



Newtown United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship In-person and online
8am & 10am Regular Hours
9am Summer Hours

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

The Evangel Summer 2023

FROM YOUR PASTOR



I'm sitting here a little over two weeks before my family and I will be living in Newtown. I thought it would be a good thing to introduce myself to you.

This is my 29th year in ministry and my fifth appointment. It has been an amazing journey that has brought me to you, and I am grateful to the Lord for seeing me through to this point, and into your lives. What a blessing! What a joy! How intimidating *and* exciting!

Everything that I and the Lord have accomplished has led me to this time, to this place, to you. Yes, I served Cheshire for ten years. And, yes, I was Jennifer, Hayley, Mikaela and Bill's pastor during that horrific time of loss and senselessness. It was, and still is, a heavy burden to bear, and I am also much aware of this community's tragic loss and senselessness. I believe God has called me here to lead, uplift and bring a real sense of God's presence in all things, even as healing continues. I am here for you whatever storms may roll into your lives. The Lord has equipped me for whatever may lie ahead. Please do not hesitate to call, come by, and to write; I will come along-side, listen, cry with you, pray with you, and do my best to bring the gift of God's healing into your lives.

I am just coming in from the Plainville UMC and all the crazy, isolating, and depressing time of the pandemic which forced the hand of, I would imagine, all churches to begin remote worship. I think we're still coming to terms with what that means and how we can regain the sense of fellowship and support that comes when those who are able, gather together face to face, while recognizing the need some of our church family has of joining us via online worship.

I am also here to celebrate with you - to lift up those times of great joy and blessedness. This church, to the best of my knowledge at the moment, is one of successful ministries that touch the hearts and lives of people well beyond its own walls. You have talented people who continue to bless this church with their incredible abilities, and I can't wait to meet you. We need to constantly celebrate these and more.

We also need to remember at every turn the real reason we do anything in the church - it is for and in the name of Jesus Christ. If our hearts are not centered on Jesus and if the ministry we do is not all about Jesus, then we need to take another look at it, pray about it, transform it, and always give God the glory in all things.

I am looking forward in all faith and joy to coming to, and becoming part of your church family! Praise be to the Lord God, our Creator and Savior! Hallelujah!!

Go and Grow In the Lord,

Pastor Steve



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Fellowship Time!

Fellowship is a big part of our United Methodist traditions and this summer it's even more important as we welcome our new pastor and his family.

If we haven't seen you in person lately, and if you're able, we encourage you to join us in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings... and don't hesitate to introduce yourself!

We also hope to see you during fellowship time on the lawn immediately following worship. A simple refreshment of lemonade and cookies (or something equally as easy and refreshing) is all that's needed to help us stay connected.

Volunteers are needed so please take a moment & sign-up [online!](#)

And don't forget to wear your name tag! Let's help Pastor Steve and his family connect our faces to our names.



A NOTE FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

"In unity we lift our song of grateful adoration, for brothers brave and sisters strong. What cause for celebration! For those whose faithfulness has kept us through distress, who've shared with us our plight, who've held us in the night, the blessed congregation."



A fairly new text by Ken Medema set to Martin Luther's well known tune, 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'. We have been blessed in so many ways and our music reflects our gratitude.

COME AND SING WITH US THIS SUMMER, AND SHARE YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS IN WORSHIP!

With many thanks in advance.

Blessings,

Sue



MISSION & OUTREACH

From June 11 to July 19, M&O will be supporting **OFF THE STREETS**. Operating out of Danbury, the purpose of this mission is to provide permanent housing for the vulnerable living on the streets. The following items are needed: *sheets, pillow cases and blankets (new or gently used and laundered) for twin, full, and queen sized beds, towels, wash cloths, floor lamps and table lamps.*

For those donating please bring all items to the narthex by July 16 as they will be delivered that day. Linen items should be placed in a Hefty type bag to help keep them clean.



To learn more about OFF THE STREETS, click [here](#).

Thank you for your support of this important organization.

Lynette

M&O would like to thank everyone who donated to NYAC Asylum Seekers Kits. Thanks to the generosity of our church, the collection boxes were full! Your donations help provide dignity to all those going through this challenging time.

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Prayer Requests

Please lift in prayer...

Pastor Lori & John as they move into their new home as well as Pastor Steve and his family as they settle in at NUMC;

ongoing prayers for...

Stephanie; Dan; Janna; Pam; PJ; Marcia; John; baby Henry; Jonathan; Jeff; Spencer; Ken; Rob K; Ruth;

prayers of thanksgiving for...

Lydia's return;

and...

travel mercies for those visiting near and far this summer and over the 4th of July holiday. May the Lord bless us and keep us safe along with all those living in turbulent areas, specifically areas such as the Ukraine; Israel and Pakistan.

If you or someone you know would like to make a private prayer request, you may do so by using the online contact form on the homepage of numc.us.

PARISH NEWS

**SPECIAL
COVERAGE**

The Western Parish met for their monthly meeting on Monday, June 19, where we were apprised of the new pastors coming into our parish. Pastor Michael Cobb is starting at Danbury UMC, and of course our pastor Steve Volpe is moving to NUMC.

Pastor John Parille (our parish leader) discussed the issues of disaffiliation from the most recent Conference weekend at Hofstra University. There will be more discussion regarding the condition of the world wide Methodist Church at the next General Conference in May 2024.

As we search to be a more integrated parish community, we discussed upcoming events available to all. Listed below are activities for the summer that can help unite us as a broader community of Christ.

Parish Events

- 7/8 *Rosie Day Luke 5 - A ministry hike tentatively set for Henry Brooke Park, hosted by Bethel UMC. More information can be found on the home page of the Bethel UMC [website](#).*
- 7/21 *A Healing service at New Life Methodist Church in New Fairfield. Additional details can be found on their [website](#) closer to the date.*
- 7/22 *A tag sale in Danbury is scheduled from 10-3. Please contact the church office directly at (203) 743-1503 for more information.*
- 7/24 to 7/28 *Vacation Bible School at New life. Space is available for anyone interested. Details can be found on their [website](#).*
- 8/8 *A tag sale at New Milford. Check their [website](#) closer to the date for additional details.*
- 8/17 *A Hymn Sing at the Bethel United Methodist Church. Jessica Bardelli will be leading the event and you may contact the Bethel church office at (203)743-6835 for additional information.*
- 8/18 *A Healing service at the New Milford UMC from 7 to 8:30 pm.*

Danbury United Methodist Church together with Texas Roadhouse is having a "Rib Rally" fundraiser. The cost is \$14 and in return you get a voucher for a to go meal. A portion of the sales directly benefit Danbury UMC. To support Danbury UMC contact the church office at (203) 743-1503.

Pastor John also shared the following ongoing ministries for our parish:

Days for Girls in New Milford
The Food Barn every Thursday in New Milford
Patti's Closet on the third Saturday of every month in Bethel

If you would like information about joining one of the ongoing ministries, please contact each church directly for more details.

We meet again in August with hopefully more events to share!

Council Chair

Karan

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Office Notes

Please note...

THE OFFICE will be closed for the following weeks this summer:

the week of July 3,
reopening on Tuesday,
July 11.

the week of July 31,
reopening Tuesday, Aug. 8.

the week of Aug 21,
reopening Tuesday, Aug
29.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help out while Rae is away, please let her know! Just send a note to the [office](#) or leave a voicemail at 203.426.9998.

Please note...

THE ALTAR GUILD will be on break for most of the month of July.

If anyone is interested in assisting while they are away, just send a note to the [office](#)!

September Evangel Deadline

Aug 22nd
**It's never too early to
submit your
information!**

SAINT OF THE MONTH

This will be a regular article in the monthly Evangel. If you have a suggestion for Pastor Steve, please let him know. There can be no guarantee that all who are suggested will get in the month suggested, but know they are nevertheless recognized.

For the months of July and August, our **SAINT OF THE MONTH** is [Elaine Landau and the Trustees](#) for their indefatigable efforts in arranging to have the parsonage ready for the pastor and his family's arrival on June 25!

Thank you so much! For this reason, and so much more, Elaine and our Trustees are our Saints of the Month.

Please give them all a share of your gratitude this month!



TRUSTEE NEWS

The Trustees have been busy this past month preparing for the new pastor's arrival. The parsonage has been readied by power washing the exterior, painting interior rooms and installing a new kitchen countertop.

Recent projects also include cleaning the sanctuary carpet as well as assembling new office furniture and hosting a "work day" to deep clean certain areas of the church.

Thank you to everyone who showed up to help on the June 24! We so appreciate your time and talents!

Your Trustees



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Labor Day Sunday

Sunday, September 3, we will once again be up on the parsonage lawn at 9am.

As always, please make sure to bring a lawn chair and wear comfortable clothing!

More details to follow, but mark your calendars now!

Bulletin Board Post



Thanks to everyone who participated in our community Tag Sale as well as to those who were onsite to hand out water and ice cream treats on behalf of NUMC. It was great to have the church active during such a beloved town tradition.

MEMORIALS

A brick will soon be placed in the MEMORIAL WALKWAY honoring and thanking Pastor Lori for her service to our church. She was very appreciative when told. A photo will be sent to her as soon as it is installed, since unfortunately, it will arrive after she has left for her new assignment.

For those interested, bricks may be purchased in memory or in honor of a loved one or to mark a special event such as births, baptisms, graduations, or weddings. The price is \$40 and ordering instructions are on the website.

If you have questions, contact the [church office](#) or Debbie Stakel at 203-426-2336.

THE NEWTOWN LABOR DAY PARADE

The Newtown Labor Day parade is right around the corner! More details will be forthcoming, but mark your calendars now for Monday, September 4.

We are seeking marchers as well as donations of candy to throw out to the viewers. This is a wonderful tradition for NUMC and our community! Please let [Rae](#) in the office know if you can help in any way.



A NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS

A new class of confirmands is anticipated to start this fall. Sessions are offered to youth in grades 8 and up beginning in October. If you have someone who would like to participate, please reach out to the [office](#).

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

July

- 7/2 Raul Oliveira
7/3 Richard Perry
7/9 Christian Wenis
7/13 Bill & Maria Van Gieson 🍷
7/14 Barb Sibley
7/15 Jaret Lynch
Jay Thomas
Christopher Wynings
7/16 Don Singer
Catherine Wiesman
7/17 Gren Paynter
7/19 Mary Wynings
7/20 Claire Miles
7/21 Trista Budd
7/24 Jon Christensen
7/25 Linda Jones
7/26 Kathy Blewett *It's a big one!* 🎉
7/27 Robyn Gaines
Charles & Sandra Plank 🍷
7/28 Barbara Bloom
Jan DePalo
7/31 William Manville
Ingrid (McClay) Rousseau

August

- 8/2 Bob Rice
8/3 Steffan Burns
Matthew Holden
8/6 Craig Carlson
8/8 Anna Wiedemann
8/10 Chris Plank
8/17 Barbara Brennan *Wow!* 🎉
8/17 Pastor Lori Miller
8/18 Alex Kalbaugh
Richard & Barbara Gaines 🍷
8/19 Travis McClay
Alan & Kim Pearlman 🍷
8/21 Grace Clark
8/22 Barbara Manville *A milestone!* 🎉
8/23 Jenni Degenhardt
Chad Goodhue
Susan Kalbaugh
Al & Susan Miles 🍷
8/25 Jeff & Lisa Johns 🍷
8/29 Jason DeFrance
8/30 Kathi Weller
8/31 Ryan Williams

WESLEY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

Happy Summer!



June has been a busy and joyous month at WLC. We began the month with our traditional Moving-up Ceremony on June 2. It's always hard to say goodbye to our graduates, but we know that new and exciting adventures await them in the fall.

Even though summer has officially begun, we are finishing our last week of camp. This year's week-long programs have been a huge success with all camps operating at full capacity!

While WLC isn't officially open in July & Aug, anyone interested in our fall program for 3s (all other programs are full) is welcome to reach out. I will be checking email and voicemail frequently.

As we begin our much needed break, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy summer. Enjoy the warm weather and long days along with downtime spent with family and friends.

Diane Fuchs



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

SUMMER

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

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