



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	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

Jesus, who has suffered such rejection throughout his ministry and died on the cross, this Jesus has been resurrected from the dead. Jesus has triumphed over death and the grave. What a wonderful time to say, “The End. Let us claim victory. The End!” Curiously, the gospel writers seemed to have difficulty knowing how to end their gospels, even with the event of Easter, perhaps because of Easter.

The gospel of John also seems to have trouble ending. After Jesus’ resurrection, the next scene is back with the disciples at work, doing what they know how to do best, doing what they did before they met Jesus—fishing.

This is what we often do when we have suffered a great trauma. When you have suffered, your friends often tell you that you should get back to work. Get busy, and this will help you to get over it. Perhaps this is what these disciples were doing. And to these people who were adjusting themselves to the trauma of loss and grief, the risen Christ appears, saying, “It is not over. It is just getting started. Do you love me? Then get out of here and go feed my sheep.”



And then the risen Christ says to Peter, “Follow me,” as if he were speaking to him for the first time. Follow me? That is what he said to his disciples when he first met them. But now he is saying, “Follow me” again, as if for the first time. John’s gospel wants us to know that we are not ending, but we are starting over.

It is not easy to start over. Maybe we never start over unless we are pushed or pulled into the next chapter. Peter may have been happy to go back to fishing. And yet there the risen Christ came out, got him, called him, and pushed or pulled him back into discipleship. The story was over, but the story was just beginning again.

So many of us have suffered for many reasons, and we may feel that there is no hope in our lives. Yet, remember it is not over until God says it is over. And, in the resurrection, the story continues. God is not done with us yet. And we are not done with God yet. This is not the last chapter; but it is the first. Hallelujah! Christ is risen! The story continues. Amen.

Sungmu Lee

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Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29
 8:30 am Worship
 9:30 am Lenten Workshop
 10:30 am Worship

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2
 6 pm Soup Supper
 7 pm Service

Good Friday

Friday, April 3
 7 pm Service

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5
 6:30 am Sunrise Service
 8:30 Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion
 9:20 am Easter Breakfast
 10:30 am Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion



Pastor Lee will be on Spiritual Renewal from April 6 through May 10. In case of pastoral needs, please contact our Pastoral Committee chair, Kay Hunter, who will contact a clergy person. We will have guest preachers from our congregation on Sundays during this time.



Easter Breakfast



THE OTHER GOOD BOOK GROUP

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



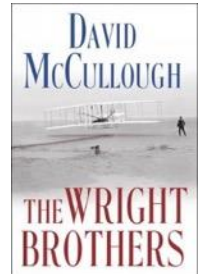
Easter Sunday, 9:20 am

Please join us for Easter Potluck Breakfast - Serving beginning at 9:20 for all to enjoy between services..

Bring an item to share, if you can, plated and ready to serve!! Egg casseroles, sausage, bacon, ham, donuts, muffins, coffee cakes, bagels, fruit! Whatever you fancy!! Please be sure to take your dish home after breakfast or worship!!!

Ovens will be pre-warmed and ready before 8:30 to accept dishes that need to be kept warm during 8:30 service.

We fly into Spring with our discussion of *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough. “Two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize David McCullough tells the dramatic story behind the story about the courageous brothers who taught the world how to fly: Wilbur and Orville Wright. On a winter day in 1903, in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, two unknown brothers from Ohio changed history.



But it would take the world some time to believe what had happened: the age of flight had begun, with the first heavier-than-air, powered machine carrying a pilot...Far more than a couple of unschooled Dayton bicycle mechanics who happened to hit on success, they were men of exceptional courage and determination, and of far-ranging intellectual interests and ceaseless curiosity, much of which they attributed to their upbringing.

The house they lived in had no electricity or indoor plumbing, but there were books aplenty, supplied mainly by their preacher father, and they never stopped reading...In this thrilling book, master historian David McCullough draws on the immense riches of the Wright Papers, including private diaries, notebooks, scrapbooks, and more than a thousand letters from private family correspondence to tell the human side of the Wright Brothers' story, including the little-known contributions of their sister, Katharine, without whom things might well have gone differently for them.” [amazon.com]

We will meet on **Sunday, April 19th at 7:00 pm** in the Parlor and on Zoom. All are welcome!



FIRST FRIDAY POT LUCK LUNCH Friday, 4/10 12 pm

All are welcome!!! Gather together for great fellowship and conversation!! Bring your favorite main dish, side dish, salad, snack or dessert to share if you can – but it's not required!! Hope to see you there. Please note that due to first Friday in April being Good Friday, this month's First Friday Lunch will be held on the **SECOND FRIDAY, April 10.**



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 for our little ones.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY...

SERVICES FOR MAUREEN STARR

A Service of Remembrance will be held April 25 here at Memorial for Maureen Starr a long time member of our church who passed away December 15. Watch for details in upcoming announcements.

REMEMBERNG ADVA VOLLE...

Memorial Service will be held at MUMC's Memorial Garden on Saturday, May 23 at 11 a.m. followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall. Please keep her family in prayer.

Adva J. Volle Obituary (2026) - Avon, CT - Carmon Funeral Home & Family Center



BIBLE PRESENTATION

Congratulations to Eleanor Wyckoff who was presented her Bible by Pastor Lee on Sunday, April 22, an important event in her Christian education.



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

Jean Erickson
P. O. Box 22
Unionville, CT 06085



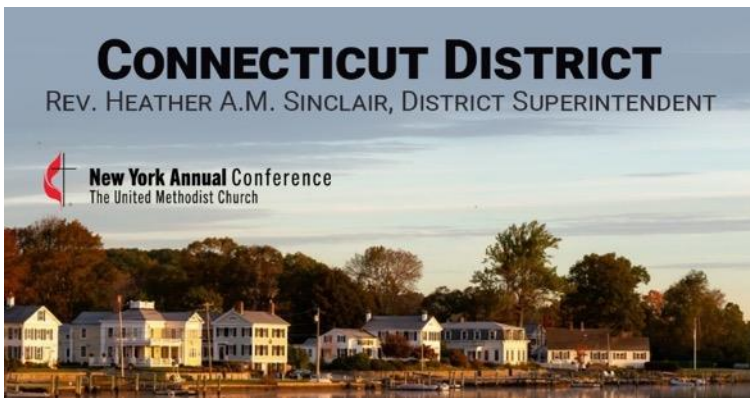
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

Dave Macdonald
Charles P. Sabas
Nat Brinn
Tamar Witkin
Alexa Hunter
Katie Morris
Nate Ross
Kevin Sweet
Eugene Yeboah

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

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



**CONNECTICUT DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, APRIL 11**

9:30 Gathering and Refreshment will begin
10 am – Worship and Business

Cheshire UMC
205 Academy Road, Cheshire, CT

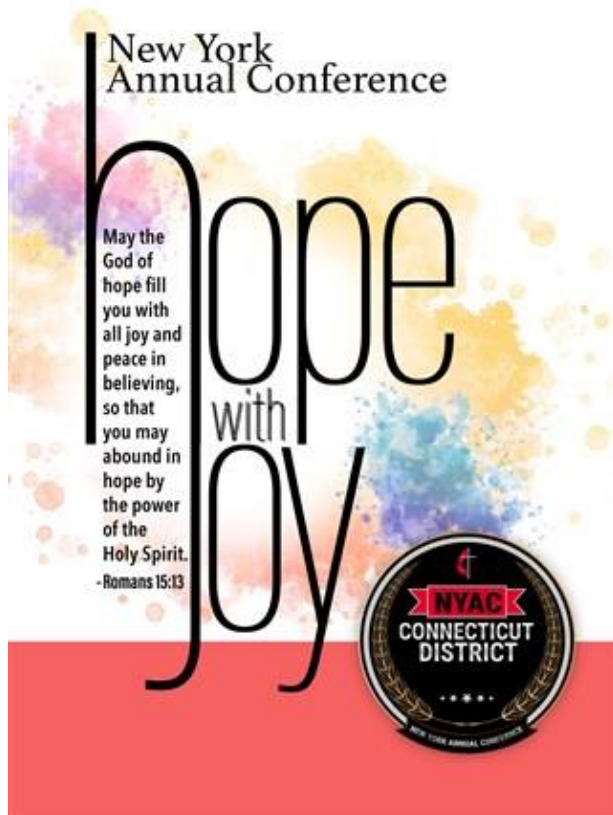
“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in God, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

Dear CT District,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ!

We will soon move through the shadows and sorrows of Holy Week with our hearts filled with the hope and joy of Easter. We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ not only on one Sunday, but throughout the entire season. Our lives, our ministries, our discipleship is a continuous event connecting the local church, the United Methodist Church and the world.

All members of CT District churches are invited to attend District Conference, this celebration which will include a message from the District Superintendent, music from across the district, Cooperative Parish ministry reports, and brief business of the district.



MISSIONS

Bev Perotti

We contributed to our MUMC world mission project called PAAV- Project Adopt a Village ! It provides medical treatment for people in Ethiopia directed by Dr. Edward Nelson.

Our mission committee is also providing Easter Baskets to 12 children directed by Pat Kelly and our youth group through our contact person. She is a New Britain social worker who we always work with for needy families & children during the holidays.

In addition , we continue to stock the food pantry with thanks to our members and others who choose to donate as well!

Thank you all who provide for those in need in our communities!





CHURCHERY SCHOOL

During the month of March, we were excited to take advantage of the milder weather and spend more time outdoors. The children especially enjoyed playing on the playground, where they could run, explore, and enjoy fresh air with their friends. Outdoor play continues to be a wonderful opportunity for building social skills, coordination, and a love of nature.

One of the highlights of the month was our festive celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The children were delighted to discover that a mischievous leprechaun had visited our classroom! He turned everything green and left quite a mess behind, sparking lots of laughter, curiosity, and imaginative conversations. The children had so much fun searching for clues and talking about their magical visitor.

As we move into April, we look forward to celebrating Easter and the arrival of spring. This is a special time to talk about new life, growth, and renewal. We are excited for all that the new season will bring!

Jean

MUMC SEXTON

Our Sexton Bill Rebillard has given his resignation. We truly thank him for his many hours of service to MUMC and going beyond the call of duty to help our church. We are investigating a new hire for church custodian. We will keep the congregation updated.



2026 VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Mark your calendars now!!!

August 10-14 9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Memorial United Methodist Church

Age 3 as of 8/10 (must be potty trained) to those completing Grade 4
\$25 per child; max. \$60 per family

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13^{RS}

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. To register your child (grandchild, niece, nephew, friend) and to view more information go to:

<https://avonmumc.mycokesburyvbs.com>

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

If interested in volunteering for this great week at Memorial, please contact Diane Hornaday.

THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH

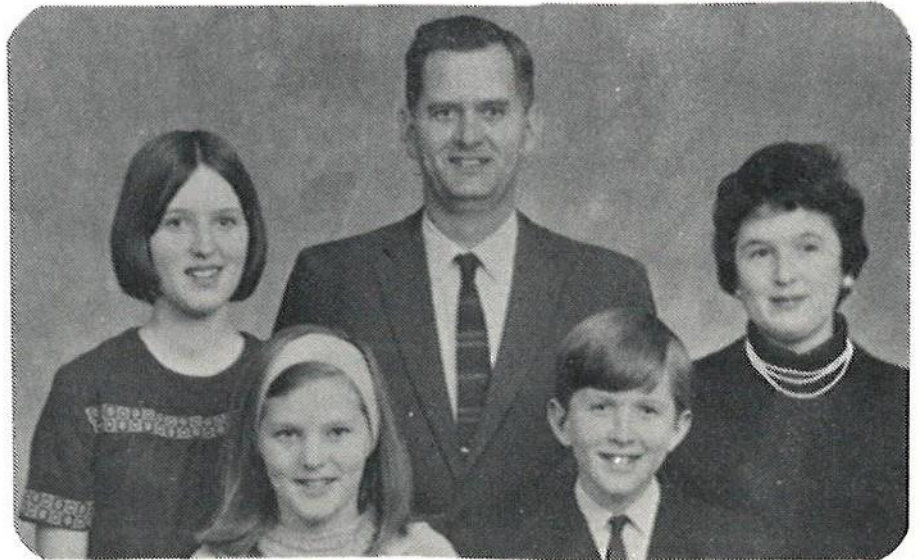
Lunch Bunch is a casual get together of MUMCers in Fellowship Hall every Thursday at noon (except week of First Friday Potluck Lunch).



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.

100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE STONE CHURCH

As a part of our Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Stone Church in Unionville, which will conclude with a worship service on November 22, each month the Records and History Committee will be sharing just a few of the memories of services and activities of members from when they were a child or youth at the church who are still a part of our congregation today.



RAY S. CRAGIN FAMILY

Memories from Linda Cragin Johansen -

We were always running late so we had to sit right up front on those blue benches; I don't think the organist liked us sitting so close to her ... I would sit and look at the stained glass windows – the one in the back of the sanctuary today hung over the altar ... after the Town took over the Fellowship Hall, Sunday School was held in the old parsonage ... during VBS Dick (Yerrington) would play the piano and we would sing all these crazy songs ... carved into the rafters in the sanctuary was (and is) a favorite scripture of mine: "It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord". (Lamentations 3:26, ESV)

Susan, Ray, Eleanor, Linda and John



Linda and Hal Johansen





BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP VISION, PURPOSE

Allen Nixon
Contact via [the online form](#)

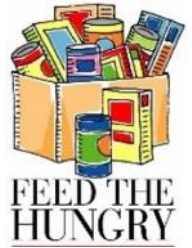
Everyone grieves differently and in their own way, and your grief will vary from day to day. There is no simple answer or definitive process for your grief, but know that you are not alone. This is the fundamental benefit of MUMC's Bereavement Support Group, knowing you are not alone and to remember 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 (**April 15**), 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.

MUMC 24/7 FOOD PANTRY



The food pantry continues to be well stocked with supplies, courtesy of our congregation and Churchery School. People are coming into the vestibule regularly for food staples. John Perotti has volunteered to paint/rehab the box we currently are using.

We always have need for non-perishable food items. They can 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
/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



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.

April Fellowship Hour Host is Missions Committee.

The Missions / Outreach Committee is called to fulfill Jesus' commandment to serve God's people. We do this by supporting people and programs both local and in the wider world with our prayers, gifts and service.

We coordinate and facilitate the mission ministry of the congregation; educate the congregation about outreach opportunities; support a wide variety of both local and international outreach.

"COFFEE & CONVERSATION" awaits in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am for those 8:30 worship attendees who want to gather after, and those who have children in Sunday school, and anyone who comes early before 10:30 worship. Keurig coffee maker will be on for self-serve cup of Jo! Creamer and sweeteners will be out.

TRES DE MAYO DINNER

Sunday, May 3 Serving 5-7 pm
(Linda Kime)

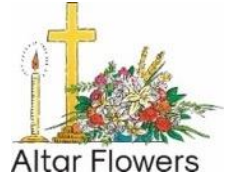
Come – enjoy a variety of Mexican dishes including make-your-own tacos, beans and rice, corn-bean salsa & chips, and Mexican chocolate desserts!



Invite family, friends, neighbors for good food, fellowship. Free will donations will benefit MUMC's ministries.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Linda Arnold



Sign up for altar flowers for 2026 is active 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. Signup is also available in the narthex. The price for altar flowers is \$40.



MUMC GUIDING & GROWING GROUP

Kay Hunter

MUMC's great lineup of activities continues into April and May. As always, we we're looking for everyone's support – volunteer, attend and bring friends, and help spread the word out into the community

- Sun. 4/5 - Easter Potluck Breakfast
- Sun. 5/3 - Tres de Mayo Mexican Supper
- TBD – Night out at Hartford Yard Goats Game
- TBD – 4th Annual Car Show
- Sat. 7/4 – Independence Day Cookout

All are welcome to be part of the G & G Group. Our main purpose is to be sure we have events on the MUMC calendar for members of our church and community. Everyone is welcome and we welcome your ideas for events or programs.

Please join us for our **next planning meeting, Tuesday, April 23 at 7 pm** in the Parlor or on Zoom.

APRIL 2026 - DATES TO REMEMBER!!!

Day	Date		Pg.	Event
Thu	4/2	6 pm	2	Maundy Thursday Soup Supper
		7 pm	2	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri	4/3	7 pm	2	Good Friday Service
Sun.	4/5	6:30 am	2	Sunrise Service on Courtyard
		8:30 am	2	Easter Worship with Communion
		9:20 am	3	Easter Pot Luck Breakfast
		10:30 am	2	Easter Worship with Communion
Fri	4/10	12 pm	3	"First Friday" Pot Luck Lunch
Sat	4/11	9:30 am	5	CT District Conference
Wed	4/15	10-11:30 am	8	Bereavement Support Group
Sun	4/19	7 pm	3	Other Good Book Group
Sat	4/25	TBD	4	Maureen Starr Memorial Service

LOOKING AHEAD!!!

Day	Date		Pg.	Event
Sun	5/3	5-7 pm	9	Tres de Mayo Mexican Dinner
Sat	5/23	11 am	4	Adva Volle Memorial Service

MEMORIAL UM CHURCH

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