

Guiding To and Growing Through the Christian Life

Pastor, Rev. Sungmu Lee PhD

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Church Office: (860) 673-2111	Sunday Worship Schedule:
Office Fax: (860) 673-5777	8:30am Worship Service with Communion
Church Email: avonmumc@gmail.com	9:30am Sunday School for all ages
Website: avonmumc.org	10:30am Family Worship Service
Office Hours: Tue., Wed & Fri 9 am-2 pm	Online worship:
Sexton Hours; Mon-Sat 6-8 am Mon-Thu 1-2 pm	Facebook: www.facebook.com/avonmumc
(estimate) on call as needed via cell (860) 960-3360	YouTube: www.youtube.com/avonmumc

The Christian calendar begins with Advent. So, we Christians just began a new year. Happy New Year! On the other hand, we are in December: We have only one month left for the year 2025. Thus, our thoughts turn quite naturally toward beginnings and endings. The Advent scriptures talk about the ending of time and the beginning of another age. In order to have a new age, we should finish the old one.

In the season of Advent, we believe there is a great day coming. That day is the day of Christ. Every Christian will be happy to see the dawning of that day. However, there is something we need to do. As we prepare a lot of things for our dream vacation, so we Christians prepare for the day of Jesus Christ. First of all, we need to wake up early in the morning of that day.

Imagine that someone wakes you up, and the person is your future wife or husband who says, "Why did you not come to our wedding?" If we are excited about the day, we cannot oversleep. Can we say, "Jesus, I am not a morning person. Please do not come early in the morning. Please put it later in the day?" There is no slumber if we are excited about the day.



It is true that we cannot go out and scream at the sun not to come up in the morning. The dawn is inevitable, and so, we need to be ready for it. The day of the Lord is coming. We cannot stop it, but we can be ready for it. The Lord is coming. Let us wake up and be alert.

Jesus came to a small stable two thousand years ago, and he is coming again. In four weeks we will see the baby Jesus born in a manger. Are you excited to see the baby Jesus? Yes, you are! Let us be ready for his coming! Amen.

Sungmu Lee



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JOIN US FOR A
MUMC'S COMMUNITY
Free **BREAKFAST**
with
SANTA



SAT., DECEMBER 6, 9-11 AM

Come enjoy a delightful morning filled with joy and wonder.
 A magical experience for the whole family!


 Pancake Breakfast, Cookie Decorating,
 Games, Crafts, Scavenger Hunt, Photo with Santa

***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!


Memorial United Methodist Church
 867 West Avon Rd., Avon, CT
 860.673.2111 . www.avonmumc.org



FIRST FRIDAY CHRISTMAS POT LUCK LUNCH Friday, 12/5 12 pm

Our December Pot Luck Lunch provides a great time for fellowship and anticipation of Christmas. Please join us.

We'll be **servicing baked ham**. Bring a side dish, salad, rolls, snack or dessert if you can, but there's always plenty if you can't.

Come for good food, fellowship and conversation!

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sun. 12/21 5 pm

What is Blue Christmas??

"The Blue Christmas service, also known as the Longest Night service is typically held on December 21, the winter solstice, which symbolizes the longest night of the year. This service acknowledges that the holiday season can be a difficult time for many, particularly for those mourning the loss of loved ones, facing personal struggles or feeling isolated. It creates a safe space for individuals to express their sorrow and find solace in a supportive community."



REMINDER FROM FINANCE:

If you have not yet done so, it's not too late to return your Stewardship materials as

soon as possible to the church so the Finance Committee can prepare a budget for 2026. You may bring it to the church with you, mail it in, e-mail me at: dhornaday@sbcglobal.net or call 860-673-9634. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

Sun. 12/14 4:30 pm

Join us in our sanctuary to sing favorite Christmas carols and songs, learn the history of our carols and more.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sun. 12/14 5:30 pm

REMEMBER those wonderful times before covid when we would celebrate the Christmas season with a musical program followed by a holiday dinner? We are happy to report to you that we will be reinstating that activity on December 14! We will all gather in the sanctuary at 4:30 to hear beautiful music and sing some of the great carols and then adjourn to the fellowship hall at 5:30 for a time of fellowship while enjoying a nice meal.

This is a very family friendly time; chicken fingers for children and Sandy Piccirillo's cranberry chicken for adults. We are not selling tickets but offer an opportunity for a free-will offering. However, we do need to know how many to prepare for. Please let us know your family name and numbers attending (including friends and neighbors) by calling the office (860-673-2111), sign up on the sheets in the back of the sanctuary or the table across from the kitchen, or contact Diane Hornaday (dhornaday@sbcglobal.net or 860-673-9634).



CHURCHERY SCHOOL



During the months of October and November the Churchery School had a food drive. Our families were very generous, we were able to fill the MUMC food pantry a few times as well as donate food to DCF and some other locations. We had many conversations with our children about helping those in need.

The Office of Early Education came last month for our annual inspection; we received high marks for excellence thanks to our teachers!

November 24th and 25th our families joined us in Fellowship Hall for a Thanksgiving meal, we had parents, siblings, grandparents and some aunts and uncles. It was a wonderful time to share the many blessings we are grateful for.

Our traditional **Christmas concert** with our 4's and Pre-K children will be **December 8th at 6:00**. As always it will be a wonderful evening full of family and friends celebrating this special time of the year.



The Churchery School is registering present and former families and church members for the 2026-2027 school year. We will open registration to the public on December 8th.

This time of year, reminds us of the magic found in kindness, giving and spending time with family and friends. May your holidays be filled with peace, warmth, and precious moments with loved ones.

Jean



STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT



Hello MUMC Family. It's that time of year when we show our appreciation for our dedicated staff members with a Christmas cash gift. Our 5 staff will each receive the same gift amount. We are blessed to have: such a talented Music Director, our Sexton maintaining our property, our new Treasurer devoting much time, Office Manager keeping the bulletins coming, and of course our Pastor leading us. Please give your contribution directly to Rick Zeiser or put in offering plate clearly marked or in the SPR mailbox outside the office. Red envelopes are provided in back of the sanctuary if you wish to use. Any checks must NOT be made out to MUMC but to Richard Zeiser. If you need to mail to Rick, please send no later than Dec 17th, to 26 Progress Ave. Unionville CT 06085.

Thank you everybody! -Linda Kime & Rick Zeiser, SPR co-chairs



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

5 pm – Candlelight service with lessons, carols, communion and children's pageant.

11 pm – Quiet candlelight service with lessons, carols and communion.

OUF CHURCH FAMILY...



Elizabeth Corbett - baptized, raised and confirmed at Memorial - lost her courageous battle with cancer on November 5 at her home in Tennessee. Elizabeth was the daughter of Bruce and Ruthellen Corbett and

sister of David and Bruce Corbett and is also survived by her husband, David Goforth. Services will be held in Tennessee on Sunday, December 14. Please take a moment to read her obituary. Just click on the link below

[Elizabeth Corbett Obituary | November 5, 2025 | Hartford Courant](#)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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

Sally Parylak	Kay Hunter
Leslie Arnold	Xavier Corbett
Beth Sweet	Kathryn Robinett
Michele Matava	Carol Merritt
Abby Brinn	Noel Rendell
Maureen Fillian	Krista Kennedy
Sue Yankus	

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



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

Harold and Pam Palmer
Bruce and Ruthellen Corbett
Scott and Krista Kennedy
Bruce and Carol Merritt

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 THOSE WHO HAVE TROUBLE GETTING OUT



A card would be so appreciated.

Bob Erickson Farmington Station 111 Scott Swamp Rd. Room 251 Farmington, CT 06032	Katie Morris 11 Briarwood Road Farmington, CT 06032
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Judy Corbeil Arden Courts Room 27 Cottage 45 South Rd. Farmington, CT 06032	Adva Volle 10 Chelsea Place Avon, CT 06001
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Altar Flowers

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2026

Linda Arnold

Sign up for altar flowers for 2026 is active and ready for you to choose and reserve your dates.

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.

MEMBERSHIP



We are very delighted to have 3 new members of MUMC! They professed their faith and dedication during the 10:30 worship on November 9th. Pictured (left to

right) are Kenny Nelson, Everett Arnold, and Elaine Selger. Welcome to the official membership.

Of course ALL who worship with us are part of our MUMC family. And we have open arms for anyone coming for the first time. Please invite others you encounter in your lives who don't have a church home. For people who are missing this vital part of life, we should offer the opportunity for them to know and honor our God, and have fellowship with us.



PRAYER WARRIORS

"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."

- C.S. Lewis



"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.

Please note that our December meeting will be the **SECOND Saturday, December 13 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 Coordinator





PAIRS AND SPARES

Anne Fitzgerald

We all do it; we see people at church on Sunday, know their names and perhaps the town they live in, but beyond that we truly know nothing about them. Where are they from? Are they employed, work remotely or in an office, and if so, where? Do they have hobbies or come from where we did? Spending an evening with them is a wonderful way to get to know our church family better.

Over the years this group has been called The Couples Club, Pairs and Spares, Eats for Eight and Fellowship Dining, but for the last few years we have gone with Pairs and Spares. Here's how it works:

First, let me know that you would like to participate. You can be solo or in a couple, it makes no difference. Next, I will put together a group of people who will take turns hosting the others in their homes, initiating gathering at a restaurant, having potluck at the church, or whatever. Solos can be put together or co-host with a couple. We ask you to invite another person or two who is or are not in another group and might not normally be invited to your home. Each host should ask another person or two up to a maximum of eight if that works in your home.

Once the original group determines a convenient first date and who will be host, the host decides who the spare(s) will be. The host provides the entrée and the others provide side dishes, dessert, and beverage.

At the first dinner, the group may decide who will host next and when, then that host will invite another spare(s). Or the date decision can be made when convenient. Repeat the third time. There is no specific time frame, just whenever it works for the original group during 2026.

If you would like to participate, you can email or call me or speak to me, and I will assign groups to begin dining in 2026. We use one year as the timeframe for all hosts to arrange for their gathering.

Feel free to email or call me with any questions.

MISSIONS NEWS!!!

Linda Johansen



THANKSGIVING BASKETS Thank you to all who helped fill Thanksgiving Baskets for seven of our Covenant to Care families.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE The Christmas Giving Tree will soon appear in the back of the sanctuary with the names of our Covenant to Care children who need our help to fulfill their Christmas wishes. Please take a child's name tag, purchase a gift, wrap it, and return under the Christmas tree.



Peace,

FIRST FRIDAY FUN NIGHTS MUMC YOUTH

(Gr. 6-12) & FRIENDS

7-9 pm

MUMC Fellowship Hall

Beginning Friday, 1/2/2026!!!



Looking to be YOUTH DRIVEN events!!!

- Game nights
- Ice cream socials
- Open mics
- Movies
- Pizza nights
- Karaoke
- Service projects

Chaperones - parents and MUMC background checked members

On site Fun Nights will alternate with mid-month off site activities (parent planned)

MUMC MEMORIAL GARDEN ANNUAL REPORT

March-October 2025

The Garden observed its 25th anniversary this year as a very special sanctuary on our church property, its existence well known beyond the immediate church community. We owe a debt of gratitude to Jim, Ben, Tom, and others for convincing the Trustees of 25 years ago to invest in such a unique and hallowed part of the Memorial United Methodist Church.

This year our committee was once again responsible for arranging for irrigation and maintenance by Grasshelper, ordering and planting annuals, cleaning up the entire garden area, anticipating the first mowing by church-contracted landscaping, fertilizing roses, topdressing mulched areas, etc.

Planned special activities included individual memorial services for departed members, installing nameplates for the deceased on our memorial stones, and holding a Service of Remembrance in September so that those who passed would not forgotten by us, their fellow members in the living church. We also needed to contact our arborist to prune the three trees in the center circle area, as well as those that line the south driveway from West Avon Road all the way down to the Garden area.

Then from June through September, Gardeners took responsibility singly or in pairs for the weekly weeding, spraying, deadheading, and other routine maintenance to ensure that the Garden always looked its best.

In the fall months, Gardeners and friends gave unscheduled weekly attention to maintenance needs until we put the Garden to bed on November 1st. Recently departed members Ruthellen Corbett, the Rev. David Chase, and Bobbie Williams were remembered, along with dozens of others, at a Service of Remembrance in the Garden held on Sunday, September 7th, at 10:30 AM in conjunction with a special 9:30

AM Sunday service that was conducted in the Sanctuary that same morning.

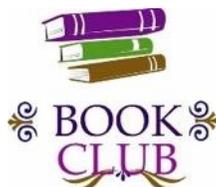
A final thank-you to the dedicated Gardener group is in order, who year after year for the past 25 years have maintained this beautiful addition to our church property.

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 on **Sundays, November 30 and December 21**. 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.

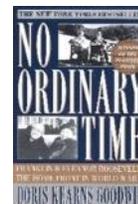
If you have any questions about the *healing* and *anointing* service, please feel free to contact Pastor Sungmu. May the Lord be with you, touch you, and make you strong and well in body and spirit through *healing* and *anointing!* Amen.



OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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

We are taking December off but will return on January 18th at 7:00 pm to discuss *No Ordinary Time* by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Wishing you a Joyous Christmas season filled with time for reading!





NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

Church building and Grounds cleanup:

Thank you to all who came out for the Fall cleanup and thank you to Kay Hunter for the refreshments. Leaves were taken care of and the remainder of the pumpkin patch was taken down and stored away. Snow stakes are up for the plows during the winter.

Three of the parking lot lights are out so we will be contracting with a electrical boom truck to change them.

We are planning to add to the sign near the road, it will be providing times "Worship Sunday 8:30am & 10:30 am , Sunday school at 9:30 am" and will be changed for the summer months, "Worship Sunday 9:30am" . Linda Harris has offered to pay for the sign.

Douglas Mechanical came to look at the 6 mini-splits and make sure they will be in working order next summer.

A recommendation for wireless solar cameras at the outside doors be installed and monitored by IT during the church service- to be determined

Parsonage

Plans for removal of one dead tree and 3 shrubs in the yard. John Fillian attended a parsonage yearly walk through as required by the discipline. Gutters are cleaned and air conditioners are covered. Maintenance needed at a future date include- front railings need repair and north side of house needs a power wash cleaning

Building use

There is a revised building use form on the Avon Memorial United Methodist website, please review three pages of info- sign and send to Martha in the front office.

We are hosting a **Life Line Screening Event** in March 27th 2026, we will try to put up a poster if anyone is interested.

Respectfully,
Marsha Kennedy, Trustees



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.





DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Linda Kime

Fellowship Hour in Fellowship Hall after Sunday worship continues to be a vital time of conversation and fellowship. Responsibility for hosting Fellowship Hour rotates among the many committees of MUMC. Keeping it very light and simple this year. We appreciate the committee members giving us this service.

December Fellowship Hour Host is...

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

who holds title to and manages the property belonging to our local church; keeps accurate records of its proceedings and reports to the Church Charge Conference to which it is amenable. Chairperson facilitates the Board of Trustees' work within the church; advises the Church Council concerning actions of the Board of Trustees; reviews annually, with the Chairperson of the SPRC, the church-owned parsonage. And much, much more!!!!

"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.

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.

HONORING OUR VETERANS



We proudly honored our veterans this year in several ways. For the third year we displayed flags along West Avon Road, adding six more - each representing someone from our church and individual families who served our country.

During worship on Sunday, November 16, video of the songs representing the five branches of service were played and veterans and/or their representatives stood proudly. Last but not least, we provided a display of photos of veterans in Fellowship Hall, Many were copies of photos from displays from over the years spanning from World War I to current day. Thanks to all who participated in this display.

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.



MUMC 24/7 FOOD PANTRY

BIG Thank you to Churchery School for their collection of foods in November.

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 mix
es/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 HAPPENINGS AND UP
TO DATE INFORMATION
avonmumc.org**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Kay Hunter



With several more expressing interest, six MUMC women met on Saturday, 11/14 for coffee and fellowship and then shared ideas and plans for rebooting the Prayer Shawl Ministry at MUMC.

Now a worldwide ministry, it had its start in Hartford. The ministry provides the opportunity for members to knit independently, but we also plan to meet monthly, the second Monday of each month in the parlor for fellowship and to provide time to knit (or crochet) together and provide assistance and advice.

Expenses for yarn will be covered by our prayer shawl funds. Please submit to Kay Hunter who will arrange for reimbursement

Prayer shawls will be available as gifts to church members in need of comfort. Also they can be obtained for friends with a \$20 donation to cover expenses. Please contact Joan Robinson if you are interested in obtaining a shawl as a gift.

If you have any interest in being part of this ministry, please join us on January 12 or contact Kay Hunter. A packet containing the history of this ministry, instructions and other information is available on the table in fellowship hall



DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

Day	Date		Pg.	Event
Fri.	12/5	12 pm	7	First Friday Christmas Pot Luck Lunch
Sat.	12/6	9-11 am	2	Breakfast with Santa
Mon	12/8	6 pm	4	Churchery Christmas Concert
Sun	12/14	4:30 pm	3	Christmas Carol Sing and Concert
Sun.	12/14	5:30 pm	3	Christmas Dinner
Sun	12/21	5 pm	3	Blue Christmas Service
Wed	12/24	5 and 11 pm	4	Christmas Eve Services

LOOKING AHEAD!!!!

Day	Date		Pg.	Event
Mon	1/12	7 pm	11	Prayer Shawl Gathering
Fru	1/2	12 pm	-	First Friday Pot Luck Lunch
Fri.	1/2	7 pm	7	First Friday Fun Night for Youth

MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

***867 WEST AVON ROAD
AVON, CT 06001***