



Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD

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Summer Sunday Worship Schedule:
9:30am Family Worship Service
10:30am Fellowship Hour

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 in June. We had six newly ordained pastors this year: five females and one male, four African American and two Korean Americans. It is interesting that the majority of retirees have been white males during the past 30 years, while none of them are found among the candidates for ordination this year.



The majority in the New York Annual Conference are the European descendent churches, most of which want to have white male pastors. Yet, as said, there have been fewer white male candidates than white male retirees. As a result, more churches have had more female or racial minority pastors than before.

In addition, 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." As time goes by, we will have more chances to have female pastors, or gay pastors, or cross-cultural appointments. Our church has already experienced this during the past two years. Now, the churches in our Annual

Conference have choices: to raise our children to be pastors or to accept female/gay/racial minority pastors as ours.

Unfortunately, the Christian message has become unpopular to modern culture. Our values stand on the side of the secular culture, rather than on the side of the gospel. Protestantism in North America is in crisis. It is time for us to reconsider our sense of value and teach our children with Christian faith. If not, the situation will be worse in the American Protestant Church in ten years or twenty years.

We have been saved by the grace of God, which is the privilege Christians have. What would you pay for it? When I ask the question, I realize that this is not a popular one. However, it is true that we as Christians have responsibilities.

We tend to care for the body but neglect our care for the spirit. For example, parents fear disease for their children more than their prejudices. Food, clothes, and shelter are important to us, but we often forget the spirit within.

(Cont'd page 2)

Jesus says, "Do not be afraid of people who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, you should fear God who can destroy both your body and your soul in hell" (Matthew 10:28).

Our real danger lies in betraying the truth, because that can kill both body and soul. That is why we Christians are sent into the world, armed with truth and love, to confront the world at the very places where the gospel is being distorted, and to stand up to anyone who opposes or oppresses the message of Jesus Christ. We should stand firm to them, whatever forms they take. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

PASTOR'S VACATION

Mark your calendars! Pastor Lee will be on vacation from Tuesday, August 20 through Tuesday, September 3. Pastoral concerns should be directed to Kay Hunter. If needed, contact her via [the online contact form](#).

Leading worship and delivering the message will be: Diane Hornaday on August 25 and Linda Johansen on September 1. Holy Communion will be offered on September 8.

REMINDER!!!



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Reminder of our summer office hours through Sept 6th:

Wednesday and Friday 9 am - 2 pm.

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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



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

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

Jake Sweet
Roger Couch
Hope Storrs
Joe Fillian
Jarrett Baker
Wesley Stevens
Rick Mellon

Emily Brinn
Julie Zehren
Bruce Corbett
Michael Gorden
Chris Calandriello
Bobbie Williams



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

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

Michael & Jennifer (Smagin) Gorden
Brian and Kay Hunter
Walt and Sandy Sargent
Dave and Barbara Chase

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

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

There’s still time to register for.....

VACATION BIBLE CAMP



Beth Slone and Diane Hornaday, Co-Directors

The lazy, hazy days of summer seem to be flying by and soon, in a couple of weeks, **Camp Firelight** will be coming to MUMC. Our camp will take place **August 12 – 16 from 9:00 am to 12:15 pm.**

Our counselors and staff are working hard planning activities – assembly times, Bible story time, music, crafts, science, recreation - that will provide a wonderful experience for our campers.

YOU CAN BE A SUPPORT PERSON FOR OUR TEAM! First, we are asking that members loan their **artificial Christmas trees** so we can decorate the sanctuary, fellowship hall and other areas of the church into a visual forest. Please mark your tree so you can take it back home when the week is over. We can also use some help with the items we need to purchase. **A little cash or a small check will help provide snacks and craft supplies.**

All children are welcome. The registration fee is **\$25/child or \$60/family**. We also have some camperships available. If you have, or know, children who would like to be a part of the program you can register on the MUMC website or contact Kay Hunter.

avonmumc.org/vbs



**FIRST FRIDAY
POT LUCK LUNCH**
Friday, August 2
12 pm

Coming early this month!!! Please join us for a great time of friendship, fellowship and always a great variety of great food!!! 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!!



BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL
Saturday, August 3

Asbury UMC
90 Church Avenue, Forestville, CT

8-10 AM - Blueberry pancake breakfast
10AM-2PM – Outdoor festivities

VENDORS MUSIC

Hot dogs, Blueberry pie, Ice cream sundaes,
Blueberry baked goodies,
Frozen ready to bake pies



**LITCHFIELD
COUNTY
CHORAL UNION
CONCERT**

(including
Tamari Witkin!!)

Sunday August 4 - 4 pm

Melodic Heritage works by W.A. Mozart and Ola Gjeilo, In the Music Shed on the Battell Stoeckel Estate, 17 Stoeckel Road, Norfolk, CT.
Information & Tickets:

www.litchfieldcountychoralunion.com

MUMC MISSIONS AT WORK

Laura Gorden, Committee Chair

WINSTED 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 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.



UPCOMING TAG SALE

October 5 the MUMC Missions Committee will be holding a tag sale in Fellowship Hall from 9am to 1pm. Church families are invited to sell their own items at their separate tables. Each family will be collecting and keeping their own proceeds. We only ask that you donate 10% of your profits or a maximum of \$20 to the MUMC Missions Fund. Your items must be removed after 1pm. It is also possible to donate items to the missions' table, but any items not sold from this table will be taken to Goodwill at the end of the day. Please contact me if interested.



Worship

**AUGUST
FELLOWSHIP
HOUR**

Linda Kime

We are still in need for Fellowship hour volunteers for **August 11, 18 and 25!** Please contact Linda Kime 860-305-0526 or sign up on sheet at back of sanctuary.

Fun with a friend! Keep it light & easy. Lemonade & iced tea mix in cabinet.



NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

Marsha Kennedy, Trustee

Summer heat is here and the trustees are busy keeping up with many electrical repairs and grounds cleanup.

Church Repairs:

The boiler has been repaired and upgraded to provide better performance. We have a new water heater for the education wing due to failure of the old one. We also have a new refrigerator donated by Linda Kime for the kitchen due to a malfunction in the freezer.

The thermostat in sanctuary now has a lock on it. It runs remotely and Kevin Sweet has a key to it. Sunday morning the air conditioning is set at 74 degrees. An air conditioning unit has been donated by Mark Borenstein for the parlor.

Parsonage:

Many thanks to our sexton Bill Rebillard who has been mowing the lawn at the parsonage this summer. Pastor Lee reported that the phone landline has been discontinued, the parsonage still has wi-fi and will be streaming TV for financial savings

Grounds cleanup:

Weeding has been done around the grounds of the church. The Pavilion has been used a few times and there is now electricity. Grass seed spread around pavilion-praying for the grass to grow

Room use:

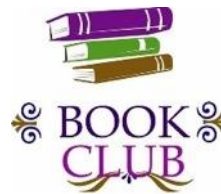
We had a piano recital in June that took place in the sanctuary. The SciKids camp is in full swing for the 2nd year, everything is moving along smoothly. There are more children this year and it is a great STEM program Again many thanks to Bill Rebillard for maintaining a clean environment for the camp.

Lastly, the Church Council asked about purchasing Narcan nasal spray for use in an emergency overdose of opioids. Trustees agreed ...

NARCAN AVAILABLE FOR USE

Linda Johansen

Narcan, or Naloxone HCl, nasal spray will now be available for emergency use at our church. It is used for the emergency treatment of an opioid overdose, as it rapidly reverses the opioid's deadly, sedating effects. It will be stored in the Automated External Defibrillator cabinet near the office. This has been approved by the church council and trustees. Please see me if any questions.



THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

It's time for our annual "Reader's Choice" meeting! Pick your own title (or two) to read this month and then join us on **Sunday, August 18th at 7pm** in Fellowship Hall to share your thoughts about your choice(s). It's a wonderful way to find out about different titles and authors you may not have been introduced to before. We will also take the opportunity to put together our reading calendar for the coming year, so bring your reading suggestions along as well. Since the meeting is in Fellowship Hall we suggest meeting in person. We will run Zoom, however, for those who are unable to join us at the church.

You don't have to be a regular participant in the book group to join us at this meeting. We welcome all who are interested in sharing and/or hearing about books! For those looking to escape the heat, there will be snacks...



MUMC'S NEW WEBSITE

Kay Hunter
(Communications)

As a member of Communications at MUMC, Hyeonjin Kim has spent countless hours developing our new website for us. Not only does 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.

To easily access our calendar of events, click on **EVENTS** in upper right corner, scroll down to **FIND EVENTS List Month**. Click on "Month" list to access current and upcoming months' calendars.

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**](mailto:hjkim1030@icloud.com)

Website is jampacked with information on all areas of MUMC!!!

To easily access a specific item of interest, click on the + (plus) sign on the upper left of the home page and it will allow you to search for your item.

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

*"What we want people to do is –
preach the Gospel often and,
only when necessary, use words."*

- *Allen Graham*
Helping Chronically Homeless in
Austin

THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH



Lunch Bunch is a casual get together of MUMCers every Thursday at noon (except week of First Friday Potluck Lunch). We began meeting during Covid when we could not meet for First Friday Lunches - meeting in the Memorial Garden where we could maintain our 6-foot distance, bring our own food and be able to have fellowship. We have continued this tradition for over 4 years.

We now meet in Fellowship Hall and bring our own lunches, sometimes share some cookies. It has become such an enjoyable tradition. Although we seem to have a core group, our numbers change from week to week.

We continue to share stories, memories and even discuss current affairs a bit. We share happy news and concerns. We celebrate birthdays and recently celebrated our Fab Five!!!

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!!!**



Celebrating Birthdays!!!

Bob Marshall Gloria & Errol West
Roger & Joan Couch



“AMERICAN MURAL PROJECT”

Laura Gorden

A field trip to view the “American Mural Project” was enjoyed by 18 Women of Faith and Fun on July 13.

If you were not a part of our group, we strongly recommend visiting this amazing art project. We had an excellent tour guide who explained the exhibit very thoroughly but there is an audio available for self-guided tours of this project.

This is a one-of-a-kind, massive three-dimensional artwork – 120 feet long and five stories high.

The mural is a tribute to American workers – see and hear their inspiring stories.

Learn 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 also learn about the mural’s tribute to American workers, the people depicted in the mural and their stories, and why the subjects were chosen.



There are family days and summer art weeks for kids. They also have special events throughout the year. Check their website and find a time to visit.

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

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.



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.



MEMORIAL'S FOOD PANTRY

Please help keep our food pantry stocked by bringing non-perishable food items to be dropped off in the blue bin located outside the kitchen or you can just put your food items inside the food pantry cupboard located by the lower church entrance.

Most useful food pantry donations:

- Boxed milk or Powdered milk
- Pasta sauce and pasta
- Mac and cheese (**currently have plenty**)
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruits
- Soups/beef stew/corned beef hash
- Tuna/salmon
- Canned meats/chicken, beef, spam
- Rice
- Beans/black, red, navy, baked
- Cereal/Instant Oatmeal
- Knorr sides
- Cereal bar/protein bars/ granola bars/cracker packs
- Single serve applesauce and fruit
- Peanut butter/Jelly
- Bread
- Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate
- Vegetable Oil
- Cake mix/Cookie mix
- Mayonnaise/Salad dressings
- Personal hygiene products

SUMMER CONCERTS



Many MUMCers have enjoyed attending concerts this summer. Recent Simsbury Meadow concerts - Celebrate America with 15 and Fleetwood Mac Tribute with 10. Also great free concerts in Farmington in front of the library. Four more concerts – free – bring chairs. Won't you join us?

Remaining Farmington Concerts:

- 8/1 The Stevie Experience – Sounds of Fleetwood Mac, Eagles
- 8/8 Wednesday Bowling League – 50s & 60s hits
- 8/15 Billy Bouchard's Bluegrass Band
- 8/21 Cabaret – Disney Magic- songs through the years



**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND
OUR LATEST HAPPENINGS
AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION!
avonmumc.org**

Day/Date	Time	Event	Pg.
Mon-Fri 8/12-16	9-12	Vacation Bible Camp	3
Fri. 8/2	12 pm	First Friday Pot Luck Lunch	4
Sat. 8/3	9:30 am	Winsted Meal Preparation	4
Sat. 8/3	8am-2pm	Blueberry Festival – Asbury UMC	4
Sun. 8/4	4 pm	Litchfield County Choral Union Concert	4
Sat. 10/5	TBD	Tag Sale	4



MEMORIAL UM CHURCH
867 WEST AVON ROAD
AVON, CT 06001