THE GOOD NEWS Newsletter
Volume 89, No. 10
OCTOBER, 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

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/avonmumc
YouTube: www.youtube.com/avonmumc

Welcome to October! Luther took the first step of the Reformation on October 31, 1517, by posting on the door of the Castle Church the Ninety-five Theses, which discussed mainly the errors of indulgences. Later he challenged the authority of the Catholic Church directly and reformed the Church, which was the beginning of the Protestant Church.

The worship was also radically reformed from the Catholic Church. First, the Reformers disagreed with the Catholic priests who forbade the giving of both bread and wine to the congregation at the Lord's Supper. At that time, the lay people, unlike the clergy, were supposed to receive the bread only at the Lord's Supper. The Reformers emphasized that the sacrament does not belong to the priests only but to all believers.

Another important change is that the worship service began to be led for "unlearned" lay folk with both their own language and music. (Before the Reformation, the worship was proceeded by Latin, which was not their native language.) The Reformers broadened and deepened the spirit of worship and gave the common people a more intelligible part. As a result, the common people were able to follow and participate actively in the worship service.

These two important changes are focused on the active participation of the laity during worship. We Protestants have inherited the wisdom of the Reformers who insisted that the worship is a work of the clergy and the congregation, not a work of the clergy only. As a Protestant minister, I encourage you to participate actively in our worship service.

If you have special hymns you would like to sing during worship, if you would like to write a unison prayer, or if you want to give a sermon as a Lay Servant, please let me know. If you want to serve as a worship leader, please contact our worship committee co-chairs, Pat Bruinsma and Ann Wesley. This is the way that we make beautiful spiritual work through which we praise, please, encounter, experience, feel, and touch the living Lord.

According to the liturgical theology of the Reformers, the Christian worship is not the personal work of the clergy but a collaboration of both the clergy and the congregation. Let us collaborate to enhance our worship service. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

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FIRST FRIDAY POT LUCK LUNCH

Friday, Oct. 3 12 pm

The pumpkins and fall have arrived!!! 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.

PRAYER WARRIORS NEEDED

“Prayer Warriors” are committed individuals, not necessarily trained professionals, who intercede in prayer on behalf of others, often those in spiritual or personal distress. The phrase “prayer warriors needed” is a call to action, indicating that prayers are necessary for a specific situation, person, or goal, and it encourages others to pray persistently and faithfully for that need.

We will be meeting on the first Saturday of each month beginning **October 4 from 9:30-10:30 am**. In classroom #201 which will be known as our “Prayer Closet”.

Questions please contact Linda Arnold via the online form.

Hope you will consider coming and sharing in this new exciting prayer group at MUMC.

Linda Arnold,
Prayer Chair

PUMPKIN PATCH OFFICIALLY OPENS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

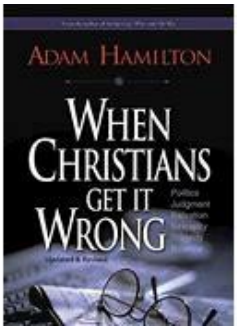
Open Sun.-Fri. 11:30 am – 5:30 pm
Sat. 9 am – 5:30 pm

We need you!! Signup genius is accessible at our website avonmumc.org

Pumpkin Bread is already in demand. Drop off in the kitchen where instructions are provided for labeling, etc.

Spread the word that the Patch is open!!!!

FALL GROUP STUDY



Fall Group Study continues into October based on the book, **"When Christians Get It Wrong"** as indicated below. Books are available in the church office

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

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BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Saturday, October 11
11 am
(Rain date – Sunday, 10/12 1 pm)

All are invited to bring their pets to Memorial for a brief Service and blessing of animals by Pastor Sungmu. The service will be held around the pavilion. All animals must be leashed and controlled by their owners. Please invite friends, families and neighbors for this special opportunity.

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

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 contact her via the online form.

KIDS DAY AT THE PATCH

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

Games, crafts, hayrides, bounce house, temporary tattoos 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. Help us spread the word to your friends and neighbors by distributing cards and flyers available on the table in the narthex!!!

COMMUNITY TRICKS AND TREATS

SUN, 10/26 – 4-5 pm

Halloween will soon be upon us and so will our annual Community Tricks and Treats for children of MUMC and our community. A different take on Trunk or Treat, this approach provides the opportunity for kids and their parents to walk through the church building to collect their treats. At the conclusion, kids will be invited to enjoy apple juice, cider and donuts in Room 105 – a great opportunity for us to extend a welcome to them all.

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How can you be part of this fun day?

- Please consider volunteering to choose a room, decorate if you wish, or in costume if you wish and welcome the trick or treaters.
- Donate bags of candy or other Halloween treats that will be made available to the trick or treaters.
- Spread the word to your friends and neighbors.

THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

October's title for discussion is *Sipsworth* by Simon Van Booy. "Following the deaths of her husband and son, Helen Cartwright returns to the English village of her childhood after living abroad for six decades. Her only wish is to die quickly and without fuss. Helen retreats into her home on Westminster Crescent, becoming a creature of routine and habit. Then, one cold autumn night, a chance encounter with an abandoned pet mouse on the street outside her house sets Helen on a surprising journey of friendship. *Sipsworth* is a reminder that there can be second chances. No matter what we have planned for ourselves, sometimes the world has plans of its own." [goodreads.com]

Our discussion will be held Sunday, **October 19th at 7 pm.** We meet in the Parlor (and on Zoom) and all are welcome!

HEALING AND ANOINTING AT MUMC

In the United Methodist Church, *healing* and *anointing* are important ministries, though they are not considered sacraments in the same way as Baptism and Holy Communion. Instead, they are understood as sacramental acts—means of grace through which God's presence, love, and healing power can be experienced

Our church will hold the healing and anointing service (5-10 minutes) following both 8:30 and 10:30 service **beginning on October 26**. This will be a monthly rite on the last Sunday of the month. During *healing* and *anointing*, you may come forward to the altar rail, and the pastor may place hands on the head or shoulder and anoint with oil on the forehead in the sign of the cross. Or you may remain in the pew and pray for yourself and others. Or you may leave quietly for Coffee Hour.

If you have any questions about the *healing* and *anointing* service, please feel free to contact Pastor Sungmu. May the Lord be with you, touch you, and make you strong and well in body and spirit through *healing* and *anointing! Amen.*

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

OCTOBER FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime

Fellowship Hour in Fellowship Hall after 10:30 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 STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

SPR'S responsibilities include hiring and oversight of all paid staff, to encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor and staff and their families; oversight of all pertaining to employees; annual evaluation of all staff.

"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 Joe! Creamer and sweeteners will be out.

GUIDING & GROWING GROUP

Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

We are very excited about the busy calendar of events we have to look forward to in the coming months. Many are being sponsored by various committees and groups of Memorial. Please show your support of these efforts and take advantage of the opportunity to invite family, friends and neighbors to attend with you.

Looking forward we also have more plans and ideas to come!!!

CHURCHERY SCHOOL

The Churchery School opened its doors with classes full and just a few tears as the children adjust to being back at school. I would like to introduce you to the backbone of the school, the teachers, they are responsible for our excellent reputation.

Susan Green teaches in the 3's and 4's class as well as our Supplemental class. Susan has been with us for 27 years. Yuki Sobue teaches in the 3's and 4's class. Yuki's children attended Churchery School and then Yuki came to work with us, she has been at Churchery for 9 years. Jessica Morin teaches in our 2's class as well as our Supplemental class, Jess has been with us for 10 years. Jennifer Lamoureaux teaches in the 2's class as well as the Supplemental class. Jenn's daughter Maddie attended Churchery School. Jenn has been working with us for 5 years.

Jaclyn Pare is our Pre-K teacher. Jaclyn's boys attended Churchery. Jaclyn has been with us for 3 years. I am beginning my 36th year, I started in the 2's class and slowly worked my way into the Director position 15 years ago. I am blessed to work with the teachers we have; parents often comment about the low turnover at Churchery as being one of the reasons they come to our school. We have a talented, committed group of teachers who make a huge difference in the life of every child who comes through our doors.

Feel free to visit one of our classes, read a book or play a game! The children would love it!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS….

BOBBIE WILLIAMS CELEBRATION OF LIFE

All are invited to Memorial on Wednesday, October 22 at 1 pm for a Celebration of the Life of Bobbie Williams who passed away December 16, 2024 in North Carolina.

Bobbie and her husband Jack were long time devoted members of our congregation. Please join her family for this special service to honor and remember Bobbie. Reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

Bobbie Finley Williams Obituary | 1926 - 2024 | Greenville, NC

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

Robert Tew	Muriel Yeboah
Harrison Kime	William Tew
John Slevinsky	Rob Tardiff
Shirley Vorisek	Matthew Ross
Dakota Austin	Mia Gorden
Joan Robinson	Hyeonjin Kim
Adva Volle	

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

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

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

Craig and Michele Matava
Matthew and Chalise Ross
Larry and Carla Gregory

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE TROUBLE GETTING OUT

A card would be so appreciated.

Bob E.
Farmington Station
111 Scott Swamp Rd.
Room 251
Farmington, CT
06032

Katie M.
11 Briarwood Road
Farmington, CT 06032

Adva V.
10 Chelsea Place
Avon, CT 06001

MEMBERSHIP

We had an enjoyable "Explore Membership" Dinner on Sun. Sept. 21st. We had conversation about what it means to become an official member of the United Methodist Church, led by Pastor Lee. We had 4 people there who have been visiting regularly, and 1 person representing 2 who couldn't be there. Several Membership committee folks shared why they joined our church. We are looking to have a **join date on Sunday October 26th** for potential 6 new MUMC members! If anyone is interested in joining our church please contact Pastor Sungmu Lee directly at 631-456-1713
or sungmulee@icloud.com

HOMECOMING SUNDAY!!
Sunday, September 14

Homecoming Sunday was special this year with our first Sunday morning worship held in and around the Pavilion. Our courtyard offered handicap access to many who could still be a part of this beautiful service. Thanks to all who made this possible.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALTAR FLOWERS
Linda Arnold

November 2 and November 30 are currently available for ordering Altar Flowers.

Just 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.

MUMC MEMORIAL GARDEN

September 2025 Update

In the fall months, Gardeners have been giving unscheduled weekly attention to maintenance needs until we put the Garden to bed in early November. A winterization will be performed by Grasshelper on October 1st or thereabouts to shut down the irrigation system.

A fall Garden Work Morning will take place on Saturday, November 1st at 9:00 AM to precede the *Trustees' Fall Church Workday on Saturday, November 8th.* All members of the congregation are encouraged to pitch in at one or both work Saturdays. Finally, recently departed members Bobbie Williams, Ruthellen Corbett, and Rev. David Chase were remembered, along with dozens of others, at a *Service of Remembrance* in the Garden held indoors on Sunday, September 7th, in conjunction with a special 9:30 AM Sunday service in the Sanctuary.

A final thankyou is in order to the dedicated Gardener group who year after year for the past 25 years have maintained this beautiful addition to our church property.

“HIS SHEEP” AT MEMORIAL

Saturday, September 13

RAIN RAIN GO AWAY!!

Scheduled for Saturday, September 6 with a rain date of September 7, the rains came and we had to make the hard decision to postpone for another week.

It was a beautiful sunny day, with offerings of drive thru snow cones, ice cream sundaes, decorating cupcakes, crafts, a variety of games, and a photo op with our special shepherd.

We wish to express a BIG thank you to the 60 members and friends of Memorial who volunteered that day evidenced by the red shirts in the photos!!!

Additionally there were many hours of preparation of signage, cupcakes, plus set up and breakdown. This truly was an event supported by MUMCers!!! Special thanks to Hyeonjin Kim who proposed the project and spent endless hours preparing, organizing and recruiting. This event would not have happened without her total commitment!!!

FINANCIALLY SAVVY AND TAX-EFFICIENT GIVING

Did you know that MUMC can accept donations of stock holdings? Donations can be directed to the church's brokerage account by contacting your broker with instructions to donate directly to your charity of choice. Please call the church office for instructions.

If you are over the age of 73 and have a retirement plan, you may be required to draw a minimum amount from your retirement savings each year. These payouts are called required minimum distributions (RMD's), and receiving them can sometimes create an unwanted income tax burden. You can potentially lessen your tax burden by donating these distributions to MUMC. Your broker or retirement plan can send those distributions directly to the church for a tax-efficient way to support MUMC.

Have you considered leaving a legacy bequest to the church? Most of us have considered our loved ones in estate planning, but you can also include a legacy bequest to the faith and church you have cherished throughout your lifetime. The legacy donation can specify where the funds should be directed: missions, outreach, capital expenditures, any area that is most important to you. What a wonderful blessing to leave for future generations!

GREETINGS CHURCH FAMILY

I would like to thank everyone for their patience and support while I assume the role of treasurer. The handover from Dave was excellent, but like anything, there is still a learning curve. One area that I ask for assistance is with reimbursements.

For future reimbursements, it would be helpful if everyone uses the reimbursement form, found on the landing, or use the online form that Hyeonjin has made on the MUMC website. Paper forms can be placed with receipts in the treasurer box outside the office, and online forms will be automatically forwarded to me. Using the form will ensure that your reimbursement is recorded with the correct fund (for future auditing purposes), and will assist in expediting the process. I look forward to serving the church as best I can.

Thank you for your continued support.

Will Campbell
MUMC Treasurer

GIRL SCOUTS AT MUMC

BIG thank you to the members of Girl Scout Troop 66304 who worked with us taking down the summer decorations in Fellowship Hall and hanging all of the fall decorations.

Transformation was quick and efficient!!

Kay Hunter & Linda Kime

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.

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.

TRUSTEE SUMMER UPDATE!!!

Happy beginning of Fall!! We have been busy this summer !! Many Church maintenance projects and doing summer work improvements.

Church Building:
- Faucet replaced in the second floor bathroom (due to dripping problem) and 2 faucets in the kitchen have been replaced.
- New blinds have been purchased for the preschool and they are a big improvement.
- Waxing of the floor in the Churchery school area and entire lower wing was done and looks beautiful.
- Thank you to Linda Kime for the donation to have the kitchen area waxed as well!!
- A grand piano has been acquired at no cost and is now on the second floor in the small room across from the media area.

Building use: A preschool mom had a small baby shower in the fellowship hall for a woman with no family in the area. It was well attended!
VBS this summer was a huge success!!!
An updated building use form is being completed and will be available on the website soon.

Pastors office: air conditioning has been repaired. Recommendation to have the condensers hosed off periodically.

Parsonage: The master bedroom sink and faucet in the family room was repaired by Guy Johansen. Thank you, Guy!!

Church grounds: a summer car show went smoothly.

Weeding and pruning done by Linda Kime and Lea Johnson, thank you both for such a nice job.

The Girl scouts also did a project to beautify the area outside the fellowship hall which looks great!!

Respectively
The Trustees

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

It's that time of year when the Staff Parish Relations Committee reviews performance of all our staff, and makes decisions about renewing employment agreements for the next year. We will greatly appreciate your feedback in this process. Any comments, suggestions, praises are welcome. Please contact Linda Kime or Rick Zeiser via the online form.

Additionally you will be receiving a Google form via email with a couple of questions about our Pastoral Appointment. Also there will be flyers at church with a QR code for this form. A paper form will be available as well. These will be 100% anonymous.

FLAGS HONORING VETERANS

We will once again honor our veterans with a display of American flags displayed on the lawn along the road the week before and after Veterans Day. All will have the opportunity to order additional **American flags to which will be attached the name, branch of service and years or era of service of those remembered.** To honor additional loved ones, please send **the information to Kay Hunter** via the online form.

Please provide info asap as we plan to **place the flags at the conclusion of Pumpkin Patch.** All will be alphabetized We encourage you to take time to walk the path to see all who are being honored and remembered.

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

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

avonmumc.org

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

Day	Date	Time	Pg.	Event
Wed	10/1	11:30 am	2	Pumpkin Patch Officially Opens
Fri	10/3	12 pm	2	First Friday Pot Luck Lunch
Sat	10/4	9:30 am	2	Prayer Warriors
Sun.	10/5	-		World Communion Sunday
Sat	10/11	9 am- 1 pm	3	Tag Sale
Sat.	10/11	11 am	3	Blessing of Animals
Sat.	10/18	11 am-2 pm	3	Kids' Day at the Patch (rain date 10/19)
Sun.	10/19	7 pm	4	Other Good Book Group
Sun	10/26	4-5 pm	4	Community Tricks & Treats
ALSO;				
Weds.	10/1-/22	7 pm	4	Fall Study
Thus.	10/2-/23	10:30 am	4	Fall Study

MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

867 WEST AVON ROAD
AVON, CT 06001