



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

The Evangel November 2023

PASTOR'S CORNER



“Give thanks, with a grateful heart! Give thanks, to the holy one! Give thanks, for he’s given Jesus Christ, his son! And now, let the poor say they are rich, let the weak say they are strong because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks. Give thanks. Give thanks.” (*“Give Thanks”, from The Faith We Sing”, written by Henry Smith, 1978*)

Here it is time once again for . . . “Thanksgiving.” I remember Thanksgivings of yore, or at least my youth when the family would gather ‘round the table laden with turkey, stuffing, peas, creamed onions (yum!), mashed potatoes, gravy, olives, and pickled black walnuts (bleh!), finishing such with pumpkin and apple pies.

Aside from the grace that was said beforehand, very little if any mention of being thankful was made. It made me wonder about the day’s real meaning. Oh, I knew it had something to do with Pilgrims and the native peoples of this land, but what had it to do with me? Since then I’ve learned an awful lot about Thanksgiving, both the good, the bad and the ugly. Regardless, I still think the possibilities this holiday holds are valid and unfulfilled. The children in elementary school are still told the stories of starving Pilgrims and generous Native Americans, but, again, little about giving thanks. What can we do that will do this time justice?

The answer may lie in that the unique opportunity the day presents. Thanksgiving may just provide the perfect excuse to count our manifold blessings. We take so much for granted: The air we breathe, the food we eat, the teachers who teach our children, our jobs, the church, our salvation, our family, our community, etc. The list for each of us would almost seem inexhaustible if we were to break it down.

Make this Thanksgiving truly meaningful by taking time to take a “blessings inventory”. In between the turkey and pie, before some depart for the walk to “walk off what they’ve eaten” (which given the amount eaten might indicate a multiple-mile-walk) have everyone around the table write down three things that are blessings in their lives. Keep them anonymous if you want, and then have one member of the family read them aloud, concluding with a simple prayer of thanksgiving to God for those written and the unwritten blessings. The potential for enriching Thanksgiving is enormous. “Give thanks, with a grateful heart!”

Joy and Blessings in Jesus,

Pastor Steve



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Saint of the Month

submitted by Pastor Steve

For November our Saints of the Month are...

Barb and Rob Sibley for their superhuman effort and skill in once again crafting an incredible Craft Fair! 40 vendors, tons of silent auction items, and probably over 1,000 satisfied folk vending and buying! Please give Rob and Barb a share of your gratitude this month.



Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Newtown's Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held on Thursday, November 16 at 7:00pm, at the Trinity Episcopal Church. I hope to see many of our members there to show our support of interfaith ministries.

A NOTE FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

"When we are called to sing your praise with hearts so filled with pain that we would rather sit and weep or stand up to complain; remind us, God, you understand the burdens that we bear; you, too, have walked the shadowed way and known our deep despair."



"When we are called to sing your praise and life ahead looks grim; still give us faith and hope enough to break forth in a hymn; a thankful hymn, great God of Love, that you are every-where; you walk the shadowed way with us and keep us in your care."

This wonderful text by Mary Nelson Keithahn, set to a traditional English melody, appears in *The Faith We Sing*. It encourages us to respond to our hurting and troubled world with the glorious gift of song!

Many Blessings,

Sue

SPREAD THE WORD (AND PASS THE GARLIC BREAD!)

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

NEWTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
92 CHURCH HILL RD, SANDY HOOK

JOIN US IN PERSON!
SATURDAY, NOV 11
4PM TO 7PM

seating available for in person dining or take advantage of our curbside takeaway option

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

BASE PRICING
ADULTS \$16
SENIORS 62 & OLDER \$15
KIDS 12 and under \$8

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

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR CURBSIDE PICKUP AND ENCOURAGED FOR IN PERSON DINING

CONTACT CANDICE ROTHE @ 203-217-9732

LIVE MUSIC TO FOLLOW BY RJ STORM AND THE OLD SCHOOL BLUEGRASS BAND!

To help meet the needs of those facing food insecurity in our community, NUMC requests donations of non-perishable goods to benefit Faith Food Pantry.

Help is also needed that night...

especially during cleanup.

Sign-up [here](#) to help make the evening a success!

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With Gratitude

Mission & Outreach is once again providing complete Thanksgiving meals to families in need.

This year we are supporting 6 families and the approximate cost per family is \$75. Just like last year we are asking for monetary donations and Big Y will help put items together in preparation for delivery on Nov 20th.

If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to NUMC, and write M&O Thanksgiving on the memo line. You may also contribute online. Any amount is gratefully appreciated!

The deadline is Nov. 19 at 10:30am. Thank you in advance for your compassion and generosity.

On behalf of NUMC, M&O has purchased a table in support of the **REGIONAL HOSPICE BREAKFAST** on November 9. Thanks to your support, all seats are filled! Thank you church!

Lynette

A NOTE FROM YOUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dear Church Family,

Your Church Leadership Team is still searching to find volunteers to take a couple of key positions. So we've decided to approach the church differently by trying to match leadership with gifts and graces. We want to know if there is anyone who is feeling called to ministry in the form of these positions. Please take the time to prayerfully consider replying to this call with information that will help us robustly fulfill our ministry as the Newtown United Methodist Church.

Specifically we are in need of the following:

- 1) Chair of Finance
- 2) Stewardship Chair



Please help us by answering the following:

- 1) Do you have an interest in one or more of the following?
 - Member-Nurture (caring for one another)
 - Administration (helping ensure the church runs effectively)
 - Education (teaching children and/or adults)
 - Finance (putting budgets together, and keeping us on track)
- 2) What is your current occupation?

Thank you so much for your cooperation. It is deeply appreciated.

Peace & Blessings,
The Nominations Committee

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

from the Rev. John Wesley

“Condemn no one for not thinking as you think. Let every one enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for themselves. Let every one use their own judgment, since every one must give an account of themselves to God. Abhor every approach, in any kind or degree, to the spirit of persecution, if you cannot reason nor persuade someone into the truth, never attempt to force them into it. If love will not compel them to come, leave them to God, the judge of all.”



'Tis the Season!

It's Time to Beautify the Altar for Christmas!

It may seem early, but the deadline is fast approaching!

The following plants are available. When ordering, please indicate the desired color & quantity for each.

Size	Color (Red or White)	Quantity	Individual Price	Total Cost
4"			\$8	
6 1/2"			\$15.00	
8"			\$35	
		Total Enclosed		

Orders must be placed by Monday, November 20th.

Please return to the church office & make checks payable to NUMC and note "Poinsettias" on the memo line of your check. Or, you may also order online by clicking [here](#)

I would like the bulletin insert to read:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



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Office News

Please note adjusted hours:

The pastor holds the following office hours:

Monday - Thursday
9:30am to 12:30pm
The church will be open and appointments aren't necessary. Simply knock on the office door if closed.

Fridays
Off

Pastor Steve can also be reached at revsev62@sbcglabal.net and at 203.232.2752.

Rae will continue to be in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30am to 12:30pm, unless otherwise noted.

Please note that the office will be closed Nov. 22-24th.

Time Change!

Daylight Saving Time ends November 5. Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before going to bed on the 4th!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



The NUMC Sunday School class led by Cody Spies will be packing shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Why? To send much needed items and joy to children ages 2-14 in various areas of the world and to spread the word of Christ.

This year we would like our shoeboxes to be sent to the Middle East. Please consider packing a shoebox *or two* and bringing to the church narthex no later than Sunday, November 12. Some of the items sought after are personal hygiene items (except for liquids and toothpaste), arts and crafts and small clothing items. You do Not need to supply a shoebox but all items donated must fit inside a shoebox. You may also contribute a \$10 donation to help cover shipping costs.

Please reach out with any questions to Cody Spies at engnole@yahoo.com or myself at David_Budd@charter.net.



Thank you.



You are invited to Laity Convocation on November 18, at Golden Hill UMC in Bridgeport, CT from 9:00am - 2:00pm for a powerful experience and lesson in storytelling. You'll have time to listen and learn from Sheila Arnold, engage and practice with your peers, and enjoy the kind of fellowship that we've been missing for the past few years. There is a nominal registration fee of \$25 and a continental breakfast and boxed lunch will be served. If interested, reach out to the church office to see about carpooling opportunities, but don't forget to register [here](#) in order to reserve your spot!

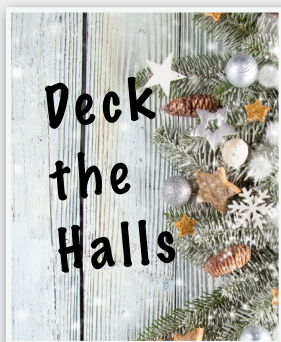
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Worship Committee

Specific plans for Advent and Christmas worship are still being determined by the Worship committee, but this is what we know about the start of the season:

On Sunday, November 19 the worship committee needs our help to bring up Christmas decorations from storage. Please plan to lend a hand for a few minutes immediately following worship.

On Sunday, November 26, we plan to once again decorate the sanctuary together in preparation for our Christmas Celebration on December 2. Join us immediately following worship in fellowship and service as we work to “deck the halls”. Yummy treats and festive music available for all as we kick-off the season of Advent.



LOOKING AHEAD!



NUMC is hosting...
A Christmas Celebration
December 2, 2023

The Singing Principal
(a children's program, registration required)
Register online at numc.us
Rauner Hall - 3:30 to 4:20pm

A Carol Sing
(appropriate for all ages, no registration needed)
sanctuary - 4:30 to 5:30pm

Then we bundle up and take a short walk together down to Sandy Hook center for the annual tree lighting ceremony.
6pm

*These events are all open to our community.
Please spread the word and invite family and friends to attend.*

Come join us as we welcome the start of Advent.

Donations are also requested to help make the day a success. Below is what is still needed. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you can contact Vikki Carlson at vcarlson8042@charter.net.

- Cash donations for the Singing Santa (\$300 fee)
- 100 candy canes
- Up lighting for the front of the church



SMALL GROUP STUDY FORMING!

Hard to believe in the midst of pumpkin lattes and swirling leaves, but Advent begins very soon...



Beginning on November 28, I hope to start a seasonal Bible Study called: “Four Gifts for Advent (*Awe, Humility, Fire, Splendor*)” We will meet via Zoom at 7pm. If interested in joining or learning more about the study, simply call or text me at 203.232.2752.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 11/2 Doug & Rae Steare 🍷
11/3 Jaret & Sarah Lynch 🍷
11/6 Ray & Betsy Hoyt 🍷
Kaidyn Sigmund *Adulting!*
11/7 Thomas Gates
11/8 Peter & Pamela Masella 🍷
11/9 Arlette Perry
11/10 Lisa Johns
11/11 Joan Bianchi
11/12 Sue Klein
11/13 Gary Costa
Sarah Poarch
11/16 Dawn Ballard-Hesik
Susan James
11/17 Ronnie Nemec
11/22 Anna Steare
11/24 Verna Svensen
11/25 Alice Holmes
11/26 Karly Oliveira
11/27 Clancy Oliver
Ellie Lewis
Scott Sigmund
Dennis Tani
11/29 Mike James
11/30 Ryan Costa
Jeff Johns

WESLEY LEARNING CENTER NEWS



At WLC we are eagerly looking forward to the start of the season of giving. We have so much so be thankful for this November.

This month sees the start of our art enrichment class on Thursday afternoons. Art is a great form of expression and the kids really enjoy exploring all the different ways to be artistic.

November 13 is World Kindness Day which makes this the perfect month to kick-off our "Key to Kindness" program. Each class will take a turn with our special kindness key and perform a thoughtful act.

Continuing with this theme, WLC will once again adopt-a-family for Thanksgiving in partnership with WIN. Not only can we make a meaningful difference for a family in need, it's also a wonderful opportunity to engage our students with the message of caring for others.

In the theme of gratitude, we at WLC would like to say thank you to Castle Hill Farm for being such a great host for our Fall Family event. The event was very well received with 255 people in attendance! WLC provided pizza and an opportunity for families to connect while Castle Hill set-up a bonfire and provided hayrides for all to enjoy. Thank you to all who helped with this event.

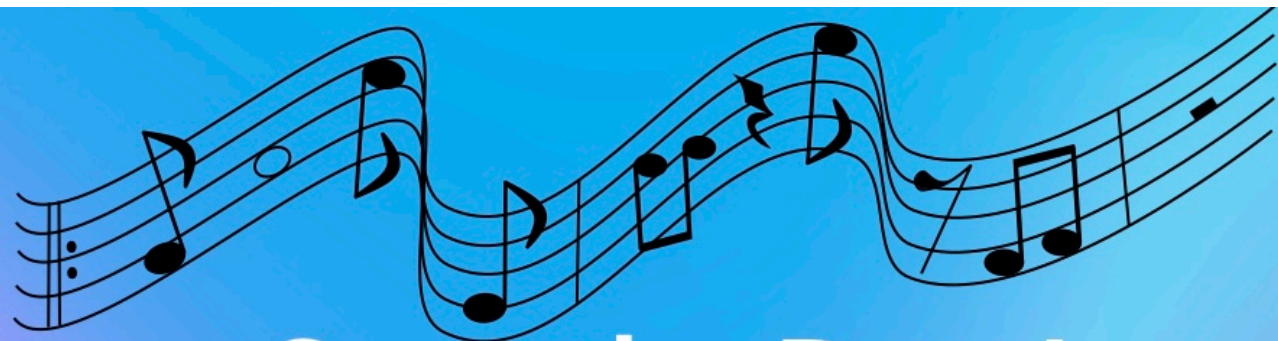
And finally, thank you to Pastor Steve for his time. Our 4's program really enjoyed their special visitor who came and read them a story!

Have a wonderful November and a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Diane Fuchs

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





Save the Date!

Families United in Newtown Presents:

Annual Benefit Concert

“We Have a Voice”

With Special Guest

America’s Got Talent Semi-Finalist

Amanda Mammana



Saturday,

December 30th 2023

Newtown Congregational Church

14 West Street, Newtown, CT

\$45 per person- Tickets coming soon

www.familiesunitedinnewtown.org

LIVE MUSIC - DINNER

