

THE EVANGEL

WE ARE CALLED TO BE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF LOVING SERVANTS OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday Worship

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am, in person or online, for worship, renewal and Christian fellowship. More information regarding our service and programming can be found online at numc.us.

Saint of the Month

For April the **SAINT OF THE MONTH** is Sage Volpe who every Sunday is either assisting Jaret with the online service or doing it all herself. She also makes the rounds Sunday mornings with the microphone for people's joys and concerns. For this reason and many others we make Sage Volpe our April Saint of the Month. Please give Sage a share of your gratitude this month!



Evangel Deadline

The deadline for the May Evangel is April 22.

PASTOR'S PAGE



"The sun'll come out tomorrow so ya gotta hang on 'til tomorrow come what may! Tomorrow! Tomorrow! I love ya tomorrow! You're always a day a way!"

Ever notice just how optimistic many of the songs in musicals are? Not all of them, I know, but many. It's been recorded that during the time the U.S. was emerging out of the Depression and the world began to face the terrifying menace that was Hitler, that quite an abundance of musicals were produced by Hollywood and on Broadway. The perceived need of course was that at least the movie and theatre-going public needed a "shot in the arm," a boost for their spirits, in the face of huge social and political upheaval.

A better place people can find that sense of optimism is in the church. But, unlike musicals, our optimism is not misplaced or temporal. The sense of optimism one gets from a movie/musical only lasts for so long, it is not enduring. The optimism of the church comes from its people's everlasting hope in the Lord God to redeem them and all of creation. People of faith trust in a God who says, "I will be with you, even to the end of the age" - *Matthew 28.*

There is so much that is going on in our time: raging wars the world over, increases in living expenses that hurts everywhere you go. What I'm driving at is the faith-driven fact that we the church, the daughters and sons of God, have a great deal to offer to a hurting, hurtful, warring, starving, spirit-crushed world. We have an eternity with the God-who-is-love to offer them an eternal relationship that begins here and now, one that can be enhanced and deepened by regularly gathering with other faithful members of Christ's body the church.

Don't stop inviting others to become a part of what seems to be becoming part of a best-kept-secret: the faith, hope and trust in a God of love who offers healing and reconciliation through Jesus Christ. May we never tire of witnessing to this truth, this hope, this certainty! Sing it out, if you can! Sing the "Old, old story", which is still very new to many. Sing, "I am one of the Easter people, my new life has begun!" It may well be the only certain and lasting hope someone in need may hear.

Will the "sun come out tomorrow"? You betcha! And the God who was there when creating that sun; the God who is there when that sun rises again, and again is the same God who fashioned you, loves you and is with you always to the end and beyond.

Go and Grow With God, *Pastor Steve*

Office News

The pastor holds the following office hours:

Monday - Thursday
9:30am to 12:30pm

Fridays
Off

*No appointment necessary.
If the door is closed, simply knock!*

As always, Pastor Steve can be reached at revsev62@sbcglobal.net and at 203.232.2752.

Rae continues to be in the office on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30am to 12:30pm. For April, she will be out of the office on Friday, April 5 and Friday, April 12.

Membership/Inquirers Classes

These classes are mandatory for membership if you have never been a member of a Methodist Church, but are also offered to those simply wishing to know more about the United Methodist Church.

They are held in two parts, and scheduled this month on Wednesday, April 10th and 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the Betts Room. Classes will be conducted by Pastor Steve and will run about an hour and a half each. You will need to attend both classes in order to become a member of the church. If you have any questions, or if you'd like to join, call/text the Pastor at 203-232-2752. *All are welcome.*

A TRANSFORMATIVE OPPORTUNITY!

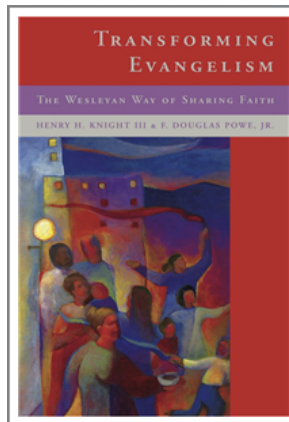
Here is an excellent opportunity for everyone in the church to become engaged in what evangelism is and how it can have a positive effect on our church and community. - Pastor Steve

GROW YOUR CHURCH THROUGH EVANGELISM!

Are you passionate about spreading hope, love, and faith? Do you feel called to share the transformative power of the Gospel with others? If so, we invite you to join us for a special Evangelism Event that promises to ignite your spirit and equip you for outreach like never before!

We truly believe that this event will be a catalyst for growth and collaboration. Your attendance would contribute immensely to its success. Please see the event details below.

Prepare to be inspired and empowered by purchasing a copy of **Transforming Evangelism: The Wesleyan Way of Sharing Faith** authored by our guest speaker Rev. Dr. F. Douglas Powe Jr.



This book will serve as a foundational resource throughout the course providing essential insights and knowledge that will enhance your learning experience and spiritual journey.

Open to All

Registration Required for Saturday

Saturday, April 13th
West Hartford United Methodist Church
1358 New Britain Ave
West Hartford, CT 06110.

- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: How to Grow Through Evangelism
- 12:00 PM - 12:45 PM: Lunch
- 1:00 PM: Keynote Speaker & Concert featuring The New Room Choir, Rev. Jeremiah Paul, and more!

Click [here](#) for additional details and to register!



A from Your Minister of Music

The great 50 days of Eastertide offer us many wonderful hymns and "Day of Arising" is one written by Susan Palo Cherwein and set to a Gaelic melody. It appears in our Worship & Song hymnal.

Day of arising, Christ on the roadway, unknown companion walks with his own. When they invite him, as fades the first day, and bread is broken, he is made known. When we are walking, doubt-ful and dreading, blinded by sadness, slowness of heart, yet Christ walks with us ever awaiting our invitation: Stay, do not part.

Hoping everyone had a wonderful and blessed Easter!
Sue



LEARN TO MEDITATE 3

Learn to Meditate 3 is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17 at 7pm in the Betts room. Jim Willis, our mindfulness guide, continues our training with part 3 of our journey.

RSVP directly to Jim at 203.518.3724.

This event is open to the community at large so we encourage you to spread the word and invite others to attend. And, of course... *don't forget your pillow!*

EARLY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING

Today, we are finding that Volunteers in Mission Early Response (ERT) teams are needed more than ever to help those in need in the aftermath of disasters. As Disaster Response Ministry advocates at Simsbury UMC (CT), we are passionate about this unique ministry.

We wish to share throughout the Cooperative Parishes in the CT and the NY/CT Districts an in-person Volunteers in Mission Early Response Team (ERT) Basic Training opportunity for individuals interested in ERT work. Workshop attendees will learn about the stages of disaster, safety procedures for on-site work, and early response techniques, including tarping, debris removal, cleaning out flooded homes, and more. Upon successful completion of the training and after fulfilling a background check, individuals will be eligible to apply for a three-year ERT badge. Applicants must be 18 years or older. Here are the details:

UMCOR BASIC EARLY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) TRAINING

DATE: Saturday, April 20, 2024
TIME: 9:00am - 5:00pm (8:45am coffee fellowship)
LOCATION: Newtown UMC - Rauner Hall
 92 Church Hill Rd
 Sandy Hook, Connecticut
COST: \$20 (Covers lunch and training materials)
INSTRUCTOR: Rev. Mel Kawakami (UMCOR-Certified Trainer)
ONLINE REGISTRATION:

<https://www.nyac.com/early-response-team-ert-training>

**This training is co-sponsored by
 Simsbury UMC and Newtown UMC.**

Save the Date!

Save the date and spread the word!

Back by popular demand is our Spaghetti Supper, scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 4 to 7pm.

Join us in person or take advantage of our curbside takeaway by calling in advance. Contact Candice Rothe @ 203-217-9732

Final menu & pricing coming soon!



Job Opportunity



The church office is looking for part-time administrative support. The job description and application process is posted online at numc.us. Spread the word!

IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD TIME FOR TEA!

Join Mission & Outreach for a proper pot of tea and help raise funds for the many initiatives NUMC supports. Spots are limited and registration is now available online at numc.us.

SPREAD THE WORD!

Our Mother's Day craft fair is sure to be a great spring event attracting community members to NUMC.

Be sure and spread the word, save the date and stop by to pick up the perfect Mother's Day gift and more!



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 4/1 William Peck
Debbie Stakel 🎉 Wow!
- 4/3 Kenny Mailin
- 4/4 Jack Schneider
- 4/6 Dominique Clancy
Jackson Keane 😄 Happy 13!
- 4/7 David Budd 🎉 Milestone!
- 4/10 Stephen Stuart
- 4/11 Steffan & Stephanie Burns 🥂
Jeff Klein
Kathryn Wolf
- 4/15 Adam Trompetta
- 4/17 Caitlin Fitzgerald
- 4/20 Jacqueline Harris
- 4/21 RJ & Iris Carlson 🥂
- 4/23 Carrie Warner
- 4/27 Lauren Milligan
- 4/29 Matthew Volpe

M&O

Mission and Outreach has donated \$275 to the Period Project, benefitting Danbury High School's female students who are in need of menstrual supplies. This is an ongoing request to fill a growing need and Mission and Outreach is dedicated to helping these students who may not attend school due to lack of supplies.

Mission is also supporting the Department of Children and Families by collecting arts and crafts supplies. These supplies are used to create a fun and memorable experience when parents are visiting their children in foster care.

There is a box in the narthex with a list of requested supplies for those who would like to donate. The deadline is April 7. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Blessings,
Lynette



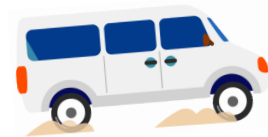
Submitted by FRIENDS OF NEWTOWN SENIORS

FONS is happy to announce a new program for Newtowners 55+ - **NEWTOWN RIDES**.

This free driving service within Newtown will be available on Tuesday's and Thursday's within the hours of either 10:00-12:00 or 12:00-2:00, beginning Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

A driver will be arranged to pick you up at your home and drive you to your requested Newtown location - bank, senior center, library, post office, cemetery, community center, grocery store, doctor's office, hair or nail salon, etc. and then return you home.

Please call the FONS number of 203.430.0633 and leave your name and contact information. A volunteer will call you back and get you on your way! *Kindly ensure you put your request in at least three days prior to your need.*



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

from the Founder of Methodism, Rev. John Wesley

"When I was young I was sure of everything; in a few years, having been mistaken a thousand times, I was not half so sure of most things as I was before; at present, I am hardly sure of anything but what God has revealed to me."



WLC News

Hello Church Family,

April has arrived at Wesley Learning Center and we are all eager for warmer weather and spring break. The school will be closed from April 15 to April 19 for some much deserved R & R... for staff, teachers, parents and kids alike!

In addition to break, April brings a visit from Newtown's very own *Everwonder Children's Museum*. Our threes and fours classes are both excited to attend the special science program they're bringing to WLC.

Later this month we will also be watching our caterpillars transform into beautiful butterflies. Spring offers so many wonderful opportunities to incorporate science into our curriculum.

And even though it was in March, I wanted to say what a huge success our joint Easter Egg Hunt was once again. Even though the weather did not cooperate, we had over 80 children attend along with their families. Thank you to everyone at both WLC and NUMC who worked to put on such a fantastic event.

I hope each of you had a wonderful Easter celebrating 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



LIGHT IT UP BLUE

World Autism Awareness Day is April 2

Each April, the international autism community celebrates Light It Up Blue, to benefit Autism Speaks, a leading autism science and advocacy organization. World Autism Awareness Day, celebrated annually on April 2, was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 to shine a bright light on autism as growing global health crisis.

Autism Speaks is the world's leading autism science and advocacy organization. It is dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments, and a cure for autism; increasing awareness of autism spectrum disorders; and advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

Linda Jones will share a "Mission Moment" on Sunday, April 7 to discuss Autism Awareness Month and Families United in Newtown (FUN).



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

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