



We are called to be a welcoming community of loving servants of Jesus Christ.

The Evangel

Prayer Concerns

Please lift in prayer...

Those is Texas and elsewhere affected by weather, especially Mark DeFrance, the Dahlstrom's family & Bill & Maria Van Giesen where power is back, thankfully;

for UMCOR which is responding to this disaster;

for Dan Wiedeman & the whole Wiedemann family;
for Rob Sibley following surgery; for the LaParrie and Poli families following Peter's death; for Justin's Aunt Vicky; for Pam Lewis; for Dominique Clancy's Dad, Rudy, in the hospital; for Karyn Holden's Uncle Robert whose leg had to be amputated due to diabetes; for Judy Beth; Tanner; Michelle; Marty & Martha; Dick's brother King now out of ICU; and thanksgiving for George Hanlon now at home!



FROM YOUR PASTOR

"Moving Forward"

As we head into spring, the news around the coronavirus pandemic is starting to be positive, with the rate of infections going down and the rate of vaccinations going up.



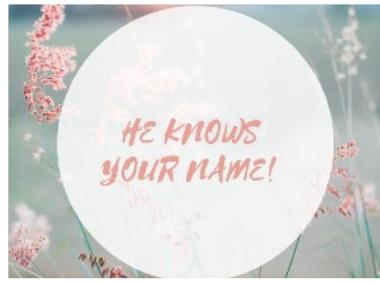
We have reason to be cautiously optimistic! The main word being "cautious".

Because of the sound protocol put into place last summer/fall, we were able to be safely open at 10am worship during this fall. The main issue this winter has been ventilation - open doors and windows don't work well at 26 degrees - so we went remote entirely again on Christmas Eve and have remained remote since.

However, with milder weather returning, I am cautiously optimistic that we can offer an in-person worship option on Palm Sunday, March 28. *Please note that we will again have all windows doors open.*

If we do this, we will also offer an in-person option at 10am on Easter, April 4. *WE WILL TAKE REGISTRATION FOR EASTER SUNDAY IN ORDER TO INSURE WE KEEP THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY/SPACING GUIDELINES IN OUR PROTOCOL.* More information on the registration process will come out in March, as will a definite word on whether the health situation allows us to reopen March 28.

I am excited to share that when we return to in-person worship, we will have a new wall screen and projector, which will allow us to use more audio video in worship and also provide a more seamless experience between the in-person and online congregations. Again, I want to offer thanks for the generous gift from the Memorials committee and the \$800 grant from the Annual Conference (provided to any church upgrading technology). Thanks also to Karan Goodhue who shepherded the whole process around the...



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3/1 Doris Samson
Vincent & Sandy Venitelli 🍷
- 3/2 Alan Pearlman
- 3/6 Jordan D'Amico
Caroline Malin
- 3/7 Barb Carlson
Cheryl Ghent
- 3/8 Alex Trumpeta
- 3/11 Elaine Landau
Stefan Leon-Gambetta
- 3/14 Marvin Paige
- 3/15 Gary & Kathi Weller 🍷
- 3/17 Jacqueline Stakel
- 3/18 Emily Blewett
- 3/20 Jerry & PJ Yochum 🍷
- 3/21 Sarah Lynch
- 3/23 Heidi Poarch
- 3/24 Karen Goodhue
Kendra Kilson
- 3/26 Mel & Dorothy Kramer-Kawakami 🍷
- 3/27 Alek Budd
- 3/28 Ryan Clancy
Allison Rambone
Cindy Rice
- 3/31 Courtney Carlson
Tracey McManus
Charlotte Springmeyer

UPDATE ON CONFIRMATION

In January, 6 youth began the current confirmation session on zoom. We have met faithfully every week, so far covering the whole sweep of Christian history, from Jesus' own Jewish faith to the early church to the Reformation to the birth and growth of Methodism. Last Sunday, we were delighted to have Jim Maurer and Lynette Daria with us, talking about the various ministries of this church.

I am thankful for our confirmands: Grace, Kenny, Oliver, Brian, Stephen and Jakob, and for the adults who work with me: Kim Pearlman, Dan Poole and Sandy Venitelli. A special word of thanks to this year's Confirmation mentors: Susan Kalbaugh, Justin Birtwell, Duane Jones, Jim Maurer, Yunkee Chung and Judy Hammel.

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screen/projector acquisition.

If we missed your special moment, it means your profile information is incomplete. Please email the church office so that we may fill in the missing details!

Because so many of us are still being cautious, an online worship option will continue, indefinitely. The capacity to use zoom and live streaming has been a blessing over the last year and will continue to allow folks to join us who would otherwise be unable, due to illness or distance.

Many of you have remained active in worship these last months, and I am grateful. Please know that the Worship committee and I are always happy to hear suggestions about how to improve the worship experience. If you have suggestions or comments, please reach out to me or to worship chair, Lisa Marlin.

Continue to stay safe, and please continue to find ways to serve.

Lori

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Saturday, March 13th,
4 to 7 pm

*The Leprechauns Are
Ready to Make Your
St. Patty's Day Dinner*



**Orders must be placed
by Monday, March 8th**

All meals include:

Corned Beef Brisket,
Garden Salad (no dressing),
Cabbage, Potatoes,
Carrots, a Roll & Dessert
(Assorted Cookies - may
contain peanuts)

*Please Alert
If You Have an Allergy*

*Gluten-free dessert available
upon request*

Pricing

ADULTS	\$14
SENIORS 62+	\$13

A FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

Come with Me



This text by J. Paul Williams is from a favorite Lenten anthem that our choir loves to sing every year. It begins with a tenor solo, sung by Justin Peck, Bill Van Gieson, and most recently, Rob Sibley.

"Come with Me to the sea of Galilee, come with Me, come apart with Me. Come with Me, leave the multitude; come with Me to a place of solitude. Come with Me, watch and pray. Come with Me for soon I go; but I will leave My spirit to guide and comfort you, and I will come again for you.

Come with Me to Gethsemane; come with Me, come and pray with Me. Come with Me as I am betrayed; come with Me, see My Father's will obeyed. Come with Me, watch and pray. Come with Me, for soon I go; but I will leave my Spirit to guide and comfort you; and I will come again for you.

Come with Me, come to Calvary; come with Me as I do my Father's will. Come with Me, see Me lifted up. Come with me as I drink death's cup. Come with Me, watch and pray. Come with me for soon I go, but I will leave my Spirit to guide and comfort you; and I will come again, I'll come again, I will come for you, for you."

May we hear the music and observe a Holy Lent!

Sue Klein

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Week 2021 begins with **Palm Sunday**, March 28. We are hopeful we will have an in-person worship option at 10am and will be able to distribute palms. **Holy Thursday**, April 1 and **Good Friday**, April 2 worship will be at 7pm both evenings, and the format (remote or in-person/remote) will be announced closer to the day.

We look forward to **Easter Sunday**, April 4! We will rejoice in the perennial message of hope and new life, and celebrate with

Small Group Study Ideas

Throughout the pandemic, we have been able to keep the Tuesday evening small groups going. Since last spring we have covered a multitude of topics: seasonal studies for Lent and Advent, Coping With Fear, Dismantling Racism, the Parables of Jesus, and prayer. This month we launch into a Parish study using another Adam Hamilton Book, The Way.

If you have a topic, book or author that you'd like to suggest for small group discussion, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at lori.miller@nyac-umc.com.

(I anticipate that our spring group, beginning mid-late April, will be on zoom. After that we will assess the public health situation and decide if we will meet in person)

And please know that we are always happy to see new people in these groups!

Lori

Mission and Outreach has been involved in several projects during this Lenten season.

As of January 2020, we have been supporting the Interfaith Partnership Refugee Resettlement (IPRR) program. The current family has made an incredible transition to our country, despite the pandemic. At the moment they are in need of a car so that the father can get to & from his place of employment as they have been relying on good hearted volunteers to provide transportation. If you have or know of a donated car, please contact Lynette Daria at lynetteo6482@yahoo.com. Also, the father is working on getting his driver's license and needs volunteers to help with practice driving.

The Faith Food Pantry is in need of the following items:

Ketchup	Mayo
Salad Dressing	Juice (apple & cranberry)
Jelly (no grape)	Dish Soap (small)
Laundry Detergent (small)	Shampoo
Conditioner	Deodorant (male & female)
Female Sanitary Products	

These are the only items that are truly needed. Due to the pandemic restrictions, please drop your donations at the Faith Food Pantry located behind St. Rose rectory. The hours of operation are Tuesday 8:30-11:30am and Thursday 3:30-5:30pm. Please include a note saying this is a donation from Newtown United Methodist Church.



Lastly, we have partnered with the Period Project to help distribute female sanitary products to Danbury High School students who are in need. A monetary donation was given to make up small packets that include various items, which are then freely distributed.

Mission and Outreach is so grateful for all you do to better the lives of those in our community. Thank you.

Lynette Daria

DISASTER RELIEFFOR VICTIMS OF TEXAS STORMS

The United Methodist Committee on Relief has started a fund to support those impacted by the winter storms. If you wish to give online or get more information about the relief for UMCOR in general, please go to this site: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>

Red Cross Blood Drives

The Congregational Church will host four drives in March. The need for blood is constant, even during COVID and snowstorms!

All donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies with results available within one to two weeks via your donor account on both redcrossblood.org and the Blood Donor App. If you've had a COVID vaccination, please bring information of the type of vaccine used.

Dates

Thursday, Mar 11
1:30pm to 6:00pm

Friday, Mar 12
9:00am to 1:30pm

Thursday, Mar 25
8:30am to 1:30pm

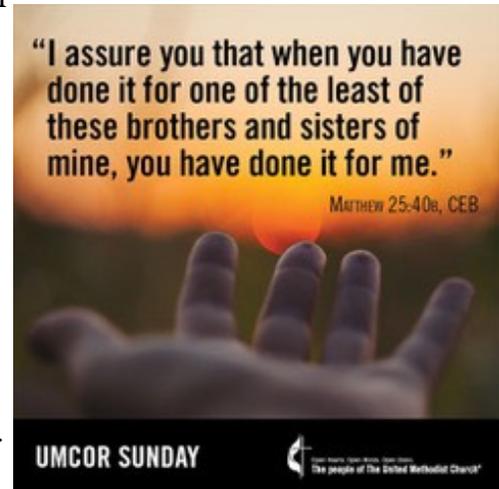
Friday, Mar 26
9:00am to 2:00pm

Location

Newtown Congregational Church
14 West St
Newtown CT 06470

Schedule online at redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767. COVID-19 protocols apply; facemasks are required and provided if needed.

UMCOR Sunday (previously called *One Great Hour of Sharing*) will be held Sunday, March 14. UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, is one of the most respected denominational agencies responding to disaster, natural and human-made. Because of the UM's administrative structure, undergirded by our apportionments, 100% of the offerings received on this Sunday or at any time by UMCOR go directly to meet need.



Please consider a contribution. If you choose to do so, you may give online by going to the UMCOR website, or by check. Please remit in a separate check from your pledge, made out to NUMC but memo'd UMCOR Sunday and send to the church office at 92 Church Hill Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482.

**THIS IS THE DAY
THAT THE LORD
HAS MADE;
LET US REJOICE
AND BE GLAD IN IT.**

Psalm 118:24 NRSV

**THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP HOUR
JOIN US!
7:30 pm**

A wonderful opportunity to be together on Zoom for an hour to stay in touch with one another. We find a blessing in it every week. If you aren't receiving the link, let Rae Steare in the office know (churchoffice@newtown-umc.org) and Lori will send it to you. Justin Birtwell is our host.

NUMC Craft Fair

**Save the Date
&
Tell a Friend!**

The 2021 NUMC Fall Craft Fair is scheduled for **Saturday, 10/16/2021 at Reed Intermediate School.** Know any talented crafters who might be interested in selling their goods at our event? If so, please contact Barb Sibley at (203) 300-1171 or barbsib@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more info and announcements in the months ahead.

Thank you! *Barb*

Evangel Deadline

March 22nd

If you know of anyone who would like to be added to our distribution (or removed as we work through updating our contact information), please email cburchoffice@newtown-umc.org

Easter Plants!

Time to order your Easter Plants to decorate our altar for Easter.

Type	Size	# of Plants	Price	Total Price
Easter Lily	6"		\$10.00	
Hyacinth	6"		\$10.00	
Tete-Tete	4"		\$6.00	
Daffodil	6"		\$10.00	
Daffodil	8"		\$16.00	
Total # of Plants:			Total \$	

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

**Orders must be placed by Friday, March 19th
Please return to...**

NUMC, 92 Church Hill Rd, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

I would like the bulletin insert to read:



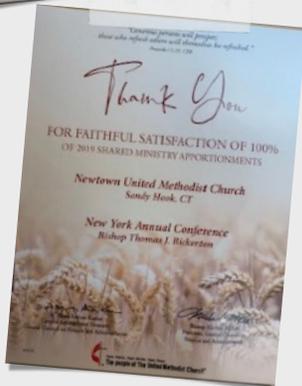
Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Bulletin Board Postings

Recognition Certificates Have Arrived! Congratulations NUMC on your continued, faithful ministry!



A friendly reminder to check those church mailboxes! The Church is accessible on Tuesdays & Fridays from 10am to 12pm and Sundays from 7:30am to 11am.

FROM YOUR PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR



Welcome March! Wesley has now started registrations for classes for next fall. If you have any little ones or know of anyone with little ones, please call and set up a tour of our school. We would be happy to show you around and let you know about the wonderful programs we offer.



On Tuesday, March 9, we will be having a fundraiser with "My Place" restaurant on Queen Street in Newtown. You can order take out or dine in and when you pay your bill, let them know that you are supporting Wesley Learning Center, and we will get a percentage of all sales that day. Give your stove a rest and support our school at the same time!

We are also hosting a virtual book fair with Scholastic Books March 8 through March 21. This is a great time to order books to fill Easter baskets for kids and grandkids or to stock up on summer reading. If you are interested, add the link below to your browser and shop away:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/wesleylearningctr>

Diane Fuchs

Director, Wesley Learning Center,

a **NAEYC** accredited program for children ages 2 through 6.

wesleyfuchs@gmail.com

203.426.6149

From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

PSALM 113:3 NRSV

Church Staff

Rev. Lori R. Miller, Pastor

Rev. E. Sue Klein, Deacon & Minister of Music

Diane Fuchs, Director, Wesley Learning Center