

Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD

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Website: avonmumc.org

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

Sunday Worship Schedule:

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

On line worship:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/avon.mumc
YouTube: www.youtube.com/avonmumc

We begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. "Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians" (The United Methodist Book of Worship 320). It is often tedious and difficult to prepare something for 40 days. Yet, without preparation, there is less chance of good results.

Recently, I watched an old movie "Cast Away." While watching the movie, I mumbled, "God might feel like this." As the main character made his first attempt to escape from the uninhabited island, I said, "No way. You cannot make it with such poor preparation." God may say to us, "No. You cannot make it this time." As the main character was depressed in failing to escape, so we may sometimes fall into depression when encountering failures in our lives. However, we find an important fact that we learn from our failures.

We Christians have prepared for Easter for about 2,000 years. If you have been Christians for fifty years, you have prepared for Easter fifty times. If

*The
Season
of
Lent*



you have not experienced the real joy of Easter, you must have failed to prepare well for it. However, let us not be disappointed. As I said above, we learn from our failures. We get another chance.

Do you want to take the chance to prepare faithfully for Easter this year? Come join us at our Sunday services and Wednesday and Thursday Lenten Bible studies. This is the way that our Christian ancestors experienced God and felt the real joy of Easter. Through the worship services and Bible studies you will encounter our Lord who gives you hope where there seems no hope. As worshipping God and studying the Bible together, you will meet our Lord who died for you and was resurrected to save you from sins.

I am sure that through the faithful preparation in Lent, you will make this year's Easter really joyful and fruitful. Rejoice! Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again. Happy Lent!

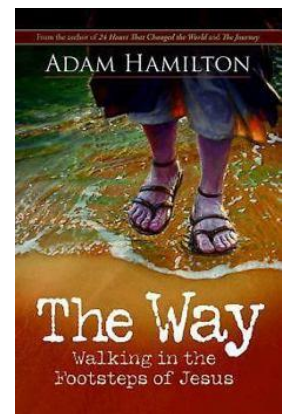
Sungmu Lee

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

11	Altar Flowers
3	Ash Wednesday Service
12	Bereavement Support Group
7	Birthdays of the Month
9	Boy Scouts Pray Program
5	Breakfast with Easter Bunny / Easter Egg Hunt
13	Cracked pots!
2	Dates to Remember
11	Easter Plants
3	Estate Planning Workshop
11	Fellowship Hour for March – Pastoral Care
8	Finance
3	First Friday Pot Luck Lunch
10	Food Pantry
4	Guiding & Growing
6	Help!! Seeking auditor!!
2	Lenten study
13	Looking ahead!
6	Lunch Bunch
10	Meat loaf recipe
9	Membership - Directory
10	Missions
6	Other Good Book Group
1	Pastor Message
12	Pastoral Care – Keep us informed
12	Peanut Free Facility
7	Prayer Shawl ministry
7	Remember Those Who Cannot Get Out
7	Ruthellen Corbett Memorial Service
4	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
4	St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Supper
9	Trustees
11	UMARMY
10	Winsted Meals
6	Women of Faith Study

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

Day	Date	Time	Pg.	Event
Tue	3/4	5:30 pm	4	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wed	3/5	7 pm	3	Ash Wednesday Service
Mon	3/10	7 pm	3	Estate Planning Program
Sun	3/16	5:30 pm	4	St. Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner

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.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5.. It is a season of introspection and preparation. It is a time for repentance and reflection. And it is, ultimately, a journey that leads us towards Holy Week, preparing us for the death and resurrection of our Lord. Let's start the Lenten journey together as a Christian community as we gather for worship on **March 5 at 7:00 pm**.

The service will include music, prayer, reflection time, the imposition of ashes, and communion.

*If you plan to join online, please pick up the "Ash Wed. Kit (ashes & communion elements)" on Sunday, March 2 (after the services) or Wednesday, March 5, 9 am – 2 pm in the church office.



**FIRST FRIDAY
POT LUCK LUNCH
Friday, March 7
12 noon**

We've experienced the coldest cold, snow and ice, but are looking forward to SPRING. Please join us as we celebrate and look forward to its arrival. 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.



GUIDING & GROWING GROUP

Kay Hunter

We're a small group – but we are committed to work to regrow and strengthen MUMC. At our February meeting, we prepared a calendar of exciting events through June!!! We are looking forward to themed monthly suppers, a speaker on estate planning, 3rd annual car show, our first time Community Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and 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!!!

Upcoming events – mark your calendars now!!

Tue. 3/4 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Mon 3/10 Creating a Strong Estate Plan Program
Sun. 3/16 St. Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner
Sat. 4/12 NEW EVENT!! Breakfast with the
Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt
Sun. 4/20 Easter Breakfast – Pot Luck
Sun. 5/4 Cinco de Mayo Mexican Supper
Sun. 5/18 Mad Hatter Mother-Daughter Tea
(tentative)
Sat. 6/14 3rd Annual Car Show
Fri 6/20 Pot luck supper
AND MORE!?!?

Also be on the lookout for the latest version of MUMC t-shirts They'll be red with white lettering and will be perfect for all to wear for MUMC events as well as when you are out in the community to promote MUMC's home in the Valley!!!



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 4
Serving 5:30-6:30

Come join us for a variety of pancakes, bacon and sausage, applesauce, coffee, tea and juice in preparation of the beginning of lent.

Invite friends and neighbors to join you. Spread the word. Proceeds from free will donations from the supper will benefit our 2025 UMARMY mission weeks.



CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE SUPPER

Sunday, March 16
Serving 5:30-6:30

Come join us for a great traditional corned beef and cabbage supper in Fellowship Hall. We'll be serving corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and Irish soda bread and as always some scrumptious desserts.

This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to join you at MUMC for an evening of great food, fellowship and conversation. We hope we will see you all there.

Free will donations will be welcome!! All proceeds will benefit MUMC's 24/7 Community Food Pantry.

NEW EVENT AT MUMC!!

We will be holding our first ever **Community Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt** at Memorial!! All attendees will be asked to bring and donate a non-perishable item for our 24/7 community food pantry!! In addition to the breakfast and egg hunt, we will offer crafts and a photo op with the Easter Bunny

Many hands make light work!!! If you would like to volunteer your time for any aspect of this event, please contact me via [the online form](#).

Thanks in advance for your part in making this event a big success and hopefully an annual event at MUMC. What a great opportunity to bring members of our community into our church building to experience our fellowship and the presence of Jesus Christ!!!!

The poster features a green background with a white Easter Bunny peeking over a green horizon line. The text "All're Welcome!" is written in a red, playful font. Below it, the word "FREE" is written in large, white, block letters. The main title "COMMUNITY BREAKFAST with the EASTER BUNNY & EGG HUNT" is in a white, outlined font. The location "@ MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH" and address "867 West Avon Road, Avon, CT | 860.673.2111" are listed. The date "SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025" is in large, bold, black letters. The times for "BREAKFAST & CRAFTS: 9:00 - 10:30 AM" and "EASTER EGG HUNT: 10:30 - 11:00 AM" are also in bold black letters. A cartoon bee with a megaphone is on the left. A small white flower is on the right. At the bottom, there are colorful Easter eggs and the website "AVONMUMC.ORG" and Facebook link "AVON.MUMC".

All're Welcome!

FREE

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST
with the EASTER BUNNY & EGG HUNT

@ MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
867 West Avon Road, Avon, CT | 860.673.2111

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025
BREAKFAST & CRAFTS:
9:00 - 10:30 AM
EASTER EGG HUNT: 10:30 - 11:00 AM

*Free photos with the Easter Bunny
(Please bring your own camera)

**Support Our Community: We accept free-will donations of non-perishable food items for MUMC's 24/7 Food Pantry that serves our community. Thank you for your generosity.*

AVONMUMC.ORG AVON.MUMC



WOMEN OF FAITH & FUN PSALMS STUDY

Chris Calandriello

New study for Women of Faith of PSALMS beginning Saturday, March 1 – 10:30-11:30 in Parlor and on Zoom. All women are invited to participate. Led by Chris Calandriello. Look for more information in Sunday bulletin inserts and Wednesday e-mail blasts.

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.

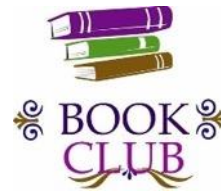
Always lively conversation and fellowship. Won't you join us? Just pack up your own lunch and **beverage. Coffee and tea are available.**



Are you a CPA or have accounting or audit experience?

MUMC Finance Committee is looking for **volunteers to**

assist with auditing our books annually. By building a bench of qualified volunteers and conducting the audits more frequently, we hope to keep the time commitment each year to a minimum. Please contact Pastor Lee if interested.



THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

Our title for March, *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson, brings us a different angle on a part of history addressed in *The Giver of Stars* (discussed September of 2020). "In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry.

The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky. Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program.

She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing, a bookly respite, a fleeting retreat to faraway lands." [goodreads.com]

This will be the (more or less) 250th scheduled meeting of our group! Over the past 23+ years we've covered approximately 236 titles, 2 films, and had 17 "Readers' Choice" gatherings to share titles.

Our discussion will be held **Sunday, March 16th at 7 pm** in the Parlor and on Zoom and all are welcome!

RUTHELLEN CORBETT MEMORIAL SERVICE



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. All are welcome to honor and remember our dear sister Ruthellen.

The service will also be livestreamed on Facebook and Youtube at [avonmumc](https://www.avonmumc.com).

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



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.

We've already had response from several who are interested in becoming part of this ministry. If you are interested, please contact Kay Hunter at kay.hunter@att.net. A gathering of all interested will be scheduled in the near future to receive yarn and instructions.

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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

Judy Corbeil
Brenda Slone
Erin Corbett
Aaron Oommen
Carla Gregory
Mary Montgomery
Pam Palmer

Linda Kime
Rhett Tew
Timothy Kelsey
Chalise Ross
Sandy Sargent
Emmett Borenstein
Daniel Gorden

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

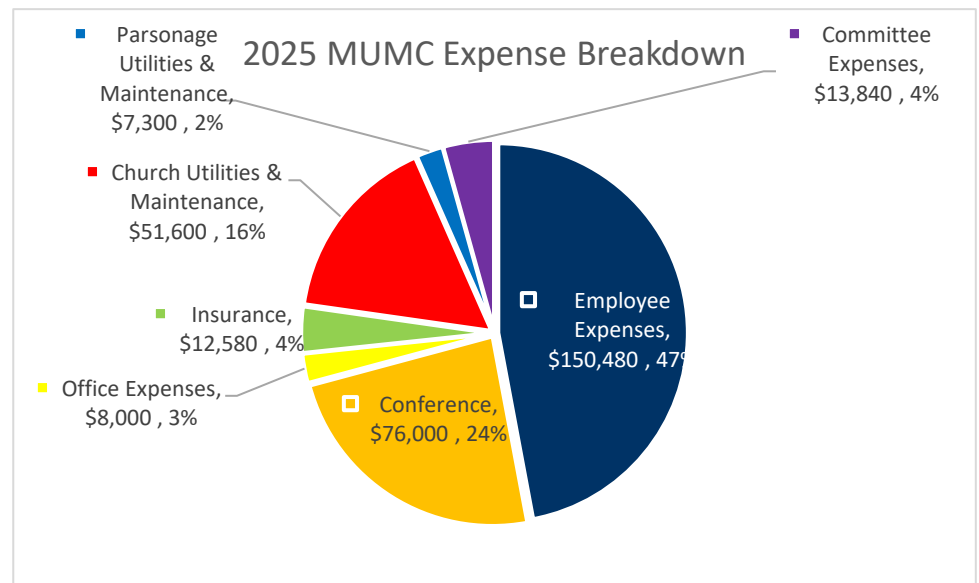


FINANCE 2025 UPDATE

I am happy to report that Memorial United Methodist closed 2024 with a positive balance! Some late donations ended 2024 with slightly more than a \$30,000 surplus that we are able to carry forward to our 2025 budget.

About the 2025 budget . . .

Unfortunately, our 2025 budget reflects a projected shortfall of over \$40,000, even after carrying forward last year's \$30,000 surplus. You may recall that our 2024 budget also reflected an even greater deficit than we anticipated for 2025. However, your generous giving last year exceeded our expected giving and proved once again how we persevere during difficult times. I pray we can do it again. What can YOU do?



PAY UP, SHOW UP, STEP UP!

PAY UP: If you haven't made a pledge for 2025 it is not too late to do so. You may call or email our Financial Secretary, Diane Hornaday, at 860-673-9634 or dhornaday@sbcglobal.net. You may also pick up a pledge card in the church office or the back of the sanctuary. If you already pledged and donate, consider adding a little extra during a good time with your weekly plate donation. Every little bit helps.

SHOW UP: When trying to attract new members, it's always important to put our best feet forward to show what a wonderful church community we have. Come to weekly services. Join us for Fellowship Hour and at our many, many events open to our community. Free-will donations at our dinners help both our church and our community.

STEP UP: As I pray our church membership grows, we will need even more volunteers as we anticipate more need for services. Sunday school, crib room, cooking and meal prep, ushers, knitters, drivers, audio-visual just to name a few ways you can help grow our church with the gift of your time and leadership.

God Bless,

MUMC Finance Committee

GOD AND ME



BOY SCOUTS “PRAY” PROGRAM

Rev. Sungmu Lee

I am glad and thankful to announce that Eleanor and Claesen Wyckoff will receive the pins and the certificates of

the Boy Scouts PRAY program during the 10:30 Sunday service on March 16th. Eleanor completed the “Jesus & Me” program, and Claesen the “God & Me” program during the past year. Their journeys will continue in September this year. Please spread the word so that more children may participate the PRAY program.



The following explains what the PRAY program is. In the Boy Scouts, “PRAY” stands for “Personal Relationship And You,” and it refers to a religious emblems program that focuses on strengthening a Scout’s personal relationship with God, adhering to the Scout Law’s *reverent* principle and respecting the beliefs of others, while remaining non-sectarian in its approach; essentially, it encourages Scouts to actively engage with their faith through personal study and reflection, all while upholding the Boy Scouts’ *Duty to God* tenet.

The United Methodist Church Scouting Ministries encourage the use of P.R.A.Y. classes and emblems.

The Mission: The mission of the office is to enable United Methodist congregations to minister to children and youth in their churches and neighborhoods through scouting and other youth-serving organizations. The mission of the United Methodist Church is to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

The Vision: Every United Methodist Church will provide opportunities for youth to increase their self-confidence, serve their community, work with others, become disciples of Jesus Christ, and model Christian values.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Marsha Kennedy



We have had a problem with the ductless heat/AC system in Pastor Lee's office and to remedy the lack of heat until the unit has been fixed, a heater was donated to use in the office by Hal and Linda Johansen. Many thanks to you both.

Dumont insurance agency looked over the church insurance policy we now have with Brotherhood and said that it is a competitive price so we will continue with Brotherhood.

We are looking into pricing with Eversource with a third party for exploring a lower price.

We had an Avon police officer meet with John Fillian for a walk through to offer a threat assessment and safety advice for the entire church. We are evaluating these changes and will also have a school resource officer (SRO) come to give us a written report.

The Churchery School would like to have a new playscape, demolishing the old ,which is in much need of repair. We are presently getting quotes for the project, no playscape has been determined at this time.

We have plans for a Car show in the spring and also plans to rent the fellowship hall for an event in March.

Hopefully it will warm up soon
Blessings to all.

MEMBERSHIP - DIRECTORY

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 be sent to Linda Kime by text 860-305-0526 or email lmk318@aol.com

MUMC MISSIONS AT WORK

Laura Gorden, Committee Chair

Contact via [the online form](#)



WINSTED MEALS

Thank you to Duncan Martin, Greg Brown, Courtney Robinson, Mark Borenstein, and Dave Gorden for helping

me prepare, package and deliver the Winsted meals on February 1.

The next Winsted meal preparation will be on April 5. I need one person at 8 AM to help prepare the meal and two or three additional people at 9:30 to help fill the takeout food containers. It is always appreciated if someone would help wash the dishes and cleanup the kitchen at 10 AM or volunteer to deliver the meals to Winsted. Please contact me if you are willing to help at any of the times needed for this mission project.

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 (**we currently have an over abundance of this item**)

Soups/beef stew

Canned fruits

Tuna/salmon

Canned meats/chicken, beef, spam

Rice

Beans/black, red, navy, baked

Peanut butter/Jelly

Pancake mix/syrup

Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate

Personal hygiene products

Easy open (no can opener required) items:

Fruit cups

Pudding cups

Tuna in a pouch

Single serve soups & pastas

Protein bars

MEATLOAF

(Laura Gorden's Recipe)

This recipe is adapted from the meatloaf recipe used for the Winsted meals. I have the proportions of ingredients recalculated to the best of my ability. Meatloaf is a recipe you can always add or subtract ingredients to your own individual taste. Enjoy!

1 ½ lbs. hamburger

1 egg

1 cup beef broth

1/8 cup ketchup

¼ cup chopped onion

3 slices bread cubed

¼ tsp. pepper

¼ tsp. dry mustard

¼ tsp. sage

¼ tsp. celery salt

¼ tsp. garlic powder

Barbeque Sauce (use half way through baking time)

- 1) Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- 2) In a mixing bowl, beat egg, beef broth and ketchup.
- 3) Add spices and mix into liquid
- 4) Add chopped onion and bread cubes. Mix until bread absorbs all the liquid.
- 5) Add hamburger and mix until all ingredients are incorporated.
- 6) Place in meatloaf pan, bread pan or 8x8 square pan.
- 7) Bake 45 minutes and then drain off liquid.
- 8) Top meatloaf with barbeque sauce and bake an additional 45 minutes.

UMARMY 2025

Laura Gorden

The following mission weeks have been set for 2025. These are all over-night camps.

July 13-19 Mixed Age (7th grade through high school plus adult leaders), Seymour, CT

July 20-26 Mixed Age (7th grade through high school plus adult leaders), Centerport LI, NY

Ella & Nate Ross, and Kevin Sweet are attending the Seymour, CT mission week and Julia Sweet is attending the Centerport LI, NY mission week. If there are other youth or adults that would like to join one or both mission weeks, the cutoff date to register is June 1. If interested in knowing more, please contact me via [the online form](#).



Altar Flowers

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.



FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime

Fellowship Hour is in full swing down in Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship.

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.

March Fellowship Hour Host is...Pastoral Care Committee.

We are God's hands and God's Arms for those in need of comfort!

To keep in touch with members of our congregation who are struggling with a life-changing situation, such as an illness or death in the family, aging issues or loneliness. Support may include phone calls, delivery of home cooked meals, home or hospital visits, transportation, hospital survivor kits for the caregivers who may spend endless hours in a sterile waiting room, get well and thinking of you cards, or any other assistance that may be requested.

"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.

EASTER PLANTS FOR THE ALTAR

Linda Arnold

Be on the lookout for signup for Easter Plants. As soon as we have the list of available plants, we will send out an e-mail blast.





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.



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.

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.

"If you know someone who *has lost a child* or lost *anybody who's important to them*, and you're *afraid to mention them* because you think you might *make them sad* by reminding them that they died,

they didn't forget they died.
You're not reminding them.

What you're reminding them of is that *you remember* that they lived,

and that's a great, great gift."

Unspoken Grief. *UnspokenGrief.com* -- Elizabeth Edwards

CRACKED POTS



A water-bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water-bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you." "Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?" "I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water-bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure. The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. There is a lot of good out there. There is a lot of good in you! Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape!

LOOKING AHEAD!!!

Sat	4/12	9 am	Breakfast with Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt
Sun	4/13	8:30 & 10:30 am	Palm Sunday Services
Thu.	4/17	6 pm	Soup Supper
		7 pm	Maundy Thursday Services with Communion
Fri.	4/18	7 pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Sun	4/20	6:30 am	Sunrise Service
		8:30 & 10:30 am	Alleluia! He is Risen! Worship Services

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