



Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD

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Website: [avonmumc.org](http://avonmumc.org)

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

**Office Hours:** Tue., 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/AvonMUMC>

Welcome to the season of Advent, when we get ready for Christmas! What do you intend to do to get ready? Save money for gifts? Look in catalogs for what you would like to receive? Plan parties and outings? Make special decorations? For us, Christians, who know that Christmas is a celebration of Jesus' birth, our thinking is about more than just these things.

Jesus, God Himself, was incarnated about two thousand years ago. He came to this world as light. The light has already come into the world, but there is still work to be done. There is still darkness between us and the light. Perhaps you have noticed that Advent begins in the dark.

From mid-summer the days get shorter. By the time the earth rounds the bend on December 21, it is the shortest day of the year, barely nine hours long. One thing Advent tells us is that people of faith know it will get darker before it gets light. That is what our calendar teaches us.

Week by week we will light new candles, but even as we light them, the darkness will increase. We also know that the sun will come back, just like we know that Jesus will be born in a stable in Bethlehem. These are sure facts of our lives, but



so is waiting in the dark. If you have ever hungered for morning, you know that. It will come, but it will not be rushed.

In the season of Advent our job is to wait without losing hope. That is a vision of the end of time, the final coming of the Lord. If you went to sleep for even 15 minutes, you might miss the most important moment of your life. Jesus says, "Therefore, keep awake because you do not know when the master of the house will come."

Jesus wants us to stay awake and conscious, so that we may recognize that some of our neighbors are suffering, and we may help them. In the season of Advent our job is to light the candle and set it in the window. Our job is to watch for the one who comes to us and to open the door for him before he raises his hand to knock. Who knows when the moment will be? Therefore, let us stay awake. Happy Advent!

Sungmu Lee

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**REMINDER:** If you have not yet done so, it's not too late to return your Stewardship materials as soon as possible to the church so we can begin to prepare a

budget for 2025. You may bring it to the church with you, mail it in or e-mail or call Diane Hornaday at: [dhornaday@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dhornaday@sbcglobal.net). 860-673-9634, Thank you.



## LAST CHANCE TO ORDER CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIA PLANTS

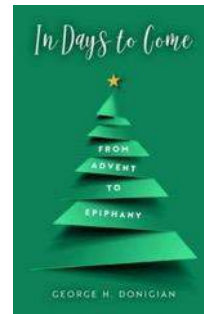
MUMC's altar is traditionally made beautiful for Christmas Eve services with poinsettia plants in a variety of colors - donated in honor or memory of our church members as well as loved ones.

**Due date** for orders and payment is **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**. You can mail checks in advance to MUMC to Linda Arnold's attention or bring your check to worship on Sunday, December 1 and place in envelopes available in the narthex.

**If you would like to order plant(s), you can also go to:**

[Avon MUMC: 2024 Christmas Flower orders and payment by Dec. 1st.](#)

## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY "IN DAYS TO COME, FROM ADVENT TO EPIPHANY"



A six week Advent Bible study will be offered on Monday evenings (December 2 - January 6) at 7 PM in the Parlor. Laura Gorden will be leading the first 2 weeks and Diane Hornaday will be leading the remaining weeks. The study will also be offered on Saturday mornings (December 7 - January 11) at 10:30 AM in the Parlor with Christine Calandriello as leader.

The book for the Advent Study is "In Days to Come, from Advent to Epiphany". The books can be picked up in the church office.





## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Sally Parylak	Kay Hunter
Leslie Arnold	Xavier Corbett
Beth Sweet	Kathryn Robinett
Michele Matava	Carol Merritt
Abby Brinn	Noel Rendell
Maureen Fillian	Krista Kennedy
Sue Yankus	

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



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

Harold and Pam Palmer  
 Bruce and Ruthellen Corbett  
 Scott and Krista Kennedy  
 Bruce and Carol Merritt

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

## MUMC MISSIONS AT WORK

Laura Gorden, Committee Chair  
Contact via [the online form](#)

## WINSTED MEALS



**December 7** 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.

## THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thank you to all who helped fill **ten Thanksgiving Baskets** for our Covenant to Care families.



## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



The Christmas Giving Tree will soon appear in the back of the sanctuary with the names of our Covenant to Care children who need our help to fulfill their Christmas wishes. Please take a name, purchase a gift, wrap it, and return under the Christmas Tree by **Sunday, December 15.**

## 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



## 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.  
Farmington Station  
111 Scott Swamp Rd.  
Room 251  
Farmington, CT 06032

(Please note new  
address)

Bob's new phone  
# is 860-384-4505



## FIRST FRIDAY CHRISTMAS POT LUCK LUNCH Friday, December 6 12 pm

Please join us for a great time of friendship, fellowship and always a great variety of great food!!! We're making special attempts to get our homebound members to our Christmas lunch and hope that you will join us as well. A great opportunity for all to gather together to enjoy a holiday meal, but more importantly to enjoy fellowship with church family.

We'll be serving baked ham. Please bring a side dish, salad, rolls, snack or dessert to share if you can, but there's always plenty if you can't.

## CHURCHERY SCHOOL

December brings a lot of fun for our Churchery School students (and teachers!) as we await the birth of Jesus and of course Santa. We are making gifts for our families and each other.

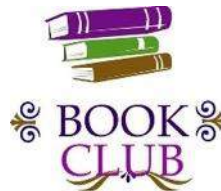


We've been practicing for our **Christmas concert** which will be held on **December 9 at 6:00**. We hope you can join us for an evening of beautiful music sung by our 4-year-old and Pre-K students. It promises to be an evening that will put you in the Christmas spirit!

Registration for the 25-26 school year has begun for present, former and church families, registration will open up to the public on December 4.

We hope you and yours have a wonderful Christmas and we wish you a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Jean, Susan, Yuki, Jenn, Jess and Jaclyn



## OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

We are taking December off but will return on January 19th at 7:00 pm to discuss *The Old Lion: A Novel of Theodore Roosevelt* by Jeff Shaara.

Wishing you a Joyous Christmas season filled with time for reading!

## MUMC YOUTH PLANNING MEETING

MUMC youth, parents and leaders met on Sunday, November 24 for games, fellowship and pizza!! And to brainstorm and create a calendar of events for the coming months

The decision was made to meet twice a month – once on site at Memorial and the second offsite. We would like to invite youth from other churches to join us in the future We ended up with an abundance of ideas and have activities planned through June!!!

Details will be shared in the January newsletter.

Our first activity will be..



Sunday,  
December 15  
12:15 pm  
Room 105

Youth will be decorating their classroom in preparation for their Christmas party. Plans include a craft, games, snacks and “Yankee” gift swap with \$10 value. All youth are invited to invite friends to join in this and any youth activity with MUMC youth.

## UMARMY FUND RAISING EVENT

Laura Gorden

### CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALES



Sunday, December 22  
Fellowship Hall  
During Coffee Hour and 5 pm  
Soup Supper

\$8 a Baker's Dozen.  
Many delicious choices including gluten free  
Pick and choose to fill your box!!!

## CAROL SING &

Sunday, December 22, 4 pm



Join us in the sanctuary to sing favorite Christmas carols, followed by

### SOUP SUPPER

Sunday, December 22  
5 pm



Come to enjoy hot comforting soup, breads and desserts. Invite friends, neighbors and family to enjoy this meal together plus fellowship and conversation.

Look for more details in upcoming bulletin inserts and e-mail blasts.

## SAVE THE DATE! REGIFTING BINGO

Friday, January 10, 7pm



Christmas brings us wonderful joys and gifts. Sometimes, though, those gifts are not exactly what we'd like. Also, perhaps over the years you have accumulated things that are still fresh but not something you would like to hang on to. Now is your chance to share those unused or very lightly used items as a prize in our bingo night on January 10th.

More details will follow in the January newsletter but please save the date now for a fun evening.



## HONORING OUR VETERANS



We proudly honored our veterans this year in several ways. For the second year we displayed flags along West Avon Road, each representing someone from our church and individual families who served our country.

During worship on Sunday, November 10, video of the songs representing the five branches of service were played and veterans and/or their representatives stood proudly. Last but not least, we provided a display of photos of veterans in Fellowship Hall. Many were copies of photos from displays from over the years spanning from World War I to current day. Thanks to all who participated in this display.

"COFFEE & CONVERSATION" awaits in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am for those 8:30 worship attendees who want to gather after, and those who have children in Sunday school, and anyone who comes early before 10:30 worship. Keurig coffee maker will be on for self-serve cup of Jo! Creamer and sweeteners will be out.



## WOMEN OF FAITH & FUN PRAYER STUDY

Chris Calandriello

Attendance at our weekly Women of Faith and Fun study of "Prayer: Beginning Conversations with God" has been consistent and rewarding. We will take a break through advent and epiphany to participate in the advent study being offered for all.



## DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP HOUR

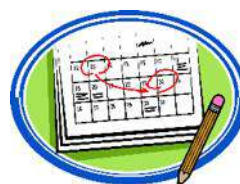
Linda Kime

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.

December Fellowship Hour Host is...

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

who holds title to and manages the property belonging to our local church; keeps accurate records of its proceedings and reports to the Church Charge Conference to which it is amenable. Chairperson facilitates the Board of Trustees' work within the church; advises the Church Council concerning actions of the Board of Trustees; reviews annually, with the Chairperson of the SPRC, the church-owned parsonage. And much, much more!!!!



## GUIDING & GROWING GROUP

We're a small group – but we are committed to work to regrow and strengthen MUMC.

At our November meeting, we brainstormed and shared ideas and put together a calendar of events including carol sing, monthly themed suppers, bingo, cookie sales, our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual car show and much more. The success of these events depends on all of us by volunteering, attending and inviting friends and neighbors to join you.....

We hope you will join us in this adventure!! Look for details in upcoming newsletters, bulletin inserts and Wednesday e-mail blasts. It takes a village!!!



## ALTAR FLOWERS

Barbara Chase / Linda Arnold

Altar Flowers Sign up for altar flowers for 2025 is active and ready for you to choose and reserve your dates.

You can reach SignUpGenius to sign up for flowers online at:

[Avon MUMC: 2025 Sunday Flowers](#)

Or you can visit the “Altar Flower Donation” webpage, [avonmumc.org/flower](http://avonmumc.org/flower), and then fill out the form.

If you would rather not use the Sign-Up Genius, contact Linda Arnold via [the online form](#). She will be glad to reserve a week for you.

The price for altar flowers is \$40.

If you order 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 9 am to 2 pm.



## 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, especially our little ones.

## THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH



Lunch Bunch is a casual get together of MUMCers every Thursday at noon (except week of First Friday Potluck Lunch).

Although we seem to have a core group, our numbers change from week to week. We share stories, memories and even discuss current affairs a bit. We share happy news and concerns.

Always lively conversation and fellowship. Won't you join us? Just pack up your own lunch and beverage. Coffee and tea are available.



## MEMORIAL GARDEN

The garden and garden committee are now on vacation until spring 2025.

BUT we extend an open invitation to all who wish to join our ranks in 2025 and play in the dirt. We need new members to carry on our garden ministry for the future. NO experience is necessary. Any and all on-the-job training will be provided. It's fun to play in the dirt. Just ask your young children.

The garden belongs to ALL so please come to enjoy its beauty and its serenity even during the fall and winter. Please schedule some time to visit the garden each week and mark it on your calendar. Block out some special time for yourself to relax and renew.

God bless. The garden reawakens in the spring of 2025.

# NORTHEAST, USA

## CAMP DATES:

YOUNG ADULT: HAMPTON, NH  
MAY 25-31, 2025

MIXED AGE: YORK, PA  
JULY 6-12, 2025

MIXED AGE: CT AREA  
JULY 13-19, 2025

MIXED AGE : CENTERPORT,  
LONG ISLAND, NY  
JULY 20-26, 2025

## COST:

\$325.00/PERSON  
DEPOSIT: \$75.00

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

GINA GRUBBS  
GINAGRUBBS@UMARMY.ORG



# NORTHEAST POP-UPS

## DATES:

### MARTIN LUTHER KING SERVICE WEEKENDS

BAYPORT UMC, BAYPORT, NY  
JANUARY 17-19, 2025  
COMMUTER WEEKEND

MARY TAYLOR MEMORIAL UMC  
MILFORD, CT  
JANUARY 17-19, 2025  
LIMITED LODGING AVAILABLE

WARWICK UMC, WARWICK, NY  
JANUARY 17-19, 2025  
LIMITED LODGING AVAILABLE

## COST:

\$200.00/PERSON  
DEPOSIT: \$75.00

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

GINA GRUBBS  
GINAGRUBBS@UMARMY.ORG



## 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 11:30am**. 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.



## ***DATES TO REMEMBER!!!***

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Pg.</b>	<b>Event</b>
Mon.	12/2	7 pm	2	Advent Study
Fri.	12/6	12 pm		First Friday Christmas Pot Luck Lunch
Sat.	12/7	10:30 am	2	Advent Study
Mon.	12/9	6 pm	4	Churchery Concert
Mon.	12/9	7 pm	2	Advent Study
Sat.	12/14	10:30 am	2	Advent Study
Sun.	12/15		3	Christmas Giving Tree items due
Sun.	12/15	12:15 pm	5	Youth Christmas Party
Mon.	12/16	7 pm	2	Advent Study
Sat.	12/21	10:30 am	2	Advent Study
Sun.	12/22`	11:30 am 5 pm	5	Christmas Cookie Sales
Sun	12/22	4 pm	5	Carol Sing & Concert
Sun.	12/22	5 pm	5	Soup Supper
Mon.	12/23	7 pm	2	Advent Study
Tue	12/24	5 pm 11 pm	10	Christmas Eve Service with Pageant Christmas Eve Service
Sat.	12/28	10:30 am	2	Advent Study
Mon.	12/30	7 pm	2	Advent Study
Sat	1/4	10:30 am	2	Advent Study
Mon.	1/6	7 pm	2	Advent Study
Fri.	1/10	7 pm	5	Regifting Bingo
Sat.	1/11	10:30 am	2	Advent Study

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

***avonmumc.org***



## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:**



**5 pm – Candlelight service with lessons, carols, communion and children’s pageant.**

**11 pm – Quiet candlelight service with lessons, carols and communion.**

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