

Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD

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Email: sungmulee@icloud.com

We have a longer season of Epiphany this year as we have a late Easter on April 20th. (Why do we have a different date of Easter each year? In 325, the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox, March 21st. Thus, the earliest possible date for Easter is March 22nd and the latest possible is April 25th.) Epiphany derives from a Greek word meaning “manifestation.” In the church, it also means the revealing of Christ to humans.

In the past we humans believed that the earth was flat, located in the center of the universe, and everything else revolved around it. Yet, in the 16th century, Copernicus proposed the idea of a solar system with objects, including earth, revolving around the sun. About 70 years later Galileo began to see things in the sky to support that concept, such as the fact that Jupiter had moons. For Galileo, it was a kind of epiphany, one of those sudden realizations that what had been previously accepted was wrong, and that new possibilities now existed.

One of my epiphany moments came to me when I was a teenager. I thought I was the center of the universe. I thought I would live forever. And I acted like God existed for me. Yet, one day I began to think about human mortality seriously: I would die someday. My parents, my sisters and brother, and my friends would also die.



It was a painful moment, but it led me to another epiphany in my early 20s when I was discharged from the Korean Army. As I continue to read the Bible, listen to the sermon of the pastor, and pray to God faithfully, I was invited to experience and meet Jesus Christ through special spiritual experiences. It was another moment of epiphany.

I realized from the bottom of my heart that it is God, not me, who is in the center of my life. I thought that God existed for me, and that God revolved around me. But I exist for God, and I revolve around God. God is immortal, and as long as I keep the relationship with God, I will live eternal life.

As we are in the season of Epiphany, I pray that you and I continuously have the moment of epiphany in our lives and at our church. As soon as you try to be at the center of life, unhappiness will come to you. As soon as you try to be at the center of the church, conflicts will begin. Therefore, let us remember to put God in the center of our lives and revolve around God, keeping relation with God through our faithful Christian life. May God bless you and reveal Himself to you through the season of Epiphany. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

Church Office: (860) 673-2111
 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

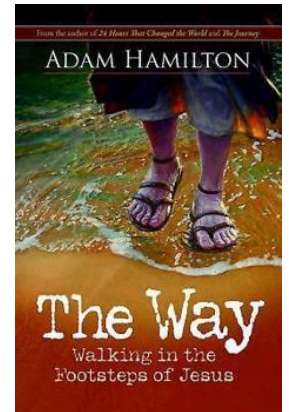
On line worship:
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/avon.mumc/>
 Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/user/AvonMUMC>

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2025 LENTEN STUDY

For 2025 Lenten Study, we will be using the book “The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus” by Adam Hamilton. Study will be available in person in the Parlor and/or on Zoom. Books will be available in the church office.



Please see schedule below:

Chapter 1: Feb 26th (Wednesday at 7pm) & Feb 27th (Thursday at 10:30am) led by Pastor Sungmu Lee

Ash Wednesday Service on March 5th

Chapter 2: March 12th (Wednesday at 7pm) & March 13th (Thursday at 10:30am) led by Diane Hornaday

Chapter 3: March 19th (Wednesday at 7pm) & March 20th (Thursday at 10:30am) led by Pat Kelly

Chapter 4: March 26th (Wednesday at 7pm) & March 27th (Thursday at 10:30am) led by Diane Hornaday

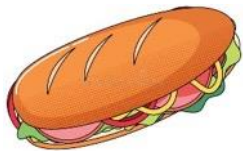
Chapter 5: April 2nd (Wednesday at 7pm) & April 3rd (Thursday at 10:30am) led by Pat Kelly

Chapter 6: April 9th (Wednesday at 7pm) & April 10th (Thursday at 10:30am) led by Pastor Sungmu Lee.



FIRST FRIDAY POT LUCK LUNCH Friday, February 7 12 noon

Love is in the air!!! Come celebrate Valentine's Day early 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.



SUPER BOWL GRINDERS!!! Sunday, February 9 Kevin Sweet

The youth of UM ARMY will be selling Super Bowl Grinders again this year as a fundraiser for our camps this summer. You can choose from 6" or 12", with selections such as the Italian Stallion, Tuna, Prosciutto, Homemade Meatball and Vege. We also have Clam Chowder and Chili. The sign-up genius for ordering is open and here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/Go/10C0F4CA8AA22A6FF2-54648535-super/11435235#/>



WOMEN OF FAITH & FUN PRAYER STUDY Chris Calandriello

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



MEAL FOR WINSTED

Laura Gorden



On **December 7** we delivered 66 meatloaf meals to Winsted. Thank you to all who helped cook the food, fill food containers, wash dishes, clean the kitchen, and deliver the meals to Winsted.

Next Winsted meal preparation is **February 1**. Always looking for people to help me with this mission project. One person is needed at 8 AM to help prepare the meal. Two additional people are needed at 9:30 AM to help fill 66 takeout food containers. It is always nice to have someone to help wash the dishes and clean up the kitchen at 10 AM or to volunteer to deliver the meals to Winsted. The meals are dropped off with a former Winsted UMC member who delivers the meals to those in need.

The 2025 Schedule for Winsted meals is:

February 1	August 2
April 5	October 4
June 7	December 6

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.**

CREATING A STRONG ESTATE PLAN: PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR FINANCES

Attorney Jeff Rivard (yes, Glenn's son),
Partner, Czepiga Daly Pope & Perri
Monday, March 10, 7-8pm, Parlor

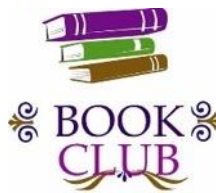
Have you been putting your estate planning on the back burner? Or perhaps it's time for an update.

Whether you are a planner or a procrastinator, having a strong and up-to-date estate plan should be at the top of your to-do list. In addition to providing the peace of mind of knowing your final wishes will be legally documented, an estate plan provides a roadmap for your loved ones to know how to care for you if you are no longer able to care for yourself and/or your financial and legal affairs.

In this session, you'll learn about important estate planning documents like Wills, powers of attorney, advance directives, and trusts, and the purpose and powers included in each. Furthermore, we'll examine what happens if you don't have a will when you pass away, how your estate gets divided amongst your heirs, who can pay your bills if you can't, how to choose your power of attorney and health care agents, and some common estate planning mistakes that you will want to avoid. Even if you have already created an estate plan, discover when and if you should have your existing documents reviewed and updated.

Attorney Rivard received his B.A. from Tufts University and his J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He is a member of the Connecticut Bar Association in the Elder Law, Estate and Probate sections. He is happy to help us understand the ins and outs of a good estate plan but there is a minimum of 10 attendees.

By March 3, please email Anne Fitzgerald with your interest at afitzgerald138@gmail.com. She will confirm our registration then will reconfirm the week of March 3rd.



THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

We are heading to Tudor England for our February meeting. Our discussion will cover *Anne Boleyn & Elizabeth I: The Mother and Daughter Who Changed History* by Tracy Borman. "Much of the fascination with Britain's legendary Tudors centers around the dramas surrounding Henry VIII and his six wives and Elizabeth I's rumored liaisons. Yet the most fascinating relationship in that historic era may well be that between the mother and daughter who, individually and collectively, changed the course of British history.

The future Queen Elizabeth was not yet three when her mother, Anne Boleyn, was beheaded on May 19, 1536...Elizabeth had been raised away from court, rarely even seeing Anne; and after her death, Henry tried in every way to erase Anne's presence and memory. At that moment in history, few could have predicted that mother and daughter would each leave enduring, and interlocked, legacies. Yet as Tracy Borman reveals in this first-ever joint portrait, both women broke the mold for British queens and for women in general at the time. Anne was instrumental in reforming and reshaping forever Britain's religious traditions, and her years of wielding power over a male-dominated court provided an inspiring role model for Elizabeth's glittering, groundbreaking 45-year reign. Indeed, Borman shows how much Elizabeth—most visibly by refusing to ever marry, but in many other more subtle ways that defined her court—was influenced by her mother's legacy. In its originality, *Anne Boleyn & Elizabeth I* sheds new light on two of history's most famous women—the private desires, hopes, and fears that lay behind their dazzling public personas, and the surprising influence each had on the other during and after their lifetimes. In the process, Tracy Borman reframes our understanding of the entire Tudor era." [amazon.com]

Our discussion will be held Sunday, February 16th at 7 pm in the Parlor and on Zoom. All are welcome!

REMEMBERING RUTHELLEN CORBETT



Our hearts are broken with the passing of our sister Ruthellen Morgan Corbett. She was a special friend to us all. Her commitment to Missions and Pastoral Care Committees at Memorial exemplified her concern with caring for and looking out for others. She will be and is already greatly missed at Memorial. Our love and sympathy to Bruce and his family.

A memorial service celebrating Ruthellen's life will be held on Saturday, March 8, at 11 am at Memorial with a reception following in the fellowship hall.

[Ruthellen Corbett Obituary | December 30, 2024 | Hartford Courant](#)



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



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

Steven Kelsey
Matthew Gorden
Skyler Austin
Nancy Macdonald
Kris Fillian
Chaz Calandriello
Christine Carroll
Walter Parylak
1Jim Calandriello

John Baily
Scott Kennedy
Barbara Chase
Michael Zeiser
Kim Brinn
Wesley Baker
Ella Rose Ross
Pat Bruinsma



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

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

Dave and Laura Gorden
Matthew & Christin (Daley)

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

CONGRATS TO BOB MARSHALL...



.... on the birth of his 10th great grandchild, Matteo Reino, born to Bob's granddaughter, Melissa Vise and Jane Reino. He came a little early, but is doing really well.

MEMORIAL GARDEN NEWS

John Perotti



The Garden was cleared and winterized in November and will spend the rest of the winter in repose until early spring, when Gardeners can begin the process of spring cleaning and preparation for new growth, blooming flowers, and lush greenery during the warm days of spring-fall 2025. In the meantime, Gardeners are currently completing a month of hosting coffee hour after church service on Sunday and will formally convene in late March to organize work details for Garden management. Two long-time church members who have passed will also be remembered in special ceremonies during the upcoming months - more details to come in the near future.



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, 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.....

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!

- 2/23 Chili supper
- 3/4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper
- 3/10 Creating a Strong Estate Plan: Protect Your Family and Your Finances (Pg. 3)
- 3/16 St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner



CHURCHERY SCHOOL

Along with cold weather, February will bring a lot of fun for the Churchery School children. Now that we have snow, we're hoping the temperature will warm up a bit so we can go out and play in it!

Valentines Day is always a big hit; the children will make their own valentine bags and each of them will bring a valentine for every friend in their class. It is a time to reinforce friendship and kindness.

We will celebrate Presidents Day learning about the people who have been responsible for our democracy and freedom.

Our registration is going well, our Pre-K class is full, but we still have a few openings in the other classes.

Our new Pre-K class has been a huge hit, parents are thrilled with the curriculum we chose for it and Miss Jaclyn (Pare) is an excellent teacher. She was a permanent kindergarten sub in Avon, the perfect choice to run this new class. The Churchery School now has 6 teachers who have been working at our school at least 10 years, some for well over 20 years. We are known for the longevity of our teachers which has been a plus with many parents. We are a team that believes in what we do and what the children that we work with need for an excellent preschool experience..

As always, feel free to visit! Read a book, help with a craft or just come and play! I promise you will leave feeling wonderful about spending time with our children!

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

U.M. ARMY NEWS

Laura Gorden

U.M. ARMY Pop-Up Weekend was held Martin Luther King Weekend, January 17-19, 2025. Julia Sweet, Nate and Ella Ross, Dave and I attended this mission weekend hosted by Mary Taylor Memorial UMC in Milford, CT. We started on Friday evening with a meet and greet, followed by team building and worship. On Saturday the work teams consisting of adults, young adults, and youth painted a community room, two bathrooms and organized the pantry at a homeless shelter. On Sunday the teams lead the worship service at church and then painted two community rooms in the church annex building. We will share pictures of our weekend soon.



MUMC MISSIONS AT WORK

Laura Gorden, Committee Chair

The Missions Committee wants to extend a big thank you to the MUMC members for your continued pledges and contributions to our many mission projects.

2024 MISSIONS BUDGET:

- \$1,180 - Winsted Meals (66 meatloaf meals are prepared six times a year totaling 396 meals)
- \$1,000 - PAAV (Project Adopt a Village sends doctors, dentists, nurses and educators to Ethiopia)
- \$2,000 – Foodshare of CT
- \$400 – Backpacks for Covenant to Care families
- \$500 – Avon Fuel Bank
- \$500 – Farmington Fuel Bank
- \$3,000 – UMARMY (United in Mission: Action Reach-out Ministry by Youth)

2024 MISSIONS FUND RAISING EVENTS:

- \$405 – Super Bowl Grinders (UMARMY)
- \$345 – Pancake Supper (UMARMY)
- \$782 – Corned Beef Dinner (MUMC Food Pantry)
- \$484 – Soup Supper (MUMC Food Pantry)
- \$761 – Tag Sale (MUMC Food Pantry)

2024 NON-BUDGET PROJECTS THAT MUMC MEMBERS HELP SUPPORT:

- MUMC Food Pantry
- Easter Baskets (8 children)
- School Supplies (13 backpacks filled)
- Thanksgiving Baskets (10 families)
- Christmas Gifts (20 children/youth)

MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEATLOAF SUPPER

Laura Gorden, Missions Committee Chair

The Meatloaf dinner hosted by the Missions & Outreach Committee raised \$805. Thank you to all who gave in support of our mission projects. I was so glad that 40 individuals were willing to give up watching the football games for the evening to come to the church to enjoy a meal and fellowship. I especially want to thank Greg and Michele Brown, Duncan Martin, Courtney Robinson, Carol Merritt, and Bev Perotti for helping prepare and serve the meal. A big thanks to Diane Hornaday for washing the dishes.

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Linda Kime, Rick Zeiser
SPR co-chairs.



SPR Committee feels our church congregation is very blessed to have our employees! We had a successful 2024 and are pleased that our employees

will be continuing with us as each has signed their employee agreements and met with their liaison. We thank the congregation for your generous Christmas bonus monies that showed appreciation to our 5 core staff.

We asked that Rev. Sungmu remain our full-time pastor and we'll know in next few months if he will be re-appointed by Bishop to us to for July 1. Martha has kept the bulletins being printed each week as well as other tasks in the church office. Bill has kept our large church facility running smoothly and the parsonage grounds in order. Tamari has blessed us with her musical talent and leadership with the 2 choirs. Dave Gorden has worked very hard to learn all about our finances and the software. SPR also thanks the dedicated staff of our Churchery Preschool who achieve great recognition of this program while providing loving care & teaching to the young students. We look forward to 2025 being a great year!

As always please contact either of us if you have any concerns and that you do not address an issue directly with our staff. We love to hear joys especially!



FEBRUARY 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.

February Fellowship Hour Host is...Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development:

Nominates to the Church Charge Conference in its annual session such officers and members of the Church Council, Church Charge Conference, and committees as the law of the Church requires or as the conference or church may determine as necessary for its work. Committee members must be members of MUMC and serve a three-year term.

"**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.

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.



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.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Linda Arnold

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 you you can go to the church website, [avonmumc.org](#). Scroll down home page to bottom to QUICK LINKS and click on ALTAR FLOWERS DONATION which will take you to the link 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 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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Pastoral Care

A long time ministry of MUMC and Pastoral Care has been the making and gifting of prayer shawls. We would like to revitalize this ministry by inviting some newer members who enjoy knitting and/or crocheting to join us.

Traditionally shawls have been gifted to members, but also offered to members to gift to friends and others while providing a \$20 donation to the shawl ministry to cover the expense of the yarn.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, please contact Kay Hunter via [the online form](#). A gathering of all interested will be scheduled in the near future to receive yarn and instructions.



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
Sat	2/1	8 am	3	Winsted meal preparation and delivery
Fri	2/7	12 pm	3	First Friday Valentine Pot Luck Lunch
Sun	2/9	11:30 am	3	Super Bowl Grinder Sales
Sun	2/16	7 pm	4	Other Good Book Group
Sun	2/23	5:30 pm	6	Chili Supper
Tue	3/4	5:30 pm	6	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wed	3/5	7 pm	-	Ash Wednesday Service
Mon	3/10	7 pm	3	Estate Planning Program
Sun	3/16	5:30 pm	6	St. Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner

PLEASE NOTE: All dates for Lenten Study listed on Page 2.

*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***