

# THE EVANGEL

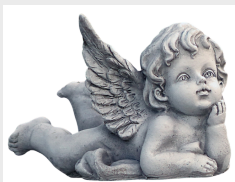
WE ARE CALLED TO BE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF LOVING SERVANTS OF JESUS CHRIST

## 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 May the **SAINT OF THE MONTH** is Grace Ballard for her faithfulness in stepping into the ministry of acolyte nearly 9 out of 10 times since I've been here. This is not to slight any of our other acolytes whatsoever. We appreciate every time you are able to step up. Thank you so much! But Grace has gone above and beyond. For this and other reasons, I nominate Grace as Saint of the Month for the month of May.



## Evangel Deadline

The deadline for the June Evangel is May 24.

## PASTOR'S PAGE



I have got a bunch of repotting to do this year! I'm looking at one plant right now in a 12" x 12" pot that's been living off that soil for over six years or more; that's too long! And, it's not the only "big 'un" I've got to tackle this year. It's always a risk repotting. You have to be careful not to harm too many of the roots, or if you trim them, you have to let them dry and callous over, otherwise you run the risk of rot stemming from that root. That, and I am trying a new soil mixture. Just trying to give the plants what they need, and not what I think they want.

That's the incredible truth about God. God gives us what we need, not what we want. And the great thing is that God is gifted with a mind to know exactly what we need. Unlike my plants and me. I like to think that I know what they need from how they've been doing and what I've read about online and conversed with other growers about, but the truth is, I always feel I'm sort of taking a chance. So, pray for my plants. It always feels like a defeat when one of them doesn't make it, and I blame myself.

But then there is God. And God knows inside and out, up-ways and down-ways, and all-around-ways what I need, what we all need. God also knows what we want, and how damaging that can be to us if allowed to continue on a path of self-satisfaction, and not God/neighbor-satisfaction. Open yourself to God. Allow God to come into your heart in a new, deeper, more real and "self-dangerous" way and make way for the changes in your life that will need to be made, the transformation that God will make possible. This is "faith/rubber-meets-the-road" stuff, the real meat and potatoes of the Gospel message for a relationship with God that goes beyond pat answers or happy-go-lucky faith.

So, I try my best with my plants. Some have been sending me messages that they need a little help. It's almost like a prayer, if you will. I have to take note and make the decision to change, to hope that the changes I make will make a difference in the right direction.

With God there is no second-guessing, there is no "perhaps" or "maybe" or "this might work" because God knows us, knows exactly what it is that needs to happen. We, though, need to discern what those needs are by listening to God. And God does speak in Scriptures, in God's children, in family, in our hearts, in prayer, meditation, and in the other means of grace: holy conversation, holy conferencing, Holy Communion, fasting, etc.

I listen to my plants. I try to hear what they're saying and take action accordingly.

Let us remember to listen to God for what we need, and not just listen to ourselves all the time. It will be a most excellent exercise for our hearts, our spirits, ourselves, and for God's people. The fruit this will cause to grow will bear much good for God's kingdom and the Body of Christ. Go, and listen, God is always ready to speak to us.

Peace,

*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](mailto:revsev62@sbcglobal.net) and at 203.232.2752.

Rae continues to be in the office on most Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30am to 12:30pm. For May she will be out of town beginning Thursday, May 2 and returning Tuesday May 14.

### Baptism

Caleb Michael Coates, son of Michael and Nancy Coates, was baptized on April 21st.

Our Warmest Congratulations and Welcome to the newest member of God's family and our family!



### Graduation Season!

Calling all proud parents, grandparents, guardians, etc. *We want to hear from you!*

Have someone GRADUATING this spring? Contact the [church office](#) by May 24 with the following information: the graduate's name; school and future plans, if known. Feel free to include any additional details or special recognitions you'd like to share.

## SPRING CRAFT MARKET



Make plans to visit our Mother's Day Market!

Grab a few friends and invite them for a time of fellowship and shopping at NUMC. Enjoy shopping with local artisans and then take a stroll down to Sandy Hook Center for a little lunch and laughter!

## DINNER IS BETTER when we eat Together!

# SPAGHETTI SUPPER

**NEWTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
92 CHURCH HILL RD, SANDY HOOK

**JOIN US IN PERSON!**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 18**  
**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**

*NUMC will be collecting donations of non-perishable goods to benefit Faith Food Pantry. Your support is greatly appreciated.*



**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**

**MUSIC PROVIDED BY ED CHAPMAN & ALAN BLACKSTOCK, 2 GUITARS AND 2 GREAT VOICES PLAYING HITS FROM THE 70S TO TODAY.**

**Help is also needed to make this evening a success!**  
**[Volunteer](#) today!**



### **A from Your Minister of Music**

As we approach the season of Pentecost, many of Charles Wesley's more than 6,000 hymns come to mind. This is one of them...

"Author of faith, eternal Word, whose Spirit breathes the active flame; faith, like its finisher and Lord, today as yesterday the same. In thee our humble hearts aspire, and ask the gift unspeakable; Increase in us the kindled fire, in us the work of faith fulfill".

Welcome, Holy Spirit!

*Sue*



### **Church School Update**

The last day of Church School before we break for summer is scheduled for May 26. Classes will resume following Labor Day on Sunday, September 8.

Additionally, both David & Judy, our fearless leaders, will both be away on May 19 so there will be no Church School that Sunday as well.

### **NEW HYMNAL PURCHASES**

The Memorials Committee is pleased to announce its plan to enhance our worship hour while beautifying the sanctuary. As you probably have noticed, many of the hymnals are worn, tattered and torn, and some have pages that have separated from the spine.

The Committee voted to purchase seventy new hymnals. This number will allow us to replace those that are worn and to bring the number of hymnals to four in each pew.

To support our efforts you may purchase a hymnal and dedicate it if you wish. The dedication may be in memory of or in honor of a loved one, or to commemorate a special event. The cost of each hymnal is \$30. More details will be shared during worship.

*Debbie Stakel*  
Memorials - Chairperson



### **FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Join us for a Cinco de Mayo celebration on Sunday, May 5, immediately following worship. We'll have "deconstructed tacos" as we enjoy fellowship time together.



We are currently in need of "Coffee Hour" hosts for the remainder of May so please take a moment to volunteer. Fellowship time is a vital part of our Sunday morning experience and we'd love to gather more frequently. If you are hesitant about signing up and would like more information, feel free to reach out to Rae in the [church office](#).

Beginning the Sunday, June 2, we will move to our fellowship on the lawn experience for the summer. (*Think lemonade and cookies served just outside of the church doors.*) Our summer set-up is a more casual, but equally important time together. The sign-up form has been updated with dates from June to September and can be found [online](#) or in the narthex on Sunday mornings.



### **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

The worship volunteer sign-up form has been updated with dates for the summer months. Take a look at your vacation schedule and [volunteer](#) where you can, today!



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 5/2 Sam Pellicone
- 5/4 Olivia Steare
- 5/5 Jodi Sherman
- 5/6 Beau Clancy 🎉 *New teenager!*  
Bob & Cindy Rice 🍷
- 5/7 Brandi Braziel  
Judy Singer
- 5/8 Karyn Holden
- 5/9 Virginia Lynch  
Doug Steare
- 5/10 Coke Cramer 🎉 *Wow!*
- 5/11 Alice Saxton
- 5/12 Kayla Licursi
- 5/14 Pam Powers
- 5/17 Carolyn Wolf
- 5/18 Steve Agnew & Judy Hammel 🍷  
Tom & Jan DePalo 🍷
- 5/19 Andrea Hoyt  
Madeline Marlin
- 5/20 Ben Miles
- 5/21 Rich Blewett
- 5/23 Ed & Beverly Dahlstrom 🍷  
Pam Masella
- 5/26 Maria Van Giesen
- 5/27 Bev Dahlstrom
- 5/28 Jason Horn  
Jakob Wenis
- 5/30 Kenny Ballard
- 5/31 Gray Ballard  
Tom DePalo  
Mary Ellen Schneider  
Jeff Stakel



## CONFERENCE SEASON!

### CT District Conference - May 4, 2024

The District Conference is a yearly meeting to which all the churches in our district attend to be given the slate of nominees for various positions in the district. It is also a time to fellowship together, to celebrate our newest Lay Speakers coming on board... and, MOST IMPORTANTLY, we gather to worship and praise God for another year of service together in the district.

Dr. Leonard Sweet will be the guest speaker this year. Dr. Sweet is a tremendous speaker on how to be a church leader and on evangelism. *You will not want to miss this one.*

Everyone in the church is invited! Please reach out to [Pastor Steve](#) if you would like additional information or have already decided you'd like to attend.

### 225th NY Annual Conference

The 2024 New York Annual Conference will NOT take place at Hofstra University as it has for the past 25 years. Instead, the New York Annual Conference will be held at the Hilton Stamford Hotel from June 7-9.

As a result Pastor Steve will be unavailable those dates and will not be back in time for worship on Sunday morning. (We will have a guest speaker that day.)

You are encouraged to participate by praying for our Conference, especially our Bishop, Thomas Bickerton, and our Conference leadership as we gather following the General Conference sessions taking place April 23 - May 3.





**WLC News**

Hello Church Family,

May is an exciting time at Wesley learning Center. As the weather continues to warm and summer draws closer, it's hard to contain everyone's enthusiasm.

This month we have some great activities planned and can't wait to celebrate!

- **TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK** kicks off Monday, May 6.
- **CRITTER CARAVAN** comes for a visit on Tuesday, May 14.
- Our **YEAR END CELEBRATION** (including both students and families) is scheduled for Friday, May 24 at Newtown Community Center.
- Our fours program will visit **FLANDERS NATURE CENTER** on Wednesday, May 29... by bus. *(This is usually the kids' favorite part of the field trip.)*
- And while it's not technically in May, our **MOVING-UP CEREMONIES** will take place on Thursday, June 6 at 11:30 am and Friday, June 7 at 9:00 am.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to another great year at Wesley Learning Center. We are so appreciative of your continued support.

Diane Fuchs  
Director, Wesley Learning Center,  
a NAEYC accredited program for  
children ages 2 to 6.  
[wesleyfuchs@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyfuchs@gmail.com)  
203.426.6149



**SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...**

*from the Founder of Methodism, Rev. John Wesley*

This is in commemoration of the anniversary of this event that UM's around the world call "Aldersgate Day", May 24th

*"In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."*



*Have a Happy & Safe Memorial Day Weekend.  
And Thank You to All Branches of Our Armed Forces for Serving.*




**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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