection in 2025, date to be determined.

NEW CLOCK FOR SENIOR HIGH ROOM

After months of having a wall clock that did not work, even with fresh batteries, Nate Ross created a beautiful wooden clock, featuring a cross, that is now mounted on the wall. Thank you, Nate for recognizing a need and using your talents to provide this clock for your classroom!!!



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

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

avonmumc.org

Day/Date	Time	Event	Pg.
Thu. 7/5	12 pm	Independence Day First Friday Potluck Picnic	3
Thu. 7/5	7:30 pm	Hartford Symphony "Celebrate" Concert	3
Sat. 7/13	2 pm	Women of Faith – ALM Tour	4
Fri 7/26	7 pm	UMARMY Worship, West Hartford UMC	6
Mon-Fri 8/12-16	9-12	Vacation Bible Camp	7

CL

Independence Day Prayer

Lord,

We stand today as our forefathers have stood before You in times gone by, Celebrating our history and revelling in all the great things that our country has achieved. On this day we rejoice in the favor You have graciously given us. We thank You for the blessings of liberty, for this generation and for the generations to come. We thank You for our independence, peace and for all those who have bravely given their lives in the defence of freedom and justice. We thank You that Your gracious and provident hand has given us so much.

Yet as a nation and people we have not always chosen the right way. We ask You to forgive us for these times. On this day we commit ourselves to wholeheartedly honoring and serving You. With everything that we are, we lay our lives before You. Make us a generous people, A holy nation, A people set aside to love You forever, For the sake of the land of the brave and free, And the peoples and nations of this world.

Today, we do not presume Your grace for our country. Our land is in need of You, Our people are in need of You, Our industry and business is in need of You. May we look only to You This Independence Day, dependent on You.

Please come now by Your glorious Holy Spirit, Breathe new life into the sinews of this nation. May justice flow like rivers, And righteousness like a never failing stream, Until the whole of our country is covered with Your glory, As the waters cover the sea.

*We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus,
Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit.
One God, now and for all eternity.*

Amen.

CL



It takes the whole congregation
to be the Church!

MEMORIAL UM CHURCH
867 WEST AVON ROAD
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