



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

The Evangel October 2023

PASTOR'S CORNER



“BUT JESUS SAID, ‘LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR TO SUCH BELONGS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.’” MATTHEW 19:14

I've started having Children's Word in worship here! I love doing children's word! Children are not just innocent, they are intelligent and inquisitive. I try my best to bring the Gospel message to their level of understanding while having fun doing it. It is so wonderful to see them grow up to confirmation age, and even, perhaps to teens coming to worship, letting their "faith flag" fly! I still get emails on occasion even from my first charge showing me their children! Wow! It was one of the things I missed most during the pandemic – not only no people, no children!

I've heard it in nearly all the churches I've served, "Children are the future of the church." This statement used to get negative vibes from DS's, bishops, etc. because they wanted us to view children as part of the church. With the ferocity of the pandemic it was difficult to see what the future was going to be for the church, because the essential part of the church was missing. As a result it became very easy to fathom that without the children the church has a much less full future.

Here are two passages from God's Holy Word: "Train up a child in the way they should go; even when they are old they will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6; and "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, . . . a reward." Psalm 127:3. Children are our future, but they are also our present, a reward to be cherished, nurtured and especially trained up in the Lord, God's Word, and God's service. I would love to see our Sunday School spring back to life, not for the sake of having more children in church, but more for their sakes in receiving the Word from competent, loving, and willing teachers who await them every Sunday.

It is time. It is time to renew our church and the ministry and work God has planned for us to do. David Budd has answered the call of God for service and ministry by agreeing to be our new Education Chair! Thank you, David!! Now, we've had some children coming, but we are hoping more parents will heed the call to raise up their children in teachings of our Lord who, once again, said, "Let the little children come to me." What David, the church, and I would love to see begin happening is a reclaiming not just of the Children's Word, but of the sight of children running around the church, making noises, being children, full of wonder, creativity, joy and energy! We are here, the Lord is here, and: God Is Good – All the Time! All the Time – God is Good! Amen.

Peace and Joy,

Pastor Steve



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Saint of the Month

For October our Saints of the Month are...

Karan Goodhue & Candice and Lori Rothe.

Karan for her unfailing leadership and Candice and Lori for both their dedication & cooking prowess. Spaghetti Supper was a huge success!

Thank you all!

Celebrations!

Kaden Jordan Vollinger born June 16, 2020, son of Kurt and Stephanie Vollinger, was baptized by God on September 10, 2023.

Our warmest congratulations and welcome to the newest member of God's family & our church family!

On September 17, we welcomed Lisa Cook-Dietter into the membership of our church family!

Welcome to you, Lisa, and may God abundantly bless you and our church through your being in our midst!

A NOTE FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

Fred Pratt Green wrote this text which was set to music by Charles V. Stamford;

"When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried 'Alleluia'. Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to sing always: 'Alleluia'."



Our hymnals are full of wonderful music and it's been said that "they who sing pray twice"

Blessings,

Sue

SMALL GROUP STUDY FORMING!

Our evening Bible study will begin on October 10 at 7pm via Zoom. It will be a six-session study called "On My Journey Now" by Gwendolyn Brown-elder based on African-American spirituals. The material connects issues of human suffering in the context of African-American history as it relates to Jesus' journey from the wilderness to the cross. It includes a CD of spirituals that will set the tenor of our time together. Each session is anticipated to run from 1 to 1 1/2 hours. While the study has been discontinued by Abingdon Press, I was able to get a copy of the workbook and will have photocopies available to all interested. Please contact the pastor by phone/text at 203-232-2752 if you have any questions and to ensure that you receive the zoom link and needed materials.

DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Our Wednesday Bible Study will resume on October 11 at 1pm, under the new name of "Daytime Discipleship Group." Meeting in person only, we will use a format of study created by Eric Law called "Kaleidoscope Bible Study". This method of study focuses on a passage of Scripture, and through repeated reading of the passage, meditation, sharing, a leading question and prayer, we are provided a unique way of understanding the Scriptures. By listening to how the Word affects others, all under the prayerful guidance of the Holy Spirit, it is hoped all involved will be touched by God in powerful, perhaps unexpected ways. If you are interested in this format of Bible Study, but cannot make it during the day, please let [Pastor Steve](#) know, and perhaps an evening group can be formed!

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Office News

Please note...

The pastor holds the following office hours:

Monday - Thursday
9am to 12pm

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.

For the month of October, she will be out of the office October 13.

Prayer Chain

If you would like to be a part of the weekly email prayer chain, lifting up our prayer requests and celebrations, reach out to Anna Wiedemann at nonnawiedemann@gmail.com or at 203-417-3004.

2023 ANNUAL NUMC CRAFT FAIR

Calling All Members!

**Join Us for the NUMC Craft Fair
Saturday, October 14
10am - 4pm
Reed Intermediate School!**

There's a job for *EVERYONE*.

If you're a baker, contact [Barb Sherman](#) (cookies) or [Lynette Daria](#) (breads and cakes) and let them know what you plan to make!

If you're a quilter, finish those last minute stitches!

And if you can create a gift basket or solicit an item from a local business for our silent auction, please do!

Everyone's help is needed & greatly appreciated.

- Visit NUMC's [Volunteer Sign-Up](#) page to sign up for a shift whenever is convenient for you. Or...Got your phone handy? Easily access the volunteer sign-up page by scanning the QR code to the right.
- Share the 2023 NUMC Fall Craft Fair [Facebook](#) event page with your friends.



Questions? Text or call **Barb Sibley at 203-300-1171** or email barbsib@gmail.com. **Thanks, everyone!**

Worship

There are still openings for worship volunteers through the end of the year. Please sign-up where you can!

[Fellowship Hour](#) (volunteer to host)

[Altar Flowers](#) (recognize or celebrate a loved one or occasion)

[Worship Volunteer Schedule](#) (sign-up for dates that work for you)

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Mission & Outreach

On behalf of NUMC, Mission & Outreach has purchased a table in support of the **REGIONAL HOSPICE BREAKFAST** on November 9 at the Waterview in Newtown.

The table seats 10 and we have 7 seats available at this time. We would love NUMC to show continued support by having all seats filled. The cost is free to attend and there will be raffle tickets available for some really beautiful baskets at the breakfast.

Please let me know if you would like to attend.

Lynette

S.H.O.P Halloween Walk

NUMC once again plans to participate in this year's Halloween Walk. Candy donations may be dropped in the narthex... lots of goodies will be needed for this popular event!

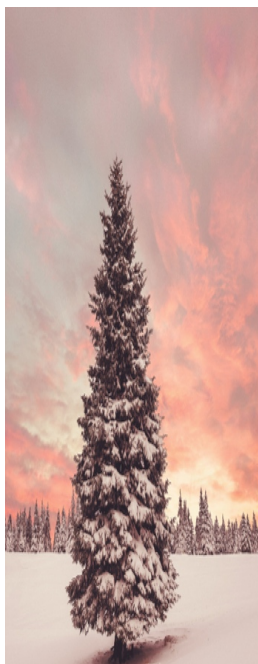
Additional help is also requested to represent our active, church community. If you have a couple of hours to spare on Saturday, October 28, please let Lynette or the office know!



More information will be distributed as soon as final details are in place! Thanks for your support!

Mark Your Calendar!

On Saturday, December 2, 2023, NUMC is participating in



Sandy Hook Tree Lighting Celebration!

The celebration begins early with the following events hosted by NUMC:

- The Singing Principal for young children 3:20 to 4:20 in Rauner Hall
- A Carol Sing with our friends from Bethel UMC 4:30 to 5:30 in the sanctuary.

And then just a short stroll down to Sandy Hook Center for the tree lighting!

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

To help create a wonderful celebration for all, we are asking for the following donations:

- Cash donations for the Singing Santa (\$300 fee).
- 60 Juice boxes & 60 packs of individually wrapped cookies (i.e., 2 pks of Oreos, Chips Ahoy, etc.)
- 100 hot chocolate packages
- 100 candy canes
- 1 case of small water bottles
- Up lighting for the front of the church

Contact [Vikki Carlson](#) or the [Church Office](#) with any questions.

THANKSGIVING FAMILIES

Mission & Outreach is gearing up to distribute food baskets for a complete Thanksgiving dinner to those in need. Details are not yet available, but we will let you know by November.

If you would like to donate in the meantime, please make your check out to NUMC, and write Mission and Outreach Thanksgiving on the memo line.

Thank you for caring!



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

from the Rev. John Wesley

"I want to know one thing, the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God Himself has condescended to teach the way; for this end He came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. Give me that book! At any price give me the Book of God!"

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pumpkin
Season

**November Evangel
Deadline
October 24**
*It's never too early to
submit your
information!*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

October

- 10/1 Robin Kilson
10/2 Joseph & Edy Tani 🍷
10/3 Jessie Ceccarelli
Rob Sibley
10/4 Jack & Mary Ellen Schneider 🍷
10/5 Austin Jones
10/6 Jessica Warner
10/7 Philip & Joanne Keane 🍷
10/8 Stephen Marlin
Paul & Tracey McManus 🍷
10/10 Finn Clancy
Kyle Malin
Edy Tani
10/12 Lindsey Jones
10/15 Donald Schoch
10/17 Evahn Wenis
10/19 Mark & Carrie Warner 🍷
10/20 Ryan Pearlman
10/21 Jon & Lydia Christensen 🍷
Lisa Sampson
10/29 Jonah Birtwell
10/24 Dick Kovacs
Stephanie Monsanto 🍷🍰
10/25 Brian Sibley *Sweet 16!* 🚗
Stephen Sibley *Sweet 16!* 🚗
10/27 Rick & Beverly Clark 🍷
Sandy Plank
10/30 Kinslee Warner
Tom & Joan Bianchi 🍷
10/31 Lydia Christensen
John & Jeane DeFrance 🍷

BLESSINGS TO YOU!

Pastor Steve isn't just for Sundays! If you have moved into a new home/apartment/condo, he would be more than happy to give it a blessing. Even if you've been somewhere for a while, he'd be happy to come over and bless your dwelling!

HE also blesses animals, cars, etc., but it is important to remember that as Methodists we do not bless the objects themselves, but instead, how they are used. If there is life in something (pet/human/plant), it can be blessed directly. *Just let him know!*

WESLEY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

Happy October!

WLC is off to a great start! The children and staff are settling in and happy to be back together for the new school year. As a preview to the new school year, we held a Popsicles in the Park event on September 12 with over 75 children attendance... that's how eager everyone was to get back into a routine!

As we settle into fall, we have lots of fun activities planned, but the highlights are our 4's field trip to Castle Hill Farm on October 2 and our Family Bonfire scheduled for October 12. The bonfire is a school-wide event and everyone is excited for pumpkins and more!

Happy Fall Church and please reach out if you have any questions regarding our wonderful program.

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. Stephen Volpe, Pastor
Rev. E. Sue Klein, Deacon & Minister of Music
Diane Fuchs, Director, Wesley Learning Center
Rae Steare, Office Assistant

Newtown United Methodist Church
92 Church Hill Rd,
Sandy Hook, CT 06482
203.426.9998
churchoffice@newtown-umc.org
numc.us



COMMUNITY NEWS



“Aftermath”

October 24, 7 to 9pm

The United Church of Christ Sanctuary
283 Main St. N., Southbury

This fall UCC will be hosting its 4th play of the **Elephant In The Room**® series from the New Hampshire Theater project. These short plays serve as a springboard to discuss difficult, but relevant topics.

Our next play is, “Aftermath,” a play that explores the difficulties that post-traumatic stress (PTS) can create in the life of a first responder. Join us as we explore what happens to a firefighter and his family following a fatal accident to which he responds that strikes too close to home; and his subsequent inability to move past the incident in a normal way.

A panel discussion will follow, exploring the emotional facets of the play.

We thank our sponsors UCC Genesis Fund and CT Community Foundation for their generous grants in support of these plays and programs.

We also want to thank Southbury Middlebury Acting Responsibly Together (SMART) who have graciously volunteered to help us co-host an expert panel

IN COLLABORATION WITH



BRINGING ISOLATING ISSUES OUT IN THE OPEN
THROUGH HEALTHY DIALOGUE

Newtown Congregational Church
14 West Street

Mississippi BBQ
&
Shrimp Boil



Supporting Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
Saturday, October 21, 2023

\$25 (children 12 and under \$15) provides
your choice of Mississippi BBQ, shrimp,
and all the fixins.

Doors open 5:30 - 8:00 PM for onsite meal
6:00 PM for pick-up meal

Reservations Encouraged: go to
<https://rebrand.ly/back-bay-2023>
or call 734-645-6909 or 203-426-9024

Shrimp Boil Reservations



**American
Red Cross**

donate
BLOOD
save a life

October 26, 2023, Blood Drive

**Newtown Congregational Church
14 West Street, Newtown, CT 06470**

Th Oct 26, 2023 8:00 am—3:30 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.

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