

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 September the **SAINTS OF THE MONTH** are Vikki Carlson and Karan Goodhue for their indefatigable & heroic efforts at keeping the faith and keeping our preschool in operating condition! Because of their dedication to our church and Wesley Learning Center, I ask that you give them both a share of your gratitude this month.



Welcome!

Jackson Peter Garczynski, son of Pascal and Kayla Garczynski was baptized on August 11th.

OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO THE NEWEST MEMBER OF GOD'S FAMILY AND OUR FAMILY!

ON BEHALF OF THE WHOLE CHURCH FAMILY, "WELCOME!"

PASTOR'S PAGE



Welcome to September and the unofficial beginning of fall. What a spring/summer we have had! Storms galore! Storms within and storms without. Through it all, our Lord has led. Our Lord has guided. Our Lord has proven that all who put their trust in Him will not be disappointed or defeated! Through this spring/summer I have smiled, I have frowned, I have laughed and cried, I have raised my voice, I have prayed non-stop. I have made phone calls, texted, emailed, met with and met with and met with people. I've seen and heard the simultaneous lightning and thunder of a too-close-to-the-house-strike, twice. And I, along with thousands, witnessed the devastation of too much rain in too short a time. Even through all of it, God's hand was felt and the Holy Spirit comforted and set our feet on solid ground.

Yes, we have experienced quite the upset at the preschool this spring/summer but the Lord had placed the right people in the right places at the right time so that we could in God's power and time forge a way forward. Steve Agnew, Vikki Carlson and Karan Goodhue stepped forward and with me crafted a plan to bring the Wesley Learning Center into a new birth, a new era that provided us the momentum to move past what was and into the what-can-be. We are prepared for a brighter, more hopeful, less stress-filled and stronger relationship between NUMC and WLC.

So, as the children of Sandy Hook and Newtown begin their new school year, and embrace their new teachers, new friends, new things to learn, so, we too, begin a new year in the church and in our preschool. Such newness is fraught with all kinds of questions, a little anxiety, a lot of excitement, and apprehension. Invariably all this settles down and we are in the groove. Those in the faith are blessed with a special advantage. We trust in the God who knows us, loves us and has promised to never leave or forsake us.

And, so, in the words of Phil Wickham, House of the Lord

*"We worship the God who was
We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors
He parted the raging sea
My God, He holds the victory
There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today"*

We will continue to move forward under the power, by the grace and in the strength of the Lord God Almighty. I hope you will join us in this time of renewal and celebration - in worship, and in supporting your beloved church in all the ways you can, because we are here for Sandy Hook, we are here for Newtown, we are here for our neighbors near and far. We are here for all people.

By the grace, power and strength of God Almighty, let the school year begin!

Let there be joy in the house of the Lord today and always! Hallelujah! Amen!

Blessings & Peace,

Pastor Steve

Office News

The pastor holds the following office hours:

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

Pastor Steve can be reached at revsev62@sbcbglobal.net and at 203.232.2752.

Rae continues to be in the office as needed until a new administrative assistant is found.

If anyone knows of someone interested in committing to a flexible, part-time role, please have them reach out to the churchoffice@newtown-umc.org.

Evangel Deadline

THE DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER EVANGEL IS SEPTEMBER 20.

Coffee Hour Hosts

Our post-worship fellowship formally returns to Rauner Hall this Sunday... and we need your help!

Nothing fancy is needed and instructions are available for anyone interested in hosting (see the online form or simply call the office for additional information). This time of fellowship and camaraderie is an important of our programming so please take a moment and sign-up [online](#) today! (The sign-up form can also be found in the narthex on Sunday mornings.)

Worship Volunteers

It's a great help to know our greeters & ushers in advance! Please take a moment to check your fall calendar and [volunteer](#) where you can!

FALL PROGRAMMING!



WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES



As the new school year begins, so does our weekly programming. Everyone is invited and encouraged to join as often as you can.

Monday morning Prayer Group - our prayer warriors resume their weekly meetings in the Betts Room beginning September 9 at 11:30am.

Tuesday evening Short Study - a new study begins at 6:30pm in the Betts room on September 17. [See the announcement below for more information.] Please let [Pastor Steve](#) know of your interest so that materials can be prepared in advance.

Wednesday morning Discipleship Study - our weekly study group will start-up again beginning September 11 at 11:30am in the Betts Room. All are welcome to come and grow in God's Word and Holy Spirit.

Thursday evening Choir Practice - All those wishing to be a part of our wonderful choir are invited to practice beginning Thursday, September 5 at 7pm. Come lift your voice in praise!

Sunday morning Church School - Church School resumes Sunday, September 8 and we look forward to your smiling faces!

NEW MEMBER & INQUIRER'S CLASS

Pastor Steve will be holding a two-part class for those interested in joining the church. The class is designed for those who have no prior affiliation (membership) with the United Methodist Church and would like additional information on joining NUMC.

Classes are also open to anyone seeking to know more about the United Methodist Church, its history, doctrine and polity.

Classes will be held on Wednesday, September 18th and 25th at 7:00 pm in the Betts Room, and will run between 1 and 1½ hours each.





A from Your Minister of Music

CHOIR REHEARSALS WILL RESUME ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH AT 7PM.

As Charles Wesley wrote in 1739: *"O For a Thousand Tongues to sing"*

We welcome you to join us (though the choir room won't hold a thousand). No auditions required!

Many Blessings,

Sue



Remembrance

This is posted in loving memory of Ken Jones who peacefully passed on to his reward on Monday, August 26, 2024, surrounded by his loving family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Cheryl and their children and grandchildren. A service is currently being planned for September.

A NEW BIBLE STUDY IS FORMING!

Untangle Your Emotions

by Jennie Allen

Beginning Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30pm, we will offer a unique short-term Bible Study: *"Untangle Your Emotions,"* meeting each Tuesday for six sessions, and ending on October 22.

Here is a brief description of what you can expect:

"Your emotions are a gift from God. Most of us have been taught some damaging lessons about our emotions. Does the Bible really tell us that our emotions are untrustworthy? Were we meant to control and suppress our deepest feelings?"

Learn what it means to live an emotionally healthy life with Jennie Allen as she guides you through your own tangled up emotions and helps you discover how they actually help you notice what's wrong and connect with God and others more deeply.

This six-session video Bible study (video streaming code included) will equip you to:

- Identify the unhealthy ways you might be coping with emotions.
- Learn a biblical step-by-step method to help you process, notice, and name what you're feeling.

Talk about what you feel so that you can have a more meaningful connection with God, with yourself, and with those God puts in your life."

A SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

On September 8, 2024, immediately following worship we will convene a **SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE** with the goal of electing 2 Trustees and, we hope, a new Lay Leader. This should be a short, but important meeting, and will be held in the sanctuary.

Bdays & Anniversaries

- 9/1 Keith Dahlstrom
Susan Miles
- 9/2 Hunter Kilson
Scott Wolf
- 9/3 Gregory Tani
- 9/4 Terri Braziel
- 9/5 Wende Wenis
- 9/7 Ryan & Dominique Clancy 🍷
- 9/8 Betsy Hoyt 🎂 *A milestone!*
- 9/10 Jack Agnew
Ashley FitzGerald
- 9/12 Judy Hammel
- 9/14 Nicholas Benkovich
Parker Chung 🎂 *Happy adulting!*
Jim Maurer
Paul McManus
- 9/20 Richard Carlson
Rachele Cox
Don & Judith Singer 🍷
Colton Sposta
- 9/21 Robin Rambone
- 9/23 Ron Nemecc
- 9/24 Raul & Dora Oliveira 🍷 *30 years!*
William & Rahanna Peck 🍷
- 9/27 Jack Cloud
Christian & Wende Wenis 🍷
- 9/29 Chad & Karan Goodhue 🍷

MEAT LOAF & MASHED POTATOES

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

JOIN US IN PERSON!
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
4PM TO 7PM

seating available for in person dining
or take advantage of our curbside
takeaway option

Menu
Meatloaf
Mashed Potatoes
Garden Salad
Fruit Salad
a Roll
& Dessert

PRICING
ADULTS \$16
EEN ORB & OLDER \$15
KIDS 12 and Under \$8

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR CURBSIDE PICKUP & ENCOURAGED FOR IN PERSON DINING
CONTACT CANDICE ROTH @ 203-217-9732

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

ED CHAPMAN & ALAN BLACKBROCK
3 GUITARS AND 2 GREAT VOICES
PLAYING HITS FROM THE 70S TO TODAY!
Sung by Popular Demand!

Hello church family! It's time to begin soliciting donations from local businesses in support of our 2024 Craft Fair Silent Auction!

We need everyone's help to ensure this year's auction is a huge success! A sign-up form is available in the narthex or simple email [Barb Sibley](mailto:Barb.Sibley) to find out where you can help!

Newtown United Methodist Church

CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19th

REED INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
3 Trades Lane Newtown, CT

10:00am to 4:00pm
FREE ADMISSION

Browse beautiful handmade goods from local crafters, and find unique holiday gifts for everyone on your list!





Interested in Disaster Response Ministry?

Hold the Date!

Saturday, Sept. 14, 9:00 am – 5:00pm (8:45 am coffee fellowship)

UMCOR Basic Early Response Team (ERT) Training

Location: Newtown UMC-Rauner Hall, 92 Church Hill Rd., Sandy Hook, CT

Co-Sponsored by Simsbury UMC and Newtown UMC

UMCOR-Certified Trainer: Rev. Mel Kawakami

Fee: \$20.00 (Covers lunch and training materials. Scholarships available.)

Applicants must be 18 years or older



Learn the Best Practices

for being part of a disaster Early Response Team (ERT). ERTs provide a caring Christian presence in the aftermath of a disaster.



Learn How to Assist Survivors

of natural disasters, offering both helping hands and hope to those in need.



Learn about the Stages of Disaster

and procedures for on-site work, and emergency response techniques, including tarping, debris removal, cleaning out flooded homes, and more.



Earn a 3-year ERT Badge

Upon successful completion of the training and after fulfilling a background check, you will be eligible to apply for a 3-year ERT badge.

For more information,
contact Cassandra Broadus-Garcia, Simsbury UMC Disaster Response Advocate, at
disaster-response@sumct.org or 860-680-6807.



WLC News

Hello Church Family,

My name is Mary Merly, and I am your new director at Wesley Learning Center. The staff at WLC and the church staff have been so welcoming and kind that I already feel right at home.

We are all embarking on a new journey together as we begin the school year and I could not be more excited for what lies ahead.

The teachers have prepared their rooms with inviting activities, the parents have visited with the teachers and the children have taken a tour of their classrooms. Everything is in place for a good start!

Mary Merly
Director, Wesley Learning Center,
a NAEYC accredited program
for children ages 2 to 6.
director@wesleylearningcenter.org
203.426.6149



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Blood Drive

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

**Fri, Sept 13, 2024
8:30 am—5:30 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

© 2019 The American National Red Cross | 202019



Church Staff

**Rev. Stephen Volpe, Pastor
Rev. E. Sue Klein, Deacon & Minister of Music
Mary Merly, Wesley Learning Center Director
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**

