



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

The Evangel May 2023

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Grace and peace to each of you.

I hope that the spring is unfolding in good ways for you - it has certainly been a green one!

As I shared in worship last month, effective July 1, I am being appointed to the Katonah-Purdys UMC in Katonah, New York. The Katonah and Purdys UMCs maintain separate property (Purdys actually rents their building to the YMCA of Northern Westchester during the week) while worshiping and ministering as one congregation. John and I will live in the parsonage in Katonah.

I anticipate that my last Sunday will be June 18. I believe it is important to have a "buffer" Sunday in between pastors. On Sunday, June 25, the Rev Dr Brian Bodt will lead worship and preach. Brian comes with extensive training and experience in transitions, and you will want to hear what he has to say!

I anticipate moving the week of June 19 in order to allow our Trustees time to ready the parsonage for Pastor Steve and his family - because of course he needs to allow time for the Plainville trustees to do the same.

I am getting to know Steve and think you will find him an extremely solid and able leader - a man of great caring and integrity - with a great bass voice! There will be more from and about him in the June Evangel.

When a pastor initiates a move, there is always the tendency to ask, Why?



Since I have had the Why question posed to me numerous times over the last few months, I want to offer this explanation:

John and I had first considered fully retiring this summer, but with the clergy shortage in our annual conference that did not seem right. However, it did feel like a good time to make a change from NUMC for both personal and church reasons. The personal reason was that John and I wished to be closer to NYC. He still works in Manhattan part time and has physicians at both Hospital for Special Surgery and Memorial Sloan Kettering.

But more importantly, it felt as though *from the perspective of ministry and this church's future*, it was also a good time for a change. After 7 years, I know this church well and love it dearly, but a new pastor brings a new pair of eyes - new insight and new energy. Safely through the pandemic (we trust) and ready to restart ministries and launch new ones, perhaps in conjunction with the Western Frontier Parish, it felt to me as though new insight and new gifts were a blessing.

We will have another 2 months together, but please know now how much I have appreciated doing ministry with you - what you have taught me and given me. And John and I will never forget your kindness and support after Greg's death.

I will continue to keep you and Pastor Steve in my prayers long after I have departed. I know with all of you working together with the Holy Spirit, NUMC's future is bright.

My love,

Lori

Prayer Requests

Please lift in prayer...

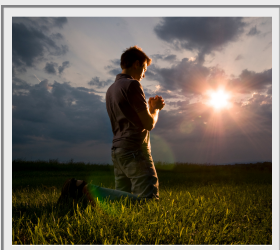
The Tenney family on the passing of Jim; the Williams family on the loss of Jackie

prayers for...

Sandy Plank having eye surgery; Sandy Franklin's daughter; Sue Williams' friend, Jane; Pam; Lydia; PJ; Ernest; baby Henry; Peggy Garrity's son-in-law; John; Steven; Marcia & Anna

and...

continued prayers of peace and healing for a broken world.



Have someone GRADUATING this spring? Contact the church office by May 26 with the following information: the graduate's name; school and future plans, if known.

A NOTE FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

Fred Pratt Green published a hymn in 1971 which has always inspired me. It calls us to express our praise of God with all the musical gifts we've been given!



"When in our Music God is Glorified," and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried Alleluia!

You will find it in our hymnal, No. 68. May what we sing with our voices be what we believe in our hearts and practice in our lives! There are still old hymnals in the narthex for you to take home. Help yourself!

Blessings,

Sue



It's never too early to send your information!
May 22 is the deadline for the June Evangel.

MISSION & OUTREACH

For their spring-into-summer projects, M&O will focus on supplying material help for two groups:

From now until June 9, we will collect underwear, socks, toiletry and baby care items for the ASYLUM PROJECT. (Use the [link](#) to determine what is most needed.) More than 50,000 asylum seekers from around the world have arrived in New York City in the last year. Seven of our NYAC churches are directly involved with asylum seekers and need our help to meet their basic needs. Watch for the bin in the narthex!

Also, stayed tuned for information on OFF THE STREET, which supplies job and business appropriate clothing for men and women coming out of shelters.

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Newsorthy Notes!

Please note...

THE OFFICE will be closed on Friday, May 5.

Connecticut District Meets with Bishop Bickerton May 8, 2023

On Monday, May 8 beginning at 6pm, the Connecticut district clergy and laity will meet with our Bishop, Thomas J. Bickerton at the New Room Parish in Meriden. The evening starts with dinner, followed by time with Bishop Bickerton.

Bishop will address two topics mainly: the status and importance of our Cooperative Parishes & the state of our Church/Annual Conference in light of the disaffiliations happening around us. He will also have a Q&A time in which people may bring up other questions.

Pastor Lori is attending and will be happy to drive anyone interested up to Meriden.

Memorial Day Weekend Worship May 28, 2023

On Sunday, May 28 there will be just one service at 9am

Come One, Come All!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

NEWTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
92 CHURCH HILL RD, SANDY HOOK

Menu

Garden Salad
Fruit Salad
Spaghetti or zoodles
Choice of Sauce:
Marinara, Meat, or Spicy
Garlic Bread
& Dessert

Preorders due May 15

BASE PRICING

ADULT \$16
SENIORS 62 & OLDER \$15
Kids 12 and under \$8

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

GLUTEN FREE + \$1
MEAT: Meatball or Sausage +\$1 ea



RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Don't forget to contact Candice Rothe at 203.217.9732 by May 15, so that that we can plan meals accordingly.

Additionally, help is needed to provide exceptional service at our first in-person Spaghetti Supper since Covid.

Please volunteer by clicking on the link to the right to help make this beloved community event a success!



We are called to be a welcoming community of loving



Newtown's Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement (IPRR) is settling a brave, hard-working refugee family from Latin America. Please help this family get established in our area by making a generous contribution.

They have immediate household expenses to cover like food and rent. While the parents are working now, they need English classes, drivers' licenses and a car so that they can work in the fields they were trained for in their home country. Like most refugees, they also need to pay back a size-able travel loan they received from the International Organization for Migration to get here. Show them what a welcoming, supportive community we are by giving generously.

Making an online donation is fast and secure through Trinity Episcopal Church at www.trinitynewtownct.org/IPRR.

NUMC COMMUNITY TAG SALE

9am - 1pm

Newtown United Methodist Church

92 Church Hill Road
Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Interested in selling your treasures in a great location? If so, register for the NUMC Community Tag Sale taking place during the [Great Pootatuck Duck Race](#).



Limited spots available (\$20/space).

Register online at numc.us or contact the church office at churchoffice@newtown-umc.org



Saturday, June 3rd

NUMC COMMUNITY TAG SALE

Reserve & pay for your space online at numc.us!

Click on the Register now button & follow the instructions provided.

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Happy
Mother's Day



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 5/2 Craig & Pam Carlson 🍷
Sam Pellicone
- 5/4 Olivia Steare 🎂 *Happy 21st!*
- 5/5 Jodi Sherman 🎂 *wow!*
- 5/6 Beau Clancy
Bob & Cindy Rice 🍷 *Cheers to 40 years!*
- 5/7 Brandi Braziel
Judy Singer
- 5/8 Karyn Holden
- 5/9 Virginia Lynch 🎂 *Sweet 16!*
Doug Steare
- 5/10 Coke Cramer
- 5/11 Alice Saxton
- 5/12 Kayla Licursi
- 5/14 Pam Powers
- 5/17 Carolyn Wolf
- 5/18 Steve Agnew & Judy Hammel 🍷
Tom & Jan DePalo 🍷
- 5/19 Andre Hoyt
Madeline Marlin
- 5/20 Ben Miles
- 5/21 Rich Blewett
- 5/23 Ed & Beverly Dahlstrom 🍷
Pam Masella
- 5/26 Maria Van Giesen
- 5/27 Bev Dahlstrom
- 5/28 Jakob Wenis 🎂 *Sweet 16!*
- 5/30 Kenny Ballard 🎂 *Sweet 16!*
- 5/31 Gray Ballard 🎂 *Sweet 16!*
Tom DePalo
Mary Ellen Schneider
Jeff Stakel

NEWS FROM YOUR PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

May is a hectic month at WLC as we begin the final countdown to graduation!

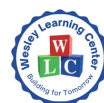


We begin the month by celebrating our teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week (May 1 - May 5) in conjunction with the WLC Board. Our teachers are the best and we look forward to letting them know just how grateful we are for their dedication to WLC.

May 5 begins the first of many celebrations this month. The children (& parents) are looking forward to our end of the week dance party at Newtown Community Center.

Preparations are also underway for an art show to be held later in the month. Our students are busy creating masterpieces that will be showcased at the return of the in person Spaghetti Supper on May 20! Stop by and see the work of our talented students.

The last day of school will be Thursday, June 1. Our moving up ceremonies are scheduled in the sanctuary for Friday, June 2 and everyone is already thinking about the warm, summer days ahead.



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

Newtown United Methodist Church
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numc.us

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



May Blood Drives

Newtown Congregational Church
14 West Street, Newtown, CT 06470

Tu May 2, 2023, 8:30 am—6:30 pm

Th May 18, 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