



Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD

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Office Fax: (860) 673-5777
Church Email: avonmumc@gmail.com
Website: 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/user/AvonMUMC>

“And so, my fellow Americans: Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country” (John F. Kennedy: *Inaugural Address*). Before you ask what God can do for you, ask what you can do for God and God’s church.

Happy New Year! As we begin another new year, we greet each other so that we may have a good year. We also pray to God for God’s guidance during 2025. When praying, we ask God for good health, financial security, success at work and school, good relationships with others, and so on. However, a few of us do ask ourselves what we can give to God during the new year. What would you give to God?

As soon as we begin a new year, we encounter wise men at the Epiphany of the Lord (January 6). They brought gifts to the Christ child: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We need to learn from them the heart of giving to the baby Jesus.

I have witnessed some Christians leaving their churches or giving up their Christian faith. What caused them to make these decisions? There are a lot of reasons for them to do so. As a pastor and as a Christian, I want to reduce the number of Christians who leave their churches.

Here is one solution for us to stay in our churches and stick to Jesus Christ: Ask not what God can do



for you but ask what you can do for God. The ways of God are often different from the ways of the world. Thus, when we are more interested in asking God to do something for us, we are easily disappointed. The ways of God often require us to have patience.

On the other hand, when we focus on asking what we can do for God, we will never be disappointed. Again, the ways of God are different from ours. When we are more interested in what we can do for God, God will give us even what we have not asked for.

Do you remember King Solomon in the Old Testament? God came to him in a dream and told him to ask for whatever he wanted. Solomon, in humility, asked for the wisdom to govern God’s people because he knew he could not do it alone. In the end, he received what he had not asked, both riches and honor all his life; no other king shall compare with him (1 Kings 3:1-15).

Happy New Year! I pray that you will receive from God this year even what you have not asked for by asking first what you can do for God and God’s church. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

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2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR



REGIFTING BINGO

Friday, January 10, 7pm

Anne Fitzgerald

afitzgerald138@gmail.com

With Advent, Christmas and New Year's Eve behind us, let's get together for a fun evening of bingo. We will each be given two bingo cards and when you win, a checker will go over your card to be sure you marked it correctly. Once confirmed, you may go over to the prize table to make your selection.

Now here's where we need your help. The prizes will be whatever everyone has brought in, a regift, to be the prizes. They could be gifts you just received at Christmas, or it could be something barely used that you've had for a while and are ready to part with. You can donate a regift and not play or play, or you can come in without a regift and still play.

You can bring them in on Wednesday, January 8 through Friday evening, January 10 and put them in Room 105 across from the kitchen. Once the evening has concluded, we ask that you please take home with you any gift you brought that had not been selected.

Refreshments are welcome if you would like to bring some in.

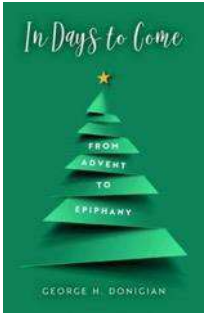
RING IN THE
New Year

**FIRST FRIDAY
POT LUCK LUNCH**

Friday, January 5
12 noon

Ring in the new year by joining us at our monthly Pot Luck Lunch. Always great fellowship and conversation!! Bring your favorite main dish, side dish, salad, snack or dessert to share if you can – but it's not required!! Hope to see you there!!!

“IN DAYS TO COME, FROM ADVENT TO EPIPHANY”



The final weeks of the Advent Study will be “wrapping up” on Saturday mornings at 10:30 and Monday evenings at 7:00.

Sat.- Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Jan 11.

Mon - Dec.30 Jan. 6, Jan. 13

There is still time for you to enjoy the learning and fellowship as we discuss the book, IN DAYS TO COME. Each lesson does not depend on knowledge of the previous one(s). There are still some copies of the book available in the office.



k2435024 fotosearch.com ©

MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEATLOAF SUPPER

January 26 the Missions Committee will be hosting a meatloaf 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, Thanksgiving Dinners,
Christmas Gifts

Community Food Pantry

United in Missions: Action Reach-out Ministry
by Youth

Project Adopt a Village in Ethiopia

CT Foodshare

Community Fuel Banks

UMCOR: Hurricane relief projects

VIM: scholarships for volunteers

MEMBERSHIP

Online Directory updates are continual as new information is gathered. Please alert of phone preferences or email addresses. Always a need for new photo of families whose children are grown so much since their directory photo. They should sent to Linda Kime by text 860-305-0526 or email lmk318@aol.com



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

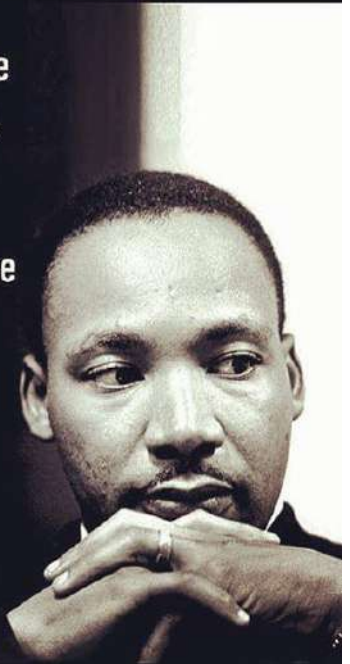
Martin Kibbe
Peter Tremback
Kevin Oommen
Justin Hunter
Colin Holtzman
Jennifer Lamoureux

Mary Tew
Deb Slevinsky
Amanda Holtzman
Brett Holtzman
Jean Pickens

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

“Use me, God. Show me
how to take who I am,
who I want to be,
and what I can do,
and use it for a purpose
greater than myself.”

Martin Luther King Jr.



MUMC MISSIONS AT WORK

Laura Gorden, Committee Chair

Contact via [the online form](#)

WINSTED MEALS



Thank you to my friend Jean Bergen, Linda Harris, Heather Kelsey, Anne Wesley, Makayla Tardiff and her friend for helping me prepare, package and deliver the Winsted meals on December 7.

In 2024 MUMC provided 396 meatloaf meals to Winsted.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



Thank you to all who took a name from the Christmas giving tree and helped fill the Christmas wishes of 20 children. Our New Britain Covenant to Care rep was very thankful for Avon MUMC's generosity.

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



U.M. ARMY NEWS

Laura Gorden

U.M. ARMY Pop-Up Weekend is being held Martin Luther King Weekend, January 17-19, 2025. This is a high-quality mission program for youth, young adults and adults that serve people in need, build leadership skills, build relationships, and build spirituality. Mary Taylor Memorial UMC will be the host church. We start Friday evening with a meet and greet, followed by team building and worship. Saturday and Sunday, small teams consisting of adults, young adults, and youth set out to a worksite in the local community. Additional adults act as support to the teams bringing needed tools, supplies, technical expertise, and safety checks to the site each day.

Dave and I, Julia Sweet, Nate and Ella Ross are attending. There is room for us to stay at the church rather than commute each day. If there are more youth interested in attending, you can invite friends, please let me know asap. Anyone from 6th grade through adulthood is eligible to participate. We must be one adult participant for every three youth.

Please let Laura know via [the online form](#) if you are interested in participating. Need response asap.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALES

Thank you to all who purchased Christmas cookies during our sale to raise funds for U.M. Army. There were many delicious cookies to choose from this year. We successfully raised \$320 for our 2025 mission trips.



CHRISTMAS GOODIE BAGS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE

As has been our tradition, we from Pastoral Care Committee gathered together and prepared goodie bags to be delivered to our special people for Christmas. They contained an assortment of muffins, apples, cuties, cookies, tea bags, and of course candies!!

Thanks to all who donated and prepared the bags and special thank you to Heather Kelsey who created the beautiful bags and ornaments for all.

Hope all had a Merry Christmas!!!



NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

Season greetings from the Trustees -wishing you all a healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year ahead!!

The last 2 months have been busy.

- The preschool wing had new flooring installed.
- Fall cleanup was done with dedicated members of the trustees and Bill our church sexton. Many thanks to all who came out to help.
- Local Choice Landscaping came to pickup all the piles of leaves.
- The elevator is in need of maintenance and repair. We have obtained a quote for the "piston packing repair" and plan to move forward using Independent Elevator Co LLC for this job.

Have wonderful holiday!!
The Trustees



From the Finance Office. Thank you for your faithful support of the church through your donations and gifts in 2024. I will be

closing the books for the year on Tuesday, December 31. Giving reports will be available for you before January 31, 2025. If you have any questions you may call me at 860-673-9634 or email dhornaday@sbcglobal.net.

Diane Hornaday.



OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

Happy New Year! We will kickoff our reading for 2025 with *The Old Lion: A Novel of Theodore Roosevelt* by Jeff Shaara. "From the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, from the waning days of the rugged frontier of a young country to the emergence of a modern, industrial nation exerting its power on the world stage, Theodore Roosevelt embodied both the myth and reality of the country he loved and led.

From his upbringing in the rarefied air of New York society of the late 19th century to his time in rough-and-tumble world of the Badlands in the Dakotas, from his rise from political obscurity to Assistant Secretary of the Navy, from national hero as the leader of the Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War to his accidental rise to the Presidency itself, Roosevelt embodied the complex, often contradictory, image of America itself.

In gripping prose, Shaara tells the story of the man who both defined and created the modern United States." [goodreads.com]

Our discussion will be held Sunday, January 19th at 7:00 pm in the Parlor and on Zoom. As always, all are welcome!



WOMEN OF FAITH & FUN PRAYER STUDY

Chris Calandriello

We will resume our weekly Saturday morning study of "Prayer: Beginning Conversations with God" on **January 18** at 10:30 am. Each week is an independent study so you can join the study at any time.

REMEMBERING BOBBIE WILLIAMS



We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Bobbie Williams a long-time member of MUMC who moved to North Carolina several years ago to be closer to family.

A Memorial Service will be held at MUMC next year. She will be remembered with fondness.

<https://www.courant.com/obituaries/bobbie-williams/>



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



Sunday,
December 15

MUMC youth
gathered for
their Christmas

Party for games, crafts,, snacks and a Yankee
Gift Swap.





JANUARY 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.

January Fellowship Hour Host is...

MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE

Responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Memorial Garden, recording of those remembered in the garden, purchase and installation of memorial plaques. Memorial Garden Committee is under the jurisdiction of and overseen by the Board of Trustees.

"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.

BARBARA CHASE MOVE

Recently Barbara Chase made her move west to a Senior Community in New Paltz, New York, much closer to her daughter who lives in Manhattan.

Please contact [the church office](#) for her new contact information.



GUIDING & GROWING GROUP

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

We are looking forward to themed monthly suppers, bingo night, a speaker of estate planning, 3rd annual car show, Easter egg hunt, and more!!! The success of these events depends on all of us by volunteering, attending and inviting friends and neighbors to join you.....

Our next planning meeting is Tuesday, January 28 at 7 p.m. We welcome suggestions, ideas and of course volunteers to help organize these events. Several are hosted by the various committees of Memorial.

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!!!

Looking ahead!

- 1/10 Regifting BINGO p. 2
- 1/26 Meatloaf supper p. 3
- 2/23 Chili supper
- 3/4 Pancake supper
- 3/16 St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner

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.



ALTAR FLOWERS

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 signup genius to sign up for flowers on line at:

[Avon MUMC: 2025 Sunday Flowers](#)

Or Visit the "[Altar Flowers Donation](#)" link in the footer of our website, avonmumc.org.

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.

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 **notify the church office** who will share the info with the **Pastor and 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.

CAROL SING & CONCERT

Sunday, December 22



We gathered in the Sanctuary for the singing of a variety of Christmas Carols accompanied by Tamari. We took a break from singing for the sharing of Christmas memories and customs. German, Swedish and Korean customs were shared and Pastor Lee sang "Silent Night" in Korean!

The carol sing was followed by a delicious supper of 5 kinds of homemade soups, breads and rolls and desserts. This was a wonderful time of fellowship.



Soup Supper

Thanks to Tamari and Chalise Ross for organizing the sing; to Kevin Sweet, Diane Hornaday and Charlie Sabas for providing the soups, Carol Merritt, Bev Perotti, Pam Palmer and Kay Hunter for desserts. Also big thank you to all who pitched in to make cleanup an easy task.

We packaged up the leftover soups and rolls and placed them in our food pantry for others to enjoy as well.



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.

BIBLICAL HAPPY NEW YEAR WISHES

(Readers' Digest)

1. May God bless you with a safe, healthy and joyous new year.
2. Let the Lord guide you to great things in 2025.
3. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"*
4. Your path for 2025 is blessed by God. May He help light the way to prosperity and peace.
5. God's grace will continue to be with you in the new year.
6. With a new year approaching, remember Jeremiah 29:11: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"*
7. God bless you and your loved ones as you head into 2025.
8. Proverbs 23:18 says, *"There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."* Have a blessed and bountiful 2024!
9. Glory be to God and your loved ones in the new year and beyond.
10. Proverbs 16:9 tells us that *"in his heart, a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."* May God's path bring you happiness in the new year.
11. Praying that you have a cheerful New Year's.
12. Happy New Year! May God grant all your wishes in 2025.
13. I have faith that the new year will bring you everything you're hoping for. God bless!
14. May the Lord lift you up in the new year. Time to celebrate new beginnings!
15. God's grace is with you, and will continue to be with you in 2025. Happy New Year!
16. I can't wait to see all the hope and faith that follows you into 2025. Enjoy the new year.
17. Sending you and your loved ones a million prayers for a prosperous new year.
18. Happy New Year! Here's to God overseeing your path in 2025
19. Sending you and your loved ones the biggest blessings on New Year's.
20. As Psalm 65:11 says, *"You crown the year with your goodness; your paths overflow with rich food."* Thank you for providing so much goodness in 2023. May your New Year's be memorable!



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP VISION, PURPOSE

Allen Nixon

Contact via [the online form](#)

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.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be **no** Bereavement Support Group meeting **in February** as Al Nixon, facilitator, will be out of town on our regularly scheduled meeting date, the third Wednesday of the month."

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

Day	Date	Time	Pg.	Event
Fri.	1/3	12 pm	2	First Friday New Year's Potluck Lunch
Sat	1/4	10:30 am	3	Advent-Epiphany Study
Mon.	1/6	7 pm	3	Advent-Epiphany Study
Fri.	1/10	7 pm	2	Regifting Bingo
Sat.	1/11	10:30 am	3	Advent-Epiphany Study
Mon.	1/13	7 pm	3	Advent-Epiphany Study
Sat	1/18	10:30 am	6	Women of Faith Study resumes
Sat.	1/25	10:30 am	7	Women of Faith Study
Sun.	1/26	5:30 pm	8	Meatloaf Supper
Sun	2/25	5:30 pm	8	Chili Supper

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

avonmumc.org



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