THE GOOD NEWS Newsletter
Volume 89, No. 9
SEPTEMBER, 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

Cell Phone: (631) 456-1713 Email: sungmulee@icloud.com

Church Office: (860) 673-2111
Office Fax: (860) 673-5777
Church Email: avonmumc@gmail.com
Website: avonmumc.org

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

Welcome to September! It was pretty hot and humid in July and August! Some days were too hot to do anything, even hard to breathe. Now, we can feel the cool air in the morning and evening. The summer is going, and the autumn is coming. We thank God for this wonderful gift of the changing seasons.

Although we are getting closer to the fall, some days can still be very hot, but not hot enough to turn on the air conditioner. Then, what do we do? Yes! Open the window so that we can feel the cool air. What else can you open in September? “Open hearts, open minds, open doors!” This is the catchphrase of the United Methodist Church.

Many of us want to make our church more active and better in the sight of God. Many of us know that we need newcomers at Sunday worship in order to have more volunteers for church activities. However, not many of us put into practice what we know. Christian faith is not the matter of what we know, but the matter of what we practice in Christian life.

We need to do more than just coming to church on Sundays. I would like you and me to act on what we understand of the call to follow Jesus. Let us begin with a simple thing: inviting someone we know into the church. Do you think that you have no one to invite? Open your eyes. You will see someone you can invite. Open your ears. You will hear someone you can invite. Open your hearts and minds. You will feel someone you can invite.

That could be a friend. That could be a family member. That could be your neighbor who lives next door. While inviting our friends and neighbors, we need to prepare ourselves with prayer. Even though we have a plan, it is God who makes it complete. It is we who spread the seed, and it is God who makes it grow.

As we begin September, let us listen to the voice of Jesus Christ: Open hearts! You will find God who works with you. Open minds! You will realize God’s yearning for you. Open doors! Your church will be more active and much better in the sight of God. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

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***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.

FIRST FRIDAY POT LUCK LUNCH

Friday, September 5
12 pm

Fall is right around the corner! Please join us for a great time of friendship, fellowship and always a great variety of great food!!! Bring a main dish, salad, rolls, snack to share if you can, but there's always plenty if you can't.

Always great food and fellowship!!! Invite friends both within and beyond MUMC to join you!!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, September 21

8:30 am Quiet Worship with Communion
9:30 am Sunday School – age 3 through adults
10:30 am Family worship with Children's Church
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

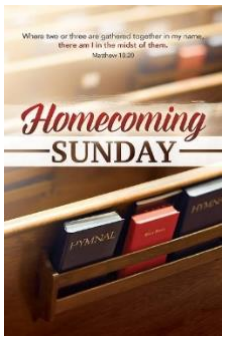
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Beginning week of September 16, Office Hours will return to:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9 am – 2 pm.

HOMECOMING SUNDAY!!
Sunday, September 14 9:30 am

Vacations are done; kids are back in school; cool fall air is moving in. What a great time to return to Sunday worship! **Come home to worship – outdoors around the Gazebo** (handicap seating available on courtyard). Stay to enjoy a light **pot luck lunch** and fellowship - plus time to catch up with your church family!!



EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP DINNER!!

For many of you who are already part of the MUMC family but also might want to officially join the church! We are inviting you to a fun dinner to have fellowship with others who became MUMC members and can share reasons and joys for this decision! Also our pastor Sungmu will explain the Membership ritual during worship and meaning of the vows taken, and answer any questions you have. **Dinner will be 5:30pm Sunday September 21st.** Probably done by 6:45 pm. Please look for your invitations coming in the mail!

-Linda Kime, Membership chair

MUMC MEMORIAL GARDEN

August 2025 Update

The annuals and roses continue to blossom through a period of intense sun and dryness during this hot summer, with weeds of all types needing weekly attention. Continuing from June to September, Gardeners have been taking responsibility, along with the occasional volunteer from our congregation, for the weekly weeding, spraying, deadheading, and other routine maintenance.

In the fall months, Gardeners and friends will give unscheduled weekly attention to maintenance needs until we put the Garden to bed in November. Contingent on Gardeners' and Trustees' approval, a tentative date for a fall Garden Work Morning will take place on a Saturday, either November 1st or 8th, to be coordinated with the Trustees' Fall Church Work Day.

Finally, recently departed Ruthellen Corbett, and Rev. David Chase will all be remembered, along with dozens of others, at a ***Service of Remembrance in the Garden to be held on Sunday, September 7th***, immediately following 9:30 Sunday service in the Sanctuary that same morning.

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

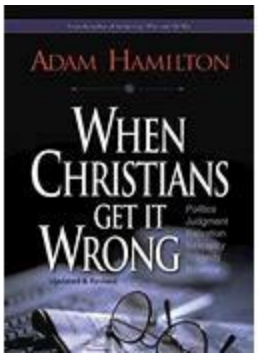
Jenn Lamoureux, Sunday School Superintendent

Sunday School for all from Age 3 through Adult will start on **Sunday September 21, 2025 at 9:30**. Sunday School runs from **9:30-10;20**.

Watch for notification for class divisions, locations and staff!!!

Adults will be meeting in the Parlor – _the Fall Study will be on ***Revelation.*** *All are welcome!!!*

FALL GROUP STUDY



Fall Group Study is schedule starting September 17 based on the book, **"When Christians Get It Wrong."** Books are available in the church office.

Session 1: Sep 17 (Wednesday 7pm) & Sep 18 (Thursday 10:30am) led by Pastor Sungmu
Session 2: Sep 24 (Wednesday 7pm) & Sep 25 (Thursday 10:30am) led by Diane Hornaday
Session 3: Oct 1st (Wednesday 7pm) & Oct 2nd (Thursday 10:30am) led by Pat Kelly
Session 4: Oct 8th (Wednesday 7pm) & Oct 9th (Thursday 10:30am) led by Diane Hornaday
Session 5: Oct 15th (Wednesday at 7pm) & Oct 16th (Thursday on 10:30am) led by Pat Kelly
Session 6: Oct 22nd (Wednesday 7pm) & Oct 23rd (Thursday 10:30 am) led by Pastor Sungmu

STEWARDSHIP AND MEMBER APPRECIATION UPDATE

The member recognition potluck dinner organized by the Guiding and Growing Committee has been re-imagined as a member appreciation luncheon and stewardship campaign kickoff and re-scheduled to Sunday, **September 28 after the 10:30 service** in Fellowship Hall. We hope you all can join us to pay respect to our time, talents, presence, prayers, and witness.

The Finance and Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce that we will be conducting a new type of Stewardship campaign this year called "The Four Cards." Each week, you will receive a letter from MUMC with a question related to our church. We ask that you respond to the question with the enclosed note card. Each week, we will share out the responses with the congregation. You will receive a series of 4 notecards with different questions. We thought this was a novel and creative way to start thinking about the gifts of our congregation, and I hope you all will participate.

We will be introducing the campaign at the **membership appreciation luncheon on Sunday September 28 after the 10:30 service in Fellowship Hall.**

Krista Kennedy, Chair of Finance and Stewardship Committee

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]

We are kicking off our Fall reading with The De*mon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War*. "Master storyteller Erik Larson offers a gripping account of the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter—a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals. Lincoln himself wrote that the trials of these five months were 'so great that, could I have anticipated them, I would not have believed it possible to survive them.' At the heart of this suspense-filled narrative are Major Robert Anderson, Sumter's commander and a former slave owner sympathetic to the South but loyal to the Union; Edmund Ruffin, a vain and bloodthirsty radical who stirs secessionist ardor at every opportunity; and Mary Boykin Chesnut, wife of a prominent planter, conflicted over both marriage and slavery and seeing parallels between both. In the middle of it all is the overwhelmed Lincoln, battling with his duplicitous Secretary of State, William Seward, as he tries desperately to avert a war that he fears is inevitable—one that will eventually kill 750,000 Americans. Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers, and plantation records, Larson gives us a political horror story that captures the forces that led America to the brink—a dark reminder that we often don't see a cataclysm coming until it's too late." [goodreads.com]

Our discussion will be held **Sunday, September 21st at 7 pm**. We will meet in the Parlor (and on Zoom) and all are welcome!

SEPTEMBER FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime

Thank you for the Summer refreshments hosts: Kevin Sweet, Sue Yankus, Sue Campbell, Jan Colturi, Pat Bruinsma, Mary & Curvin Montgomery, Jamie Smithers & Elaine Selger, Diane Hornaday, Kay Hunter, Kathryn Robinett, 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.

September Fellowship Hour Host is **FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

Finance Committee compiles annually a complete budget for the local church and submits it to the Church Council for review and adoption; develops and implements plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the budget adopted; administers the funds received according to instructions from the Church Council. (Book of Discipline ¶ 258.4)

"COFFEE & CONVERSATION" is available in **Fellowship Hall following 8:30 am worship** for those 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.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK FOR NEWS! Avon Mumc

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!!
THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!!

Fall is my favorite season of the year. The weather gets cooler, Starbucks starts serving Pumpkin Spice Latte, the leaves start to turn, pumpkin patches pop up around town and The Beachmere Inn puts the Mapletentini on their menu (a martini made from maple and pumpkin). Okay, maybe I could do without that last one, but the rest is quintessential New England. Our pumpkin patch has been very successful over the past 18 years (?) at bringing people to our beautiful property and sharing some time with them. For many, it is their only exposure to our church.

Of course, there is lots of work to be done behind the scenes and that is where you come in. We will be **setting up skids on 9/13 at 9 AM** and **unloading pumpkins on 9/27 (usually 9:00**, but we only know that when the truck shows up). Hopefully we will have lots of kids helping unload again this year, but please come if you feel you are physically up to it. We could also use wheelbarrows if you have one to drop off. If you want Kevin to pick it up, please text him at 860-558-8135.

We are getting a full truckload again this year. PumpkinsUSA.com sends us everything with no charge and we simply remit a percentage of our gross sales (usually 67-70%). They intentionally send us 30% more than we sell so that our patch looks full right to the end. The extras go to grateful farmers, who feed their pigs, cows and chickens. Our sales were slightly lower last year and we probably end up with 40% more, but we can't easily cut back 10%. If we take a full truckload, then we get our pick of delivery dates and times. If we split a truck, then we are at the mercy of whoever schedules the deliveries and when another church is available. We also can't ask them to pack 75% of a truck; they don't do that. The pumpkin patch is a veritable assembly line of tractor-trailers driving through the fields and getting loaded up. This year we had to pick from half a truck or a full one. At 50%, we would be empty that last week. 2021 was our best year ever and we went through 1.25 trucks of pumpkins. Of course we reassess every year. Let's pray for another 2021 (and a "pandemic" of pumpkin sales).

CHURCHERY SCHOOL

The Churchery School teachers return for professional development days on August 26 and 27th, we will host open houses for all of our families on August 28 and 29th. The **first day of school is September 2nd.**

On the evening of August 20th, Boy Scout Troop 170 cleaned our playground for the sixth year in a row. We provided pizza, chips and drinks as well as a donation to their troop to thank them for their commitment to our school.

We would like to thank Bill for coordinating the cleaning and waxing of the floors, as well as putting together the new furniture for our pre-K classroom and putting up the new blinds in two of our classrooms.

Our teachers are excited to welcome students back and are looking forward to another wonderful year of learning and growth!

KIDS DAY AT THE PATCH

SAT. 10/18 11-2
(rain date Sun 10/19 12-2)

Games, crafts, hayrides, bounce house, face painting and more. Invite friends and neighbors to join you!! A fun time and great way to introduce others to Memorial!!! Hope to see you all there! Sponsored by Education Committee

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.

Our monthly Support Group meetings resume this month and the first one will start on **September 17th at 10:00am**

MUMC MISSIONS AT WORK

Laura Gorden, Committee Chair

WINSTED MEALS

Thank you to Courtney Robinson, Dawn Giese, Jamie Smithers, James Kennedy, John Perotti, Jan Colturi and Dave Gorden for helping me prepare, package and deliver the Winsted meals on August 2.

MUMC 24/7 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, someone will do the shopping.

Most useful food pantry donations:

Pasta sauce and pasta
Canned vegetables
Boxed milk or Powdered milk
Cereal/Instant Oatmeal
Mac and Cheese
Soups/beef stew
Canned fruits
Tuna/salmon
Rice/rice cups
Canned meats/chicken, beef, spam
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

TAG SALE

Missions will be hosting their yearly tag sale **October 11, 2025 from 9am to 1pm** in the fellowship hall. If you would like to divest some of your unneeded items you can do it one of two ways:

1). Sell your own items that day at your table. We ask for a donation of 5% or a maximum of $20.00. Also, please do not leave any of your unwanted items after 1pm.
2). Leave your sellable items in room 105 starting October 5th at 11:30am and missions will price/display/sell them. Please understand that these items will be donated to a non-profit at the end of the sale day. No large furniture or electronics.

If there are any questions please see Linda Johansen, or call her at 860-673-6477.

BIG thanks to the children of VBC who donated and filled the large pantry bin with “snacks for kids” as their mission donation

2025 VACATION BIBLE CAMP

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

What a glorious week we had as 34 children participated in our Vacation Bible Camp. The children learned that God is always with us through Bible storytelling, music, science, recreation, crafts, and even snack time. All arrived with enthusiasm and left with smiles on their faces.

A BIG thank-you to our volunteers:

Diane Hornaday, Director
Kevin Sweet, Navigator/Assembly Leader
Gayle Attruia
Chris Calandriello
Jan Colturi
Jo Cragin
Diane Hornaday
Kay Hunter
Hyeonjin Kim
Harrison Kime
Linda Kime
Samantha Kime
Jenn Lamoureux
Rev. Sungmu Lee
Joan Robinson
Beth Slone
Greg Slone
Julia Sweet

Youth:
Aiden Foley
Alexa Hunter
Madi Lamoureux
Nova Mailhot
Ella Ross
Nate Rpss
Daniel Slone
Luke Slone
Makayla Tardiff
Robert Tardiff

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS….

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Xavier Corbett and Katherine Bellantoni who were married on Friday August 15, 2025 in Newport RI at Ocean Cliff. Xavier is the son of Bruce and Maribel Corbett and the grandson of Bruce and the late Ruthellen Corbett.

AVON TO SWITZERLAND AND VICE VERSA

Anne Fitzgerald

I recently spent a week in Liestal, Switzerland just south of Basel with our former associate members Thomas and Christine Nold. Some of you may remember they lived in Farmington Woods from 2016 until 2019 and attended Memorial. They hope to visit us in mid to late October.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Anne Fitzgerald
Rick Zeiser
Dave Gorden
Mary Gorden
Makenzie Tardiff
Cari Roberts
Daniel Slone
Callie Corbett
Emily Webster

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

Jim and Chris Calandriello
Greg and Elizabeth Slone
Ken and Jen Notestine

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

REMEMBERING REV. WILLIAM BARNES

We mourn the loss of Rev. William – Bill - Barnes, retired United Methodist Minister who served many churches in this area, retiring from Prospect UMC where he was honored to be named Pastor Emeritus on his retirement in 2002. Bill often preached at MUMC and led our Church Conferences.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, September 13, at Carmon Funeral Home, 301 Country Club Rd., Avon 10-11 am, followed by Memorial service 11 am- 12 pm.

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

"BACK TO SCHOOL" SUPPLIES

MUMC Mission Project

"Thank You" to all of the MUMC members who contributed to the DCF School Supplies Backpack Drive. The 10 fully packed colorful backpacks were picked up on Monday 8/18 by their social worker. The children will be so happy to start school with their school supplies on the first day of school thanks to all
who participated in this worthy project sponsored by the Missions Committee.

MUMC COMMITTEES OPEN MEETINGS

Do you have an interest in what's happening with MUMC committees …church council? Have ideas, questions, concerns? Please be aware that with the exception of Staff Parish Relations and Nominations Committees which require confidentiality – ALL meetings are open for anyone to attend.

While all have a voice, only committee members have a vote. All input and ideas are appreciated. We would love to hear from you….Our website calendar lists all committee meetings.

A REMINDER!!!

As church attendance numbers have faded across the nation and on-line services have become very convenient, it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa.

You can't have community of faith from your sofa.

You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We're contributors. We don't watch. We engage.

We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you and you need the church.

REMINDER!!!
NARCAN AVAILABLE AT MUMC

Linda Johansen

Narcan, or Naloxone HCl, nasal spray will now be available for emergency use at our church. It is used for the emergency treatment of an opioid overdose, as it rapidly reverses the opioid's deadly, sedating effects. It will be stored in the Automated External Defibrillator cabinet near the office. This has been approved by the church council and trustees. Please see me if any questions. If you find a need to access and administer, please **CALL 911 FIRST**.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

Day	Date	Time	Pg.	Event
Tue	9/2	9 am	6	Churchery School opens
Fri.	9/5	12 pm	2	First Friday Pot Luck Lunch
Sat.	9/6	2-3:30 pm	2	"His" Sheep Ice Cream Social, crafts and games
Sun.	9/7	10:30 am	3	Memorial Garden Service of Remembrance
Sat.	9/13	9 am	6	Pumpkin Patch – setup
Sat.	9/13	10 am -12 pm	9	Rev. William Barnes - Memorial
Sun.	9/14	9:30 am	3	"Homecoming" Sunday – Pot Luck Lunch
Wed.	9/17	10 am	7	Bereavement Support Group
Sun	9/21	9:30 am	4	Sunday School begins
Sun.	9/21	5:30 PM	4	Exploring Membership Dinner
Sun.	9/21	7 pm	5	Other Good Book Group
Sat.	9/27	9 am	6	Pumpkin Patch – Pumpkin delivery and unload
Sun.	9/28	11:20 am	4	Stewardship / Member Appreciation Lunch
Wed.	10/1	11:30 am	6	Pumpkin Patch Officially Opens!!!
Sat.	10/11	9 am-1 pm	8	Tag Sale
Sat.	10/18	11 am-2 pm	6	Kids' Day at the Patch (rain date 10/19)
ALSO;				
Weds.	9/17-10/22	7 pm	4	Fall Study
Thus.	9/18-10/23	10:30 am	4	Fall Study

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