



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

The Evangel April 2023

Prayer Requests

Please lift in prayer...

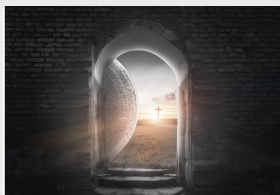
Kathryn Wolf's co-worker undergoing open heart surgery; Pam, recovering from knee surgery; Lydia, Dennis, John & Fran,

prayers for...

those suffering from extreme weather conditions as well as those who continue to be impacted by the needless violence in our world. Our hearts are with those in Nashville.

and...

As Holy week and Easter approach, may our hearts follow the example set by our risen Savior. May we strive each day to live a life of humility and service to others; a life worthy of His enduring love.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, April 2 at 8am & 10am

worship with a dramatic skit, special music and palms for those attending in person

Holy Thursday, April 6 at 7pm

Service of Tenebrae commemorating Jesus' Last Supper and his final hours

Good Friday, April 7 at 12pm

simple service of the Word including the reading of the Passion story.

The church will remain open following worship until 3pm for individual prayer.

Easter Vigil at Bethel UMC, Saturday at 7:30pm

An ancient ritual of the church; and like Tenebrae, uses darkness to light to symbolize resurrection

Easter Sunday, April 9

7am Dawn Service

A simple, in-person only service on the hillside of the parsonage lawn

8am Fellowship

A continental breakfast in Rauner Hall with thanks to Dennis & Barb Bloom & Anna Wiedemann

Stay late or come early for a time of fellowship & rejoicing together.

9am Traditional Easter Service

The Easter story, beautiful music, flowers and a special children's conversation.

Located in the sanctuary, the experience will be both in person & online

CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

Administrative News

Office Hours

THE OFFICE will have a varied schedule through Easter. Please note the following closures:

Friday, March 31
Tuesday, April 4
Friday, April 7

Quarterly Statements

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS will be emailed in the early part of April to those who have pledged. Please contact Barb Sherman at financialsecretary@newtown-umc.org with any questions.

Spring Clean-up Day!

THE TRUSTEES are calling for all hands on deck for our spring clean-up day. Join us on Saturday, April 8 from 8am to noon. Hope to see you there!

A NOTE FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

An Old Testament scripture from Micah has inspired quite a few hymns, one of which is in The Faith We Sing:



'We Are Called' by David Haas

Come! Live in the light! Shine with joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God! Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless so all hatred and blindness will be no more!

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love! We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly, we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God!

The invitation to sing with us on Thursday nights is always open! 7 - 8pm in the choir room. No auditions required!

Blessings,

Sue

It's never too early to send your information!
April 21 is this deadline for the May Evangel.

AN NUMC & WLC EASTER EGG HUNT

Volunteers needed from 9 to 11am on April 1 for our joint Easter Egg Hunt with WLC. This is a great opportunity for youth looking for community service hours or anyone who just wants to have fun!

Contact Judy Hammel at jhammel7@gmail.com or Diane Fuchs at wesleyfuchs@gmail.com to



Newsorthy Notes!

A NYC Field Trip

Sunday, April 23

Accompany the confirmation class and friends to the oldest continuing Methodist church in the United States. We will leave the church parking lot at 8:30 am, *but please let Pastor Lori know if you will attend.*

Following worship, Pastor Steffanie Bennet will show us the church museum and discuss early Methodist history in the United States. Lunch to follow in NYC (dutch treat).

CT District Conference

Saturday, April 29

To be held at the West Hartford UMC. Begins with lunch at noon and moves into worship and the annual business meeting of the district, including election of all district committees and officers, as well as the consecration of Lay speakers.

TEA FOR TWO, AND TWO FOR TEA...

Actually, bring a group of friends and join us for a proper tea!

MISSION & OUTREACH is hosting an Afternoon Tea in Rauner Hall on Saturday, April 29, from 1 to 2:30.

Tickets are available online at numc.us for \$15 each & limited to the first 50 registrants. Simply click the link below and scroll until you see the information for an Afternoon Tea. Then follow the directions provided.

Afternoon Tea

Admission includes unlimited teas, a variety of finger sandwiches (*including gourmet egg salad*) & a selection of desserts (*including scones*). Gluten free options available as well. Live, acoustic music will be provided by John Voket.

RSVP by registering online at numc.us or you can notify the **church office** and send a check made out to NUMC with 'Afternoon Tea' written on the memo line.

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT NUMC'S MISSION & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Thank you in advance for your support. We hope to see you there!

Lynette

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Looking Ahead

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, May 8

A day with Bishop Thomas Bickerton as he offers a "State of the Church" report on both our New York Annual Conference and the General Church, from his position as the President of the Council of Bishops.

MORE DETAILS TBA

Spaghetti Supper Returns!

Saturday, May 20

Join your friends and neighbors for an in person spaghetti supper as it returns to Rauner Hall! More details coming soon.

A Service of Healing

Friday, April 21

Bethel UMC is hosting a public healing service and members of NUMC are invited to attend. The service, located at 141 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT, begins at 7pm.

Light it Up Blue For Autism

Newtown United Methodist Church

Help F.U.N. Reach Our Goals in April:

- Community involvement
- Raise funds for research and new resources
- Promote "Acts of Kindness"
- Wear Blue



April 2nd is World Autism Awareness Day

April is F.U.N. Autism Education Month

Our Mission: Provide individuals with special need and their families, social opportunities in a caring environment through monthly themed meetings.

Thank you for your Support!

For More Information Visit:

www.familiesunitedinnewtown.org

or

Facebook@Families United in Newtown

Families United in Newtown, Inc. is a registered 501(c) (3) Non-profit organization. Your contributions may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law



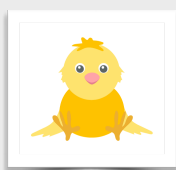
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Birthdays & Anniversaries

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- 4/1 William Peck 🎂 *wow!*
Debbie Stakel
- 4/3 Kenny Malin
- 4/4 John Schneider
- 4/6 Dominique Clancy
Jackson Keane
- 4/7 David Budd
- 4/9 **Schuyler Perry**
- 4/10 Stephen Stuart 🎂 *wow!*
- 4/11 Steffan & 🍷 *Cheers to 25 years!*
Stephanie Burns
Jeff Klein
Kathryn Wolf
- 4/15 Adam Trompetta 🎉 *Happy 21st!*
- 4/17 Caitlin Fitz Gerald
- 4/20 Jacqueline Taback
- 4/21 RJ & Iris Carlson 🍷
- 4/23 Carrie Warner
- 4/27 Lauren Milligan



NEWS FROM YOUR PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

In April we continue with our **"Key to Kindness"** program. Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Riccio had their parents join their students in Rauner Hall to paint coins for Ben's Bells. Everyone had a great time and it's a wonderful feeling to be able to install the values of considering others and community engagement in ones so young! The "key" has now been passed to the classes of Miss Erkan, Mrs. Girnys and Mrs. Tisi who will be collecting supplies for the Newtown Animal Shelter.



April 1 is our family Egg Hunt in conjunction with the church and we are currently seeking volunteers to help with the event. If you or someone you know would like to help, please reach out to me or let Judy Hammel know.

WLC will be closed for spring break from Friday, April 7 through Friday, April 14, but we end the month with a visit from Critter Caravan! Always a fun time!

*I can't believe it's spring already!
Enjoy the brighter days!*



Diane Fuchs

Director, Wesley Learning Center,
a NAEYC accredited program for children ages 2 to 6.
wesleyfuchs@gmail.com
203.426.6149

Church Staff
Rev. Lori R. Miller, Pastor
Rev. E. Sue Klein, Deacon & Minister of Music
Diane Fuchs, Director, Wesley Learning Center
Rae Steare, Office Assistant

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Cooperative Parishes: Learning Together

Friends, it has been a joy to spend time with different Cooperative Parishes and Cooperative Parish leaders across the New York Annual Conference for the past few months. I have heard many leaders and laity share stories of discovery, exploration and creation of new ministries. I would love to share these stories with you, hear your stories, hear your questions and offer space for us to learn together.

Cooperative Parish Lunch and Learn!

Rev. Doris K. Dalton is hosting a series of Lunch and Learn sessions. Join me, Doris, for a Lunch and Learn session over ZOOM to hear about Cooperative Parishes, ask for advice, share stories and best practices. These would be a great opportunity for Cooperative Parishes to hear from each other and gather inspiration. Bring your lunch, your questions and your ideas!

ALL are welcome. Clergy, laity, everyone!

Lunch and Learn sessions will be on **March 24 (corrected date)**, March 28, April 19, May 4 and May 23. All Lunch and Learn sessions are 12-12:45pm so you can join us during your lunch hour. You are invited to join me for one, more or all five of the Cooperative Parish Lunch and Learn sessions!

Click on the link below for information on topics and to register for one or multiple sessions.

<https://ny-reg.brtapp.com/CooperativeParishLunchLearn>

Using a Spiritual Gifts Inventory for Cooperative Parishes

Recently, I was meeting with a Cooperative Parish Council and they asked me for resource ideas for a Spiritual Gifts Inventory. Using a Spiritual Gifts Inventory is an effective way to help members of the Parish Council to get to know one another and understand the assets and strengths in the Council. It can also help the Parish Council in its development of their vision for shared mission and ministry.

The UMC Discipleship Ministries offers a [free Spiritual Gifts Inventory](#) that you can take online or download, print and complete on paper. They offer guides on matching spiritual gifts to leadership roles, and other helpful articles in using spiritual gifts. You can explore their [Spiritual Gifts resources here](#). There are also great books on Spiritual Gifts. Here are a few I like: "[Spirit Gifts: One Spirit, Many Gifts](#)" and "[Rediscovering our Spiritual Gifts](#)."

Looking for advice, support or resources for your Cooperative Parish?

Check out our website for resources at <https://www.nyac.com/cooperative-parish-resources>. The recorded Laity Convocation presentations on Cooperative Parishes with Bishop Bickerton can be found at <https://www.nyac.com/2023-laity-convocation-presentation>.

Questions? I can help you! Contact Rev. Doris K. Dalton at ddalton@nyac.com.