



The Evangel June 2023

Prayer Requests

Please lift in prayer...
the extended
Dahlstrom family on
the loss of Grace

prayers for...

Rob Kalbaugh and
Susan's daughters,
Ashley & Caitlin;
Marcia & PJ, both
recovering from breast
cancer surgery; Pam;
Devine; Jane, now in
hospice; Mike; Lee;
Arturo; the family of
Robert McCulloch;
Jahnna and her mom
Denise; Rebecca;
Stephanie M; Shannon;
Glen; Laura; Lydia;
Ruth & Antoinette in
rehab; Peggy's son-in-
law Bob; Gordon living
with stage 4 cancer;
and Shelly

and...

also remember our
church family as we say
goodbye to Lori &
Arthur. May the Lord
bless all of us as we
transition to new
beginnings.

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Good-byes are never easy.

For years I had a Sandra Boynton card on my desk (you remember her: lots of befuddled looking sheep and hippos doing cute things) and the card said, "Don't say 'Good-bye'... just say, 'I've changed my mind - I'm staying.'"

It would be a far easier life we tell ourselves if we never had to say Good-bye at all.

And yet - we can't live that sort of life, it's not possible in this finite, material world where things are always changing. What we can do is make the best possible Good-bye we can.

As I leave NUMC this month, part of *my* good-bye is reflecting on the years we had here and what I am grateful for.

That list begins with your welcoming me as your pastor and accepting my leadership. After 35+ years of parish ministry I do not take that acceptance for granted, and I am thankful for it.

I am also grateful for the myriad of ways you have been in ministry here - in outreach to the community; in supporting one another; in meeting people's needs around food and clothing and shelter; in maximizing worship and in caring for this outpost of ministry that is home to so many other groups.

I am grateful for the ways you have been willing to grow spiritually. Our relationship with God through Christ, empowered daily by the Holy Spirit, is the absolute core out of which all ministry happens.

Along with that I am grateful for your willingness to change and adapt. In some ways the pandemic gave us no choice... and yet you all did choose to live into the technology and tolerate difficult adaptations to church life that lasted longer than we expected.

And maybe most deeply of all, John and I are grateful for the love and care you showed us following Greg's death. You made an impossible time in our life bearable.

And so as we come to the end, maybe I won't say Good-bye - I will say Godspeed: May God's spirit behind you and beneath you keep you caring, and active in mission and willing to adapt and grow... Most of all may it keep each of you and all of you together with Pastor Steve reaching towards God and stretching to know Him more and be more for Him.

God's blessings be with you always, and my love,

Lori



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

Noteworthy News!



A Fond Farewell

Jim Maurer will be distributing note cards for those interested in wishing Lori a fond farewell.

*He will have cards at church on Sunday mornings or you may contact the **office** to coordinate how best to send your well wishes.*



Join us from 9am to 1pm for our community tag sale. Rent your space for \$20 and sell your treasures in a high, foot-traffic area. Only 3 spaces left so click **here** and register today!



A NOTE FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

"Holy Spirit, come, confirm us in the truth that Christ makes known; we have faith and understanding through your helping gifts alone." (*The beginning of Brian Foley's wonderful text for Pentecost*)



We will begin our summer worship schedule on June 11 with one service at 9am. You are invited to offer your musical gifts this summer as the choir takes time off. All music is welcome - singers, instrumentalists, or a combination of each.

Give me a call at 203-942-3843 or email me at revsueklein812@gmail.com.

Let's welcome our new pastor with joyous music!

Blessings,

Sue

A FAREWELL BRUNCH



Save The Date

Farewell Brunch

06.18.23

SPR will be hosting a Farewell Brunch for Pastor Lori and John on Sunday, June 18, immediately following 9am worship.

*Please visit the **numc.us** home page or RSVP **here** today! Additionally, you may leave a note for the **church office**.*

Replies are needed no later than June 11 to ensure we have adequate supplies.

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

Noteworthy News

Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, June 11 we will pause in worship to give thanks for and recognize those who have been instrumental in our ministry over the last year: Choir members and musicians; readers; tellers; acolytes; Sunday School helpers and others who have gone the second mile.

Please be present to thank them!



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

It will be a joy to be back in person for Annual Conference!

This year's Annual Conference will be held June 9-11 at Hofstra University on Long Island. NUMC will be represented by Pastor Lori and new Lay Member to Annual Conference, Justin Birtwell. *(Pastor Lori will return home Sat night.)*

Because Conference has been reduced from four days to three as a cost-cutting measure, there will be some changes to the schedule. However, the main components will be present. Conference will open Friday with the Memorial Service at which all clergy, spouses and children who have died in the past 3 years will be remembered. There will be briefer, worship services throughout and Conference will end with what is arguably the highlight: the service of Ordination on Sunday morning. It is always so inspiring to sing and worship with hundreds of other people!

Of course business must be conducted as well. Legislative sections allow reports, petitions and budgets to be dealt with more expediently. However, the overall Conference budget will be discussed and voted on in the plenary on Saturday - this budget becomes the basis for each local church's apportionment. In the Corporate session we will also hear from the Conference Board of Trustees and approve any church starts, mergers and/or closings. It is anticipated in this season that we will also need to vote on church disaffiliations - at this writing, there were just several churches in this annual conference who are choosing to disaffiliate.

Part of the joy of annual conference is meeting up with old friends and colleagues, and making new friends. Fellowship is huge - whether it's sharing a meal, early morning communion, or running into people in the dorm or hotel.

The United Methodist Church is based in connectionalism - we are stronger together than alone - and our annual conference is a lived example. For sure, disagreements are to be expected and sometimes tempers flare, but God willing, we remain united as brothers and sisters committed to Christ and to doing His work in the world.

*Please keep Pastor Lori and Justin in prayer,
and all the clergy and laity who attend.*

New Beginnings!



Warm Welcome

Our new minister, Pastor Stephen Volpe, will be joining us on Sunday, July 2 and Vikki Carson is collecting gift cards on behalf of SPR as a way to welcome him and his family to NUMC.

If you are interested in approaching a local business or donating a gift card, please let **Vikki** know. Donations can be delivered at church or mailed directly to 53 Copper Creek Circle, Newtown, CT 06470.

Thanks to everyone for your support.

Vikki
SPR Chair.

MISSION & OUTREACH

M&O continues to support the NY Annual Conference (NYAC) in requesting donations in the form of Asylum Seeker Kits. Men, women and children are all in need of socks & underwear and women are also in need of bras. Basic health items such as: deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, soap, washcloths vaseline, lotion, menstrual supplies, & baby wipes are needed as well.

Boxes will be in the narthex through June 9 when they will be delivered to NYC.

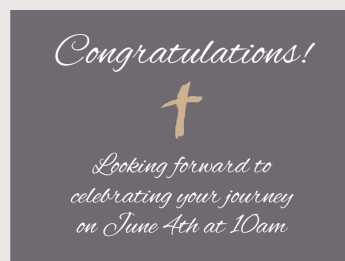
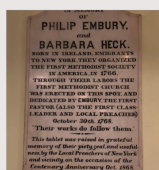
As always, thank you for hearing the cries of the needy.

Lynette

Also, stayed tuned for information coming soon regarding our summer mission project.

OUR 2023 CONFIRMANDS!

Our Confirmation class this year has been all joy to work with! We have learned and talked together; we have prayed together; we have had fun together; we have travelled to NYC together; we have served together.
- Pastor Lori



Help Wanted!

Mark Your Calendars!

The Trustees are hosting a work day on Saturday, June 24 beginning at 9am to help refresh things inside & outside the church & parsonage.

Among our many plans is the disassembly of the office desk and assembly of the new furniture. If anyone would like the old desk, please let the **Rae** know prior to the 24th.

As always, bring your outdoor tools as well as any cleaning supplies/equipment that may come in handy indoors as well.

Thanks for you help and we look forward to seeing many eager hands!

Your Trustees



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES! HIGH SCHOOL



Bill and Tammy Allen's daughter, *Joseline Allen*, will graduate from Henry Abbott Technical High School and plans to pursue a Certified Nurses Aid certificate and a certificate in Phlebotomy.

Bill and Tammy Allen's son, *Maximillian Allen*, will graduate from Bethel High School and plans to attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute to major in Chemistry.

Sandra Brown's granddaughter, *Georgia Brown*, will graduate from Haddam/Killingworth High School. Georgia is headed to Hartford University to pursue a degree in Bio-Medical Engineering

Steffan & Stephanie Burns' son, *Will Burns*, will graduate from Newtown High School. Will plans to attend Harvard University where he will also continue to play baseball.

Jeanne & John DeFrance's granddaughter, *Fiona DeFrance*, graduates from Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach, CA. Fiona will be attending UCLA in the fall.

Steve & Linda Poole's granddaughter, *Maille Kimble*, will graduate from Pomperaug High School. Maille plans to attend Oberlin College in the fall.



Janet McLeod's granddaughter, *Ainsley McLeod*, will graduate from Newtown High School. She plans to attend the University of Connecticut Storrs in the fall.

Sandra Brown & Ethel Meadows' granddaughter, *Julia Meadows*, will graduate from New Milford High School. Julia plans to attend Western Connecticut State University in the fall to pursue a degree in Business Administration.

Scott Sigmund's son & Kathi & Gary Weller's grandson, *Kaidyn Sigmund*, will graduate from Bristol High School. Kaiden is headed to Deland, FL to attend Stetson University in the fall with plans to major in Accounting. The family is proud to announce that Kaidyn received a full scholarship to Stetson!

Jeff & Danielle Spies' son, *Brendon Spies*, will graduate from Bethel High School in the top 10% of his class. Brendon received a merit scholarship and plans to attend UCONN Storrs in the fall to study Robotics Engineering.

Doug & Rae Steare's son, *Sam Steare*, will graduate from Newtown High School. Sam is headed to the University of Colorado Boulder & enrolled in the Business and Computer Science Integration Program with an emphasis in Business Analytics.

Congratulations!

Congratulations Brendon on your Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony.



Bulletin Board Posts

Summer Hours

We will begin our summer worship hours on June 11. There will be one service at 9am through Labor Day weekend.

Please note...

THE OFFICE will be closed on Friday, June 23.

Remember, there is only 1 newsletter for July & August.
Submit your info for the Summer Evangel by June 23!

EVEN MORE GRADUATES...

Rev. Sue Klein's granddaughter, *Rebecca Varnum*, will graduate as Valedictorian of Nonnewaug High School. She plans to attend Boston College's School of Nursing this fall.

Sue Williams' granddaughter, *Amy Wayland-Smith*, will graduate Wamogo Regional High School in Litchfield, CT. Amy plans to attend Binghamton University this fall.

COLLEGE



Sandra Brown's grandson, *Simon Brown*, graduated with a BS in Technical Education from Central Connecticut State University. Simon is currently seeking a teaching position.

Jim & Marcia Maurer's granddaughter, *Olivia Maurer*, earned a Master's Degree in Public Health and a Master's Degree in Biomedical Science from Tufts Graduate School. Olivia's next step is Medical School at Tufts University.

Jon & Lydia Christensen's grandson, Michael McCann, graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in Business Management. Michael will be working for MAS Building & Bridge, Inc. as a Project Engineer in MA.

Sandra Brown & Ethel Meadows' grandson, *Jacob Meadows*, graduated with a BS in Finance & a minor in German from Southern State Connecticut University. Jacob is currently seeking employment.

Steve & Linda Poole's daughter, *Sarah Poole*, graduated from the University of Springfield with a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

Fred & Debbie Stakel's granddaughter, *Morgan Stakel*, graduated from the University of South Carolina with a BS in Business Administration with double majors in Finance & Risk Management and Insurance and a concentration in Data Analytics. Morgan graduated Magna Cum Laude and will be working for Deloitte as a Risk and Financial Advisory Analyst.

Rev. Sue Klein's granddaughter, *Elizabeth Varnum*, graduated with a Master's Degree in Accounting from Bentley University.

Sandra Brown's granddaughter, *Deborah Young*, graduated with a BS in Animal Science from Findlay University in Findlay, OH. Deborah plans to pursue a graduate degree in Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University in Auburn, AL.

Suzanne & Dan Gilligan are excited to announce that *Katie Stawiasz* has completed her PhD in Chemistry from the University of Illinois. Katie will be a Senior Research Chemist working for 3M in St Paul Minnesota and is also newly engaged to Hayden Brown. Both Suzanne and Dan are proud and thrilled to welcome Hayden into the family.

Parish News

On April 24, we had a great first meeting of the Western Frontier Parish Council at the Danbury Methodist Church. In attendance were representatives from all of the churches within our cooperative parish: Bethel, Danbury, New Life Church, New Milford & Newtown. We are led by the Parish Coordinator, Pastor John Parille of Bethel.

During our meeting, we discussed the strengths of the western parish, along with how we can then support each other's ministries. We talked about a wish list of joint events in the future, and we shared what was happening at each of our churches. There are many different types of outreach each church finds success with and many ways to become involved.

**We discussed a joint choir hymn singing and musical experience*

**We heard about the Luke 5 Ministry in Bethel assisting those that need help to hike with a very special cart*

**Patti's closet for gently used infant to 3T clothes and supplies for moms and families in need is in Bethel as well*

We will continue meeting and talking about additional outreach to help grow our Parish in new ways, and to support it and one another. We gather again June 19 and I will keep you apprised of new events and developments.

*Karan Goodhue
Church Council Chair*

COMMUNITY PAGE



Blood Drives

Newtown Congregational Church

14 West Street, Newtown, CT 06470

Tu May 30, 2023 1:00—6:00 pm

Th June 8, 2023 8:30 am—6:30 pm*

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org,
call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), or
Scan this QR code with a smart phone; enter 5320



Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



*** with appreciation to volunteers from the Newtown Lions Club and to Women Involved in Newtown for snacks**



Give Something that Means Something® | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

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Assistance Needed!

*We have a local, Sandy Hook resident looking for assistance this summer. If you or anyone you know are interested in lending a hand, please let the **office** know.*

Both are small, outdoor projects, but she is unable to manage them herself. Compensation provided!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 6/1 Justin Peck
Sam Steare 🎉 *Happy 18th!*
- 6/2 Yun Kee & Susan Chung 🍷
Katie Stawiasz
- 6/3 Neal & Robin Kilson 🍷
- 6/4 Alyssa Wade
Kelela Wade
- 6/5 Azelia Sigmund
Dan & Anna Wiedemann 🍷
- 6/6 Karen Bambino 🎉 *It's a big one!*
Kayla McClay
- 6/8 Cassidy Carlson
Marc Giannavola
Laura Hewitt
- 6/9 Marvin & Carole Paige 🍷
Chris & Mary Wynings 🍷
Jerry Yochum
- 6/10 Zachary Warner
- 6/11 Macgregor Sullivan
- 6/12 Marcia Maurer 🎉 *Wow!*
Jay & Amy Thomas 🍷
- 6/13 Rich & Kathy Blewett 🍷
Hannah Kilson
Fred Stakel
- 6/16 Elizabeth Wolf
- 6/19 Rob & Susan Kalbaugh 🍷
- 6/20 Mike & Dawn Ballard-Hesik 🍷
Phillip Keane 🎉 *Milestone!*
Neal Kilson
Ron & Debbie Nemec 🍷
- 6/21 Brad & Beth Paynter 🍷
Amy Thomas
- 6/22 Kevin Hoyt
- 6/23 Raul Oliveria
Fred & Debbie Stakel 🍷
Rae Steare
- 6/24 Shannon (Plank) Curioso
- 6/26 Cynthia Svenson
- 6/27 Victoria Bambino
Tammy Corsi
Martha Millett 🎉 *Wow!*
- 6/28 Lyndsey Pearlman
Rob & Barb Sibley 🍷
- 6/29 Mike & Susan James 🍷
Duane & Linda Jones
Stephen & Lisa Marlin
- 6/30 Anna Burns 🎉 *Happy 21st!*
Alex Sullivan

NEWS FROM YOUR PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

This year is quickly coming to a close!

Our year-end party at the Community Center was a huge success with over 160 people in attendance. Turns out, preschoolers and parents both love to dance!



We have one final celebration in the works as we hold our *Moving Up* ceremonies on Friday, June 2 at 9:30 and 11:00am. We are so happy for our graduates and know that great adventures await them in Kindergarten!

Even though the school year is ending, we will still be active at WLC. Camp starts Monday, June 5 and continues until Friday, June 30; and we are proud to say that most weeks are full!

July and much of August will be filled with some well-deserved down time for our teachers and staff, but we are still available if you need us. There are still few spots remaining in our 3s program, but all other classes are full.

If you know of anyone interested in attending WLC, please don't hesitate to reach out. Have a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend!

Diane Fuchs



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

