



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

The Evangel February 2024

PASTOR'S PAGE



Valentine's Day is this month. So is the beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday.

It just so happens they fall on the same day! Interesting. I'm spending part of my Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday in our church's parking lot in the morning from 7 – 8:30 am, offering ashes to anyone who might want them as they drive through. "Why?" you ask. To reach out. To provide a way and means that can lead to repentance, to salvation to a re-connection to the Lord God who created and loves us, and desires that we strive to live more in the way God's One and only Son, Jesus, did. I'm hoping to accomplish at least six things with this:

- 1) I'm hoping to be a divinely-led, human contact for whoever drives through our lot
- 2) I hope to perhaps be the one place those desiring ashes for the beginning of Lent can get them
- 3) To give opportunity for people to perform an act of penance by donating to the Food Pantry
- 4) To be a witness of the value of repentance and regaining a life lived for and with the Lord
- 5) To put a face and name to the relevance and presence of our church located in Sandy Hook, Newtown
- 6) To represent and put the good name of our church, the Newtown UMC out there

I hope this inspires some of you to get out there and represent and witness to the love of God embodied in Jesus Christ with our words and deeds. I'm not saying to get out your supply of ashes and begin imposing them upon people! (*I don't think you would, but I want to be clear.*) We are called to be "evangels" – messengers of God. How is God at work in your life? Figure that out. Condense it into a thirty-second or so story and you've got a powerful witness that is personal, real and authentic that could have a marvelous impact on others.

Perhaps this could be the thing you give up for Lent – your comfort to do what God wants us to do – spread the Good News! Maybe I'll see you Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday! Maybe you'll be the reason this Lent that someone else discovers, rediscovers a vital relationship with the Lord? May God bless you as you do.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Steve

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Saint of the Month

submitted by Pastor Steve

For February our **SAINT OF THE MONTH** is **Jaret Lynch** who coordinates our online service offerings on Sunday mornings, also providing them for viewing at the convenience of those aren't able to witness it live. You may not be aware, but our Facebook recording has been receiving up to 150 views every week! This is an important part of our ministry reaching not only shut-ins, but also those who are out-of-state, but still feel connected to NUMC! For this reason and many others we make Jaret Lynch our February Saint of the Month. Please give Jaret a share of your gratitude this month!



Deanna McKeever,
beloved
sister to

Stephanie Monsanto.
Deanna passed on to her reward at 85 years of age. Deanna often attended worship with Stephanie.

NOTE FROM YOUR MINISTER OF MUSIC

"When We Are Living" is a Spanish hymn by Robert Escamilla, including both English & Spanish texts in our hymnal (No 356).

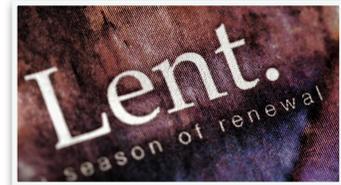


"When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus, and when we're dying it is in the Lord. Both in our living and in our dying, we belong to God. Through all our living, we our fruits must give. Good works of service are for offering. When we are giving or when receiving, we belong to God.

'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain, when sensing beauty or in love's embrace, whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing, we belong to God. Across this wide world, we shall always find those who are crying with no peace of mind, but when we help them, or when we feed them, we belong to God, we belong to God'.

May it bless you in this Lenten season.

Sue



REFLECT & RENEW!

Two opportunities offered to mark the beginning of Lent!

Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

7 to 8:30am - Drive-Thru Ministry

- Pastor Steve will be setting up a station in the NUMC parking lot to offer ashes imposed either on the forehead or the top of the hand to any and all who desire them. He will be positioned in front of the mailboxes. Get the word out to those who may want to experience Ash Wednesday like never before, or to whom coming to an evening service may not be possible. Pastor Steve will also be handing out brochures describing Ash Wednesday and Lent, and will be accepting donations for the Faith Food Bank.

7pm - Worship

- A simple service including scripture, music and the imposition of ashes

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Office News



The pastor holds the following office hours:

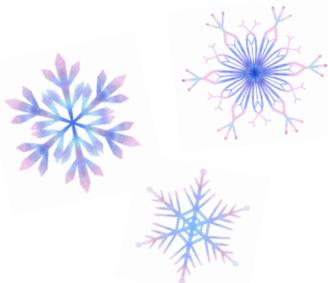
Monday - Thursday
9:30am to 12:30pm
Fridays
Off

No appointment necessary. Simply knock on the office door if closed.

This month Pastor Steve will be undergoing outpatient surgery on February 19. He will be at home recuperating through the end of the month, but available via text and email. Pastor John Parille will be on call for any emergency needs.

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

Rae continues to be in the office on Tuesday and Fridays, 9:30am to 12:30pm.



INITIATIVES OF LOVE

MISSION & OUTREACH would like to support our armed forces members this month by providing Bibles via the American Bible Society. The American Bible Society has been delivering God's Word to American heroes since 1817.

According to Lieutenant Charles Vick..."A man's relationship with God tends to grow a lot closer during an experience like war. The Bible gives us strength and courage throughout the deployment."

If you would like to participate in this mission of spreading God's love, checks can be made payable to NUMC with "Mission for Bibles" included on the memo line. You may also contribute via our [online giving portal](#). The estimated cost is \$5 per Bible is with a national goal of \$270,000. The deadline to contribute is February 11, 2024.

Thank you in advance for your concern and generosity.

Lynette

Anna Wiedemann is collecting **VALENTINES FOR THE TROOPS** on behalf of NUMC! Valentines can be written on your own or join us on 2 special fellowship days:

Tuesday, January 30 &
February 6



COFFEE & CONVERSATION returns as we enjoy time together while writing our notes. Cards will be provided for each event, but feel free to bring your own as well. Valentines are due February 11, so let's get together & get creative in support of this wonderful cause!



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Mark Your Calendar!

**Join us in person!
Saturday, March 9
4 to 7pm**

Menu

Corned Beef Brisket
Garden Salad
Cabbage
Potatoes
Carrots
Roll
& Dessert

Base Pricing

Adult \$17
Seniors 62 & Older \$16
Kids 12 and under \$8

Seating available for in person dining or take advantage of our curbside takeaway option. Reservations required for pickup and encouraged for dining in person.

Contact Candice Rothe @
203-217-9732

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.



The deadline for the
March Evangel is
February 21

AED TRAINING

NEWTOWN AMBULANCE CORP volunteers will conduct training for the AED (Automated External Defibrillator) immediately following worship on February 11.

Plan to stay for this special coffee hour and potentially lifesaving event so that we may have the appropriate knowledge on how to use the machine. Training is for *anyone* interested so please let others in the community know if you feel they would like to attend.

LEARN TO MEDITATE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024
7:00pm

NEWTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
THE BETTS ROOM
92 CHURCH HILL ROAD, SANDY HOOK, CT

Certified Spiritual Mentor, Jim Willis, will lead us in the art of mindfulness. This event is open to the public, so spread the word and invite a friend.

(Everyone should bring their own pillow.)

RSVP TO JIM AT (203) 518-3724

If enough interest, this will be the start of a 3 part series, exposing everyone to differing meditation techniques where each person can discover the meditation form that best suits their lifestyle.

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LAY SERVANT TRAINING

Registration is now open for the Long Island East Lay Servant classes offered during Lent (Feb-March 2024)! Learn to effectively use your spiritual gifts to make an impact in our local church and beyond!

- Registrants choose a course, in consultation with their pastors. (More than 1 course can be taken.)
- All classes will be on Zoom, so no travel is needed.
- Registration is [ONLINE](#) only, so no need to fill out and email a form anywhere. (Scroll down to “How to REGISTER”).
- Questions? Contact Michele F. Sanchez, Co-Director Lay Servant Ministries Committee at 516.306.4960 or michelefsanchez3949@gmail.com.
- A larger version of the flyer below can be found [here](#).

Long Island East District **LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES** **LSM 24**

Spring 2024 Zoom Class Schedule
Classes run for 5 weeks from Feb. 17 - March 22, 2024

Become a Lay Servant - Take the Basic Course

Sundays 5 pm – 7 pm **Basic, English** We are all called to ministry, to proclaim the Good News and reach out to others in love. This class will equip you for your role as a servant-leader in your local church.

Saturdays 10 am -12 pm **Basic, Spanish** Todos estamos llamados al ministerio, a proclamar la Buena Nueva y a tender la mano a los demás con amor. Esta clase lo equipará para su rol como líder-siervo en su iglesia local.

Keep learning - take an Advanced Class

Thursdays 7 pm – 9 pm **Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders** This course will guide lay servants seeking to be more empowered to lead their congregations toward vitality.

Thursdays 7 pm – 9 pm **Leading Worship** This course focuses on the ministry of the lay servant who either regularly or occasionally leads a group or congregation in worship.

Fridays 7 pm - 9 pm **Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action** Given that Scripture is clear that the Earth is the Lord's and that humans are to be caretakers and good stewards of this gift, how do we help congregations and their people move to action?

Saturdays 10 am - 12 pm **Transforming Evangelism** Learn from John Wesley how to practice relational evangelism, and discover that evangelism involves sharing our faith with others as well as welcoming people into a community where they can grow in faith.

Sundays 5 pm – 7 pm **Evangelism – Ghanian/English** Learn from John Wesley how to practice relational evangelism, and discover that evangelism involves sharing our faith with others as well as welcoming people into a community where they can grow in faith.

FOR MORE INFORMATION :
www.liedistrict.com/LayServantMinistries

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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Registration Open

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 23

9:30 to 11am

[Register](#) now for our annual Easter Egg...stravaganza! In addition to an egg hunt, kids can participate in a craft, have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny and explore a Newtown fire truck.

Advance registration is required and closes Monday, March 11



Something to Think About...

from the Rev. John Wesley

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

MEMBERSHIP ROLLS & MAINTENANCE

We are currently undergoing maintenance of our Membership database that houses contact information for church members, frequent visitors, community contacts as well as those who support us financially. This process began in the fall of 2021 and is ongoing.

Over the past 3 years we have been unable to locate the individuals listed on this page and are listing their names here in the hopes that you can help. Please contact the [church office](#) if you have any information that may help us make contact with the following:

Tony Barnett	Brent & Melissa	Sylvia Sarver
Carl Baumann	Hazzard	Katherine Sault
Suzanne Baumann	Greg Hilgert	Alice & Boyd Saxton
Adam & Cheri Bisson	Jennifer Huertas	Sandra Schroeder
Christopher Bray	Jeanne & Neil Johnson	Cheri Schutt
Christopher Bray	Martin Johnston	R. Scott
Erica Bray	Su Katzenjammer	Patrick Shirley
Leigh, Tyler & Jeremy	Chris & Erica Keane	Janet Lucille Smith
Cappiello	James Keegan	Leland & Nancy Snow
Hector Chacon	Chuck Kinney	Joseph Somma
Susan, Kyle & Kelly	Ann La Cava	Laura Sullivan
Coney	David Lapp	Margaret Sullivan
Eric Craig	Joanne Latham	Mark Sullivan
Scott, Jill, Ashleigh &	Aaron & Nicholas	Nelson, Rhoda &
Colin Crawford	Mambrino	Sylvia Tamakloe
Margaret Daley	Romah McKenzie	Ann Terrill
Marjorie Dilworth	John Modleski	Kathelene Tobin
Amy Drummond	John Mueller	Lexi Tobin
Jeannie Drummond	Robert Nardoizzi	Sheila Torres
Cameron Eiseman	Dave Parrullo	Nyah Vasques
Don Emond	David Perrillo	Tony Verlezza
Chris Evans	Rick, Shannon &	Dori Wallace
Linda Fiorey	Timothy Perry	Karen Ward
Peter Fuchs	Karen K. Pineman	Sheila Welch
Susan Gouveia	Carol & Robert Powell	Kerri Williams
Charline Grafton	Gregory Ray	Nathan Williams
Maureen Graves	Justin, Kimberly, Lori &	Rachel Williams
William Graves	Raymond Randall	Amanda Wilson
Beth Hammel	Lindsay Raymond	Lynette Wilson
Joseph & Wendy	Rebecca Reisenberg	William Wilson
Harrington	Lucia Riviere	Nancy Whittemore
Thomas Harrison	Jackson Rodriguez	Kavin Yacko
Grunde & Beth	Beth Rolfe	
Haugeto	Raymond P Ruzek	

THANK YOU for your help!

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2/1 Ernesto & Wendy Leon-Gambetta 🍷
- 2/6 William Burns Mel Kawakami
- 2/7 Jason & Susan Horn 🍷
- 2/10 Susan Chung PJ Yochum *looking good!* 🎉
- 2/11 John DeFrance
- 2/12 Lindsay Hoyt Henry Lynch Julia Pellicone *Happy 21st* 🎉
- 2/13 Sandy Brown *HBD!*
- 2/14 Daniel Sibley
- 2/16 Anna Pinckney
- 2/17 Connor Marlin Adam Volpe
- 2/21 Brad Paynter
- 2/22 Nancy Chung *Happy 21st* 🎉 Joe Tani
- 2/23 Jesse Cox Ryan Horn
- 2/25 Lisa Masella
- 2/26 Emily Benkovich
- 2/27 Kristie Genc

WESLEY LEARNING CENTER NEWS

Hello Church,



We are having a great start to the year at Wesley Learning Center. Our winter donation drive was a huge success with 134 hats, mittens and scarves collected for our mission project in conjunction with Newtown Police Department.

While January was the month of kindness, this month we will celebrate friendship and our students will be making valentines for "Operation Heart to Heart," a special project through Newtown Youth & Family Services. Kids can be amazingly kind and it's wonderful to see them embrace our connectational programs.



On a final note, registration is underway for the 2024/2025 school year and we currently have only a few spots remaining in our twos and threes programs. Demand continues to remain high for quality, preschool programming and we are so grateful for our positive reputation in the community, If you or someone you know is looking for an engaging, quality preschool program, please let us know.

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

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