THE GOOD NEWS Newsletter
Volume 89, No. 7
JULY, 2025
Kay Hunter, Editor

Memorial United Methodist Church
867 West Avon Rd.
Avon, CT

Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD

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Summer Office Hours: Tue., Wed & Fri 11 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/avonmumc
YouTube: www.youtube.com/avonmumc

Happy Independence Day! We give thanks to God that we live in the land of liberty. We are free. We can speak, think, travel, believe, and do as we please. This is freedom. And yet, how ironic it is that here, in the 21st century, a lot of people do not seem to be all that free. Our age shall be known, not as the age of freedom, but as the age of anxiety. We are anxious about many things: having enough money, having good enough health, being secure and safe. We are free, but in a sense, we are not really free.

We are not the only ones who feel that way. Jesus said to those who lived in Palestine about two thousand years ago, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11: 28-30).

The yoke often becomes the symbol of captivity and enslavement. Breaking the yoke becomes the symbolic expression of liberation from slavery and oppression. As we come to Jesus, the old yoke of slavery and oppression is broken, and the new yoke of Christ, the yoke of grace, is given to us. The yoke of the law is replaced by the yoke of grace, and our yoke becomes his yoke.

God through Christ comes first to bear our burden so that our burden becomes his as well. In this way God works in us and through us. To become a Christian means to bear the yoke of Christ. It means to be a fellow worker with Christ.

As a true yoke-fellow and as a fellow worker with Christ, we are reminded of the fact that we are not alone. Christ is with us and bears the burden that we bear. He suffers with us when we suffer and works with us to cultivate our souls.

That is the meaning of the yoke. It is the yoke of grace, peace, and freedom. We live in a free country, and we are free. However, we are not really free, because we are anxious about many things in our lives. Do we want to live really a free life?

As we begin the fourth year of ministry together, let us come to Jesus Christ, take his yoke upon us, and learn from him, who is gentle and humble in heart. We will find rest for our souls because his yoke is easy, and his burden is light. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

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INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

FIRST FRIDAY POT LUCK LUNCH

Friday, July 4 at noon

Celebrating Independence Day – Fourth of July – on the 4th of July. We'll be serving hot dogs and all the fixings. Come join us!! Bring a favorite picnic dish to share if you can – salad, snacks, chips, desserts. Should be fun day to celebrate and enjoy good food, fellowship and conversation!!!

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime

Fellowship Hour in Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship continues to be a vital time of conversation and fellowship.

Committees have done a stellar job these last 10 months. Thank you to all volunteers who have contributed to this time we so enjoy together and the treats!

SUMMER REFRESHMENTS!

For Summer we go to one service at 9:30 am. July and August do not have committees covering refreshments so we **need volunteers** to sign up for **July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.** That's 9 opportunities to provide those days!! Pair up and that's 18 lucky folks. A sign-up sheet will be in back of sanctuary and then in Fellowship hall while we're socializing.

Let's not find ourselves on one of these Sunday mornings **without having a Fellowship Hour**!!!

Thanks in advance for volunteering!!!

"LOST SHEEP" ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Saturday, July 26
2-3:30 pm
(Rain date: Sun., July 27)

Come – invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you for a fun afternoon of sheep related games and crafts and ice cream sundaes on the grounds of MUMC.

Be prepared for a visit from a "special" shepherd!!! This is a great opportunity to invite all to share in the community we have at MUMC.

Certainly we are looking for folks to head up or volunteer for the many aspects of this event including: publicity, ice cream prep and serving, baking cupcakes - overseeing cupcake decorating, crafts, registration and check in, and of course, set up and breakdown. As always, many hands make light work. Look for the signup genius for your opportunity to volunteer!!!

Please won't you come on board to make this a special afternoon for MUMCers and our friends and neighbors of our communities.

Flyers and cards will be available for distribution – please help us spread the word.

MUMC SEEKING TREASURER

Our current Treasurer David Gorden is moving to Wisconsin possibly early as October! SPR needs to know if anyone from our MUMC family is interested in the job before we advertise hiring notice or interview general public applicants. Please contact Sungmu or Linda Kime 860-305-0526 to find out more about job details. New treasurer needs to start training on Church Windows software soon. Thanks.

ENDOWMENT GIVING AND STEWARDSHIP

Save the Date for a special and informative Church Council meeting: **Tuesday July 15 at 7pm** in the Parlor.

The United Methodist Frontier Foundation has agreed to speak at our next Church Council meeting on the mechanics and ins and outs of endowment investing as well as the services they provide to churches with stewardship campaigns. The United Methodist Frontier Foundation is an independently incorporated non-profit 501(c) (3) which serves religious and charitable causes. They work with **400** partner churches, from upstate New York to western Connecticut to metro New York and Long Island and **1,400** churches in need of stewardship and financial services.

Our church has an endowment fund that members can donate to as a means of supporting the church in its long-term needs. Endowment funds are generally invested for growth and income over a long period of time, and earnings from those investments help to support a church's ongoing financial needs.

Church Council meetings are always open to all church members, and there is a zoom option for those who wish to participate from home.

THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

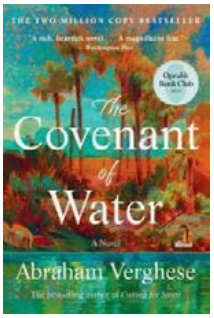
Lunch Bunch is a casual get together of MUMCers in Fellowship Hall every Thursday at noon (except week of First Friday Potluck Lunch).

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.

THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

Our title for July is an epic novel by Abraham Verghese, *The Covenant of Water*. “Spanning the years 1900 to 1977, *The Covenant of Water* is set in Kerala, on India’s Malabar Coast, and follows three generations of a family that suffers a peculiar affliction: in every generation, at least one person dies by drowning—and in Kerala, water is everywhere. At the turn of the century, a twelve-year-old girl from Kerala's Christian community, grieving the death of her father, is sent by boat to her wedding, where she will meet her forty-year-old husband for the first time.



From this unforgettable new beginning, the young girl—and future matriarch, Big Ammachi—will witness unthinkable changes over the span of her extraordinary life, full of joy and triumph as well as hardship and loss, her faith and love the only constants.

A shimmering evocation of a bygone India and of the passage of time itself, *The Covenant of Water* is a hymn to progress in medicine and to human understanding, and a humbling testament to the hardships undergone by past generations for the sake of those alive today. Imbued with humor, deep emotion, and the essence of life, it is one of the most masterful literary novels published in recent years.” [goodreads.com]

Our discussion will be held **Sunday, July 20th at 7** pm in the Parlor and on Zoom and all are welcome!

Sunday, July 27th is UMARMY Sunday.

Sunday, August 10th will be Vacation Bible Camp Sunday.

2025 VACATION BIBLE CAMP

August 11-15
9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Memorial United
Methodist Church

Age 3 as of 8/11 (must be potty trained)
to those completing Grade 4
$25 per child; max. $60 per family

“The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

All children are invited to participate in Vacation Bible Camp – we have **no limit** on number of registrations – but **early registrations help** us in planning and organization.

Camperships are available. Register your child and then contact Kay Hunter via the online form for confidential paid status.

Lessons for the week include:

Abraham and Sarah Follow God (Genesis 12:1-9 - God is with us on the journey.
The Israelites Take the Scenic Route (Exodus 13:17-22) - God is with us when we go off course.
Mary & Elizabeth’s Family Reunion (Luke 1:39-56) - God is with us when we’re joyful.
Jesus Visits Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) - God is with us when we’re lonely.
On the Road with Paul (Acts 18:1- God is with us near and far.

Daily activities include opening assembly, music, crafts, recreation, Bible stories, science, snacks, reflection time, and closing assembly!!!

To register your child (grandchild, niece, nephew, friend) or to as a volunteer, and to view more information go to:

avonmumc.org/vbc

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MUMC MISSIONS AT WORK

Laura Gorden, Committee Chair
Contact via the online form

WINSTED MEALS

Thank you to Rick Zeiser, Heather Kelsey and Ann Wesley for helping me prepare, package and deliver the Winsted meals on June 7.

The next Winsted meal preparation will be on August 2. 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:

Mac and cheese **(not a popular item and we currently have plenty)**
Canned vegetables **(green beans are not a popular item and we currently have plenty)**
Boxed milk or Powdered milk
Cereal/Instant Oatmeal
Pasta sauce and pasta
Soups/beef stew
Canned fruits
Tuna/salmon
Canned meats/chicken, beef, spam
Rice/rice cups
Beans/black, red, navy, baked
Fresh produce/potatoes, squash, apples, oranges
Peanut butter/Jelly
Pancake mix/syrup
Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate
Oil (vegetable, canola, olive)
Salt & Pepper
Sugar/Flour
Cake & Cookie mixes/frosting
Dish detergent
Personal hygiene products

Easy open (no can opener required) items:
Fruit cups/Pudding cups
Tuna in a pouch
Single serve soups & pastas
Protein bars

MUMC MEATLOAF MEAL MISSION

Laura Gorden
Contact via the online form

I am looking for someone to take over MUMC's Winsted meatloaf meal project. August 2 will be the last time I will be fulfilling this mission. If there is anyone interested in leading this mission for the future, please let me know and come and work with me on August 2.

THIRD FRIDAY POT LUCK SUPPER

Friday, July 18 – 5:30 pm

Grab a favorite dish to share and join us for a casual gathering to share a meal, fellowship, conversation and friendship. Easy peasy!!

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.

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 along 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.

We will not be meeting in July and August, and will resume our meetings starting September 17th .

CHURCH WIDE MISSION PROJECT "DIAPER DRIVE"

Thanks to all who donated to the month long "Diaper Drive" for the Diaper Bank of Connecticut. The total number of diapers collected: 876 (app. $300) plus 4 travel packs of wipes (app. $4). We're confident they will be put to good use.

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.

"We are God's hands and God's arms for those in need of comfort."

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS….

REMEMBERING PAUL ANDERSON

On Thursday, June 5, Pastor Sungmu visited Paul Anderson and found him looking well, walking with a walker and having a clear mind.

Paul shared that he was very thankful for our prayers and that he missed the church family. On the weekend he had a heart attack and passed away on Monday, June 9.

Paul will be remembered for his dedication to Memorial in so many ways and for his beautiful singing voice. His warm smile will be missed by all. A Memorial Service will be held at Memorial later in the summer.

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

Adva V.
10 Chelsea Place
Avon, CT 06001

JULY BIRTHDAYS

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

Harold Palmer
Caroline Zeiser
Chris Pizarro-Slevinsky
Bruce Merritt
Jamie Smithers
Mitchell Perkins
Jeremy Notestine
Larry Gregory
Siji Oommen
Julianna Sweet
Bob Marshall
Nicholas Graham
Tony Rauche
Jackson Gorden
Makayla Tardiff
Robert Tardiff
Joan Couch

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

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CELEBRATING OLIVIA'S GRADUATION

Sunday, June 15

Following worship we celebrated Olivia Kafka's graduation from Farmington High School with a special cake. Wishing her and all graduates success in their future.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADS!!!

Justin Thomas Baily graduated from Farmington High School. Onward to UConn for Exercise Sciences. Hoping to be working with sports teams in the future. Justin is the son of Jeff and Kim Baily and grandson of John and Donna Baily.

Addyson Marie Marshall, graduated from Poquoson High School in Poquoson, Virgina. Future plans are not firmed up yet, but they will probably be associated with veterinarian work. Addyson is the granddaughter of Bob Marshall.

Olivia Kafka graduated from Farmington High School and will be attending Farmington Valley Transition Academy where she will practice job and life skills.

Chalise Ross completed her 6th Year Degree in Educational Leadership at Central Connecticut State University. Chalise is wife of Matt and mother of Nate and Ella Ross.

MUMC MEMORIAL GARDEN

June 2025 Update

The Committee has completed irrigation and maintenance with Grasshelper, with a recent replacement of solid piping with perforated piping. The annuals and roses have blossomed despite the heavy rain and the lack of sun over the past month, but with weeds of all types also proliferating. We have contacted our arborist and scheduled pruning in late June of the three trees in the center circle area, as well as those outside the Garden area that line the south driveway from West Avon Road all the way down to the corner. Continuing from June through September, Gardeners are taking responsibility singly or in pairs, along with the occasional volunteer from congregation, for the weekly weeding, spraying, deadheading, and other routine maintenance.

Special activities include individual memorial services for departed members (such as the beloved late Ruthellen Corbett whose ceremony was conducted on June 1st), installing nameplates for the deceased on our Memorial stones (David Chase and Bobbie Williams' nameplates have just arrived), and holding a *Service of Remembrance* in the Garden in September, in conjunction with a special Sunday service in the Sanctuary that same morning.

NEED A HAND??

Teens Nate and Ella Ross are looking to stay busy this summer by offering their time to help church members with household projects or chores such as yardwork, organizing, house/pet sitting, running errands, etc. If you would like help, contact Chalise or Nate directly via the online form

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

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MUMC "AWARDS" DINNER

September 15

The Guiding and Growing Committee is planning an awards dinner to honor and celebrate our many dedicated volunteers who serve our church and the community with their time and efforts, often behind the scenes. The dinner will take place on Friday September 19 at our regularly scheduled 3rd Friday Potluck dinner.

Please help us by suggesting award categories and sending nominations. Both can be sent to Krista Kennedy via the online form

Examples of award categories include: most meals cooked, most committees served, best technology support, most pumpkin bread baked, etc. Please join us in celebrating our dedicated volunteers who make MUMC great!

MUMC T-SHIRTS

If you didn't get your new red MUMC T-shirt and would like one, please contact Linda Kime 860-305-0526 so she can do a 2nd small order with correct sizes of choices.

3rd Annual **CAR SHOW**
Saturday, June 21

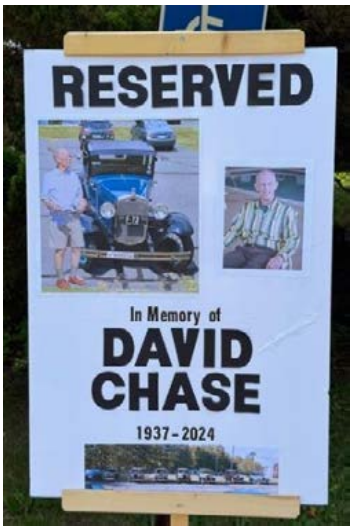
MUMC's 3rd Annual Car Show was a big success. Needed to postpone for a week due to another rainy Saturday, but the 21st was a perfect day. Participants seemed happy! All received dash plaques which they like to collect. We ran out of hot dogs at the very end. Folks were happy to donate to try to win a variety of prizes. Special thanks to Kay Hunter, Bill Rebillard and John Perotti for planning the event.

Bill was responsible for all to do with the hot dogs, snacks and drinks for all to enjoy. John oversaw and organized prizes. Kay handled publicity, signage, overseeing setup, etc.

Additional thanks to Linda Kime, Bev Perotti, Kenny Martin, Jim Lombardi, Jamie Smithers and Chris Calandriello who helped with all other aspects of pulling this event together. From setup to cleanup!!!

We look forward to 2026!!!

We had a special "RESERVED" parking spot to honor the memory of David Chase.



FAREWELL TO DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT REV. DR. ALPHER SYLVESTER

On Sunday, June 22, Pastor Sungmu, Diane Hornaday and Kay Hunter attended the celebration of 8 years of faithful service of Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester as our District Superintendent.

The event, held at Danbury UMC, included great music, scriptures and prayers. He was presented with gifts including a small three legged stool.

The emphasis of his ministry to us was providing us with materials, guidance and means for evangelism to help us regrow our churches.

His message was to approach evangelism as a three legged stool which cannot stand without all three legs. First, to identify needs and reach out to them; second, to make friends with those we help; and then third – share our story- our faith.

He was presented with a small engraved three legged stool.

With Rev. Parker Prout
Chair, District Superintendency Committee;
Pastor First UMC Torrington & Litchfield/Bantam

We wish him well as he begins his ministry at the United Methodist Church in the Bronx.

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

Day	Date	Time	Pg.	Event
Sat.	7/4	12 pm	2	Independence Day – First Friday Pot Luck Lunch
Mon.	7/21	TBD	7	*Paul Anderson Memorial Service*
Wed.	7/16	8 am	-	Men's Breakfast – Friendly's of Avon
Fri	7/18	5:30 pm	8	Third Friday Pot Luck Supper (Guiding & Growing)
Sun.	7/20	7 pm	4	The "Other" Good Book Group
Sat.	7/26	2-3:30 pm	3	"Lost Sheep" Ice Cream Social (rain date: 7/27)
Sat	8/11-15	9 am-12:15 pm	4	Vacation Bible Camp – "Road Trip"

Also please note: UMARMY
July 13-19 Mixed Age - Seymour, CT
July 20-26 Mixed Age - Centerport LI, NY

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUR LATEST HAPPENNGS
AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION
avonmumc.org

MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

867 WEST AVON ROAD
AVON, CT 06001